

came up from Helena thinking we needed
help as soon as they heard the news our baggage
and men unfit for duty were sent to Helena
the 4th, and we went with the other Cavalry
in search of the rebels we only had two days
rations in our haversacks and only went one
day with the others and turned back while
they went on they have not returned yet
We got here yesterday tired hunger and have
ing been 4 days in the saddle without much to
eat the weather very warm. The Regt
is all disorganised and will probably go some
where and recruit up and collect its men
some were at Bloomfield some at the Cape
and lots on furlough so that we number less
than 300 able men there is lots of sick that
have gone to Memphis the Genl was to blame
for letting the Regt get shattered and part
of it taken and will probably never lead the
Regt again I hope not The Appletons boys are
most of them here and doing well I must close
write soon and dont worry about me give
my respects to all of the friends yours in
haste From Your son William



Helena Ark Aug 7th 1862

Dear Mother

Thinking that by this time
your messengers had reached home about the rout of
the 2nd Battalion at the Langwell ferry the
morning of the 3rd knowing you would be very
uneasy about me and would think perhaps
that I was there I take the first spare moment
to let you know that I am well and sound
hoping these lines will find all of the folks
at home enjoying the same blessing.
(I wrote to Father the morning of the 2nd and
the news of the fight at the ferry came early
next morning. The 7th & 8th Battalions were
at Marzanna 8 miles this side of the ferry