

no cover

J. K. Benton Co. Engineer Cook Camp  
March 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Brother & Sister I hate you a fine day  
a go on since our last battle but as Mail  
matter is vary uncertain I will write a game I have  
writing to you or some one else in that business every  
opportunity that I had of sending a letter our train  
have bin cut off both ways by the enemy so our Mail  
was cut off too at least we dont get but little

Will all is quiet in this part of Ark at present  
but how long it will remain so is not for me to  
now or say. The last account we had of Price  
and his army he was on the other side of  
the Boston Mountains 20 miles from here making  
his way to Waze Fort Smith as fast as his men  
could make their legs carry them. Well I hardly  
now know to commence or what to write as I  
have hate you parts of the pertickler concerning  
our fate and I have now doubt but you will  
read long before this reaches you a better and  
a more correct account of affairs than I can give  
but what I saw with my own eyes I now as well  
as any body and I hear a grate many things  
that I believe to be true I will tell you that  
our Battery is divided we have six guns and a  
cannon to each gun one Sergeant to each gun

What has Command of the gun and cannon  
call a Detachment two Carrels one into the  
Gun he is call the Gunner I Will Give you  
the names of my men and if after this you  
should see any account of our Battery or of the killed  
Carrel Wm. Gehret Gunner I think the best  
in the Battery Privet Starkweather John Gabby,  
Wm. Holsted R. Black Gurdawson a Squire he  
was killed in the first attack by a cannon ball and  
Wm. Seletie was wounded by a piece of shell and  
John Eastin, a driver wounded all at the same time  
or nearly so in the first attack at the same time  
I had a ball to pass my side through my  
cinteam but not touching the flesh) Well the name  
Elit Mansur & J. Miles T. Reese John Chickelson  
Six Drivers Sam Everett H. Day John Easton are  
the gun Sam Marisan, Drenbury, Butchamy are  
the Carsons W. Holsted & J. Miles was wounded by  
a team running over them just as we was going  
battli so I lost their services thro' the hole battli  
they are both well now I dont think was very bad  
hurt at first but a good excuse to get out of a hard  
place My Drivers let the team run a way that  
was not to cannon turned short left broke off  
thi way left the Cannon on the ground neither  
a team to draw it off one chest broke up by a  
cannon ball passing thro' it Well it was a hot  
place for a bout two hours I didnt have any

I da the danger position we was in tho I didnt  
hardly expect to get out as well as we did for  
the Canon balls musket and grape shot and pears  
of shiles was fling as thick as hail from the  
Batteries that stood on the hills but a boat  
four hundred yards from us a fire pears of  
our Battery only to meet them the other two  
was moved on the left and was very near being  
taken one man kild they was the left section  
The center and left section to gether  
I was in the center the left soon left the  
field Kes Parson's under Sergeant Balinger in the  
center section was kild a boat the first firing  
he never wter a word he fell close by where  
I stood Sergeant Balinger soon had to take  
his place out so I was left a lone and the  
apirs all wounded and taking a day but  
Counel Car getting on his horse with  
one hand that carrying me to escape firing  
that we should soon be relieved by a better  
battery it came but left a gain before I got  
my gun out and a good reason for it for we  
got a gainst a tree and couldn't get out with out  
leaving our gun and we wold every man die on  
the ground before they should get the gun  
well we retreated back a boat half mile or more  
it was rather whipt but the fighting was kept up all  
day after we went back and rested a while we

Went at them a game and camped it up till  
after dark then retreated back to camp all  
hungry and weary Nothing to eat since the  
day before Nothing that fits but a little  
Mush and a little Meal for horses up the  
next morning at 3 O'clock and started out  
to the battle field took our position waited  
till day lit about sunrise the firing com-  
-menced We were soon routed from our position  
but took a rather one with two other Bata-  
lyons by our side and after a bout two hours firing  
The enemy commenced retreating we followed up  
for a mile The Rebels run in every direction  
throwing away their guns some breaking them  
around the trees they had a great many  
of our men prisoners and in the excitement  
I must they left them and coming after they  
had got some mules they ~~had~~ left some and  
went on our men came on back and upon  
all the way we kept firing but victory is  
ours yet we are here waiting for a little  
and repair our baggage and get some refresh-  
ment then go on It is reported that we  
got a boat 23 hundred stand of arms and a pound  
of pieces of artillery I have heard My health is  
good I am engaged to that well he wants to go home  
I must stop writing I don't know how long we  
will stay here or where we will go when we leave  
Write after send me papers as often as you can  
we hardly ever see a new paper Send to St Louis  
to be forwarded to this Battery My respects to all  
(inquire for me) Wm. C. C. C.