

scribble a little more i will tell you what we  
had for dinner we had pork and beef and  
baked peas and coffee and bread well Edgar  
I have not heard from home since i left  
mactison and we left there the second of  
Feb but we did not get here to our Regt  
until the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> because we was  
stopped to Memphis and stayed there

about two weeks and then our Lieutenant  
Colonel had been home and was coming  
back to the Regiment and he heard we  
was there and stopped and took us on  
the boat and the boat fetched us down  
here. i guess i have written all of the news give  
my love and best respects to all of your  
folks and remembes yourself and all of the  
pretty girls and all of my friends if i have  
got any so good by write as soon as possible  
and write all of the particulars

This is from Melville Johnson  
to Edgar M. Dick

Direct to Melville Johnson  
Co. B. 4<sup>th</sup> Wis. Cav  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Via, N.Y

Baton Rouge, Louisiana March 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

Distant Cousin

I now take my pen in hand to write i  
mean scribble a few lines to let you  
know that i am well hoping these  
few lines may find you enjoying the  
same well Ed i have seen Charles  
Dick and some other boys from  
Co. K i tell you we have first  
rate times here we have to stand  
guard one day in four and we  
dont have to drill so the rest  
of the time we can go where we  
are a mind to we can go  
anywhere inside of the pickets  
line and all over the City of  
Baton Rouge we are camped on the  
north side of the city about  
50 rods so you see we can run  
into the city any time the was  
some scouts went out yesterday  
morning from our Regiment  
and they was fired into and  
a Lieutenant killed and five  
others wounded and as soon



as the came in to camp all them that  
had horses and arms was ordered  
out and they went out and was  
gone about 7 hours and two boys  
from our company had their  
horses shot from under them but  
they took two other horses from the  
rebs so they was all right again  
and the was a man from Co  
H had some of his whiskers  
cut off from his upper lip and  
he had some hair shot off from  
the back of his neck and he had  
a hole shot through his clothes on  
his shoulder clear to the hide and  
he had the hide shot off from his  
fore head but they did not kill  
him after all he took a prisoner  
and came into camp with him  
and the was four or five other  
prisoners taken and the was two  
Regiments of Infantry went out but  
they never took any prisoners they had  
ambulances along with them but  
they did not have to use them we have

nice weather here it is warm and the grass  
~~has~~ started and it looks green but to  
day it is not very nice weather for it  
is raining it commenced raining this  
morning about 2 o'clock and it has  
rained ever since i tell you it is  
raining now like fun it is a regular  
thunder shower and it sounds natural  
to hear it thunder the other day one  
of the fourth Wis. boys was down town  
and he got into a fuss with a saloon  
keeper about something and hauled  
his revolver and shot him twice and  
he killed him dead and the saloon  
keepers friends came over to the Regiment  
and tried to find out who it was  
but they could not we boys that  
came down last have not got any horses  
nor any arms yet the arms that the 4th  
uses is colts Revolvers and the Burnside  
Carbine and a very nice sword i have  
forgot where make it is well it is time  
to draw rations so i shall have git and  
go and get them and eat my dinner  
well i <sup>have</sup> got done eating my dinner so i will