

Jacksonville, East Florida, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

Friend Thomas

I being at leasure [*sic*] this evening I thought I would inform you that I am enjoying good health at present and also to inform you that I have written to you some time since but up to the present have not received any answer.

Friend Thomas— I guess I will give you an account of the state of affairs in this Department at present.

We are encamped at the above named place just outside the town and all in good health at present and the people that belong here pronounce the place very healthy.

The town is strongly fortified and the place is being rebuilt very fast by its former owners that have come into our lives since we took possession.

We had quite a disastrous affair here but it will be a lesson for us and learn our Generals not to trust to any one [but] our own men as it was all caused by the [tracker]. The guide that led our [forces into] the strong hold of the enemy instead of leading us in the [rear] of them.

It is without a doubt that we could have captured the whole of the enemies force here if the management of the affair had been conducted properly but we gave them to[o] much time of which the result is that we are about to try it over again some future day.

The rebel force is very strong about Eight miles from us and five times the force cannot advance now as far as our forces did, when we first took possession of the place.

The country is one mass of woods for thirty miles into the interior and very swampy at that and without the assistance of a loyal guide you can imagine how we can get along at all.

We advance[d] out about seven miles last Saturday and engaged them about two hours driving them behind their fortifications and capturing about thirty heads of cattle and one horse, had five men wounded for us, none killed [*sic*], cannot tell you the enemy loss as the particulars have not reached us yet. This being about all I can inform you of at present I will close by saying I will [send] you a paper that is printed here that will give all the particulars of this Department.

Please give my regards to James and inform him that I have written to him a few days ago.

Sergt. Ford is well and sends his regards to you and also the rest of the bohoyes [?]. Hoping to hear from you soon and hoping you will remember me to all inquiring friends. I remain

Yours [&c]  
Corp. P. Murphy  
Co. D 169<sup>th</sup> Rgt. N.Y. Vols. [Company D, 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York Volunteers]  
Foster's Brigade

Addressed to Thomas F. Kelley, Esq., Glens Falls, Steamer [?]  
Note on envelope: Fortress Bryaele, Capt. P. Murphy, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Reg., Report on East  
Florida Depart.

Transcribed by Anna Bjornsson, University of Florida, 2008 and Nicole Milano,  
University of Florida, 2009.