

4-8-1864

Letter from Darius Lobdell (Fort Scott, Kans.) to his stepfather and mother, Daniel Thew and Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, April 8, 1864

Darius Lobdell

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Fort Scott Kansas

April 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Over dear Parents

I received your very  
welcome letter last evening and as usual was glad to hear  
from you, and that you were well, my health is very  
good and I am enjoying myself like a soldier.  
Last Sunday evening I started on a five days scout  
with fifteen men, my orders were to go as far as our  
horses would stand it - to go and then return, We started  
in one of the most tempestuous storms that I have ever  
seen, and that night - slept on the ground in the mud  
but my scout was composed of the very best of men and  
they never complained a word, I shared all their hardships  
with them and took my turn in standing guard  
with them, and that is what makes men respect their  
Officers, We visited the battle ground of Baxter Springs  
where Blunt's Bodyguard were so badly cut to pieces, there  
is to be seen all the phases of war Broken wagons  
and the skeletons of men and horses promiscuously scattered  
over the field, human skulls, and horse heads laying  
side by side, it looks as though it was all the care that  
can be taken of soldiers that they are to be laid by the

his  
of horse, and there left for the woods to tear him to pieces  
and fight and hold their infernal vigils over his carcass  
and never to be visited by a friend, yet with all this prospect  
before me this is the most glorious occupation that I have  
ever been engaged in, it is where glory is to be found  
and a name won I have to work on some company  
papers, and must close by bidding you good bye  
love to all I will write again soon and write a good  
long letter my family is all well you must write  
to my wife she is very lonely  
I will write to Uncle Rodus folks in a few days  
tell Tom Kirby to write to me and I will answer  
his

From your Son J. P. Loddell