

RHODA BARNES to MILTON BARNES

NOTE: The letter "from Nashville" which Rhoda mentions receiving from Milton is missing from this collection. It was evidently written after Kennesaw Mountain. Barnes had left the 97th Ohio on June 30 and for the months of July and August was carried on the rolls as "Absent wounded," according to his military personnel file. This accounts for his stay, after home leave, at the Officers' Hospital in Cincinnati. There is a reference to special orders authorizing 20-days' leave dated "D C Chattanooga July 5, 1864" and to special orders dated August 19 authorizing another 30 days "on Surgeon's Certificate of Discharge." The Surgeon's Certificate noted "partial paralysis of the right arm." His next letter, in this collection, is that written from the Officers' Hospital in Cincinnati on August 17.

Home July 6th 1864  
[Completed July 7]

Oh! My darling

What a time we've had these days - Monday night [July 3] I went down to the office with Sadie Lofland who <sup>[m.]</sup> I met on the way, I got no letter but as we came up we met the old Col[onel] [Lofland] at Noble's Corner [-] he said "Well Rhoda did you get no letter?" - I said "No" - then he said so feelingly[,] "Barnes is wounded" - I felt as if I was turned to stone - I said "where[?] - when[?]" ["]is he in Rebel hands?["] he said the paper gave no particulars but he thought you were with your own men, he said <sup>[<]</sup> go home & see your paper <sup>[>]</sup> - he and Sadie came up to the next corner - & then I came on home - Oh Milton I cannot tell you how I felt - I feared it was worse than he told me - when I reached home I found the boy had brought the paper - Mother said ["]Well[,] Rhoda[,] we've got more bad news[." ] - I said ["]oh what does it say [?" ] - she said your name was under the list of "Severely Wounded[" ] - that was our first news of Uncle Joe & it made us more fearful - Meliss had come up as soon as she

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heard it & Mrs Thomson & [Mrs.] Neeland - they seemed very kind -  
I was so sick every few minutes that Mrs T. said we'd better not  
stay alone so she sent old Sarah up - I was glad even of her -  
I got a little kind of wakeful sleep & the excitement was worn off  
a little in the morning - but spent a day of dreadful suspense -  
almost fearing to hear the news in the evening - I made no fuss  
however - & no one knew how I was suffering - May Allison came up  
that Morning, and after expressing a few words of pretended sympathy -  
gave me a harangue about Meliss & Jim - Oh my dear how hard it was  
for me at that time to have to listen - when all my thoughts were far  
away - longing to know of my poor suffering husband, how unrefined  
some folks are in their feelings - Mrs McCracken & Nell Rood came in  
the evening & staid [sic] until I got the glorious good news in your  
own dear hand writing that you were doing so well - they seemed like  
friends - Mother still says that you were too much excited then to  
know how badly you felt - we were both disappointed that you thought  
you would'nt get home - Oh come anyway darling if [you] can possibly  
get off - take some rest - wont you dear[?]. Oh! If I could only be  
with you - I felt jealous of the Major[\*]'s good fortune when Annie  
brought one of your letters & one of his from Nashville - saying he'd  
be home all summer & fall - Well! Well! I dare not murmur when you've  
been so kindly spared to me - Let us try to be thankful - Gus Burlan [sp?]  
came in last evening - & I did'nt get this finished for the mail - &

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now I am in such a hurry to take it down this evening (Thursday) that I can't write half what I want - I'll try to write to your folks tomorrow - The old Col. [Lofland] complimented your bravery very much - I will tell you again more particulars [of] how folks did & [what they] said & who seemed anxious next time I write - Sargeant Polter called to see us - I was sorry I had'nt had a letter to send by him, he seems like a nice little fellow - I [will] tell you more about his call next time - I hope to hear from you tonight again - Good bye darling -

[Unsigned]