answered did ever sam feel
happy or contented at farm work
or with stock add debt on top
of that and you might as well
say to a fish on land now swim
and sport we will not disturb you
it is true that last summer I
raised a crop but that was only to
use the time to some advantage
while my lumber was drying all
the idle time I was at my bench
and from the time I left Goose
creek untill I started for the
Army was the happiest period of
my life I certainly have more
reason to be happy and contented
than almost any one I feel that I
have acted honestly and faithfuly
and feel that I am clear of all the
sneers of the world I have acted from
principle and not from any excitement
the future is a bright picture
let me live to old age or die in
an hour may God bless my
friends my home and
Country

S. T Bondurant

M M M

1863

Camp at the Mill Apr the 12th
inside of the fortifications
Murfreesboro Tenn

Dear sister
how gladly I take up my
pen to answer your letter of
march the 25th I will tell
you what I was doing that
day I commenced to put up a
steam saw mill on the bank
of stone River and just 7
years ~~that~~ ago that day Fathers
Mill burned down above
Decatur and I commenced to
build it again I have the
mill almost ready to run
my health is good and you
know that I enjoy my self
exceedingly well as I have
got into this buisness there
will be a great deal of work

to do here the timber is to be cut for 4 miles in every direction. Old Ross says this shall be a second Richmond this is already a strong place but every day new forts & breast works are being laid out and from 20 to 30 thousand men at work all the time it is. strange to see the amount of provision there is here all ready and every train increases the bulk they want one years provision on hand before they stop. I received a letter from Ellen the same day they are all well at Mr Barnetts Ellen writes that Annie has never been sick but once a little while only. how greatly have I been blest not a word of trouble nor a murmur has reached my ear since I left home every letter has told the same cheering refreshing news that all was well and comfortable. sisters there may be some prejudice or some mistaken idea that has been caused by circumstances that were uncontrollable to lead you to think less of Ellen than you ought but a thourough acquaintance would remove all such ~~doubts~~ thoughts. I often feel sorry to think over some little foolish things that kept Mother and Ellen from enjoying themselves like they ought to have done I believe they like each other well enough but something allways turned around to spoil their social feelings. some may ask the question why did not Sam enjoy himself better while he lived by Jove, it is easy to