

Winchester Va Oct 23 1864

Brother Gust

Enclosed I send you my vote a straight democratic ticket all the way through. The state & county ticket I cut from a freemans journal so I knew it must be right for I know most of the men by reputation. There are two men allowed by Genl Sheridan to bring votes to this army. "One from each party" But so far I have not seen a man that belongs to the democratic party for the very reason that they can not get papers at Washington to come up. One of our doctors happened to get a few electoral votes from a friend or I could not have voted that ticket at all. We have had another heavy battle & the losses in our regt are 104 killed and wounded & nine prisoners. Capt. Knowlten & Lieut Ike Burch are killed & Thurber is mortally wounded. The doctors say that he can not live. I sent a telegraph dispatch to his father & wrote to his wife yesterday. We have only 85 men left now. Our Army was surprised & completely routed at daylight in the morning & lost 24 pieces of Artillery & about 1000 prisoners. But in the afternoon Genl Sheridan came up & gave the word forward & away they went Capturing 54 pieces of artillery 10 stand of colors 1500 prisoners & a great quantity of horses mules ambulances & wagons. I know this to be so far I have seen the plunder. Cant write any more now. Send me a picture of Betsy Jane & dont forget to get my vote in, in time.

Yours &c.
CJ Hardaway