

I received that Magazine
that father sent to me:
and it has a good deal
of good reading in it

I wish I could get them
regularly for I like them
so well to read. it is
getting so dark I will
have to quit writing for
the present and finish some
other time.

Gish River May 22nd

well we have got into camp at
last and I will try and finish
my letter. we have had some
awful times in getting here.
yesterday it rained on us all
day and our teams mired down
and we had to pull the wagons
and Artillery with men I don't
like to be a mule myself
but it can't be helped give
my love to all from your
Affectionate Son Tom
Directed as before

Gish River May

March the 19th 1845

Dear Mother

your kind letter
of Feb 20th came duly to hand
several days ago and found
me in the best of health

I was truly glad to hear from
home once more. I have
only got two letters from home
since I left New Orleans

we are on the
march at the present time
the country is full of swamps
and we have to wade one
about every half a mile
so you see it is not very
nice marching. the country is
entirely covered with pine trees
I am sitting on a ^{pine} log
writing to you we came into

came about three O'clock this
afternoon. we have just
eaten supper and I will
tell you what we had
for our supper. fresh
beef Pork hard bread coffee
and sugar it was not
much of a variety
but it done very well for
our empty stomachs
we take anything that we
want from the citizens
no difference what it is
we call it pay-hawking
here in the Army. but
in reality it is nothing
but downright stealing.
You say you have a very
good Temperance Society
in Red Oak. very good
I hope it will prosper
and do well. for there
is some very hard cases
about Red Oak and they may
Reform

well mother you wanted
to know if I ever drank
any. to tell the truth it
is very seldom I even
touch any thing stronger
than coffee

well mother I will
be with you before very
long and then you can
judge for yourself of my
conduct. I have one great
fault and that is chewing
Tobacco but I done that
for two years before I
left home but I cannot
help it. it is a habit
and I cant ^{break} ~~stop~~ myself
of it. we will be
mustered out of service
on the 19th day of next
September and ^{they} wont take me
long to come home. and
Oh how happy I will be to meet
all of you once more