
Dear Father: It is with sincere pleasure that I now take myself to write to you all. It has been a long time since I wrote to you all; though I have started several letters at different times, and would be called off on any before I could finish them.

The last letter that I received from you was dated 14th Aug. I am very well at present except a cold. I am now at Rockbridge Hunn Springs. Perhaps you heard of our advancing on the Yankees. We set out the 12th of July for the Yankee camps. We travelled deliberate-
on our march. We went about three miles the first day and the second day about two or perhaps three. The third day we set out in the morning and went a short distance and halted. The cannon were planted. The Richmond company (company F) was sent on ahead, on the road. The Brunswick G's (company G) were left on the mountain on a ledge. Having nearly reached the road, ahead of the Yankee pickets, we heard a firing from company F. In a short time we saw five to seven Yankees, coming down the road in double quick time. We were fifty or sixty yards from them—in on the side of the mountain. The bushes were very thick between us and them. The company opened fire upon them. Two of them fell dead. Three of them ran off to a neighbor's house and said before night it is said. If there is any honor in killing a Yankee I cannot claim any part of it, for my gun missed fire. I burst a cap at one, though, at he passed. We advanced about one mile farther on and came to a little hamlet where the Yankees had run off from. Here we found about thirty camp kettles—eighty or ninety cups and a good many plates. Some provisions. One or two prisoners were taken at this place and two or three Yankees killed. We continued our march two or three miles farther in about a mile of their battery. One of our pieces of artillery was rammed in front of
Their battery and opened upon it. In a short time after that several shots were fired at us, but did no damage. He stayed around their camp until Sunday morning (said to the col. of the North Carolina Reg.) was killed by Yankee bullets. Four men of our army were wounded. One of the Ten. Reg. took sixty or seventy prisoners killed thirteen Yankees with the loss of one man. These taken were out on scout. Hearing of Jackson's failure at Chato Mountain and finding their plans disarranged Generals Lee and Stony resolved to retreat back to Valley Mountains. We got back to Valley Mountain, one man from the day off that we left. We had not a tent with us but took the open air and rain all the time. Sometimes tremendous. We very often had creeks to wade and lie down on the wet ground and step...
Saturday evening, Oct 5, 1861.

Reg. Gilham's is nowترت
ested in every direction. He has between 930 and 1000 men that are fit for duty. Half of Robinson's men are at the different stations on account of their health. It was very sick the day before I left Valley Mountain.

We left Valley Mountain the 19 of Sept. All who were complaining in the least were sent off—saying that that the Reg. would be on in a few days. We set out and I have not seen the Reg. since. A great part of Robinson's company came on. We got to Huntsville the 24 Sept, and stayed there till the 30.
I want Puss and Bake to knit me two or three pair of socks for it is impossible to get anything up here without paying your prices. I want you to get cloth and tell me to have me two or three coloured shirts made—two or three pair of drawers and yarn waistcoat—and when I draw my money I will send enough to you to pay for these things. How these things are to be sent to me I cannot tell. This company is to split up that you can and send them in a boy with any body else. And if you send them to Sailors and discard Gilham's Rig. They will go on to the Rig and I shall probably never get them.

I don't suppose that there is any freight upon a boy sent to a soldier. If you can make it convenient to send me these things soon direct them to William, Mr. Rawlings, Capt. J. B. Robinson's Company, Col. Gilham's Rig. To be sent to Rockbridge Alum Springs. You will hear from me again soon. Give my love to all.

Yours truly,
W. Mr. Rawlings
All of our company left the 29 except seven of us. William Parry, Alfred Rawlings, Richard Leaman, Richard Hall, Trotter were sick, and they detailed me and Harvey Wight to stay behind and attend to them. I would not have been detailed if Alfred had not been my cousin. Trotter did the day we left Huntsville. We left Huntsville the 30th. We arrived here the 31st. These are only six of our company at these springs, four of whom are sick. Alfred is very sick, but I think he is improving very fast. The six of us, that are at these springs, are my self, Harvey Wight, Alfred Rawlings, Wm. Parry, Rich. Thir. Rich. Pearson. This is a delightful place.

We have nice and comfortable houses to stay in no cooking here. We eat at the tavern and get a plenty and such as is suitable for sick people.

I left Jas. King with the Reg. half and strong. Chad and Roll are at the Warm Springs. I left Dick Daniel, well. Ransone is at the Warm Springs. The Rockbridge, Alma, Springs are six miles south from Killens. We came by Millers. It came to them. We are about seventyfive miles from Valley Mountain. We will very probably stay here four or five weeks, and perhaps longer.

I want you or some of the family to write to me immediately after the receipt of this letter.