

Starta

White County Tenn

May 14<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1863

Pa<sup>r</sup>'s M + P A Loves!

Dear parents!

At this as at all other times I take pleasure in writing to you. but there is some information lately received by Mark Perry which I had not had any intimation of from any of you in fact Theressa's last letter stated that Pa<sup>r</sup>'s was in pretty good health but from Marcus Perry I learn that he is dead but my mind has been prepared ever since we came out in the war to hear of the death of any of my folks but I have hoped always that the hour of death would be the hour of happiness to them I was pained to learn of Ellens lingering in such pain for so long a time before she died but at heart I am prepared to say the will of the Lord be done It may be you will be afflicted by the loss of more of your children before the war is over or they may lose you without the opportunity of again seeing your faces on earth but what ever the Lords will may be with us here let us live so that we may be happy together in Eternity where our Redeemer dwells. I have heard nothing particular about the death of either Ellen or Pa<sup>r</sup>'s but I hope some of you will write particulars when you write again. - This leaves me in the enjoyment of very good health except bad cold.

The Limestone County boys generally may be said to be in good health and are cheerful enough generally would that I could say they would get back home with hearts no worse stained with immoralities than when they left but this can hardly be said of any in the army of but very few at most the temptations to gamble drink whiskey and swear seem to almost irresistible to most men in the Confederate army but the great evil among them is the influence of bad women of whom there are a great many through out the hills and mountains of Tenn

It is really heart sickening to see how ignorant and debased these people living as they do without any effort to make themselves better have become there is not one out of every ten I do not believe that can read and write but there are of course some very honorable exceptions to this and some excellent and intelligent people live here. the extensive character of vice among the women is no doubt owing to their ignorance they are therefore to be pitied - but when the Governor - or rather the Legislature of the State has a chance to operate freely again they ought to adopt measures to force them to educate their children.

Terry Willie is still driving a wagon as his horse is not able to do service - our horses generally are in bad condition as there is no forage in this country and what we have has to be brought from forty to fifty miles on their backs. We got into camp yesterday evening after having been off to the corn country some eight or ten days I carried over half a bushel of corn back with me and my horse seems to be badly jaded this morning as the fruits of it there are however many worse than mine

We are to be paid off again to day - I have spent all the money I ever drew since I have been in the service for clothing tobacco and something to eat. I do not desire to save money through this war all I want with it is to get plenty to eat drink and wear and if I can have these by spending my money for them so long as the war lasts I will be satisfied. I have had just about what I needed for this purpose since I have been in service by the help of the \$100.00 sent to Uncle A. C. L. by Uncle D. H. L. that served to get me a horse and saddle and I have been well supplied with every thing needed in the clothing line since I have been out by buying instead of drawing from the government. The army generally seems to well clothed well supplied and in good spirits.

You have or will no doubt hear of the result of the various fights that have taken place lately - Forest with seven hundred men captured sixteen hundred and killed some two or three hundred down near Rome Georgia a short time back - they were a body of the enemy's cavalry going to Rome to destroy the gun factories there but before they got there the citizens met and repulsed them Forest then came on them and captured nearly if not all of them.

There has been another severe fight in Va in which we are reported to have whipped the enemy badly - the fight took place somewhere near Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock River - it is reported in camp how it got there I do not know that 10,000 prisoners had been brought in to Richmond - Stone Wall Jacksons arm badly hurt by a shot from some of our own men and one of the Hill's A.P. I think slightly wounded the fighting has been severe and losses heavy on both sides.

We have as yet no account of a termination of the fight nor do I know how long they had fought up to the time of last accounts I heard some one of the boys in camp say this morning that a Nashville paper published that Hooker would do well if he got away with half of his army.

I suppose you knew that Genl Morgan married his second wife a Miss Ready of Murfreesboro a short time before the fight at Murfreesboro - since then he has been staying with his wife and apparently neglecting his duties as an officer until within a few days past she called all his troops together went up some where to the North of this near Livingston and attacked and whipped a large force of the enemy taking a good many prisoners I suppose from what I have learned that it may be counted a considerable victory.

I have not heard from our left wing in some time and do not know how the boys are - I have however the news from there that Candorn has been killed by a Dr. Peters and if all I have heard be true Peters ought to have killed him. The difficulty was on account of liberties taken by Candorn with Peters wife.

Nothing more now

Write to me often.

My best wishes for all of you - The Almighty protect us

Yours with filial regards

O W Love