

Camp

Chickamauga Station

Sept 23rd 1863

My Dear Darling -

I will now try and give you a connected account of the late great battle. I wrote you a short note yesterday in great haste - expecting them to be called on to leave - and I was - we left there in great haste and marched just the side (North) of Chickamauga Station. I hear this morning that our Cavalry are in Chattanooga and that the Gauleys yesterday burned up about fifteen acres of wagons to prevent them falling into our hands - I wish we had plenty of supplies so we could push right after them - But enough of this I will tell you something of the fight - In the fight of Saturday I think the Gauleys rather got the best of it - you about our getting on the field and seeing Kolb's battery summing like clever fellows - This was about all I saw of the fight on Saturday - Sunday the fight commenced about 10 A M on our right - soon after our division advanced - Geas Brigade on the right - Maingaults on the left - Andersons as a support in rear of the centre of the other two - Geas made a splendid charge - Maingault did not do so well - Anderson supported finely - I followed in rear of my Brigade The Gauleys had breast works of logs & timber - our gallant fellows charged right over them - a great many Gauleys remained behind the logs until our fellows jumped over them - when they started in full run for our rear - They passed me summing at full speed saying "which way is rear" The bullets were whistling thick & fast around us all the time - It was quite amusing to see the bl... "streaking"

it for the rear ^{in our}
and line of the ^{my}
they moved a ^I
in position and ^{the}
left - we had ^{the}
of the line a ^{the}
been wounded - Genl Johnston (Pershod) took
Command of that part of the line - I will first
mention that our division was under Southerland's
part of the line (the left) - at this stage of the
fight my Battery was the only one near the line
it seemed that the others did not follow up
their Brigades like mine - and Genl Johnston
wanting a Battery in position - He took mine as
the only one he could find - I went to the right and did
not fight immediately with my Brigade any more
during the battle - I put one half of my Battery
in position under Stockton on a hill and took the
other three and went ^{to} the front and a little
to the left - Pretty soon the Yankees come rushing
back and made a desperate effort to retake
the hill on which my last mentioned guns were
located - I fought there from about 1 or 2 o'clock
until dark - bringing up another gun - and sending
Stockton with two guns to my right as a support.
I behaved gallantly and was slightly wounded
in the right leg just below the knee - The Yankees
made about six or eight different desperate efforts
to take the hill - our Infantry would fall back to
my guns - where they would make a stand and
pretty soon my heavy guns would send them
back - then our line would advance to recoil
again - This as I have said occurred six or
eight times - not rapidly but we would advance
slowly & recoil slowly - a great many infantry
can entirely ^{of} my guns and reported in the
rear that our Battery was certainly captured

I was ...
a ... many of ...
to the rear that
Genl Johnston
important ...
us a great des ...
infantry by ...
separate fighting
and in fact it ...
that fought ...
my men with ... few
I felt very proud of ...
can say to you that ...
of their Captain. ...
and wounded. Two killed dead. fourteen wounded
some of whom I ... will die - among the
wounded is Lt St ... a staff officer (was ap-
istery ... of ... (was in staff) where
he was shot in the face - he was a gallant man -
my horse was wounded in two places - seriously in
the shoulder - and in the left fore leg - The shot in the
shoulder did not nip me more than an inch - it
will be some time before he is fit for service -
The blankets on behind my saddle were shot with
a minnie ball and cut up like rats had been eating
them - I have the ball that lodged in my blankets
also one cut out of my horse - I believe I will send
them to Ed as trophies of the battle - Darling I
can't tell you all the good things that have been
to me and about my Battery - But enough to make
me vain - I don't think DeWitt's Battery is one
whit behind Roberts' in reputation as far
as the army is concerned - whether the news-
papers will blow but it I can't say - but hardly
think they will as army correspondents are
scarce and they do not write of these things like
they did when the war first commenced - but

and hot fire -
better take my Battery
my guns -
the ... was the
it would each
could keep his
- It was des-
ly complimented
in the Division
at a dozen shots -
fought well and
and I believe I

my are proud
men killed
fourteen wounded
among the
a staff officer was ap-
where
he was a gallant man -
seriously in
The shot in the
it
I will send
Darling I
But enough to make
one
as far
whether the news-
but hardly
are
of these things like
but

I do not care for
among the
my Battery -
of the first
Battle - we
Captured
eight thousand
and about 7
In fact I had
had arms &
prisoners - I
tured - but a
nance stored
and it is reported
the Tennessees
supplies on hand
is the most complete
ever received -

... position
the army - also
- I will now open
the result of the
all his positions
estimate say to
our pieces of artillery
& of small arms
... day that we
... the vicksburg
... wagons & caps
besides a large lot of ord
... still being brought in
... are across
... had
... I think this
... the ...
... troops

The last troops we fought from our position on Sunday evening were his reserve troops and soldiers from the convalescent camp - (Grainger's Corp)
They fought well too - The field was rather barren of plunder - The prisoners reported that their wagons had all been sent to the rear with all their baggage - I got about a peck of coffee - a cavalry pistol - a good looking flap - with soap & sponges out of a Gaultree caisson - I was looking for friction primers for my battery at the time - The men made me presents of things they captured I have two silver pencils with gold pens - I want to send you one - both were given me - one man gave me a handkerchief and another a pretty good scarf - I have two Gaultree pictures with fine cases - they came out of the caisson too I want to send you the cases to have

5
some pictures taken in them - one is a large case the
other medium size - both fine cases - The men
some of them got a good deal - I filled up my chests
with fine Gankree ammunition captured on the
field - our Brigade lost very heavily - out of
about seventeen hundred men the loss in killed
wounded & missing was eight hundred & twelve
out of this number one hundred & forty seven were
missing - one half of these will in all likelihood
turn up as stragglers - the balance may be either
killed or wounded - The loss in officers in one Regt
was very heavy - The 2nd Ala - Lt Col Weedon
whom you remember I mentioned to you as a
great favorite of mine was killed - a gallant
man & true - The color bearer of the Regt was
shot down when Col Weedon seized the
colors and planted them on the ground just in
advance of his Regt - a Gankree color bearer
at the same time planted his colors right oppo-
site Col Weedon and about fifty or sixty yards
distant - Col W - shot at him with his Pistol
and just as he did so a ball struck him and
killed him - The Gankree color bearer ran and
the Regt (22nd) pressed on - I know of none of your
acquaintances who were killed the wounded you
will hear of - I hear that Genl Clayton & Mason
got through safely - M. had a horse killed so I
hear - I could mention many instances of individ-
ual gallantry - but you know none of the parties
- Capt May of Genl Anderson's staff (The Frenchman)
was seriously wounded - he behaved with great
gallantry - I myself led a charge of Infantry at
one time and made myself so brave that I can

scarcely talk - shouting and hurrahing so much -
I do not know what we are going to do next but I suppose
we will try to regain middle Tenn - well Darling I
have passed safely through another great battle and I
thank God that I am safely through it - Dr Thomason
is at a Hospital - he sent me word yesterday that he
had sent you a dispatch announcing my safety -
I was glad to hear it and I hope you received the telegram
Tell Mollie L.D. went through all right - I know very
little of the loss of officers - I hear we lost three Brigadiers
besides the wound of Maj Genl Hood - some reports
say he is mortally wounded - If I can get hold of a
copy of the official report of Genl Johnston I want to
see what he says about the Battery - He complimented
us highly in the fight - well Darling I have written
you a long letter - and now I do not know how
or when I can send it - I am much obliged
to you for the money you have sent - you can send
them the first opportunity - The weather has been quite
cold lately - overcoats in great demand - one of the
blue shirts you sent me has been cut up to make lining
for my coat - My Tailor (Spoes) was killed I do not
know how I will get my coat finished - I suppose
you may direct to Chattanooga otherwise as before
I am tired - last night was the first good night's rest
I have had in several nights - I have no idea how
long we will remain here - but not long I think
Richardson is still at the Hospital - and a good many
men besides - Love to all Darling - I hope you did
not suffer measurably long - Tell my friends I am
all right and ready to pitch in to the Yankees once
more - I should like to crowd them now right out of
Tenn - with much love & many kisses for my Darling
& my boy I must say good by - Your own devoted
Heber



9/22/63

Mrs S. H. Dent
Eufaula
Alabama

captured from the battle of
Sept 20 1863

Direct my letters to
"Chattanooga
Tenn"



9/25/63

Mrs S. H. Deane

Eufrasia
Alabama

NOTE: Paper has holes and is water stained.

Camp near Chickamauga Station
Sept. 23rd 1863

My own Darling

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In the fight of Saturday I think the Yankees rather got the best of it. I _____ you about our getting on the field and seeing Kolb's battery running like clever fellows— This was about all I saw of the fight on Saturday— Sunday the fight commenced about 10 AM on our right— soon after our Division advanced — Genl Deas Brigade on the right Manigault's on the left. Andersons as a support in rear of the center of the other two — Deas made a splendid charge— Manigault did not do so well— Anderson supported finely— I followed in rear of my Brigade. The Yankees had breast works of logs & timber—our gallant fellows charged right over them—a great many Yankees remained behind the logs until our fellows jumped over them—when they started in full run for our rear— They passed me running at full speed asking “which way is rear.” The bullets were whistling thick & fast around us all the time— It was quite amusing _____ the blue jackets “streaking”

[new page]

it for the rear our came to a second line of the breastworks they wavered a I tely put my guns in position and The Yankees left— we ha driven that part of of the line about a mile— Genl Hood having been wounded— Genl Johnston (Bushrod) took command of that part of the line— I will first mention that our division was under Longstreet's part of the line (the left)— at this stage of the fight my Battery was the only one near the line it seemed that the others did not follow up their Brigades like I did mine— and Genl Johnston wanting a Battery in position— He took mine as the only one he could find. I went to the right and did not fight immediately with my Brigade any more during the battle— I put one half of my Battery in position under Stockton on a hill and took the other three and went to the front and a little to the left— Pretty soon the Yankees came rushing back and made a desperate effort to retake

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[new page]

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that fought any othe ut a dozen shots-
my men with but few fought well and
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them to Ed as trophies of the battle. Darling I

can't tell you all the good things that have been to me and about my battery—But enough to make me vain. I don't think Dent's Battery is one whit behind Robertson's in reputation as far as the army is concerned—whether the newspapers will blow about it I can't say—but hardly think they will as army correspondents are scarce and they do not write of these things like they did when the war first commenced—but

[new page]

I do not care among the my Battery— of the fruits Battle— we captured eight thousand and about fi In fact I hear had arms e prisoners— I tured—but a nance stores and it is reported the Tenn. river— supplies on hand is the most complete thrashing the Yankees have ever received—

partition
the army _____
I will now spend
results of the
all his positions
estimate six to
our pieces of Artillery
of small arms
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Richardson is still at the Hospital—and a good many
men besides. Love to all Darling— I hope you did
not suffer uneasiness long— Tell my friends I am
all right and ready to pitch in to the Yankees once
more— I should like to crowd them now right out of
Tenn—with much love & many kisses for my Darling
& my boy I mut say goodbye— Your own devoted
Hubert