

Portland Nov 17th /63

My Dear Sister E.

I am so pleased to have an opportunity of writing you a sealed letter. I sometime think it is only an aggravation to write just one page and that for the public eye. In your letter of June /62 you speak as if I had never written you, but I have written you oftener I believe than any one else. The only letters I have had from you since Edward came out was one written Jan'y /62 and one in June /62. I think after the numerous letters I have written in the last two years giving the particulars of Edwards death you must have received some of them although I only know of your receiving one short one, that I wrote in Jan'y /62. Alex K_e kept the the Branch Store during the summer of /61 and when Ed came we all went out there (leaving Mr Walmsley at Portland, by himself) and staid untill Edward died. Ed, and A.K_e both talked of entering the army but after E's death we were all so distressed that nothing more was said about it (Walmsley volunteered in Nov /61) The next winter A.K_e health was not good. he was as tall nearly as Edward and very slender Dr told him if he went in the army he would not live four months. In February Alex K_e would have turns of falling on the floor senseless for a few moments

Once Alex and I lifted him off the floor and he looked so much as if he was dead, it frightened us very much - but he soon recovered and I suppose they were only severe cases of vertigo. but Dr Boykin said he ought to ride horseback and travel about but that would have been attended with difficulty.

When Fort Donelson fell Elliott felt that it was his duty to join the army and as Dr Boykin was going he got the Dr to consent to his going with him in the same cavalry company. Dr said it might be a great benefit to him riding and if it did not suit him he would see that he came home - so he joined the 2^d Alabama Cavalry and was stationed near Pensacola through the summer with little to do. Dr and A.K. both came home in the winter about N.Y. year ^{with Discharge}

In June /63 A.K. said he would not be conscripted but choose his own situation in the army and joined Capt Holloway's Army Company acting as Gen Bragg's escort.

I hope you will get some of the Valley I have sent this winter and that I shall soon hear from you and that you are all well I understand some Postage Stamps are all right
April 28 1864 My Dear Father you see this was commenced some 8 months ago but I did not have an opportunity of sending it - Now I will try again. I have sent many letters this winter by Hugh of China and twice I have enclosed confederate Postage Stamps in hopes it would facilitate your replies reaching me. I remain mother & E. of Dec 2 and Elizabeth very short one of March that is all. Alex H has just been home on a short furlough. to get a new horse says he has not been laid up one day since he joined the company ten months ago that his health is excellent. Every Body says he is a splendid soldier never shrinks from duty. I will enclose some of his letters. We have never suffered at all and for any thing. I have Tea Coffee Flour Sugar &c enough to last one two years now. We have eight Cows plenty of milk and butter Bacon and Beef ect and I have all the clothes I need for two or three years - for once I have looked out for myself.
J.W. stands for James Walmaley. Alex Partner who is in the same portion of the Army that Alex H. is. I think Charles is improving and I hope the war will be over before he is seventeen. Alex H. is very tall and thin and it will not surprise me if he goes in the same way that Edward did. My only prayer is that he may be prepared. I can say from my heart "Oh Lord thy will be done" He is a noble hearted boy, a great favourite with old and young and a great comfort to his mother. She is apparently in excellent health. Her army deep evidently agrees with him and he may live for many years. I should like to know when Elizabeth lives. May 6th I just have the opportunity to send this and must close

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