

Pratson's Ferry Feb 14, 1864

Dear Father

We left Sandridge yesterday morning, reached this place about 15 miles from Sandridge yesterday evening - We are about 20 miles from Knorrville on the French Broad. I do not know what is to be the final programme - Johnson's whole Division is here - and I believe the Army has all moved in this direction - to what exact point I am not aware. Our cavalry are within two or three miles of Knorrville and we could doubtless capture the place with little loss if desired. I cannot see though that we would derive any benefit; the surrounding country has been destroyed by Burnside's Army and Knorrville itself reported infested with small pox - The country between here & Knorrville and as far back as Sandridge embraced the spaces until very recently; therefore it would seem useless that we should advance further - provisions and forage will not be obtained by it. Longstreet I think has other motives in advancing - We are here probably but

for a day or two - I believe we will then move
to the South of Knoxville perhaps pass it -
and unite with Johnson -

Some have hoped that we would when Spring
comes move into Middle Tennessee or Kentucky -
and I do hope we may - I fear no such move
is contemplated - as our course is South Westward,
and I do not see that it prepares for an
advance in that quarter - Oh if we could once
more get our little army out of this limited
sphere we would feel like freemen again -

Genl Longstreet has issued an order for forage
wagons to take all corn & wheat in the country,
he shows the Bull dog and hangs in well.

I am proud to say that the discipline and number
of his army are improving. One deserter of 43 lbs
was shot a few days since in presence of our
Brigade - three others are to be executed from other
Brigades on the 18 inst.

Genl Longstreet in a Genl order pronounced desertion
"the bane of the Army" and orders the Military Court
against leniency in such cases. I endorse the Genl
fully and if he disciplines his army so that
desertion shall not be known in it the country
will hail him as a faithful officer.

Our own Regiment is now in good condition -
not much sickness and all tolerably well shod -
~~but~~ ^{still} not so well provided in that department
or with clothing as we should be; but so much
improved in them that we have become reconciled,
our Regiment can now claim to be veterans as
they have acted a brave & gallant part in battle
and have witnessed hard service as any
troop in the Confederacy.

In the coming campaign I predict - for our Brigade
the position at the head of the list - and the
59 I have cause to think will add something to
the honor of our State.

• you will see that our Brigade will be assigned
to important posts - and that we will be worked
well. I have to close as I am called on for
duty - Say to Joe that Capt Wise has applied
for leave of absence for 30 days on certificate of
disability - Lt Jones has tendered his resignation
on same grounds - Capt Wise will probably resign
also. I should like to get my sword as soon
as possible - The cars now occasionally run
to Strawberry Plains, about 10 miles North of us,
that is the closest depot;

Remember me to all -

Yrs
Crenshaw Hall



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