Near Midway Ferry
March 9th 1864

My dear father

I arrived here safely last night after a very unpleasant trip of nine days. My box I left at Greenville about 1½ miles above here and Rolling sent for it this morning - I was obliged to lay over on the way two or three times or loose the box. I feel perfectly happy here now as far as the war is concerned leaving Alabama where almost every one is whipped & low spirited & coming here to find one of the grandest armies in the world. in fine spirits & eager for an engagement with the enemy - perfectly confident of success not only in the end but in every engagement with the enemy
I never saw men in better spirits in my life and the men are all bragging on it themselves. They boast of bein how well they can keep up, do duty, and not grumble any with nothing to eat but a little flour with occasionally a piece of poor beef - The beef here now is actually so poor - that the men often refuse to eat it & throw it away - The poor boys have no shelter only two cooking utensils to fifty men camped in the middle of a swamp six miles square, with hardly a dry spot in it still I say with all this, which is enough to try a mans patriotism - The men are in fine spirits - and abuse the people at home for being whipped - I never felt better in my life than when I found all the men in such

fine spirits. I feel like now I could stay in the army ten years longer if necessary, which of course I will do, if the war lasts. Bolling & Crenshaw I found well & in fine health. The army here is reenlisting for the war fast. The question has not been tested in our Regt. yet, although some few have already reenlisted. Genl Longstreet is trying to mount our division. I understand he is very anxious it should be done. I hope it will be done. Tell Aunt Laura we are trying to form a life insurance organization of our Division by changing it into Cavalry. All of Martins Cavalry have gone to Johnston. Crenshaw was mistaken about Lt Jones's resigning. He has not resigned and I am afraid has no idea of doing so. Neither has Capt. Wise. All of our men were mighty glad to see me back. I am almost anxious to get into a fight. I know our regiment will make its mark. We have 480 enlisted men present for duty. A great many are still getting furloughs. My box is here safe now, has just come. I left my old boots at Aunt Amanda's (Auburn). Bolling determined not to say anything to the men about reenlisting except to have the order read to them about granting furloughs. Neither have any of the officers said anything to them about it because the officers knew the men would think they were trying to fool them into it. Several officers have just been to Bolling & say their men are anxious to enlist & want to know when he will give them a chance. So he has promised them a chance this evening. I expect soon to call on you for a horse (if we are mounted)

Every thing is getting on so well in camp that I can hardly write about any thing else. I am perfectly happy when things go on as they are doing now. It is impossible for the Yankees to whip us now They may increase their armies by hundreds of thousands and then they cannot whip us - I could write more but I would all be foolishness about our cause &c - I shall write a short letter to Laura in this. Tell her to write me immediately Direct to Greenville E.T. Longstreet Army, &c

Yours &c John E Hall

ALA. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY