

Tell - how she owes
me a dry letter
I so close mine



Camp 57. Ala Reg. P. M. Branches
August 29th 1864

My dear father

Yours of the 12th B
also one from Cousin Sam of the
same date was received day before
yesterday. It is so seldom that I
ever get letters from home that I
have almost quit looking for
them at all. But when they do come
I can assure you they are welcomed
I am particularly anxious to hear
from home in these times of excite-
ment all over the South. Fort
Morgan we learned yesterday has
been surrendered - might be
Mobile, but I hope not. If Hood
can hold his own at Atlanta
you need not feel any uneasiness
about Lee. Though he has lost

the Weldon Road. I consider it no serious loss as I believe see fully able to prevent Grant from extending his line farther around the city. The troops are still in unexhausted spirits. They have borne themselves well through the Campaign so far & show no disposition to slacken their energies, or prove recreant to their trust. All evince a determination to remain at their posts until taken away by the hand of fate. All desire peace, but peace with our Independence against anything short of this, all will fight, for time indefinite. Grant has again transferred the Campaign to the south of the Appomattox. Lee confronts him. Grant by a sudden dash, with a force of infantry, artillery & Cavalry gained the Weldon Road. Lee has attacked

him at that point three or four
times, but has been only partially
successful. In the first two or three
assaults I expect from what I
can learn, our loss was heavy
In the last (day before yesterday)
which was the most successful in
every respect our loss was very
light. Wilds division flanked the
enemy, coming down in their rear
drove them four or five miles
down their works & thus cleared
them of the R Road although
they still have a fort with several
guns that commands the Road.
The Road is free except at this point
The dirt road is entirely free of Gaule
The Cars after this, can run to Ham's
Station & from there we can easily
haul over provisions &c. No doubt
but that you have seen the fruits of
this victory, are they ^{by} Genl Lee's dispatch

I should not wonder if this caused
Grant again to move his H^o Q's
to the north side of the James. In
fact the report is already current
that he is on the move and as our
infantry was on yesterday with-
drawn from the right (R. Road),
for what purpose I do not know,
I should not wonder if there was
some truth in the rumor. We occupy
the position on the line, that we have
had for nearly sixty days. We get
no respect any relief. The duty,
though still very hard is not as
hard quite as at first. I believe if
we were to stay in the trenches a
thousand years some work would
be found every day & might to
keep the men employed all the time.
The Rebels seem determined not to
change us. We are anxious for
them to try it. We occasionally are

aroused & every man made to seize his
 gun by the report that Mr Grant
 is about to hurl a gunst in his
 honor of Blacks & Whites, but
 we have been, so far, always disap-
 pointed. It is thought that the troops
 in our front are negroes. Circumstan-
 tial evidence is strong. Capt Jones
 has been in the habit of exchanging
 papers with them every day in front
 of the 43rd Ma but yesterday he went
 out & called them & proposed an exchange
 but could get them to say nothing, nor
 to show themselves. We therefore conclude
 that the whites had been relieved by
 negroes, the latter fearing to show
 themselves, know^{ing} that the Rebs would
 shoot them on sight under any circum-
 stances. The guns keep throwing
 mortar & parrot & hell right over me
 & so near that it is almost unpleasant
 But now I feel better the Rebs are

replying with mortars. This morning
heavy cannonading was heard on the
Chesterfield side of the river, but
we yet know nothing of result.
Col. Huguley has talked with all of the
field officers of the Brigade about
Bollings promotion & also with Grace
Sindford without assigning a reason will
not near touch a recommendation.
Col. Golly fears it will interfere with
Col. Moody. Maj. Cook is opposed to
signing any such papers, but says if the
recommendation be unanimous in the
brigade, he will sign it out of compli-
ment to Bolling. Maj. Stathworth
would say, yea, nor may Col. Grimmer
would sign it. Genl. Grace would
not until he finds Moody's chance
lost, or something to that effect.
So Col. Huguley has decided to drop
the thing until Bolling courts. I am
well Good bye
Your affectionate son
J. H. Hall

Camp 59 Ala Regt. In Trenches
August 27th 1864

My dear father

Yours of the 12th &
also one from Crenshaw of the
same date was received day before
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The dirt road is entirely free of Yanks
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Your affct son

J E Hall

[written along the left side of page 1]

Tell Laura she owes
me a dozen letters
& so does Hines