

Camp Grafton
June 5th 1863

My dear Father

Your letter received yesterday announcing the death of Grandpa. He was truly one of the most upright honorable Christians I ever knew. His age was such that death must have come as a relief to him. We can but suppose that he is happier now than on earth.

I also received a letter from Jim today. He seems well & in good spirits. I fully concur with you that he has well earned his Captaincy & will do credit to the position. I was indeed glad to learn of his promotion. Gen. Buckner has returned Sandford & my papers deciding in my favor. I am therefore next to Pharrington in rank. But I wished to tell you so that you may not be surprised before hand that if I resign I shall try to get the Legion consolidated into Regt & take command of one.

You do not I suppose know that the
position of Sherington is at present
a perfect sinecure, a sort of supernumerary.
Such is the fact. He has no command
really at all. His rank is nothing but
that of Colonel & indeed he is. The
junior Col. of the Brigade. Orders pass through
him & that is all. His being Brigaded
at once knocked all his Command
from under him. Had he remained
as William was reporting to no one
but a Division Commander it would
indeed have been a respectable com-
mand but not so. I am satisfied
that the Legion will be continued
in a Brigade else I should be
willing to in fact prefer having com-
mand of it to a Regt. So you must
not be astonished at my conduct
at any time. I have then continually
expected to hear of an order relieving
Sherington of his command &
putting him in charge of some
post & making the Battalions
report directly to Gen. Grant. Of course
I should not want to subject myself

to any such position where the com-
mon remark is "he is nothing but
a suppressionary."

I expect I was a good deal chagrin-
ed at the decision of Buckner. You
may quietly whisper it into Maj
Elmores ear as it will also gratify
him. Sedford first spoke of
taking an appeal to the War Dept
but he told me today he intended
letting the matter rest. I told him
it made no difference with me as I
had no right to complain of Gen. Buck-
ners decision. In fact I wish he would
appeal.

Th Shoungton told me confidentially
today that he only wanted to get in
a little fight & then resign. I feel
certain from several things he will not
hold out long. It is his desire to have the
Legion kept up & for me to take com-
mand when he goes out but I dont
talk to him about it. However I am
very anxious that not a word of this
be reflected. Dont even

I think I am getting a long way
ahead of you all in letters. Tell
Laura & Minnie they never write
sincerely. I got Pa. letter from
the Col. today & he informs me that
Aunt Mary has her sixteenth child.
Crawshaw got a letter from Bolly
who gives a sad picture of Saps retreat
to the rear during the battle of Chancellorsville.
Of course we take this with
allowance & don't repeat it except to
you. Bolly writes a good letter. I
never was so much surprised as
I was at the improvement he manifests
in mind & style of expression.

Remember us all to Louisa, Corrie,
Charlie & the children. Write again
soon - I think we look much more
eagerly for your letters than you do
for ours. You have no idea how we
do watch for the mail days & our dis-
appointment if a letter does not come from
home. Goodbye

Yr aff son
Rathin Duff

Tell us how is wheat & corn. How much will you ^{make}

Who are you supporting for Governor?



Cumb^d Gap
May 29th 1863

My dear Father

Your letter received yesterday announcing the death of Grandpa. He was truly one of the most upright honorable Christians I ever knew. His age was such that death must have come as a relief to him. We can but suppose that he is happier now than on earth.

I also received a letter from Jim today. He seems well & in good spirits I fully concur with you that he has well earned his captaincy & will do credit to the position. I was indeed glad to learn of his promotion. Gen. Buckner has returned Sandfords & my papers deciding in my favor. I am therefore next to Thorington in rank but I wished to tell you so that you may not be surprised before hand that if T. resigns I shall try to get the Legion consolidated into Regts & take command of one.

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You do not I suppose know that the position of Thorington is at present a perfect sinecure, a sort of supernumerary such is the fact. He has no command really at all. His rank is nothing but that of Colonel & indeed he is the Junior Col. of the Brigade. Orders pass through him & that is all. His being Brigaded at once knocked all his command from under him. Had he remained as Hilliard was reporting to no one but a Division commander it would indeed have been a respectable command but not so & I am satisfied that the Legion will be continued in a Brigade else I should be willing & in fact prefer having command of it to a Reg't. So you must

not be astonished at my conduct at any time. I have been continually expecting to hear of an order relieving Thorington of his command & putting him in charge of some post & making the Battalions report directly to Gen Gracie Of course I should not want to subject myself

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to any such position where the common remark is "he is nothing but a supernumerary."

I expect I was a good deal chagrined at the decision of Buckner. You may quietly whisper it into Maj Elmores ear as it will also gratify him. Sandford first spoke of taking an appeal to the War Dept but he told me today he intended letting the matter rest. I told him it made no difference with me as I had no right to complain of Gen. Buckners decision In fact I wish he would appeal.

Th Thorington told me confidentially today that he only wanted to get in a little fight & then resign. I feel certain from several things he will not hold out long. It is his desire to have the Legion kept up & for me to take command when he goes out but I dont talk to him about it. However I am very anxious that not a word of this be repeated. Don't enou

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I think I am getting a long ways ahead of you all in letters. Tell Laura & Hines they never write scarcely. I got a letter from the Col today & he informs me that Aunt Mary has her sixteenth child. Crenshaw got a letter from Bolly who gives a sad picture a Saps retreat to the rear during the battle of Chancellorsville. Of course we take this with

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Remember us all to Laura, Carrie,
Charlie & the Children. Write again
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for ours. You have no idea how we
do watch for the mail days & our disap-
pointment if a letter does not come from
home. Good bye

Yr affc son

Bolling Hall Jr.

Tell us how is wheat & corn. How much will you ^{make}

[written along the left side of page 4]

Who are you supporting for Governor?