



Camp near Shellyville Tenn
May 27th 1862

Dear Father,

I have just received yours announcing the death of grand father. He has I believe been ready and willing to die ever since our mother's death, and he too is now gone. I think as you that we grieve not for the aged as for the young. He had so bright a future to look to except the home above with his to be shared with his children who have gone before.

Since I wrote to you last we have been on the move a good deal. We have moved camp 3 times though we are yet within 8 miles of Shellyville. We are now on picket duty, on the out post of Infantry on the Triune road. The duty is very heavy. Until the last day or so we were suffering much on account of the extreme dryness of the weather. But now we have been refreshed by a little shower, and it still looks as if we were to have more rain. There is one thing that I have not mentioned before, because it might have cost you unnecessary uneasiness. About six weeks since the son of old Allen Chambers

who was taken prisoner at Murfreesboro was
exchanged and returned to his company.
He had been exposed to small pox at
in the prisons north, but it had been
so long since that we had no fears of
his taking it. But he did take varicoid
which (on account of his having been well
vaccinated) did not even cause him to take
his bed. He is now entirely well of it. His
mess were immediately quarantined,
but in spite of all precautions, four of
them were taken down with it in a
short time. Of this number (one G. D. Keys
of Prattville) has died. He had been
vaccinated, but it seems that the matter
was not good. He was an excellent young
man and a very good soldier. The other
three, two have entirely recovered, the other
(F. V. Moon) is getting well. He is at the
post house in Shelbyville. I have no fears of
its spreading in the company. I do not fear
it myself, as my vaccination took exceedingly well.
The health of my company is good, mine excellent.
We hear officially that the enemy have been
repulsed ten times at Vicksburg, also
a rumor that Johnston has attacked them
in rear captured 7000 prisoners & routed the
rest. This is cheering indeed if it be so.

Hives writes me that you have determined to put Ben in the field on account of some misdemeanor. If you have so determined I wish you would alter your mind in so much as to let me have him. An Officer in the army without a servant is placed in a very awkward position.

I am now literally minus a servant, and have been for some time trying to get one but cannot. Of course Ben could not do all that would be required of a man but I could get along very well with ^{him} and I believe I would as lief have him almost. Of course I wish to pay good hire for him as I am in my own expenses now you know. I do not think there will be any danger of losing him.

in fact I know that there is no danger
unless
our wagon train should be captured
which has never been done yet. I
mean our camp equipage which
is always too near the troops to be
captured. Please let me know as
soon as you receive this if you can
let me have him. I would take
any boy of his size who was bright
enough to learn. There would
be less danger of losing a young
negro and he would ^{not} be so apt to
suffer from sickness.

I have received a letter from
Bolling. All well. Give my
love to all at home. I will answer
Hines letter tomorrow. Tell Lottie
I would like to have one from her to
answer.

Your Affec Son
James A. Hill



Camp near Shelbyville Tenn
May 29th 1863

Dear Father,

I have just received yours announcing the death of grandfather. He has I believe been ready and willing to die, ever since our mother's death, and he too is now gone. I think as you that we grieve not for the aged as for the young. He had no bright future to look to except the home above ~~with his~~ to be shared with his children who have gone before.

Since I wrote to you last we have been on the move a good deal. We have moved camp 3 times though we are yet within 8 miles of Shelbyville. We are now on picket duty on the out post of Infantry on the Triune road. The duty is very heavy. Until the last day or so we were suffering ~~much~~ on account of the extreme dryness of the weather. But now we have been refreshed by 2 little showers, and it still looks as if we were to have more rain. There is one thing that I have not mentioned before because it might have cost you unnecessary uneasiness. About six weeks since the son of old Allen Chambliss

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The health of my company is good. Mine excellent. We hear officially that the enemy have been repulsed ten times at Vicksburg, also a rumor that Johnston has attacked them in rear captured 9000 prisoners & routed the rest. This is cheering indeed if it be so.

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I have received a letter from Bolling. All well. Give my love to all at home. I will answer Hine's letter tomorrow. Tell Lollie I would like to have one from her to answer.

Your Affec Son

James A Hall