

Maple Grove near Murfreesboro Tenn Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Patten

I had just commenced writing a letter yesterday evening to Bro Taylor when the Doctor came to see me and brought me a letter from you. You don't know how glad I was and how <sup>much</sup> good it did me. I had been sitting here in my room by myself all day thinking of you and the dear little ones at home. I believe it did me more good than any medicine which the Doctor could have given me. It snowed nearly all day yesterday and I could not go out doors any. I had to stay in my room all the <sup>day</sup> so you must know that I was very lonesome. To day it has cleared off very beautiful but is still very cold and the ground is covered with snow some two or three inches deep. My health has been improving slowly since I wrote you two or three days ago. I think I shall be able to return to Camp in a few days more if the weather should continue good. I am fixed up very comfortably here, but is so very lonesome that I believe that I had rather stay in camp. Sick Nunt comes to see me nearly every day. He was here this morning and I gave him your letter to read. He told me that he wrote to his Papa on yesterday. I was truly sorry to hear of Mr Potomac's death. It must certainly have been a very great shock to all his family. And they will miss him now so much the more as all his sons are in the Army. I had heard of Manning Brookshire's death before. And poor John K. Potomac. He too is gone. So uncertain is life. I am

glad to hear that you are not afraid of starving this  
year even if you did make a sorry crop. There is not  
much danger when you have meat plenty. Tell John that  
he must try his hand next year and see what he can do.  
You ask for advice about the Calf. I really don't know  
what to tell you unless you have him doctored & I did  
not want that done yet if it could be avoided. But corn is very  
scarce & high to have to keep him up in the stable all the time. If  
John can only manage to keep him during the winter when the grass begins to  
come up in the Spring he could be put in the field any where and do  
very well without feeding. I am sorry now that I did not write you  
at first to send my clothes by Ira, but I did not at that time know  
that his Regiment would be any where near us, and was afraid to ask it.  
I don't know when I shall have a chance to get them. I don't believe  
that Gov. Bragg intends to let us send any person in Gen. Kinney's place.  
He made application to him some three weeks ago but have not  
heard from it yet. I wanted to go home myself on a Sick furlough  
but he would not grant it unless the Doctor would give me a certificate  
stating that my disease was chronic & that I could not be cured  
except & then that I must be examined & approved by a half dozen  
other Surgeons. I have given up all hopes of getting home soon.  
I need some undershirts just at this particular time worse  
than any thing else. I am glad that you got my Boots. I  
swapped an old pair of Kersey pants that I gave Seventeen Polly  
for some time ago at Knoxville for a pair of Boots worth  
now 25¢. They will last me some time yet. I got two  
pair of Yankee Drawers at Mumfordsville Ky. for nothing.  
They are Cotton flannel & will last me all winter. I hope  
I won't freeze even if I do not get any thing from home. We  
are going to have a hard cold time of it up here this winter.

There are two or three Cases of Small Pox in M<sup>u</sup>nsfordsboro  
and two in a Regiment belonging to our Brigade, the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Ala. It has been taken away off to itself and a guard kept  
around it to prevent any person from going to it. I hope the  
Surgeons here will manage to keep it from spreading. You  
mentioned in your letter that little Nellie had entirely recovered but  
still looked badly. Poor little thing I never knew that she had  
been sick. Tell her that Papa is very sorry to hear that she

had been so sick. Papa knows that they all want to  
see him very bad, & Papa wants to see them too, and  
he hopes that God will in his own good time let him  
come to see them all again and stay with them a long  
time. Give them all a sweet kiss for Pa. This is all  
the paper I have & must close. May good Angels  
watch over you & Heaven bless you in the  
prayer of your devoted Husband Wm Davis

Maple Grove Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
Dec. 6th, 1862.

My dear Bettie:

I had just commenced writing a letter yesterday evening to Bro. Lyles when the Doctor came to see me and brought me a letter from you. You don't know how glad I was and how much good it did me. I had been sitting here in my room by myself all day thinking of you and the dear little ones at home. I believe it did me more good than any medicine which the Doctor could have given me. It snowed nearly all day yesterday and I could not go out doors any. I had to stay in my room all the day so you must know that I was very lonesome. To day has cleared off very beautiful but is still very cold and the ground is covered with snow some two or three inches deep. My health has been improving slowly since I wrote you two or three days ago. I think I shall be able to return to camp in a few days more if the weather should continue good. I am fixed up very comfortably here, but is so very lonesome that I believe that I had rather stay in camp.

Little Newt comes to see me nearly every day. He was here this morning and I gave him your letter to read. He told me that he wrote to his Papa on yesterday. I was truly sorry to hear of Mr. Dotson's death. It must certainly have been a very great shock to all his family. And they will miss him now so much the more as all his sons are in the Army. I had heard of Manning Brookshire's death before. And poor John K. Portwood he too is gone. So uncertain is life. I am glad to hear that you are not afraid of starving this year even if you did make a sorry crop. There is not much danger when you have meat plenty. Tell John that he must try his hand next year and see what he can do. You ask me for advice about the Colt. I really don't know what to tell you unless you have him doctored & I did not want that done yet if it could be avoided. But corn is very scarce & high to have to keep him up in the Stable all the time. If John can only manage to keep him during the winter when the grass begins to come up in the Spring he could be put in the field any where and do very well without feeding. I am sorry now that I did not write you at first to send my clothes by Ira, but I did not at that time know that his Regiment would be any where near us and was afraid to risk it. I don't know when I shall have a chance to get them. I don't believe that Gen. Bragg intends to let us send any person in Lieut Henry's place. We made application to him some three weeks ago but have not heard from it yet. I wanted to go home myself on a sick furlough but he would not grant it unless the Doctor would give me a certificate stating that my disease was chronic & that I could not be cured here & then that must be examined & approved by a half dozen other Surgeons. I have given up all hopes of getting home soon. I need some undershirts just at this particular time worse than anything else. I am glad that you got my Boots. I swaped an old pair of Kersey pants that I gave seventeen dollars for some time ago at Knoxville for a pair of Boots worth now \$25. They will last me some time yet. I got two pair of Yankee Drawers at Munfordville, Ky. for nothing. They are cotton flannel & will last me all winter. I hope I want freeze even if I do not get any thing from home. We are going to have a hard cold time of it up here this winter. There are two or three cases of Small Pox in Murfreesboro and two in a Regiment belonging to our Brigade the 28th Ala. It has been taken way off to itself

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and a guard kept around it to prevent any person from going to it. I hope the Surgeon here will manage to keep it from spreading. You mentioned in your letter that little Willie had entirely recovered but still looked badly. Poor little thing I never knew that she had been sick. Tell her that Papa is very sorry to hear that she had been so sick. Papa knows that they all want to see him very bad, & Papa wants to see them too, and he hopes that God will in his own good time let him come to see them all again and stay with them a long time. Give them all a sweet kiss for Pa, this is all the paper I have & must close. May Good Angels watch over you & Heavens blessings rest upon you is the prayer of your Devoted Husband.

N. N. Davis.