

Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn.

Wednesday Dec^r 24th 1862

My Dear Willie

From present indications, I think we are going to have what you might call a rainy day and as it will necessarily suspend all drills &c for the day. I avail myself of the opportunity to write you a short epistle though I will assure you in the beginning that I have nothing to interest you, with the exception that I am still in the enjoyment of good health. I received a letter two days ago from your Papa in which he stated that you and the children were well. The last letter I had from you was dated I think the 23rd November. I have no doubt but that you have written since then but such is the irregularity of the mails that no confidence can be placed in them. I wrote to your Papa yesterday and should have written to you at the same time, but the hour for Battalion Drill came on before

I could get both letters written and I had to defer writing to you untill to day.

Your Papa wrote me that you had killed a portion of your Hogs. I hope you will be fortunate enough to save it all. I was very glad to hear that you would make meat enough to do good. It is a very important item at this stage of the game in this Conspiracy. Ira returned several days ago. He came over to see me last Sunday and spent the day with me. He is in very good health, but not near as fleshy as he used to be. He has not heard from Julia since he left home. He says that Jim had a letter from May last Saturday. Every thing is quiet here around Muskegon with the exception of an occasional Cavalry skirmish out on picket. The troops here do nothing but drill once a day. The balance of the time is spent in getting wood, cleaning up their Camps &c. Brigadier Gen. Puncan

who had been commanding our Brigade
died a few days ago at Knoxville Tenn.
He was taken sick on the march from
Kentucky and never recovered. Gen.
Patton Anderson has been assigned
to the command of our Brigade. He
arrived yesterday and assumed command
this morning and of course I cannot
tell how we will like him; in fact I
have not seen him yet. But from his
character as an officer I hope that we
will be well pleased with him. Gen.
Nirby Smith's army has been leaving
here for several days on the cars for
Mississippi to re-enforce Gen. Pemberton
I hope that before long they will
have all the Yankees run out of the
State. From present indications there
will be no fighting up here until the
River rises sufficient to admit the Federal
Gun Boats. If then. By that time the
seat of war may change to some other
point. It seems to be the prevailing

impression with a great many that
we will have peace by the first of
March. God grant that it may be
so. A few more such defeats as
the Yanks have had lately in Virginia
I think ought to convince them that
the South cannot be conquered. But
I must hasten to a close. I am
writing with Col Permetts Pen and
he is waiting for it. Mr Daniels
who you will recollect preached for us
one night at Cambridge before I left home
dined with us to day. He wants to
get the appointment of Chaplain in our
Regiment. He has promised to preach for
us next Sabbath. I hope you received
the money I sent you by Capt McLacken
all right. What have you done with
George the Colly. I wish that he was
a year older and I had him here.
What does Hammer say about him. I
expect that he would object very seriously
to having any thing done to him.
Tell all the dear children Hovey for Pa
May God Bless you Good Bye
your devoted Husband, Newton

Did you Paper get the Cotton Cards from Beckwith & Withers sent

Camp Near Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Wednesday Dec. 24th, 1862.

My Dear Bettie:

From present indications I think we are going to have what you might call a rainy day and as it will necessarily suspend all drills etc. for the day. I avail myself of the opportunity to write you a short epistle though I will assure you in the beginning that I have nothing to interest you, with the exception that I am still in the enjoyment of good health. I received a letter two days ago from your Papa in which he stated that you and the children were well. The last letter I had from you was dated I think the 23rd November. I have no doubt but that you have written since then but such is the irregularity of the mails that no confidence can be placed in them. I wrote to your Papa yesterday and should have written two at the same time, but the hour for Battalion Drill came on before I could get both letters written and I had to defer writing to you until to day. Your Papa wrote me that you had killed a portion of your hogs. I hope you will be fortunate enough to save it all. I was very glad to hear that you would make meat enough to do you. It is a very important item at this stage of the game in this Confederacy.

Ira returned several days ago. He came over to see me last Sunday and spent the day with me. He is in very good health but not near as fleshy as he used to be. He has not heard from Julia since he left home. He says that Jim had a letter from Mag last Saturday. Every thing is quiet here around Murfreesboro with the exception of an occasional Cavalry skirmish out on picket. The troops here do nothing but drill once a day the balance of the time is spent in getting wood, cleaning up their camps etc. Brigadier Gen. Duncan who had been commanding our Brigade died a few days ago at Knoxville, Tenn. He was taken sick on the march from Kentucky and never recovered. Gen. Patton Anderson has been assigned to the command of our Brigade. He arrived yesterday and assumed command this morning and of course I cannot tell how we will like him, in fact I have not seen him yet. But from his character as an officer I hope that we will be well pleased with him. Gen. Kirby Smith's army has been leaving here for several days on the cars for Mississippi to re-enforce Gen. Pemberton. I hope that before long they will have all the Yankees run out of the State. From present indications there will be no fighting up here until the River rises sufficient admit the Federal Gun Boats, if then. By that time the seat of war may change to some other point. It seems to be the prevailing impression with a great many that we will have peace by the first of March. God grant that it may be so. A few more such defeats as the Yanks have had lately in Virginia I think ought to convince them that the South cannot be conquered. But I must hasten to a close. I am writing with Col. Dennett's Pen and he is waiting for it.

Mr. Daniels who you will recollect preached for us one night at Oakridge before I left home dined with us to day. He wants to get the appointment of Chaplain in our Regiment. He has promised to preach for us next Sabbath. I hope you received the money I sent you by Capt. McCracken all right. What have you done with George the Colt. I wish that he was a year older and I had him here. What does Hammie say about him. I expect that he would object very seriously to having any thing done to him.

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Tell all the dear children Howdy for Pa. May God Bless You.

Good Bye,
Your Devoted Husband,
Newton.

Did your Papa get the Cotton Cards from Barkerville & Whitfield sent them for you.