

Camp near Shelbyville
Tenn. February 1st 1863

My Dear Father

was passed and night with the dark
matter again covers the earth. To
me it has been any thing but a day
of sun either to mind or body. I
feel more fatigued than I have for some
time and should not undertake to
write you a letter to night but thinking
that I may not have any more
leisure to be giving letters for several
days to come than I do now I
think it best not to delay it. I have
had the disagreeable task to perform
of Mustering and inspecting the
28 reg. and make a long
written report of the same to be
sent up to Genl. Granters. To
day I have been getting down

from morning untill night
examining and comparing
the Muster Rolls and having to
sit in such an uncomfortable a
position it has given me a severe
pain in the back. We have no
such luxuries in Camp now as
Chairs or Stools and the best
substitutⁿ I could find was my over
Coat which I folded up to sit upon
Instead of spending the Sabbath in holy
and devout meditation I have not
had a time for thoughts even. Military
Orders when received must be obeyed
promptly without any reference to
days - be it Sunday or Monday
if you don't off go your head
I wrote you on Friday last and
dated my letter the 28th instead of the
29th. It is a common thing for a
soldier to make a wrong date. It
difficultly here even to keep the day

of the week & much more so the day
of the Month. I sent you a letter by
Sicut Prunlap about a week ago.
which I hope will reach you safely
if those sent by snail do not. He
has been sent home after conscripts
and will be absent from his Company
a long time on that business. I
made an effort to get off on that business
myself but could not succeed.

Gen Brazy would not allow any
officer to be sent above the rank of
Captain. I know that it will not
be a very pleasant business, but I was
willing to accept it for the privilege of
getting home. The prospects for getting
home are dark and gloomy indeed
so much so that I have given up
all hopes for some time to come.
When I wrote you last I thought from
appearances that we were going to be
helped with some pleasure either

but scarcely a day had passed
before it commenced raining again
at the same almost constantly the day
and the ground to remain very muddy
and disagreeable. Every thing in camp
remains quiet. I did not see any letters
stating that heavy cannonading was
going on between this & Springfield
since then I have learned that it was
a flying party sent out by the enemy
which Gen. Hauber intercepted and gave
battle the latter killed and wounded
quite a number of the rebels without
any loss himself. An order has been
issued by Gen. (Sage) consolidating
the Regiments into one. Regiments
from the same state are to be put
together
and the 10th, 27th, 28th & 34th Regiments
have been consolidated in a Regt
that the 28th is sup to be consolidated
with the 27th and the 34th to be kept
separate for what reason is not stated.

Camp near Shelbyville
Tenn February 1st 1863

My Dear Bettie

Another Sabbath day has passed and night with her dark mattle again covers the earth. TO me it has been any thing but a day of rest either to mind or body. I feel more fatigued than I have for some time and should not undertake to write you a letter to night but thinking that I may not have and more leisure or feel any better for several days to come than I do now I think it best not to defer it. I have had the disagreeable task to perform of Mustering and inspecting the 28th Ala Reg: and make a long written report of the same to be sent up to Head Quarters. To day I have been sitting down

[page 2]

from morning untill night examining and comparing the Muster Rolls and having to sit in such an uncomfortable a position it has given me a severe pain in the back. We have no such luxuries in Camp now as Chairs or Stools and the best substitute I could find was my over coat which I folded up to sit upon Instead of spending the Sabbath in holy and devout meditation I have not had a time for thoughts even. Military Orders when received must be obeyed promptly without any reference to days - be it Sunday or Monday if you dont off goes your head I wrote you on Friday last and dated my letter the 28th instead of the 29th. It is a common thing for a soldier to make a wrong date. Is difficult here even to keep the day

[page 3]

of the week & much more so the day of the month. I sent you a letter by Lieut Dunlap about a week ago, which I hope will reach you safely if those ent by mail do not. He has been sent home after conscripts and will be absent from his Company a long time on that business. I made an effort to get off on that business myself but could not succeed. Gen Bragg would not allow any officer to be sent above the rank of Captain. I know that it will not be a very pleasant business, but I was willing to accept it for the privilege of getting home. The prospects for getting home are dark and gloomy indeed So much so that I have given up all hopes for some time to come.

When I wrote you last I thought from
appearances that we were going to be
blessed with some pleasant wether

[page 4]

but scarcely a day had passed
before it commenced raining again
It has rained almost incessantly today
and the ground is becoming very muddy
and disagreeable. Every thing in Camp
remains quiet. I closed my last letter
by stating that heavy canonading was
going on between this & Murfreesboro
Since then I have learned that it was
a foraging party sent out by the Enemy
which Gen Wheeler intercepted and gave
battle He killed twenty and wounded
quite a number of the Yanks without
any loss himself. An order has been
issued by Gen Bragg consolidating
two Regiments into one. Regiments
from the same state are to be put
together. The 28th & 34th Ala Regiments
and the 10th & 19th South Carolina Regiments
have been consolidated. I learn
that the 24th is not to be consolidated
yet with any one but to be kept

[page 4, cross-hatched]

seperate, for what reason I dont know. It has been
told to me that Gen Withers promised Col Buck
before he left that he would not have his Regiment
consolidated with any other if he could prevent it
I am still pestered with Diarrhea. I thought once I
had it stoped but it has returned upon me again. We
get nothing to eat but fresh Beef or Pork and Corn Meal
and whenever I eat any fresh meat it makes it worse.
Sometimes I attempt to starve it off but then I get
so ravenously hungry that I can resist the temptation
to eat. I cannot control my appetite here in the
army as I used to do at home. I have managed
to fill up my sheet and have said but little after all
But I have nothing now interesting to write

[page 1, cross-hatched]

Little Newt is well. How are dear little
Hammie & Willie & Maggie - All well I hope
Give them all a kiss for Paper. Excuse
this badly written letter as it is written by a
very dim light. Candles with us are numbered
among the things that were. I do hope
and pray that before it is time for me to write
you again that I will be favored with a letter from
you. How earnestly I wish for one every mail

May God in mercy bless and protect
you my Dearest One Good Bye

Your Devoted Husband

Newton