

Camp near Chattanooga Tenn
July 23rd 1863

My Dear Pottis

Yesterday was my day for writing to you, but expecting a letter from you I concluded to defer it untill to day thinking that I would certainly receive one from you by this morning's mail. The mail came in due time, but brought no letter for me. So I shall have to wait with the expectation of receiving one tomorrow. I have but little of interest to write at present. Every thing remains quiet here as usual. Heavy details are made every day to work on the fortifications. We are doing work now that ought to have been done eighteen months ago, and could have been done then just as easy then, as now. But that is the way with every thing, nearly of the kind we have to do in our government. We put off every thing untill the very last moment, and the result is, that it is either

not done at all, or only imperfectly done
at best when completed, I presume that
the object in fortifying this point is merely
to leave a smaller force here, in order that
the remainder can be sent to some more
important point. Gen Hardin has been
sent from here to Miss. to take command
of the army there under Gen Johnson, and
Gen A. P. Hill, from North Carolina, sent
here to take his place. Gen Withers has
been ordered to Montgomery Ala. to organ-
ize the State troops and it is rumored
that Gen Hindman from Arkansas is
coming to take command of our division.
He dislikes to give up Gen Withers very
much. He has been in command of our
division so long that we have become
attached to him and don't much like
the idea of giving him up for a stranger
Col Manigault who has been in command
of our Brigade for a long time, received his
commission as a Brigadier Genl. a few

days ago. I have an Episcopal Minister
staying with me at present by the name
of Eppes from Georgia. He is a most
excellent man and a very good preacher.
He holds service nearly every night in
front of my tent. He is merely on a
short missionary tour to the Army and was
recommended to me by Gen Polk. He is very
warm in the cause, and strives to do all the
good he can while with us. He goes round
and talks to the men and when any of them
are sick, he reads and prays with them.
He says that he can only remain some week or
ten days longer before he will have to return
home. I shall be very sorry when he leaves us.

I wonder if Bro. Lyles would be willing to
spend a month with us. I wish he would.
We have every kind of Preachers here but I think
I have seen but one or two of them, since I have
been in the Army. By the way what has become
of Bro Lyles. I have not heard from him for
some time. Dr Portwood came out to

see me this morning I was very glad
to see him. He looks in fair health. I
did not know how that it was possible
He is now with the General the Chief Surgeon
of Polk's Corps. I heard from him that
Gen Murray was taken prisoner along
with Pike's Corps. Now he is all right
again. He is going about camp & is
justed as he usually does at home, with
his pants rolled up. You mention in
your last letter that of the family had reached
home in good health. I am glad to hear
that he is at home, but don't like the way he
managed to get there. I fear that he has
fallen into the hands of some desperate

you went to the hospital a good
while ago and when he recovered he desir-
ted and went home. I understand that
he used the same old papers which was
given him to go home on last year, and
changed the date. If this is true, it
is a great & desperate trick. The old

Camp Near Chattanooga, Tenn.
July 23rd, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

Yesterday was my day for writing to you, but expecting a letter from you I concluded to defer it until today thinking that I would certainly receive one from you by this mornings mail. The mail came in due time, but brought no letter for me. So I shall have to wait with the expectation of receiving one tomorrow. I have but little of interest to write at present. Every thing remains quiet here as usual. Heavy details are made every day to work on the fortifications. We are doing work now that ought to have been eighteen months ago, and could have been done then just as easy then as now. But that is the way with every thing, nearly of the kind we have to do in our government. We put off every thing until the very last moment, and the result is that it is either not done at all or very imperfectly done at best when completed. I presume that the object in fortifying this point is merely to leave a smaller force here, in order that the remainder can be sent to some more important point. Gen. Hardee has been sent from here to Miss. to take command of the army there under Gen. Johnson, and Gen. A. P. Hill from North Carolina sent here to take his place. Gen. Withers has been ordered to Montgomery Ala. to organize the state troops and it is rumored that Gen. Hindman from Arkansas is coming to take command of our division. We dislike to give up Gen. Withers very much. He has been in command of our division so long that we have become attached to him and don't much like the idea of giving him up for a stranger. Col. Manigault who has been in command of our Brigade for a long time received his commission as a Brigadier Gen. a few days ago. I have an Episcopal Minister staying with me at present by the name of Epps from Georgia. He is a most excellent man and a very good preacher. He holds service nearly every night in front of my tent. He is merely on a short missionary tour to the army and was recommended to me by Gen. Polk. He is very warm in the cause and strives to do all the good he can while with us. He goes around and talks to the men and when any of them are sick, he reads and prays with them. He says that he can only remain some week or ten days longer before he will have to return home. I shall be very sorry when he leaves us. I wonder if Bro. Lyles would be willing to spend a month with us. I wish he would. We have every kind of Preacher here but Baptist. I have seen but one or two of them since I have been in the Army. By the way what has become of Bro. Lyles. I have not heard from him for some time. Dr. Portwood came out to see me this morning. I was very glad to see him. He looks in fine health. I did not know before that he was here. He is now with Dr. Cavenah the Chief Surgeon of Polks Corps. I learn from him that Sid Murray was taken prisoner along with Willie Ellis.

Newt is all right again. He is going about camp barefooted as he usually does at home with his pants rolled up. You mentioned in your last letter that Jephtha Jones had reached home in good health. I am glad to hear that he is at home, but don't like the way he managed to get there. I fear that he has gotten himself into a very serious scrape and was sent to the hospital sick a good while ago and when he recovered he deserted and went home. I understand that he used the same old papers which was given him to go home on last year, and changed the date.

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If this is true it is fraud & desertion both. This was told me by Capt. McCracken. I don't believe that he really intended to desert, but being anxious to get home he used this means to get off. I hope he will return voluntarily when he gets his stay out. I made application to Gen. Bragg a few days ago for leave of absence to go home, but he refused to let me go at present. I am very sorry for it. I want to see you all very bad indeed. It grieves me very much when I think of our long seperation.

God grant that we may see each other soon. Tell all the dear children howdy & kiss them for Pa. May Kind Heaven bless and protect you my Dearest.

Good Bye,
Your Devoted Husband,
Newton.