

Camps at McFarlands Springs
Near Chattanooga Aug²⁶ 1863

My Dear Father

Since I wrote you last, we have been on
the "trump" nearly all the time until this morning
and am now, though we are stationary and every
thing appears the quiet in camp. I don't think
we will be permitted to remain so long here
this morning our ears were greeted with the distant
howling of cannon and some things were indicated
that we will have stirring times before many
hours. On Sunday evening last we received orders
to fall back from our position on Lookout Creek be-
hind Lookout Mountain, to this side of the mountain
and ever since then we have been moving from
our place to another, hunting for a suitable
place to camp. Late yesterday evening we
received orders to come to this place. We
closed up our baggage and started immediately
arriving here a little before sundown. Our
camp has been quickly laid off and every thing
put in order as though we intended to stay here
for a month or more, but I think the probab-
ilities are, that we will not remain here very long.

We have a very pretty camp ground with plenty
of good spring water and the only objection is
that the water is too far from us. We are
nearly six miles from Chattanooga at the foot
of what is called Missionary Ridge, which
is a high ridge of hills running parallel
with the Tennessee River and distant some
five or six miles from it. Chattanooga
has been nearly entirely deserted by the Citi-
zens and nothing is to be seen there now but
soldiers, and nothing heard but the keen crack
of the Rifle and occasionally the deafening sound
of the Cannon from one of the many batteries
we have along the River Bluff confronting the
advance of the enemy. The Rebels are as
thick as bees on the opposite bank of the
River and it is quite dangerous for any of
our men to approach the River bank on this
side. Sam Sharpshooters fire upon every
person who shows himself on our side of the
River, and ours of course returns the compliment.
Yesterday we had three Men Killed & five

wounded on the River Bank. It is rumored
that the enemy are advancing in large force
upon Knoxville and also towards Harris's
Ferry which is several miles above this place
and doubtless Gen. Craig will have his hands
full to guard effectually all the crossings
on the River and protect Knoxville at the
same time. I feel confident that we will
have a Battle before many days, but at what
point, I cannot tell. The Post Office
has been moved about a mile & a half from
town and I expect the move will cause some
delay in the Mails. Continue to direct
your letters to Chattanooga or Huntsford
I have not time to write you any more at
present. I am interrupted every minute
by some one and cannot write with
any satisfaction. It is rumored that Gen
Gen. Johnston is coming here with all his
army. If so, perhaps the Great Battle
of the War will be fought before long
somewhere in this vicinity.

I want to write to Pappa & Mother but
have not time now. Remember me
with love to them and all the rest of the
family. Kip all the dear children for
and tell them howdy for Pappa.

Surrounding circumstances will prevent me
from visiting you all at present, but
I look on this through the benign Providence
of God to be permitted to see you with
joy and enjoy your society in peace.

May God in Mercy bless you
in the arms of your devoted & husband
Wentworth

Camp at McFarland Springs,
Near Chattanooga Aug. 26th, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

Since I wrote you last, we have been on the "tramp" nearly all the time until this morning and even now, though we are stationary and every thing apparently quiet in Camp. I don't think we will be permitted to remain so long. Early this morning our ears were greeted with the distant booming of cannon and every thing to me indicated that we will have stirring times before many hours. On Sunday evening last we received orders to fall back from our position on Lookout Creek beyond Lookout Mountain, to this side of the mountain and ever since then we have been moving from one place to another hunting for a suitable place to camp. Late yesterday evening we received orders to come to this place. We loaded up our wagons and started immediately arriving here a little before sundown. Our camp has been regularly laid off and every thing put in order as though we intended to stay here for a month or more, but I think the probabilities are that we will not remain here very long.

We have a very pretty camp ground with plenty of good spring water and the only objection is that the water is too far from us. We are nearly six miles from Chattanooga at the foot of what is called Missionary Ridge, which is a high ridge of hills running parallel with the Tennessee River and distant some five or six miles from it. Chattanooga has been nearly entirely deserted by the citizens and nothing is to be seen there now, but soldiers and nothing heard but the keen crack of the Rifle and occasionally the defining sound of the cannon from one of the many batteries. We have along the River Bluff confronting the advance of the enemy. The Yanks are as thick as bees on the opposite bank of the River and it is quite dangerous for any of our men to approach the River bank on this side. There Sharp Shooters fire upon every person who shows himself on our side of the River, and ours of course returns the compliment. Yesterday we had three men killed & five wounded on the River Bank. It is rumored that the enemy are advancing in large force upon Knoxville and also towards Harrison's Ferry which is several miles above this place and doubtless Gen. Bragg will have his hands full to guard effectually all the crossings on the River and protect Knoxville at the same time. I feel confident that we will have a battle before many days, but at what point, I cannot tell. The Post Office has been moved about a mile & a half from town and I expect the move will cause some delay in the mails. Continue to direct your letter to Chattanooga as here to fore. I have not time to write you any more at present. I am interrupted every minute by some one and cannot write with any satisfaction. It is rumored that Gen. Johnston is coming here with all his army. If so perhaps the Great Battle of the war will be fought before long somewhere in this vicinity.

I want to write to Papa & Mother but have not time now. Remember me with love to them and all the rest of the family. Kiss all the dear children for and tell them howdy for Papa.

Surrounding circumstances will prevent me from visiting you all at present but I hope we long through the Kind Providence of God to be permitted to see you with joy and enjoy your society in peace.

May God in Mercy bless you is the prayer of your devoted Husband.

Newton.