

Lewis Ford Pa.
Jan 7th 1862

Dear Cousin

Do not attribute my negli-
gence to indifference or to a want of apprecia-
tion of that kindness you have always
shown me, but rather, and justly,
attribute it to the pressing circumstan-
ces which ever accompany the life of
a soldier. I received your very kind
note (or letter, for I hardly know which to
call it) the evening before Mr Kives'
arrival, about dark. Mr Kives came
the next morning, and I thought he
would write home immediately, which
would answer, so I, as I should not
have done, put it off that day. The next
day I was on duty and in fact had
no chance to write in two or three days
as duty was very hard on us at that
time, there being several breast works
and roads to work on besides our camp
duty which brought every man on,
every other day. Then came our turn

to go on picket. We went, stayed two or
three days & on returning found that
Mr Kives had left with Frank. In
that way I kept putting off writing
to you until I was ashamed to
write. For that seeming piece of indiffer-
-ence I must ask you to ^{be} forgive, but
don't forget me and in future I
shall do better. I suppose Mr Kives
and Frank have given you full
accounts and descriptions of the army
country &c, about here. After Frank left
we remained at Union Mills about
two weeks, and then moved down to
Davis' ford. where we are now camped.
Water & wood are both very scarce
here. We use water from the Coogan
creek, and use green pine saplings for
wood, which makes very poor fires.
Our winter cabins are nearly completed.
We have had trouble in getting boards
to cover them. Some of the boys are going to
winter it in their tents, but before
January is through they will wish
they had built cabins. We have had
beautiful & pleasant weather for six
weeks until a few days since. It is
reported in camp this morning that

The Yankees had driven in our pickets
and were advancing. Until I hear fur-
ther I shall not place much confi-
-dence in this report. I do hope they will
not come now, for it is the only time
since I have been in service that I
have been so that I could not go with
our company any where. But now
I am afraid I should not be able
to walk a mile as I have the rheum-
-atism in the knee. I think I will get
well in a few days. It only came on
me three or four days ago. If the
Yankees come, I shall go with the
company & do my best for my
country. I have had splendid health
so far. All of us are in good health
Sgt Frank, Maj-Gordon was elected
Lieut-Col-a few days since, and the
election for Maj-is now going on
The candidates are Capt Gordon of
the coons, Private Leary, of the
Hainville Guards, and Capt Weems.
Capt Weems will certainly be elected
as he now has sixty seven majority
over the other candidates together.
He is the only one fit for the office
and I think he will make a

splendid Maj. Tell Frank I shall
try & write to him in two or three days
and tell him of several little elections
which I reckon would not interest
you, as you know none of the
men. Tell Mrs Kives we are under many
obligations to her for the gloves she
sent us, I am not able to thank her
as I should. The gloves have already
been of invaluable service. Give my
love to Mrs Kives and all the family
and also to Miss Mollie, if you ever
see her. This is the second letter I have
written with pen & ink since I left
home, so you ought not to expect
it to be nice. A letter from you at any
time would be read with the greatest
interest by a

Your cousin
J. E. Hall

Davis Ford Va-
Jan 1st 1862

Dear cousin

Do not attribute my negligence to indifference or to a want of appreciation of that kindness you have always shown me, but rather, and justly attribute it to the pressing circumstances which ever accompany the life of a soldier. I received your very kind note (or letter, for I hardly know which to call it) the evening before Dr Rives' arrival, about dark. Dr Rives came the next morning, and I thought he would write home immediately which would answer, So I, as I should not have done, put it off that day. The next day I was on duty and in fact had no chance to write in two or three days as duty was very hard on us at that time, there being several breast works and roads to work on besides our camp duty which brought every man on, every other day. Then came our turn

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to go on picket. We went, stayed two or three days & on returning found that Dr Rives had left with Frank. In that way I kept putting off writing to you until I was ashamed to write. For that seeming piece of indifference I must ask you to "Forgive, but don't forget me" and in future I shall do better. I suppose Dr Rives and Frank have give you full accounts and descriptions of the army country &c, about here. After Frank left we remained at Union Mills about two weeks, and then moved down to Davis' ford, where we are now camped Water & wood are both very scarce here. We use water from the Ocoquan creek, and use green pine saplins for wood which makes very poor fires Our winter cabins are nearly completed We have had trouble in getting boards to cover them. Some of the boys are going to winter it in their tents, but before January is through they will wish they had built cabins. We have had beautiful & pleasant weather for six weeks until a few days since. It is reported in camp this morning that

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