

# SOUTHERN COAL & COKE COMPANY

G. F. PETER, PRESIDENT

MINE DEPARTMENT

C. F. HUNTER, SECRETARY

Glen Carbon,  
~~GREENVILLE~~, ALA., Nov, 23,

1908

Mr. E. S. Alston,  
Greenville, S.C.

Dear Sir:-

I am informed that you are a Fairfield Alston,— that is, that you are descended from John Alston, who died in Fairfield District in 1787,— and I write to inquire if you have any family records. Our records were lost many years ago, and despite years of diligent inquiry and research, I have not been able to obtain a satisfactory record of the family.

Following is the result of my researches, and some of the information I have may not be correct:

John Alston, eldest son of Col. Philip Alston and Mary Drew Temple, came from Chatham or Cumberland Co., N.C., to Fairfield District, S.C., here he died comparatively young in 1787. His children were:

1. Samuel Alston, who died young, and left three children, viz: William, Peggy and Betty.
2. Mary Alston, who lived to be old, but never married. Died in 1857.
3. David Alston, who married Susanna Strother, and lived sometime in Fairfield Co., but apparently removed to some other locality before his death, as his will or the settlement of his estate does not appear on the records of Fairfield Co. I have not been able to ascertain what became of him, or most of his descendants, which is my chief concern. His children, according to the supposed record, were:
  - A. Frances, who married Abraham Garrett and moved to Jackson Co., Ga., where she died in 1857, leaving a large family. Her youngest daughter, Sarah Jane, was my mother.
  - B. William L. Alston, was killed at the battle of San Jacinto, Tex., 1836.
  - C. Nancy, who married Johnson, and lived and died at Stone Mountain, DeKalb Co., Ga.

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GURNEE, ALA.,

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- D. James S. J. Alston, who went to Texas with the avowed intention of avenging his brother William's death by killing Gen. Santa Anna, was captured by the Mexicans, but escaped. He owned an estate and lived in or near Lawrenceville, Gwinnett Co, Ga., where he was killed by one of his slaves in 1848.
- E. Polly, married Reid, and lived at Stone Mountain, Ga.
- F. John A. Alston. Where he lived is not known. Dr. Groves' record says his children were: Robert, Gadsden, Peter, Butler and Mary.
4. James Alston married Frances Kirkland and lived and died in Fairfield Co., issue:  
Elizabeth M., married Dr. Geo. B. Pearson and had children: Mary Elizabeth, married Boyce;  
Emaline;  
Martha;  
Geo. B. Pearson, Jr.
- William John Alston, married Susannah Pearson, and had children:  
William Samuel Alston, died in Greenville, S.C. about 1900.  
Philip C. Alston, died in Fairfield Co. in 1870  
Joseph K. Alston, lived in Columbia.  
Frances K. Alston, died in Fairfield Co. in 1870.
5. Margaret Alston, married Thomas Mc Kinstry, and lived in Fairfield.
6. Jane Alston, married Mc Kinstry.

The above data has been obtained from old wills and other records, and from family records. I am very anxious to ascertain what became the family of John A. Alston; and would like to find out all I can about the other members of the family, particularly as to who was the wife of the first John, who died in 1787. My only object for wishing the information is to enable me to restore our family record. If you can give me any information yourself, or if you can put me into communication with anyone who can, your kindness will be thankfully appreciated. Trusting that you will favor me with a reply at your convenience, I am  
Very respectfully yours  
Jm Kellum

# SOUTHERN COAL & COKE COMPANY

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Glen Carbon  
GURNEE, ALA., Dec. 7,

1908

Mrs. Edith S. Alston,  
772 Main Street,  
Greenville, S. C.

Dear Madam:—

I hasten to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., and to thank you for your kindly interest in furnishing me the information contained therein. Your kindness is gratefully appreciated.

Your record agrees, substantially, with the data I have been able to collect, except as to the father of the first John Alston, and as I told you in my letter of inquiry, where so many records are taken into account, errors will occur in some of them.

If I could ascertain the name of <sup>the father of</sup> Samuel, father of the first John, or where he came from, I might be able to clear up some points of doubt. In many of the families the sons have been entered on the records, but the daughters have been lost sight of. This increases the difficulty of tracing out the family lines. For instance: none of the records mention any daughter of David Alston, yet I have account of three of them, viz: Frances, who married Garrett; Nancy, who married Johnson; and Polly, who married Reid, and whom I visited at Stone Mountain, Ga., when a child, with my mother.

I will try to locate the family of John A. Alston, and if successful, hope to get some information from them.

Dr. Groves, the Alston Historian and Genealogist, is doubtful as to what line the Fairfield Alstons belong to—whether they are of the family of ~~of~~ South Carolina; are descended from the North Carolina family; from the Maryland family, trace of whom has been lost; or are of a different family altogether. Tradition identifies them with the family of Col. Philip Alston of Cumberland Co., N. C., and the persistence of certain family names strengthens this conclusion.

Again thanking you, I am

Very sincerely yours,  
Wm. Kellum

GEORGE E. LYNE, JR.  
207 FOX COVE ROAD NORTH  
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28607

April 8, 2003

To: Thomas Woodard Chapter DAR  
Attention: Linda Malone

FROM: George E. Lyne, Jr.

RE: - Gift of letters and Photos of a Portrait

1. Civil War letters (originals remain in my possession) from Marion Kennan Alston son of William John Alston, who died at the Battle of South Mountain, Maryland, September 1863. A portrait of Marion K. Alston belongs to me.
2. Letters about Alston of Fairfield County written in 1908 by William Kellum.
3. Alston Portrait - The portrait of a Mr. — Alston was hanging in the home of William John Alston at the time of Sherman's march 1865. It was slashed by his troops. We are uncertain who he was — Perhaps William J. Alston (D-1808) his father James Alston (D-1841) or his father John Alston (D-1787)

George Lyne

Will write longer and more interesting  
letter after I been here a few days  
and have gained something to  
write - Direct to Richmond. 15<sup>th</sup> Reg.  
Co "4" Capt Boyd

Dear Tom Bond Aug 10<sup>th</sup>

Sunday evening.  
What a terribly hot, dusty town  
I had of it, dear Ed, for my trip  
here. It was awfully hot, but  
here I am safe and sound, reach-  
ing Richmond day before yes-  
terday evening (being delayed  
twice on the roads) and my  
camp last <sup>night</sup> about 10 o'clock.

Had considerable trouble  
in finding out where the Reg  
was yesterday in the City, owing  
to the immense crowd going  
constantly to the papers  
office but at last my chance  
came and was considerably  
relieved in finding the Reg was  
miles from the city on the Warby  
Town road. Spent the remain-  
ing part of the day in trying

going on. You hear of troops being  
moved occasionally. The next  
Reg to <sup>(Gadsden's)</sup> us they say moves to  
day, and out under marching  
orders dont know where unless  
to Jackson. Stopped a little  
while last night at Prince's  
artillery, they were to move at  
3 o'clock. Tell S. that Mr B. says  
he has sent him transportation  
and that he must have rec'd  
it by this time; he is mighty  
foolish if he comes now.

Wasnt you sorry to see that  
the Arkansas has been destroy-  
ed? They have an Iron ram  
at Richmond. I only got  
a glimpse of it on my way  
here to the camp.

Well I believe I have told you  
everything, for I have heard  
nothing, so after telling me get  
nothing to eat but bread and  
meat, no veg's, nor fruit, Ill  
stop. Love to all and Hennie.  
You must write often.

M. W.

going to Richmond, for the same reason haven't got  
any letters and don't know when I will.

Love to all. Yr affc Nephew  
M.

Georg. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 58. 4

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

I have by consent to transfer a place in the S.V. State  
Troops, ask S if he cant write Mr Proyce, and  
ask the old gent, to write Gov Pickens, trying for  
a place for me. If he thinks it worth while he  
can do so, and if I fail it will be the last  
attempt I'll make for "bettering my condition"  
and though not dissatisfied exactly with the  
rank of high private, will be more in love with  
it than my ~~unimpaired~~ constitution has ever  
allowed me to be yet. We have not even a paper  
since leaving Richmond, but some one the Genl or  
Col who has, says there is more talk about inter-  
vention. That Russia and France have sent a  
note to Lincoln saying he must stop the war, in  
some stated time, or there would be armed  
intervention. I don't know if this is true, or any  
thing will come of it, but am inclined to  
think it all humbug. You have no idea of  
what a delightful climate we are in here, the days  
are like those in the last of Oct. Sleep cool, with  
two blankets. No thing like fruit nothing to eat  
splendid water to drink, and mountains all  
around us. Order came just now for us to start at  
8 o'clock to night instead of 3. so there is a march

16 miles with a heavy knapsack for me. The Ordnance Wagon  
too heavily loaded for riding. We have no mail going  
to Richmond, so have to trust to sending this by some one

body here thinks that we'll have to form new  
Regts. and that Conques will order them  
out shortly after meeting, and that he must  
not be the gone that we were last fall in  
leaving home just at the time Regts were  
being raised in the state, but get some place  
in one of them, or raise a Comp. or something  
of the kind. He'll get his full of private  
life in just three days after coming here.

As for his not having plenty of opportunities  
of serving his country he needn't fear that.  
Grayton thinks his Brigade will be sent  
back on the Coast this fall as he knows the  
country well &c. They think here that when  
Conques meets it will extend the Conscription  
Act from 35 to perhaps 55, and bring in the  
age of 16 instead of 18, and that new Regts  
will be formed instead of the Conscripts  
being used to fill up old ones, as they have  
been pretty well filled up by those that  
came on the other day by the old act. 800. came  
on from one state, and have been distributed  
among our State Regts. - Talking about appointments,  
Fannie Boyce seemed to think that I could get



August 13<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Sam.

We have orders for Gordonsville to start at 12, to night, and as it is nearly dark now and we cant light candles this will be but a short note. I dont know what to say about directing letters whether to Richmond or Gordonsville, you can judge for yourself. However it dont make much difference as I doubt if there will be much done in the letter line until were settled down again, Jackson in the mean time will give us something to do I dont say.

You have seen he has gained another victory. I would like very much if we could fight out a peace before winter sets in, but in my opinion we are further from it than ever. The North I have no doubt will grumble a great deal before those 600,000 men are forthcoming, but what of that! The army will be raised and there will be no peace until disease and Jacksons will cause Lincoln to

issue another proclamation for an army  
and the preventing his subjects from  
Travel.

I didn't tell Ede that we are in Drayton  
Brigade I dont believe, Longstreet's  
~~Division~~. I dont say this to bore  
you, but my dear Sammy you dont  
know how much disease exists  
in the army here from liver derange-  
ment; the Officers suffer from it. The  
hospitals are the only place for privates,  
as they say furloughs are uttaly out  
of the question. dont come here  
until cold weather; but then you  
cant stand the winter here.

There will be plenty to employ you  
on the coast this fall and winter

Its too dark for me to write  
more. I could tell a good deal  
if I could see - Wasnt you sorry  
that Winder was killed?

Love to all

Wm Affely

Have to march

10 miles: dont you envy me

Are this evening at a point  
on Bal & Ohio R.R. 3 miles  
from Fredonia a town  
of about 8000 inhab.

Fredrick Co (I believe) Maryland.

Sunday Sep. 7<sup>th</sup> 1862.

I will, tho' only on a halt in our march, write dear Edie, knowing that you all must be uneasy, I'll have to wait and trust to some accidental opportunity of sending it however - and here let me tell you that not getting letters must never make you uneasy, for we have no means of sending or receiving letters, and I suppose this will be the case during the Campaign. I haven't heard from any of you since I left home - Wrote Aunt S. from Gordonsville, & Sammy from Germantown, but think it very doubtful if either went - Now Edie I don't know how to commence telling you what all we have been doing since we got off the cars from Richmond at Gordonsville. Indeed it's impossible to do so only in general terms - Have been on a steady march every day, sometimes all day & night from that time to this - In crossing the Rapahannock & Rappahannock Rivers we made several fights & underwent several shelling & a little small arm fight before we crossed, in one of which Tell S. Munroe was pretty seriously wounded, & our Brigade lost some 50 or 60 men - That fight at the Gap on Manassas Road was an ugly affair: it's a very narrow defile between two mountains just wide enough for the R.R. to run, & just by the side of the Road a stream near waist deep, Longstreet's Division was marching on the R.R. at this place, when to his & our surprise a battery of 8 guns planted to command this point opened on us. The place was such a miserable one for manoeuvring a large force that it's a wonder we were not killed by

scores, besides the cannon they had. infantry stationed along the sides of the mountain at the end of the gap that opened on us too. After a while however we got off the Road on the sides of the mountains and our infantry went to work. The place was such that we couldn't plant a single battery - The fight lasted about 3 hours till dark. Near dusk while the battery was still playing the 15<sup>th</sup> was sent forward with our Comp. in advance 500 yds to feel the way, to take it, before reaching it tho' it had ceased its fire & on getting there found they had skedaddled. After all their loss was much heavier than ours. I counted 28 of them dead in a space about as large as the 2<sup>nd</sup> yard. The mountains were composed of crags of rock & you ought to have heard the cannon balls crashing & rolling among them. We slept there that night & next morning got to the battle field at Manassas shortly after the battle commenced. were carried about a great deal, but was not under fire except from shell, until the next (Saturday) evening, when we were double-quickened a mile & half & got in just as Jenkins Brigade came out, & then we could not fire a gun on account of a Brigade engaged fifty yards in front of us - were exposed to heavy fire of grape, Canister & Minnie balls. Ede the balls fell around & over us as thick. Truly as hail, yet we lost very few compared to some brigades owing to the fact that we could lay down (this other brigade being in front of us) had we been standing our loss would have been as heavy as any. One Com. in the Reg. lost 11, 5 killed & 6 wounded - Wounded & wounded - This was about 300 yds from the famous Henry house, where Mrs H. was killed in the other battle - No one need ever desire to be in battle, its an awful sight then and afterwards -

Well here we are in Maryland. what we are going to do I have no idea - Havent seen but one old paper since I left Richmond - We are all well nigh broken down, this continuous

Marching makes you tired and sore from morning till night, heat and dust is terrible, then think of the load I carry, gun, Cart ridge box with 50 rounds, haversack, canteen, heavy, guard cloak - Have had to throw away nearly every thing, have only a change of under clothing & those I have on - Every body have had to throw away knapsacks - Would have had to throw away S's large nice blankets, but got a waggoner to carry them for me by giving him one of them - I am too glad S was not been with us, it would have knocked him up long ago all the Companies have lost from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to half of their men by their breaking down, officers as well as men. Wish I could talk to you all about a week - Would like to know what are our plans, but only know we are in Maryland, dont know where we are going or anything, & not seeing the papers dont know what has been going on elsewhere - heard a report that they had a fight in Beaufort, Hanks whipped with loss of 500 -

The only trophy I got from the battle field was a sword-belt with a very handsome buckle, not being an officer gave it to Col. Geist -

Wish the war would end, but have no hopes of it.

Want something good to eat mighty bad.

Have been quite well, but worn out. Love to all

Yrs affe

M -

I have nothing to say, as S. I suppose has told you all that we have of any interest. and these few lines are only to flatter you up a little. yesterday Sammy showed his star to some officers in the tent who were speaking of cockades and they were perfectly delighted with it. there is nothing like it in the Reg. & I'll venture to say in the State it represents. here the smallest piece of palmetto is prized as diamonds and the did me good to see how far you's outshone any other. The Col has not worn it preserving it for the streets of Washington. but every officer & man has a piece of famed tree on his cap in some shape or other.

I like this life first rate, only preferring one other, that of adding one more seat around the fire-side of home. You must write us





they were repulsed their falling back was always done in the most beautiful style, not the slightest disorder, but in the most regular order they'd fall back two or three hundred yards, form again, fight awhile, fall back a short distance a second time, and so on. he says its very different with us though, that then its all confusion and no chance of reforming.

Tell the Col. he missed a fine opportunity of an appointment to day by not being in this Regt. Our Quartermaster resigned yesterday and Col. West gave the place to day to Walker a Lieut. in this comp. I know he has got the place had he been here. As it was I heard of the vacancy this morning, and was just going to see Col. West to give it him anyhow when <sup>he</sup> walked into our Quarters and gave it to Walker. I have changed my tune about his not having that place. - Isaac Meares is 2d. M'tn, of the 4th Regt. Col. James Prother that of his Battalion. and I believe that where the place is filled with the right sort of men that they are highly respected. Tell him that every

Camp near Gordonsville. Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>

As I haven't anything more pleasant to do this evening dear Aunt Lavinia, I'll write you a little letter, though I wish it was in my power to give you a little more star news than I'll be able to do. The evening before leaving our Camp near Richmond I wrote the Col a note just stating that we were off. Had the pleasure of a march of 10 miles that night reaching the Depot at daylight on Thursday, and then came on by Rail way to Gordonsville some 75 miles the same morning, and marched from there to our present camp 5 miles from the village. We found eight or more Brigades camped here night with us, besides many others around in the immediate vicinity. Two days after arriving here the whole body of Troops were ordered to Orange C.H. our brigade with the rest, but owing to our wagon train having to come from Richmond by the road we did not go with the rest, but awaited our wagons. They came in this morning so we leave to night at 3 o'clock. The Troops I have mentioned are those we found here, besides these large numbers have been transferred from Richmond

To Orange every day that we have been here. Jackson, Lee, Hill, Longstreet all are up here, and I suppose our whole available Army in Va, with the exception of Hoods Division which is at Fredericksburg to operate against Burnside's command.

Now for reports. They say that McClelland has transferred pretty much the whole of his army here to Pope, and that a battle is imminent in two or three days: that one on as large a scale as that before Richmond will come off up here in the course of a very short time I think there can be no doubt of.

Our troops seem as confident of another grand victory as if the battle had been fought and won already. They have the greatest confidence in our Generals. Are we not magnificently blessed in that respect? They say we have 150 pieces of field artillery carried up there since we have been here, besides the number there before. I expect Lee's and Jackson's plan of battle is such that will destroy and capture the whole Yankee army if the execution of the battle, unlike that of Richmond, is carried out as well as the planning. The remnant of the

veteran "6<sup>th</sup>" was encamped near us until yesterday they were sent up to Orange. I saw Gadsden's Artillery several times. They do look like worn out veterans sure enough. Gadsden told me all about the hardships they have undergone, and to us at home many of them are actually incredible, in the falling back from Manassas to Yorktown last March, they had to go round from Orange to Fredericksburg, then back to Orange, then on to Richmond, making in all 200 miles of marching, the snow on the ground most of the time, without tents, and that kept without a blanket. G. G. says that having gone through so much, and so many battles makes him have the greatest imaginable desire of escaping now through the rest of the war, but it seems to him that no one in the army now stands much chance, as he can see nothing that will close the war now that Lincoln has called for another tremendous army. He says we have no idea how magnificently their troops are disciplined, that in these battles that the repeated number of times

Wrayton I do think is little better than  
an idiot, everybody looks upon him  
as a fool, and having a brother in  
the other army why he is foul in this  
is more than most of us can understand.  
You are mighty strong on our leaders,  
dont agree with you altogether espe-  
cially about Beauregard. you've been  
cut off from us army folks too long,  
and indulging in playing the critic  
at a distance too much. But the truth  
is we have managed miserably.  
Right now things look a little brighter.  
The fight in Va has come off and the  
~~latest accounts we were there being~~  
McC. The fight at Corinth too is  
believed to have commenced. and  
Stonewall pushing on into Maryland  
if Beauregard whips and pushes on  
into Ohio, and Johnston whips and  
joins Stonewall in Baltimore and  
then marches on, on, on. I don't think  
that anybody has at length learnt  
some sense. This is a terrible war.  
I am sick of it, It sounds funny  
~~to bring in the inevitable~~  
connection, but I must confess I've  
been sadly disappointed, it has  
almost made me feel that after

affair. I want to hear it, but I'll  
not stir a quiver of it. When is the best  
time for one to go in sea bathing? When  
their head is springing.  
Camp Elliott. June 2nd

I got your tonight dear I and  
if it had not been for the good  
news in the papers tonight, am  
not "so sure say" but that  
the dull no-account feelings I've  
had all day would have ac-  
celerated into a regular fit of  
the blues. I can well understand  
how unpleasant it is to you to  
be kept quietly at home while  
there is so much going on, but  
do you know you are just  
as well off at home and a  
great deal pleasantly situated  
than I am here. Now just  
think I have been here nearly  
six months and what good  
has it done! and am likely  
to be here indefinitely for us

little purpose. for as you say  
I finally believe the only object  
of the troops being kept here  
exists in the imagination of  
some of our military fools. If  
I had the slightest suspicion  
of the result of joining this  
Reg. I'd have seen it anywhere  
first - I'd have liked  
to have been with the "8<sup>th</sup> Reg."  
it is ~~now~~ too late for you  
to go there now, the fight is  
over. Whatever you finally do  
take my advice and don't  
join any of these coast Regs,  
for so far as having anything  
to do with the war, <sup>is concerned</sup> you'd a  
vast deal better be at Fort.

I wouldn't be surprised if I  
saw Capt. Boyd before long, as  
he thinks his chances of com-  
manding the batallion of Sharp

excellent  
shooters, he stands higher than any  
officer in the Reg. at all the Brigade  
Court Martials he is always Judge  
Advocate. he is on the go pretty  
much all the time. His brother is  
now Ordnance Sergeant of the Reg.  
an easy birth, gets rid of all drillings,  
guard duty &c. Munroe has  
consented to raise one of the  
Co.s of Sharp Shooters. Davis (Bishop's  
son, the one you know in Va) Adjutant  
of this Reg, another. I'd like to get in  
somehow but have no thought  
that I will, however when Boyd comes  
back from Court Martial will  
have a talk with him about it.

By being at picket the other day  
got rid of a terrible long & hot march  
to Hardenville on account of that  
Pocotaligo affair. The other companies  
were sent and after going as far  
as Hardville as usual were sent back.

send me a stamp for my buttons.

May 14<sup>th</sup>.

for a guard here. I would like very much to be quartered at the village but if I had my choice would go to Virginia.

I am truly sorry Miss Mary is in so deplorable a condition, I would think that death would be a blessing to her, and relieve her from so much ~~trouble~~ ~~the trip from here to Sparta~~ ~~trouble~~ will be very trying to Miss Eliza, for from what you say the risk of anything happening on the way is very great.

Don't be a little goose about my not taking pleasure in your letters, do you think I don't want to know everything about you all.

You come down too hard upon "that gentleman" as you would at once see, if you could know ~~what remarkably good friends we are~~ He is really a smart fellow, has an excellent education, talks remarkably well, but is a great theorist - and you know I don't believe in that - and I don't think has a very good judgment. He is some 35 I suppose, and a very quiet

Yes Edo I got both the letters you allude to, and am pretty certain I've got all your letters. and if I've been "blaming" you, for a long time now, for not writing I don't know what I could have been thinking of, for you've been amazing yourself, haven't you.

As it was only yesterday I mailed a letter to you. This can have nothing in it, but then times I like to answer as soon as possible after receiving, and as yours took by surprise tonight - not expecting one for several days yet, you must put up with one in turn. While I am on this subject let me make a sort of explanation. In my last after asking you to write soon, told you not to write unless you wanted to. I didn't mean wanted, but only when you felt in the humor of writing.

Tell Uncle M. I think his advice good and would

take it, but there is no way of getting the Quinine. I am not uneasy about my being sick, and will tell you why after a little, but am about the men here. Fever and bilious attacks are increasing every day and I fear will continue. Every thing indicates it, and the Surgeon Dr James, who I am glad is an excellent physician, told me he was convinced there would be a large amount of sickness from the middle of the month on. There are two men in the Company very sick with bilious fever, one of them out of his head since last night, am afraid his fate is fixed. Now I'll tell you my prophylactic, the food of our Mess is good and the cooking excellent. We have about 200 lbs of ham and bacon brought from the Up Country, and the Captain's <sup>boy Jerry</sup> ~~cook~~ is as good a cook as I'd ever wish even in peace times. We get vegetables frequently, have coffee all the time, and every day as nicely cooked &

black-berry pie as you ever saw. The pastry is every bit as good as that of regular pastry cooks I think. Jerry's biscuits are exactly like those nice ones Sylvia makes. He is as good a master as he is cook, and altogether one of the most pleasant, honest ~~respectable~~ valuable negroes I ever saw. What is most surprising ~~to me~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>is</sup> most of his accomplishments since coming into camp. Mr Robt Boyd's boy is nearly as serviceable too as Jerry. Well now to go back to health; all these good things I've been telling you counteract disease in an immeasurable degree; whereas the poor soldiers are already debilitated by ~~poor~~ <sup>poor</sup> food and will undoubtedly fall victims to a great extent to this climate. Dr James two days <sup>ago</sup> ~~sent up~~ <sup>gave</sup> a recommendation to the Col to take the night guard from round the Camp, in order to not subject the men to the night air, but <sup>like</sup> many other foolish actions of military men it was disapproved. There is no earthly use

Will the big battle that was to have  
come off on any one of the seven days  
of the week has not taken place  
yet, and in my humble opinion will  
not even this winter. a week ago I  
hadn't the slightest doubt of one  
almost daily, but there is no prospect now.  
One can form a better idea of the size  
of the advance army now than ever before.  
It is impossible to walk out and cast your eye  
a quarter of a mile in any direction without  
seeing almost every hill top and valley whitened  
with tents. at Centreville you can count no less  
than the encampments of 30 regiments in  
the valley.

So you went to the pick nick and Edie captiva-  
ted the old boy, and you had a nice time,  
and what else? A few days now will see  
Aunt L. of the bother of soldier clothes making.  
I expect, for this ought to find you all quietly  
fixed at White Hall. Now I'd like to see the  
tent, for I know it's a curiosity in its way.  
I have a great deal to tell you, but you see  
my paper is out and how can I? After telling  
you of all my misfortunes I must make you  
more sorry for me by letting you know I've been

Will this long letter tempt you? Please.  
Love to all. Yours affly. M.

Near Centreville. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

I am writing to night dear Vin, not  
that I have anything to tell you particularly  
but merely that you may hear from us  
and to let you know that if my papers  
are not sent more regularly I'll stop my  
subscription. Every body in So Ca. must  
certainly have forgotten that there are two  
such things in Va as Independents (what  
a misnomer!) for the only letter we've  
received from that state was E's from E. &  
yourself the other day, and do you know  
that it is six weeks to day since we left  
Huntsboro. Oh Vin this thing of being  
independents isn't what it is cracked  
up to be, in fact I'll venture to say there  
are not two more dependent and un-  
comfortably situated men in the army  
than we are. It is all owing though to  
our having joined the Company and

Regiment that we did. you may depend we made a mess of it. Col Kinder is an old U. S. Officer, a regular military man, does every thing, and has every thing by Army Regulations, and all such as that: the consequence of which was a day or so after we got our tent up and fixed comfortably, there came an order that no Company should have more than two wall tents, so down ours had to come, and from then on we had to sleep and live as best we could. A week or so after that there was this grand falling back of the army from Fairfax and as we could get no mode of transportation (and hoping an opportunity of getting up up our tent once more) I and self by running a market thro one of the cords carried our own tent. The next thing we knew was an order for all extra baggage to be sent off to

Manassa, so our clothes with the exception of those on our back and a change of under ones were sent. unfortunately my pants being an old pair gave way entirely in a very giddy manner, so compelled to borrow a pair we footed it to Manassa to day to find our clothes had never been sent there, and are lost. So here I am without even a pair of pants, and the Col without shoes, for his has worn out and he is on the borrow. In truth Vin we are by no means pleasantly fixed off. you feel that you are neither one thing or the other, in every bodys way and every body in yours. and owing to the company we are in are pretty much isolated with the exception of the young Alitons and one or two others the officers excepting one are disagreeable men. and I dont think there is much love lost between us and them.



Mr Appleby  
The

I can't help it though, have to take it as much  
as a matter of course as the Capt who gets his  
\$120. per month, or his Lieut's their \$80. The only  
unpleasant part is, that I'll be obliged to  
borrow from him, and don't like borrowing  
a small amount every now and then, it  
~~isn't too respectable. I'll get \$50 borrow~~  
any, and would borrow it from him now  
but fear he couldn't spare it, as he has a  
family to support & is not rich, besides people generally  
are not over fond of lending money, but don't think  
it would be the case with him - Tell S. the Capt  
came from Tom yesterday and brings bad news of  
Mr Boyle's Comp. says he is universally despised  
by men and his officers, even Minnor hasn't  
~~much to say in his favor, that if there were no orga-~~  
nization in his Comp. he'd be left out unanimously.  
At one time they did all sign a request for him to  
resign, but thro' Minnor's influence were persuaded  
not to hand it in. All from his peevishness & cursing  
about too indiscriminately. This Reorganization thing

~~officers are left out pretty much and men are put in  
their places, generally speaking an improvement for the~~  
well tempered person, and that is one thing  
puts me out in his arguments, he talks along  
like a piece of machinery; I don't know that  
he is so desponding about our success, but talks  
sometimes too contemptuously about our government  
and its success, what amazes me is his great  
admiration of Davis with it all. I seem to amuse  
him very much, he likes me, says I am a bundle  
of inconsistencies, the only thing he has ever  
seen consistent in me is my excessive aversion  
to arguments; says if Dickens could only come  
across me that he could without calling in  
the aid of imagination and exaggeration  
produce one of the richest books ever read.  
seems to employ himself more busily in studying  
me since I've been here than <sup>but says I am a perfect puzzle</sup> ~~can make nothing out of it~~  
I know. Nor his brother the Capt is very different in  
many respects, he is one of the most cheerful persons  
I know, especially on the subject of the war, never  
saw him in the least down in the mouth  
about it but once and then only for the night

about - Mr. Thayer and about - I don't think I am very disappointed, but to write them sometimes

when we meet - heard of the fate of New Orleans. He has really to think the best-balanced mind and the clearest I ever knew. The only thing that he has - from him is he is somewhat selfish, like all smart-people talks and acts for himself. I don't know but what his right - though all sorts of ~~things~~ ~~by~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~done~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~benefit~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ is really that to anyone else. His brother is very hot as much so as he is, and I think his father who was here on a visit is too. There has been not the slightest - ~~clearance~~ ~~business~~ ~~on~~ ~~that~~ ~~score~~ ~~between~~ us though. What a long argument this is about the title you don't know - but you know I am doing a great talker - I wonder if you has anything to do with it - as I don't talk to you, you must ~~excuse~~ ~~if~~ ~~you~~ ~~do~~ ~~not~~ ~~do~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~in~~ ~~conclusion~~.

But he has been sick for several days, not very long, then he came here he was fat and hearty, he has fallen off very much and looks hardly, is now that he is unwell very low spirited

you think - I can be easy, you may depend if you see convinced that I am really sick you know it

and disappointed, this kind of life don't suit him at all, and I really don't think he can stand it - if his health continues to get very as it has commenced. Talks of trying to get a substitute. Boyce says that - ~~dammy~~ ~~ought~~ ~~to~~ ~~think~~ ~~of~~ ~~going~~ ~~into~~ ~~service~~, and James says ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~war~~ ~~but~~ ~~to~~ ~~try~~ ~~and~~ ~~discuss~~ ~~the~~ ~~thing~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~war~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~meantime~~ ~~and~~ ~~see~~ ~~what~~ ~~he~~ ~~can~~ ~~do~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~war~~ ~~is~~ ~~going~~ ~~on~~ ~~and~~ ~~shortly~~ ~~after~~ ~~going~~ ~~through~~ ~~a~~ ~~decision~~ ~~and~~ ~~then~~ ~~you~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~known~~ ~~as~~ ~~his~~ ~~name~~ ~~on~~, one thing is certain he mustn't come here, is will do very well for a strong healthy person but for me in his present health I believe would be taken down in a week. Another great objection to him, is the purgative, they are largely ~~used~~ ~~to~~ ~~clearly~~ ~~any~~ ~~dark~~ ~~at~~ ~~night~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~.

Tell you what - this is an expensive man for one who gets only \$11.00 per month. My last month I saw of ~~damages~~ ~~was~~ ~~nearly~~ ~~\$14.00~~. This month will be nearly if not quite as heavy, and it has never been less than \$10.00 per month