

Civil War letter written by James Richmond Boulware, who was the son of Benjamin James Boulware and Sarah Barber Richmond and brother of Nancy Ann Boulware Hall. James Boulware was Assistant Surgeon in the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Cavalry. This letter is to his brother-in-law, William Stokes, husband of another sister, Eliza Jane Boulware Stokes. At the time, William was serving in the Confederate Army in South Carolina; his unit was later transferred to Virginia. From the book, *Saddle Soldiers*, by Lloyd Halliburton, Sandlapper Publishing (1993).

Camp near Franklin, Va.

June 1st, 1863

Your letter was received several days ago just as we were getting orders to march and I have been somewhat unwell since I came back. But I am now well as ever. Bill, we are nearly run to death down here. We have a long list to keep up and few troops so when a few get up at one point--say 10 or 12 miles distant--we have to go and lay them in the sand several days and probably have to go as far the other side of our camp. We very seldom get to stay in camp in peace for one day and night at a time and to tell the truth our Regt, our Brig. are heartily tired of the business. We do not mind fighting as much as we hate the long dusty marches & we all want to get back to Lee's Army. Genl Jenkin heard yesterday from Longstreet that his Brig. would probably be ordered back to the Rappahannock and we suppose will go with Genl Hand as he has applied for us and ain't none of us wish to go with Pickett. We do not like the Virginians much better than the yankees. They are so presuming etc. We want to go but hate the long march to get there as I suppose we will have to march etc.

I have just got a letter from John Steward. He told me my wheat is about ready to cut. I have written to him and told him to save 25 bu. for you. I suppose you will want it, will you not? You are nearer home than I am.

Bill, I suppose hard very hard fighting has been done before Vicksburg. We hear at last account that the stench of finding dead bodies of yankees was awful, that Johnston was somewhere in [the] rear--that Vicksburg was holding out barely--I look for something from Old Joe before the thing is ended. And if Vicksburg holds out which I hope & trust in God it may, I hardly think Old Abe will get his 400,000 men and if he does not I look for cessation of hostilities between now & next January. I think Old Lee will attempt to invade this summer again but he may probably fight about Manassas or in front of Washington first. Frank [J. R.'s brother, Benjamin Franklin Boulware] has sent up his papers but has not heard from them yet. He talks of getting you to send up another such paper but I think the other will come yet. Write to me soon as usual for we may not go and if we do go your letter will be sent on to me.

I remain your Brother-in-law

J. R. Boulware