

John B. Lewis

Born: February 22, 1877, Blackstock, South Carolina

Private, Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry, Spanish-American War

Date of Enlistment: May 4, 1898

Date of Discharge: September 29, 1898

Date of Death: October 18, 1960

Buried at Bethlehem United Methodist Church Cemetery, Chester County, South Carolina

[Application for Headstone or Marker for Military Veterans; Mary Lewis Keziah, applicant.]

2013.58.35: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), May 15, 1898;
no envelope

Columbia, S.C.
May 15 1898

Dear Mother

This is Sunday I believe if I am not mistaken you cant tell unless you keep up with the day of the week for they work us just the same. I am suffering terrible with my arm could not sleep one bit last night it is swollen terrible and all inflamed down to my elbow. I never did have anything to hurt me so. This day two weeks ago I was at home. I have not been home since yet. I am very well satisfied so far. They keep us close as [illegible]. I am getting use to it. They came fixing to go over to the park to preaching now. I will not go for I dont want to go. I would like to go to Bethlehem [Methodist Church in Blackstock, SC] if it was not so far. I hope to get up there when Big meeting starts if we are not moved by then. Captain thinks we will be moved next week of course he dont know. I wish we would for I am getting tired of staying in one place. We may be here all this summer. There will go a batalion from here. I expect we will go with it. We were the third company to me mustered in we get the name of having the bes[t] company down here and of course I believe we will go in the first Batallion. I think there are about 16 or 17 companies down here of course they are not all over here there is some at the fare grounds and some at the park they are talking of moving them all over here. I am getting pretty well drilled. We have no arms yet.

Well I will soon have to stop and go wash out some clothes. We have to wash our own clothes and dishes too. Well I have just received a letter from Ed [Edward E. Lewis, John's brother]. I believe he said they were all well. Tell Ed he must not kill that colt for it will get all right. Ed spoke of Hiamy [?] he is all right. The officers think lots of him and every body else he tents with. Holmes[,] Humphy [?] and J. Smith and Pek Bird he is all right and he keeps up with them.

This is the roughest place I ever seen. You have to be tough when you stay here. I will get all right when I come back.

Yes there was a good many deserted tell Joe Barns['] aunt that old Laurence B. deserted. When a man deserts he is not worth a dam and after you are mustered in and then desert why of course they will be courtmartial and shot there have one already deserted from the Joh[n]son Rifles [Company E, 1st SC Infantry] the Governor has offered a reward for him.

Well we was called out a minute ago to get orders and while we were out there one of the boys fell dead and it was some time before he came to that is nothing new here for there is someone always falling here. I think the sun is so terrible hot and they get overheated while drilling is the cause. I was drilling yesterday evening. Will drill no more untill my arm is better.

Ma I am getting just as fat as a hog, and [illegible]. I expect I will come home the last of the month that will be gay day if I can get a furlo. I will come home then. I dont know either if we are moved. I cant come but I am coming when Big Preaching starts. What is John Stevenson doing. Well Ma I will have to close. I want you all to write soon some days I get two letters and some days none. Wrote SC yesterday and some one else. I recon Peay [illegible] and Bill [illegible] & Pivot is hoeing cotton. Hayse McKeown is here and the damdest fool I ever seen. He would have deserted if it had not been for me. Write soon. I will close with love to all.

J.B. Lewis

c/ L[ee] Light Infantry

[illegible]

Has my little son [illegible] yet- it will soon be time.

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J.B. Lewis

c/ L[ee] Light Infantry

[illegible]

Has my little son [illegible] yet- it will soon be time.

Tell Ed not [to] kill that colt for God sake it will get all right- you know Mack had some rough looking legs when he was folded and they got all right. Ma I got all my clothes all right- Will send them all home when I get my uniform for I wont need them
Joe Barns Aunt write soon

2013.58.33: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), June 1, 1898; envelope postmarked Columbia, SC, June 1, 1898; addressed to Mr. W.W. Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

Columbia, S.C.

June 1, 1898

Dear Father will write you a few lines this morn. I am feeling fine on duty. Yesterday and last night – till 10 this morning been sick two days this week, but did not stop drilling. I guess I will not get up home to see you all for sometime. Colonel [Joseph K.] Alston got a telegram yesterday to move us at once to Chickamauga and we will go Friday unless we get other orders. I intended coming home Friday but will not get there now. I think we will go there and drill 2 or 3 months and then we will go to Cuba or some other place. Well I would have liked to come home before I left but will not get there now. Well I have just read all of the letters from home this morn. Glad to hear all was well and proud to hear the cold is some better to it will get all right. I am sorrow that I did not get that box proud ma sent one but Dr. [illegible] got drunk and lost it. I [illegible].

Dr would have had a good job if he had let liquer alone but he is such a fool he gets drunk every time he can get it-

I am sorrow to heare about Press McK damned meanness again but nothing more than I expected he ought to have his neck broke.

Well I am very glad we are going away from here for nearly every man in camp has the disentary the water is the cause. We are boiling our water now and put ice on it. And we wont get our uniforms untill we leave here and I tell you there are some boys here are in bad fix. Well I will close. Dont write after thursday unless you hear of some and dont worry after one I will get back all right. Will close with love to all and Aunt Charlotte to[o]. Good by to all. This is short – no time to write any more.

Your loving son JB Lewis

2013.58.36: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), June 3, 1898, to his sister, Viola Lewis; envelope postmarked Columbia, SC, June 3, 1898, addressed to Miss Viola Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

Columbia S.C.
June 3, 1898

Dear Sister

I am still in Columbia. We are all expecting to leave to day. We are still expecting to leave any time. We received orders Tuesday to move at once to Chickamauga but the order was countermanded and we received orders for a Battalion to come to Jacksonvill[e]. [Lieutenant] Colonel [James H.] Tillman will go with orders. [He] is doing everything he can to get us away from here. There will be few [illegible] in the Battalion and of course we will be in it but dont know what time we will leave and you all can write on to me at Columbia. I will let you know when we start. Our Lieutenant thinks we will have between now and Monday. I could come home but they wont let you stay more than 5 or 6 hours and I wont come if I cant get to stay any longer than that. Well I am sorrow to hear about Ella McKeown. April fool that is sure a mean trick. I don't care who done that and for Press that is all more than I expected off him. I received a letter from Lillie yesterday was so glad to hear from her. Lillie certainly writes a nice letter. We are having a very good time in camp. I am feeling fine again only we suffer for water some times they wont let us drink it unless it is boiled and some times we have know ice and have to drink it hot. We would have a good time if we had a good quartermaster but he arnt worth a cent. Every one of the boys cursed him out last night. We are trying to get him out of his job if we can. There is not a one of us likes him and he goes a rough road you bet and nothing to wat he will. I was expecting coming home this evening if this [illegible] had not got up. Well I will get there by and by. I am coming in August wont matter where we are. Viola I tell you the truth Hays is the damdest laziest rascal and the triflest boy I ever seen any where. Well he arnt any count for nothing. I do despise him he is so [illegible] and you know I cant stand that around me. When he moves he cant tent with me any more. Well I had to stop and eat dinner, and I will try and finish this letter the flies are that bad till I can hardly write. When I come home I never want to see another Irish potato and no more beef and loaf bread for we have this three times every day. Well I will have to close this letter for there is nothing new here now to me and I think I have wrote you all nearly every thing. You all must write me soon. I will let you know when we leave. You can write me anyway if I don't get it will be returned. Viola I have met up with one of May Wooten sweet-hearts his name is Bob Macon. I know you have heard us talking about him he is a very nice boy she writes to him every week. I will have to close and put this with love to you all. Write soon. Your loving Brother

J.B. Lewis

Does Jim Lewis write to May yet I have heard nothing about him. Tell him I think he might write to me

Tell me party come off wrote about I guess you went down to get rid of me although I know you did not guess you went home to see your [illegible] Bren

2013.58.37: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), June 8, 1898, to his mother; envelope postmarked Lytle, GA, June 10, 1898, addressed to Mrs. W.W. Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

Chickamauga
June 8, 1898

Dear Mother

This leaves me well arrived yesterday in Chattanooga at 8 o'clock P.M. and it is 12 Miles out here we had about 8 Miles march. I was getting pretty tired when we got here. This is certainly a beautiful place. It is 15 miles [illegible]. We are tenting in a big oak grove. It is nearly all in woods. [Illegible along fold line] 5 o'clock Thursday P.M. got to Augusta at 11 o'clock that night- we stopped there got some coffee got to start after sun up. Tuesday we got some coffee there but nothing to eat much we have been faring pretty rough for some time. There are thousands and thousands of me here from all over the world. All of them seem to be very nice to us so far. The Minnesota Band came down and plaid for us last night. They played Dixie and Yankee Doodle what was played here years ago.

It takes a man with good grit to go through with this most of the boys have been terrible home sick since been here to leave not had the blues but very little since I left home. There is a sight most scenery between here and home. There is mountains very [illegible] all the way from Atlanta to Chickamauga. Lookout Mountain is right close here there is a picket line for 15 miles clean around the park. They took measure for our uniforms to day. I will be glad when we get them all the regiment down here have there uniforms we got hats all a like shoes suits and leggins there are some good drilled companies here it wont take as long to catch up with them. I dont see why it is I never got your letters. I wrote you all Sunday received the one you sent by Bob Cunningham and the handkerchiefs. I appreciated them so much not as I needed them but because they were from you.

[Illegible] care [illegible] mules here and as fine mules as I ever seen the horses I could not say how many. Mother I am sorrow you all has had no rain yet. I know how it is there dry. There are fine crops between Columbia and Augusta. I seen lots of corn shoulder and head high. Well I cant write you much. There are some old bayonets and swords still here and the old cannons are here as they were in time of the battle. Seen one tree where the hottest battle was fought. It is just full of balls. I have not seen very much yet. There is 47 regiments here and about a thousand orders to the regiment. We will not drill untill we are equiped and then we will go into it right. I want to take a good walk over it Sunday and go as far as I can.

Well I will have to close. This is a poor letter but I have just got here and nothing to write on this place. Looks like the Minnesota boys are as fine boys as I ever seen they come arround every night to see us they were glad we came when we did. They will be in the same brigade we are if we ever leave here. I believe we will all be home by X Mas. I may be fooled but I dont think we will be here much longer than that. Will close with love to all. Write soon and address my letters this way

J. Bren Lewis
Chickamauga Park
Care of 1 S.C. Regiment
Company D

2013.58.38: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), June 24, 1898, to his mother; written on cream stationery with blue lettering of the "Young Men's Christian Associations of South Carolina, Army Department. An organized work among the South Carolina Regiment. Large Tent, supplied with the State Papers and Magazines, Games of Chess, Checkers, etc. Correspondence Tables with free Stationery. Religious Services and Bible Classes conducted among the Soldiers. All under the supervision of an experienced General Secretary. Chickamauga Park, Headquarters, 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, Lytle, Ga."

June 24 1898

Dear Mother

I must writ you some this morn this leaves me felling fingers. I overdid. I have been writing to the rest of them and forgot to write you. I have just come in from drill. We are getting on fine and can [illegible] any command the officers gives us. We are drilled in Battallion drill every morning and company drill every eve. Of course there are some old dogs in our company don't try to drill and they cause the rest of us to make mistakes.

Ed seems to think I am terrible dissatisfied he is mistaken. Of course I would like to see you all as any thing. I am all right. I could not make 15.60 at home doing nothing they do at work on but 3 or 4 hours a day and that is easy made money. As for fighting I don't care one thing if we do have to fight some as I have told you we will never see a battle and I am not spoiling to fight at all if [we] have to why we can do it- There are enough men here to whip Spain. Have you all had any watermellons yet[?] I eat some over a week ago but we want get many to eat this year there are a lot of peaches here. We have to buy every thing we get and I want to save my money.

We have had one to desert from our company or at least he has been gone over a week. I am very certain he is gone he is old Hill Young sons. I guess you have heard of him. Tom House has been home recruiting our company. I heard he had 21 more for us there are thousands coming in here every day from all over the U.S. They are having this company raised to 126. We got our pants this morning have not got our coats and Top Shirts. I don't know when we will get them. May be in a day or two or it may be a week. I wrote Viola that Hemp was sick he is better he had just eat too mutch. Well you ought to see him he has got the sore eyes we joke him all the time about them. He caught them from an old man by the name of Wiggins. He cries all the time because we give him the sore eyes.

If I don't need it you will pay day will soon reach us they will owe us \$31.20 the Pay Master is here in the camps now. I will send mine to you as soon as I get it for we don't need any money here only to buy stamps.

Our paper and envelopes are furnished by the Y.M.C. if we are here. I could come home any time I want but if I do I will come when Big Preaching starts if I don't change my mind. I want come until the war is over. I don't want you to fret about me for I have learned how to do and it take care of my self if I get sick why I will send for W.T. for he said to be sure and wire to him and he would come didn't matter where I was and you know I will. Ma tell H.F. to get my Pistol from John Lewis and he can have it. Ma if it is no trouble you might send me the Reporter after you read it don't send but one at the time. Well I must close for there is nothing mutch for me to write. Will close with my love to all and write more often than you do. Your loving Son. J.B. Lewis. Tell all the rest to write. Good By

ARMY DEPARTMENT.



→ YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS →
OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
RETURN TO

J. B. Lewis
1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers,
CHICKAMAUGA PARK,
LYTLE, GA.



Mrs. W. J. Sew
Blacks
S.C.

Young Men's Christian Associations

OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

An organized work among the South Carolina Regiment. Large Tent, supplied with the State Papers and Magazines, Games of Chess, Checkers, etc. Correspondence Tables with free Stationery. Religious Services and Bible Classes conducted among the Soldiers. All under the supervision of an experienced General Secretary.

JAMES ALLAN, JR.,

CHARLESTON, S. C.,

CHAIRMAN OF ARMY COMMITTEE.



A. G. KNEBEL,
ARMY SECRETARY.

W. M. LEWIS,

CHARLESTON, S. C.,

STATE SECRETARY.

CHICKAMAUGA PARK,

Headquarters, 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers,

Lytle, Ga., June 24 1898

Dear Mother

I must writ you. soon this
morn this leaves me feeling finer as
I ever did I have been writing to
the rest of them and forgot to write
you I have just come in from
drill we are getting on fine we
officers gives us we are drilled
in Battalion drill every morning
and company drill every eve
of course there are some old boys
in our company dont try to
drill and they cause the rest of us to
make mistakes

This work is supported by voluntary contributions, which may be sent to JAMES ALLAN, JR., Charleston, S. C.

2013.58.39: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), June 27, 1898, to his mother; written on cream stationery with blue lettering of the Young Men's Christian Associations of South Carolina, Army Department; Chickamauga Park, Headquarters, 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, Lytle, Ga.; envelope addressed to Mrs. M.J. Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

June 27 1898
Monday eve

Dear Mother

I received your letter this morn. I was so glad to get for I have been [looking] for a letter from home some time. I dont see what goes with my letters for I have written two or three home ever week since I came here. Well this leaves me very well only I am pretty poor. I had the disentary was all the matter with me. We are getting along fine. I think we will get our guns this eve or they for them this morn. They issued us rubber blankets this morn. It is reported that 16 regiments is to leave this place soon some thinks we will be one of them. I dont think so for there are so many well drilled regiments, and already equipped. We can drill all right only with guns of course we can learn to drill with them in a day or to. I believe we will be right here till fall. I may be mistaken. I think I wrote you about we having one man to desert. His time is out if they si[g]n off and stay ten days why he is a deserter but if comes back before the ten days is out why it will be all right if they catch wade it will go hard with him I expect. Ma I am so glad to hear you all are getting along so well with every thing. If we are here in August I am coming home. I want to get in while preaching is going on and watermelon is ripe to eat some. 2 weeks ago you know we will have to say every thing like that- we got out Sunday and went about 6 miles to some farmers houses, and got plenty to eat and as mutch fruit the mos[t] of the people down here make their living selling fruit. We got some of the finest apples I ever seen. Ma I want you all to write me often. Tell Viola & [sister] Evelyn not to stop writing me for there is but one of me and I cant write to you all at once. I like to see a letter from you all. Ma I want you to write me all the news. I like to hear how things is going on at home. Tell Ed I want to know what he will take for his colt- it will be large enough for me to ride when I come back. I would like to buy it if he wants to sell it and don't ask to mutch for her. Well I will close with love to all. Write soon. Tell Pa he had better let work a lone. Write your loving son.

J.B. Lewis

2013.58.40: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 2, 1898, to his father; written on cream stationery with blue lettering of the Young Men's Christian Associations of South Carolina, Army Department; envelope addressed to Mr. W.W. Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

Camp Chickamauga
July 2, 1898

Dear Father

I will try and write you a few lines this eve. You cant imagine how appreciated that letter from you the other day was glad to hear you were all well. Well this leaves me with the mumps on both sides of the outside of the [illegible]. I am feeling fine they don't bother me only when I want to eat. I guess you know how they are there are 14 cases of mumps from our regiment there are two cases of measels they dont bother me one bit. They have moved us off from the company. The boys from our company is good to me. Every thing I want I get. Well we got Paid off to day \$30.00 will send \$20.00 home just as soon as I can get away from this hospital for I have no way of keeping it here. Well this was the easiest made money ever I made. We can stay here and don't have to spend but very little money. I have had a little money ever since I left home. I don't [know] how I kept it. I was clean out this morning when they sent me mine. When I left Chester I did not have but 75 ct and I have not borrowed any from anybody in camp. I have quit my bad habits since I came here and that is smoking cigarettes and cussing. I don't know what made me quit- there was so mutch of it going on untill I just got disgusted at it when first came to camp every word was a curse and now I don't hear but very little cursing.

I have had several little sick spells and old Hank is one of the best Boys I ever saw. He would have something for me to eat if he had to steal. He comes to see me 4 or 5 times a day. He brings me something ever time he comes. Pa I know you have seen the report of the capture of Santiago. I don't believe we will go to Cuba. I hope we wont have to go for a while if they wait till fall. I would like to go. Father I dont want you to be uneasy about me if any of you all get sick let me know and you bet I will come home. You bet if I get sick you may look for me for I will be all right. We may have to stay here 2 years but I dont believe it. Well I must close for I have not mutch to write. I don't get out any where only in this Park. I did expect going out in the Country Sunday but these mumps cut me off. Pa as soon as I get able to go over [to] Lytle I will send some money home. I will have to stay here 2 weeks. Well Father I will close. Write me soon and tell all the rest to write. Tell Grand Ma to write. What has become of Pivot[?] I would like the best in the world to see him. All write your loving Son.

J.B. Lewis

2013.58.41: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 3, 1898, to his mother; written on cream stationery with cartoon figures representing Cuba being chased by Uncle Sam holding a rifle with bayonet tip; stationery is stamped Camp George H. Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Postal Station, Chattanooga, Tenn.; envelope is stamped YMCA of South Carolina, 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, Chickamauga Park, Lytle, Georgia, and is addressed to Mrs. M.J. Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

July 3 1898
Sunday eve

Dear Mother

I will write you a few lines this eve. Received Viola & Evelyn this morn sorry to hear of Pa having sutch a sore throat- I believe they said all the rest was well. This leaves me all right only this mumps they dont hurt me very mutch they bother me more than any thing else when I go to eat. I am moved away from my company about 3 hundred yds and I get lonesome here. there are lots of boys here but strangers and I am anxious to get back to camp. it will be some time next week before I can go back and some of our boys will be here. I know before that time for Hamp is sure to have them. The boys comes up to see me every chance. they are all good to me and I don't suffer for nothing. one of the boys even sent me his cot to sleep on and you bet I appreciated that more than any thing else and I can say for Harry he is as good to me if I was his own brother. he comes up here 4 or 5 times a day. you bet Ive had lots of fun to day. Harry says he slept with his hand in his pocket last night I slept with my pants on and I pinned my pocket up so if any one tried to get in it he would wake me up. there are 4 of us in a tent and we throwed in and bought some little things extra for us when we get a little sick. Hamp is treasure we have a box and keep every thing in it and he carries the key.

Hamp told me this morn that some of the Boys got drunk last night and some of them played cards all night and some of them didnt have 5 ct this morning. there was one in our company wined \$50. there is one thing certain they wont get any of mine. I am going to send part of it home and the rest will keep for my own use. Sorry to hear it is so dry. it is dry here to. well it is all for the best I recon but we dont think so. you said something about Jim McK getting up a company. there is no danger. you tell all the boys that is talking about coming to the war to stay at home for there enough of young Boys left all ready. S.C. must be going in for raising dogs. I wish he had some. I see here in camps there are some fine Bull dogs here. is there going to be any puppys[?] I have never heard any thing about them if there are. I want you all to save me one. sure tell Ed I think he asks to mutch for a half [illegible]. I want to know if its feet will be as large as old Jennys. well I will not buy it till I come home. I think Harve must smell something he use to go no where and now he goes some where every Sunday. I guess they will all get the start on me while I am gone but I will make up for lost time when I come back. we may have to stay 2 years but I dont think so and if you could see what I see you would not think so either.

Well I had some watermelon to eat to day and yesterday. I dont think we will get many to eat this year. tell Viola to look in my trunk and get a writing Pen. I know she must have wrote with a feather but I was awful glad to hear from home especially on Sunday and I am truly glad the children is done hoeing cotton and I know they are glad. well there is nothing here to write. I would like to be at Cornwells at the Picnic but dont expect it will be mutch. you tell Nan she had better write to me. were there very many cherrys there this year[?] I would like to have been there for a while if there was any.

Well Ma it is getting dark and I will have to close. hope Father will soon be better. hope you all will get along. well tell Viola and Evelyn I will write to them some time this week. I noticed in this morning papers here General Shafter says Santiago must fall to day or tomorrow. write soon. will close. don't be uneasy about me for I am all right. write soon with love to all

Your loving son
J.B. Lewis

Has Henry got my Pistol yet[?] if he hasn't and wants it tell him to get it. it will do for Ed to carry down on crooked creek with him



CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS,

Chickamauga Park,

Postal Station,

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Julyth 3 1898.

I say love Dear Mother
well to you a
few lines this eve. received
Viola & Evelyn this morn. sorry
to hear of Pa having catch
a sore throat & believe they
said all the rest was well
this leaves me all right only
the mumps they dont hurt
me very much they rather
one more than any thing else
when I go to eat I am
moved away from my company
about & hunched up and to
get down here there are
lots of boys here but strangers
and I am anxious to get back
to camp it will be some time
next week before I can go back

2013.58.42: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 7, 1898, to his brother; written on YMCA stationery; envelope is stamped YMCA of South Carolina, 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, Chickamauga Park, Lytle, Georgia, and is addressed to Mr. H.J. Lewis, Blackstock, S.C.

July 7 1898

Dear brother

I will write you a short letter this evening this leaves me a heap better. of course I am in the mumps hospital yet – will be for a day or two. Harve I am so sorry to hear crops is so poor. it has been dry here a good while but had a good rain last night. Harve I sent \$20.00 home Tuesday. would be glad if you all get it sent by express money order. I did not send it myself but Frank Darham and Hamp did for me. I intended writing before to day but just kept putting it [off]. Harve tell Ma not to write any of her discouraging letters. she writes like I will go to Cuba every day. if I have to go why I can get back all right. I just know ma is fretting herself to death and I dont see what she does that for. I know she can do better than that. the last letter she wrote would give anybody the blues for I am all right. Harve tell Ma or Pa that if they need that money use it or any of you for I draw \$15.60 at the end of every month. if you have not got that money see about. it let me tell you dont you come to the war. now listen what I tell you on your mothers sake. we may go to Cuba but I dont believe we will. well Harve I will close. will write a long letter the next time and so will close for I have to write to S.S. write soon

your Borthor

J.B. Lewis

2013.58.43a: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 10, 1898, to his sister; envelope (containing two letters) is stamped with two figures, an American soldier carrying the American flag in his left hand and a sword in his raised right hand, and a Cuban soldier carrying the flag of the newly independent Cuba in his left hand and a short saber in his right; envelope is addressed to Miss Viola Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina

Chickamauga, G.A.
July 10 1898

Sunday Morn

Dear Sister

Will write you a few lines this morning. I am alright again. could have left the hospital this morning if I had wanted to. they had some work to do and I told the Dr I had rather stay one more day but if nothing happens I will go out in the morning. I tell you I had the mumps bad. my head was as big as a bucket. I don't want any thing more to do with mumps. I have not done one thing in a week. Hamp says they near do drill them now they have got guns.

Viola I know you all are having a fine time at picnic well I never did enjoy going to a picnic very mutch. guess it was my own fault. I guess I will miss all of them but I dont want to miss the parties this Xmas. I am anxious to hear about the Cornwell picnic. I would like to see some of the Boys and girls. guess Grant would have Mag Aiken, John and Nan would carry a big through. I want you to tell Aunt Charlotte God bless her old soul. I will see her again if nothing happens and tell her some good ones. I think I can beat Ed now or I will try him around. well they are having Preaching but I cant go but I can hear them singing.

Well I am so proud to hear you all had a nother good rain. We had some good rains here. I expect the B are about done laying bye or it is time. you don't know how I would like to see that colt if it is a fine one. tell Ed to be careful about taking it off any where for it might get hurt and I want him to have a fine horse to drive after he gets married. I know it will not be large enough when he marrys but after Viola I do hope a good many boys around there will marry this fall and I think they will for I have concluded to never marry. I cant love no girl I ever seen and I have tried but don't care very mutch for anyone. I like one nearly as well as I like the other.

Viola we have what they call can tents. they sell beer tobacco cigarets and other such little things and I bet you there were two hundred thousand dollars spent here the day after Pay day. you never saw the like and nearly as mutch every day since. there is every sort of a thing here for money.

Well I will soon have to close and if you all got the money I sent home I wish you would let me know for if you have not I want to see about it. I would like to see you all going to the picnic driving old Jenny and that colt.

I know peayvine [?] would be saying something funny all the way. well I will have to close and I want you all to write as soon as you can and tell Ma not to fret about me for I will be home by and by.

Your loving brother
Bren



MISSISSIPPI
T. S. 1862
June 12



Wm. W. Lewis
Blackstock
South Carolina

2013.58.43b: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 10, 1898, to his brother LeRoy (born about 1890); envelope (containing two letters) is addressed to Miss Viola Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina

Chickamauga

July 10 1898

Well Lee Roy I am going to write you a piece and tell you what to do about my Pup if there is a red one I want you to keep it for me get H.F. to pick out the pretty one and I want you to call him Sampson dont let mose fool with it atall and done alow it to follow him. I may get home before it get grown and I may not but you rais it and I sure will pay you for it when I come home. And if I was you I would not work one bit if they want you to work I will Pay your way out of the fiel for you are to little. Lee I will have to stop. be a good Boy. you will soon have to ride that colt.

Good by

Bren

Lee tell Viola to excuse my bad writing. I am nervos this morn.

2013.58.44: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 12, 1898, to his mother; envelope is addressed to Mrs. W.W. Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina

July 12 1898

Dear Mother

I will write you a few lines this P.M. this leaves me well and out drilling again. I left the Hospital yesterday morn. received a letter from Ed yesterday. I believe he said you all was well. there is talk of us leaving this Park. the Dr. has condemn this Park so I hear there has been a good many northern soldiers died here. I think it is the climate.

Well I think the war will soon be over and everybody here think so to. well I will be glad of it. we have most every thing. some of us go out target shooting every day. I have never been out yet. I was in the hospital 2 weeks. I certainly glad I get out. every body in the company was glad to. Ma I will have to make this letter short. so glad to hear you are all getting good rain. I heard the niggers was going to move. where are they going[?] well I am glad the hoein is all done before they left. well I am glad they are gone. Ma dont give Lewis niggers one of them [illegible] for you know how M will be.

Ma I really think the war will be over in a month or so. I guess you see as mutch in the Papers as I do. I see a daily paper every day. Spain wants peac if sa[n]tiag[o] dont [illegible] why they will take it very easy when they take that city they are gone up. I am not a scared to go to Cuba but would rather not go this time of the year for it is the rainy season and so mutch sickness.

I believe we will go back to Columbia. every other regiment says they are going back to there state to camp. if they do why I believe we will go back to our state. and there in right smart talk of going to Virginia. I tell you the truth nobody knows what they are going to do and I don't care. Ma this is a poor letter but have to write you a few lines. Ma take good care of my puppy. I know S.C. is proud of his and I am glad he has got one more dog for he will have something to play with. will close and tell Ed to see about that money if you have not got it. Write soon.

Your loving son
J.B. Lewis

2013.58.45: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 19, 1898, to his sister; envelope is addressed to Miss Evelyn Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina; first page of letter is missing

... What has become of Joe Barns aunt[?] she has quit writing to me. I think you all might some in one letter write and tell me about the picnics. I want to hear about them.

...not have been faring fine ever since pay day when they dont feed one right. I go and buy me something to eat- we was marched out yesterday evening and had a picture taken of this Battallion. If they dont cost to much I will send one home if I can without mashing it. well we all equipped at last. all but coats every thing we wear is blue. I have 3 blue shirts and pants. we don't wear any coats when we have our shirts on.

They dont allow us to wear suspenders. we use belt – cartridge belts and we drill with them. we have our bayonets fasten to them have to wear leggings all the time. it is reported that we are going to leave here. General Brook reported as ready to leave. I don't know any better we will go or not- General Wils is to take Poterico and General Brook is to aid him if needs him I don't think we will ever go there. I don't care mutch. it is real healthy so they say.

Well I will stop my was talk. I did think I would come home when the preaching started but I dont expect to be there. when I come home I am comming to stay. We have 4 deserters from our company. I dont know whether they will catch them or not. they have telegraphed for them to be arrested. I guess they will get some of them since they have deserted. We can hardly get a pass.

There are three wemon holding a meeting here in camp. they were in Columbia before we left there, I expect you have heard of them. Kattie Perry and her sister is the ones. I think they are some related to Ida what used to stay with them.

I am sorry old [illegible] and the Bouel Boys has fell out but nothing more than I expected to hear. Grant would stop that if he could get Annie to say [illegible] but dont think she ever will and I hope not.

Ma[y]be John will get some one to cook for him another year or I think he will wither something happens tell H.F. he had better mind. I hear of him right smart but sorry he cannot cut Sam Weir out of Mamie. I think I could do better than that.

Well Evelyn I have quit writing to most every body but home had up the road and I quit writing there for a while. But she kept writing me and I had to start again. I think I will have to write to arsennie [?] in a few days. I am fast paying her back for the way she done me and a nother reason was S.C. got to raising me about her. Evelyn I would have give anything to been at that picnic at Cornwell for I know you all had a fine time. Oh by the way I heard Lizzie K. was married. Well I am glad for she has had a heap of trouble about getting married. Well that is something I never expect to do. I use to think I would but since I came here I have give out all the notion I ever had. when I come home I never expect to leave soon again. I am broke away from there that is one reason I don't come home. Ask Ed does he remember Harris Sell. I think he use to board with them at Chester. I met him to day he came with the Penn [?] Regiment he says he knows Ed. I meet lots of fellows here I use to know.

Well Evelyn I will soon have to close this badly written letter. I was [illegible] in them wemon what is preaching here. I dont think they are akin to the ones I thought. they are different Perrys. you know I never did like to hear women preach. of course I went to hear them. they had some nice signing Well Evelyn I will close for I have nothing to write and you all must write real soon. tell Leroy to take care of them puppies and I will get him a gun when I come home. tell Peayvine I must write to her and Kate some of this time all write when you can. I like to hear 2 or 3 times a week from home. excuse bad writing. write soon.

Your loving brother
J.B. Lewis

2013.58.46: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), July 19, 1898, to his mother; envelope is addressed to Mrs. M.J. Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina; first page of letter missing

...there has been men went through the war and was not killed and dont let that bother you. I would like to see you all as bad as you want to see me but what is the use of me paying \$20.00 to come home for a day or so. why I have not been gone quite 8 months. it seems longer than that to me. dont let me bother you so mutch it hurts me for I know you are going on that away and pleas quit it for Gods sake. as for me I am not a scared to go no where and I am well and getting along fine now. I am getting to like camp life very well now. I had to work Prisoners yesterday and guard them last night. got off this morning at 10:00. We will march some this evening. Ma I am going to close. I would not write this but I don't want you to be writing any more such letters [illegible] or rather now. Pleas don't bother your self about me for I am allright. Will get home soon one of these days.

Well I will finish this letter to night- we will have general inspection to morrow of the regiment. I will close with love to all. write me real soon and Ma don't fret about me for my sake. I know how you are going on so pleas quit it. you will have all the rest the same way. close your loving son. write me real soon. all of my love to you all

JB Lewis

2013.58.34: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), August 1, 1898; no envelope; letter is written on military-issued (?) stationery printed with cartoon figures (in upper left corner of page) representing "US" and "Spain" under the heading "Remember the Maine." "US" is punching "Spain" in the mouth with his fist. Blood spurts out the mouth of "Spain," who says "Gosh darn yer."

Camp Cuba Libre
Panama Park
August 1st 1898

Dear Mother

I will write you a few lines this morn. this leaves me in Fla right at Jacksonville. We are a mile or to above Jacksonville and I am certainly pleased with this place so far and we are a quarter of a mile from the Indian River. Can get all the [illegible] we want. You know it is a grand sight to see the River is about 3 miles wide there are the finest lumber Hill here I ever seen. Well ever thing here is just fine it is a little hot soon in the morning and the rest of the day. I don't see mutch difference. We broke camp Thursday evening. We s[t]ayed up all night Thursday marched 10 miles Friday morn over to **Sassville** and took the train for here got here Saturday [illegible] had the finest sort of time on the road there some fine looking sand down here but I think I would like to stay here the river is just full of little old sail boats and some pretty large ones and for the Mosqitos they are not bad yet. I have had a few to bite me. We have not drilled any yet and we wont dobe paid off to mutch drilling here in this sand old [General FitzHugh] Lee don't allow them to drill us but once a day. I am glad we left Chickamanga for it was terrible sickly place there is no doubt- if we had been in Chickamanga we would have had to go to **Poterico** there will be 15 Regiments leave there right away. I hated one thing will miss our Georgia fruit and we just had all that we wanted. I think I will go down to St. Augustine Pay day if I can get off we will be paid off to morrow or next day. We are right in the forks of two Railroads and I get to see the trains regularly. Our camp is 30 or 40 feet from the track and I am mutch better pleased. I dont know how it will hold out- there is [illegible] thing. I would like to be with you all this but not this time hope you all will have a good meeting and [illegible] time to[o]. I dont think this war will last long well it cant as soon as **Poterico** is taken [illegible] cant see where we will ever get in a battle and as long as we have a great time as we have had. I don't want to old Lee. I think will treat us right. This is a poor letter but I am in a hurry. I stayed over at the river too long started it this morn it will not get off today. Well I will have to rush. Love to all and hope you all will write me regular this week. Will close with Love to all write soon your loving son

J.B. Lewis

REMEMBER THE MAINE



Camp Liberal

Panama Park

August 15th 1898

Dear Mother

I am to give you a few lines
 this morning this however you
 get a right at Jacksonville
 we are a mile or to a bowl ^{with} Jackson
 and I am certainly pleased
 with this place so far and
 we are a quarter of a mile from
 the Indian River can get
 all the fish we want you
 know it is a grand sight
 to see the River is about
 3 miles wide there are the finest
 lumber hills here I ever saw
 well ever thing here is first fine
 it is a little hot soon in the
 morning and the rest of the day I
 don't see much difference.

2013.58.47: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), August 14, 1898, to his mother; envelope is stamped with the crossed flags of the United States and of Cuba with the caption Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Fla., and is addressed to Mrs. M.J. Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina

Jacksonville Fla
August 14, 1898
Sunday Morning

Dear Mother

Received H and Evelyn letter yesterday evening. I think you were a long time writing. I wrote yesterday but did not mail it. Well this leaves me well. I though a while I would have eaten breakfast at home this morning but missed it. some of the boys went off on furloes and never came back and I cant get off until they come home. they claim they are sick. I dont believe it. I don't know when we will get home guess when they come back Our furloes are gone in we will not get them for awhile.

Glad to hear you all had a good picnic. sorry I was not there. that is the firs one I ever missed there. Well H.F. did write to me at last- I was surprised when he said the corn was going to [illegible] short and the mule poor. I do want to get home to see that colt and mule so bad if I get home this week I want to go to the camp meeting one day. well there is nothing mutch to write here. I believe the war is about over. dont know when we will get out of here. they talk like we will be sent to Cuba to do garrison duty. I don't think I will go. I dont support to go to Cuba and clean up that Island for some one else and not get \$13.50 per month. they are talking of cutting our wages down to \$13.50. I dont think I will go unless I change my mind.

Tell S.C. he might write to me

Well there is still more Regiments moving in here. one moved in here this morning. that is 2 this week. one on each side of us and more to come in this week. I think we will be here a month yet before we all will know what we are going to do. I am anxious to know. I dont want to stay to long in one place well there is nothing to write you all. there is an excursion going down the river this morn. don't know whether I will go or not. write me real soon. what in the world did Ed give one of them dogs away for. tell Leroy to not let him give any more of them away.

Your loving son
JB Lewis

2013.58.48: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), August 14, 1898, to his mother; no envelope

Jacksonville, Fla.
August 19 1898

My Dear Mother

I will write you a few lines this morning. I am sorry I did not get home last week. It was because the ones that was home on furlow did not come back in time. I dont know now when I will get home. hope it wont be long. well I am feeling fine this eve. Ma I think you all has most quit writing to me. You ought not to quit writing untill you are certain I am coming. I am going to keep trying untill I do get home. Captain will do everything he can for me to get me off.

Well I do hope L.S. will get that land of [illegible]oodward for it will be handy hope I will get home in time to help him for that house. The land is in bad fix. he will fix that allright. Well I did want to get home while there was plenty of fruit and watermelons. they dont agree with me down here. I know the Captain thinks as much as me nearly as he does his brother. he certainly is good to me and so is Lieutenant Hari[illegible]. There is talk of us being mustered out here. some thinks we will go to Cuba. I hardly know what to think about it. Sometimes I think we will soon be home. guess the boys will soon be filling fodder. well it is a job I always did dread but dont last long.

Saturday morning

We had inspection and revile [sic] this morning. we had to go to panama park about a mile from camp and it is dreadful hot. I hope we will soon be mustered out. there will be a good many will have to stay in service a long time yet. I hope it wont be us for there is nothing for us to do but to stay in some old camp somewhere. we have had some pretty sick boys down here one took sick the day we came. he is better now. this place agrees with me so far. it dont agree with me either but [better] than them other camps did.

Well Ma this is a poor letter but I have nothing to write you. tell Lee Roy I have bought him a pistol but he cant use it untill he grows some more. I will bring it to him when I come home if some one dont steal it.

I heard Jess Ross and Ed Cornwell did get married at last. they were long enough at it. I will close. write me soon for I am anxious to hear from you all. I was disappointed when I could not get home last week. Tell them all to write me. will close for I cant write now.

J.B. Lewis

2013.58.49: Letter from Private John B. Lewis (Company D, 1st South Carolina Infantry), September 1, 1898, to his mother; no envelope; second page missing

Jacksonville, Fla.
Sept 1 1898

Dear Mother

Will write you a few lines this morning. I am feeling very well this better than I expected for we had a hell of a march yesterday. we left camp at 11 oclock and never got back untill after dark. I think we must have walked 18 or 20 miles. We went to Jacksonville and all over the town. I dont think I ever seen many more people than was there. There was 30 thousand soldiers in the parade and people all over Fla was there. It was nice to stand off and look at but was tough to be in. the next march we have I will stay in camp.

I think we will get out. Tillman went to Washington this morning. he is doing everything he can to get us mustered out and he can do a right smart when he tries. He has sent in his resignation he says he will stay here untill he gets us out. I hope he will. some of the Boys went to him this morning for [illegible along fold] to be quite [quiet] for a few days and he will. us all a dam long [illegible]. I have no other idea but what we will get out. if we dont when they start for Cuba you may look for me.

2013.58.50: Letter from E.J. Lewis, December 25, 1894, to his brother; no envelope; possibly from Ed Lewis to Bren Lewis

Titusville, Fla
Dec 25 - 94

Dear Broth

I received yours and Mother letter yesterday. glad to hear from you and that you had got my trunk fine. Every body down here is having a gay time, plenty of money and nothing to spend it on. Hope you have got the oranges. I was afraid that I didn't pay enough express though the Agent aught to know. I thought that it was pretty cheap.

I guess Lance [?] and Press [?] will have a gay time this Xmas. If I need any thing Lance will send it to me. mother asks about my friends I could not tell who was my friend in this short a time. I never make friends to quick. Well I must say that I eat as good or the best dinner to day that I ever eat. I haven't much to write to day. I have been writing two to one here lately but am going to quit it. will close for this time.

With love to all

Your brother
E.J. Lewis

2013.58.51: Letter from Ethel & F. Williams and Mary Lewis, Limestone College, Gaffney, S.C.; envelope addressed to Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Lewis, Blackstock, South Carolina

Limestone College
Gaffney, South Carolina
March 30, 1921

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lewis;

Well we are back at Limestone and do not feel as jolly about it as I was when leaving. We got back up here all right yesterday. I think Mary hated to come back pretty bad.

I want to tell you both, or try to tell you, how I enjoyed my visit to your home. I can't forget the kindness you all showed me while there, and I shall never forget it. And too I shall not forget the friends that I made while there, and the friendships I formed. I shall never never forget my visit there. Hope we will be able to see each other again, and meet before always.

I am looking forward to Mary's coming down home to see us and she must not disappoint me.

We are having to study some now. We came back and they are giving the tests on every thing, I think Mary had two today, but she came out all right I am sure. She is such a sweet girl she can't help but get through all right.

I will close, and I wish to say again, that if I should attempt to tell you all how I enjoyed my visit, I would be writing next month this time.

Sincerely Yours
Ethel W.

2013.58.52: Letter from E.J. Lewis to "Mother and Father;" enclosed in the letter is a lock of hair tied with a red ribbon; no envelope

Titusville, Fla.
Dec 30 - 94

Dear Mother & Father,

I received your letter yesterday. glad to hear from you and that all was well. I am feeling kinder blue that only we but all Florida I guess. Florida was changed Friday night from the land of flours to Greenland or some other cold country and you may guess what happened all the oranges, Guavas and every thing was killed. Yesterday was the coldest day. the people have felt here since '86. The temperature was 10 degrees below freezing today. Saturday every thing looks black about like it does up there after the first big frost. most every body in this part of the country were holding their oranges for a better price. and so they will get nothing for them. glad that I sent yours before this frost. glad to[o] that you got them all right. You will find those Tangerine fine. I think I put two Mandrine oranges in the box. you will see they are like the Tangrine only they are yellow. intended to put more in but didn't have them at the time, and was in a hurry. I know those boys took Chester in the day they came there all around. would liked to seen Sam. imagin he was about like I was in Lexington last X-mas. I didn't drink any this X-mas only one glass of Egg nog and that made me sick. sorry that father didn't get his dram. I don't blame him for being mad. wish he could have been here to drink Eggnog. had three or four gallon but I couldn't drink any it always did make me sick. well I haven't any thing more to write so will close with love to all. write soon

Your son
E.J. Lewis