

1
Rockbridge Alum Springs,
Rockbridge Co., Va., Oct. 5, 1861.

Dear Father: It is with sincere
pleasure that I now seat myself
to write to you all. It had been a
long time since I wrote to you all;
though I have started several letters
at different times, and would be
called off on duty before I could finish
them.

The last letter that I received from
you was dated 24 Aug.

I am very well at present except
a cold. I am now at Rockbridge
Alum Springs. Perhaps you heard
of our advancing on the Yankees.
We set out the 12 of Aug for the
Yankee camp. We travelled deliberate

2
by on our march. We went about
three miles the first day: and the
second day about two or perhaps
three. The third day we set out in
the morning and went a short
distance and halted. The cannon
were planted. The Richmond
company (company F.) was
sent on ahead, on the road. The
Bourneville's G says (company
G.) were sent across the mountain
on a scout. Having nearly reached
the road, ahead of the Yankee pick-
ets, we heard a firing from company
F. In a short time we saw ~~five~~
six or seven Yankees, coming down
the road in double quick time. We
were fifty or sixty yards from
them up on the side of the moun-
tain. The bushes were very thick
between us and them. The company

3
opened fire upon them. Two of
them fell dead. Three of them ran
off to a neighbour's house and died
before night, it is said. If there
is any honor in killing a Yankee
I cannot claim any part of it; for my
gun missed fire. I burst a cap
at one, though, as he passed. We
advanced about one mile farther
on, and came to a little camp where
the Yankees had run off from.
Here we found about thirty camp
kettles—eighty or ninety cups—
and a good many plates—some
provisions. One or two prisoners
were taken at this place—and two
or three Yankees killed. We con-
tinued our march two or three
miles farther, in about a mile
of their battery. One of our pieces
of artillery was carried in front of

Their battery and opened upon it. ~~but~~
~~did not~~
In a short time after that several
shots were fired at us; but did
no damage. We staid around their
camp until Sunday morning
about daylight. Col. Washington
(aid to the col. of the North Carolina
Reg.) was killed by Yankee pickets.
Fours men of our army were ~~killed~~
wounded.

One of the Tenn. Reg. took sixty
or seventy prisoners = killed thirteen
Yankus, with the loss of one ~~man~~
man. These taken were out on
scout.

Hearing of Jackson's failure at Cheat
Mountain and finding their plans
disarranged, Generals Lee and Long
resolved to retreat back to Valley
Mountains. We got back to Valley
Mountain one week from the
day off that we left. We had not
a tent with us, but took the open
air and rained all the time. Hoamed
sometimes tremendously. The very
often had creeks to wade and
lie down on the wet ground and sleep.

5

Saturday evening,
Oct. 5, 1864.

Mr. Gilham's ^{Reg.} is now scattered in every direction. He has between 250 and 300 men that are fit for duty. Half of Robinson's men are at the different ^{skirmishes}, on account of their health. I was very sick the day before I left Valley Mountain.

We left Valley Mountain the 19 of Sept. All who were complaining in the least were sent off - saying that ~~that~~ the Reg. would be ^{sent} on in a few days. We set out and I have not seen the Reg. since. A great part of Robinson's company came on. We got to Huntersville the 24 Sept, and staid there till the 30.

8
I want Puss and Babe to knit
me two or three pair of socks, for
it is impossible to get anything up
here without paying four pices.

I want you to get cloth and tell
me ~~what you~~ ^{you} have me two or three coloured
shirts made—two or three pair of drawers
and a yarn waistcoat—and when I draw
my money I will send enough to you
to pay for these things. Show these things
are to be sent to me I cannot tell. Our
company is so split up that you cannot
send them in a box with any body else.
And if you send them to Milbro and
direct to Gilham's Reg. they will go on
to the Reg. and I shall probably never
get them.

I don't suppose that there is any
freight upon a box sent to a soldier.
If you can make it convenient to send
me these these things soon, direct them
to William M. Rawlings, ^{private care of} ~~of~~ Capt.
J. B. Robinson's ~~company~~, Col. Gilham's
Reg. To be sent to Rockbridge Alum
Springs. You will hear from me again
soon. Give my love to all.
Yours sincerely
W. M. Rawlings.

All of our company left the
29 except seven of us. William
Purdy, Alfred Rawlings, Richard
Pearson, Richard ^{Shell} and Trotter were
sick; and they detailed me and
Harvey Wright to stay behind
and attend to them. I would not
have been detailed if Alfred had
not been my cousin. Trotter died
the day we left Huntersville.

We left Huntersville the 30
Sept. We arrived here the 3 inst.
These are only six of our compa-
ny at these Springs four of whom
are sick. Alfred is very sick, but
I think he is mending very fast.
The six of us that are at these
Springs, are myself Harvey Wright
Alfred Rawlings, Wm Purdy, Rich
Shell, Rich. Pearson.

This is a delightful place.

We have nice and comfortable
houses to stay in - no cooking to do.
We eat at the tavern and get a
plenty and such as is suitable
for sick people.

I left Jas. King with the Reg.
hall and Strong. Chas. and Robt.
are at the Warm Springs. I left
Dick Darius, well. Ransome is
at the Warm Springs.

The Rockbridge Alum Springs
are six miles south from Mil-
boro. We came by Milboro to come
to them. We are about seventy five
miles from Valley Mountain.
We will very probably stay here
four or five weeks, and perhaps
longer.

I want you or some of the
family to write to me immedi-
ately after the receipt of this letter.