

W.D. & H. R. Co.  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Uncle I received your  
very kind & pleasant letter last evening  
& was gratified to hear that all was well  
we are having a fine time here, we have  
been laying around here for two months  
doing nothing, & this too at a time when  
our country seems to be in the greatest  
peril. I thought the worm worn & blood stained  
fields of Va, was for a while at least  
satiated with blood & fighting, and that all  
eyes were turned to Charleston & Tennessee  
but I see our army of Northern Va is  
again drawn up in line of battle on the  
Rapidan, Stuerds Cavalry had a little  
skirmish with them a few days since, in which  
we lost 2 pieces of Artillery. The rumors  
~~was~~ you heard about the Enemy being in  
East Tennessee are all true the whole Tennessee  
entirely over run now but we received rumors  
last evening that Rosacrants was falling back



2<sup>nd</sup> page

I am sorry to find out that this is so I was  
in hopes that he would have come on & given  
battle almost all of Longstreets Corps has gone  
west, one division of it has gone to Charleston  
There has been a pretty strong equinoctial storm  
at Charleston & the yankey boats have drawn off  
into deep water, they have not yet given up the  
sage, we had 2 large 700 pound guns mounted  
there last week that had just come in from  
England, but unfortunately the largest one burst  
while they were practicing with it. If it had proven  
good, they say that if one shot from it would  
have knocked <sup>the</sup> turret off of ~~the~~ ironclad  
monitors of the yankeys. I have great hopes that  
Charleston will yet hold out, nothing will be  
wanting on the part of Buryard all feel that  
he will do his full duty. The yankeys have  
Jonesburg & Gettysburgs depot but I hope they  
will not attempt raids into Western N.C. they will  
not get as far as McDowell any way they will be  
afraid to cross 2 mountains at least for a  
while yet, but I expect the deserters & Tories of  
Yankey will soon lead them into that country



The yankees are making great Capital  
~~at~~ out of the Union feeling in N.C.  
I wish the mob had hung Holden instead of  
tearing down his press, but the most dis-  
graceful thing of all is the citizens congregating  
together & tearing down Spelmans. for no crime  
more than that he was a strong Southern man  
this will be a stigma upon the citizens of the  
place as long as the history of this war is remem-  
bered. We have very little news from the Trans  
Mississippi. To day is quite cold & rainy, we have  
had a great deal of rain here in the past  
2 weeks heavy clothing comes in quite comfort-  
able to day. I have heard from all the deserv-  
ers that left here but R Redford. A McKinny  
has not returned yet. Give much love to  
the children for me, to Brother Sam sister &  
family, & to our Relations & friends, tell  
Cousin John I would like to hear from  
him, I would greatly appreciate that saucer  
of cream & peaches if I could get it, our pair is  
quite bad now, ~~that~~ but we have plenty of bread &  
bacon & should be thankful for that. Write soon  
your affec<sup>t</sup> Nephew J. H. Lanning

P.S. The paper is messy & I had to take a pencil





Mr Jas. H. Greenlee,  
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