

Camp 26th Va. Regt.  
May 12th, 1863  
Burton's Farm

My dear Patey-

I received your letter by Mr. Owens with an anxious welcome for it had been a long time since I had heard from you. Your prayer to me to write often I have tried to answer as far as I was capable. We have been so pulled about lately that I have not had the chance to write that I have been having. On the march we cannot carry writing material along and thus I am at a great loss sometimes to get paper to write you a few lines. I wrote you last however on the Mechanicsville Turnpike, having been sent there to prevent the rush of the Yankee Cavalry into Richmond. The raid which they made around here created great excitement in the city, in fact Richmond was entirely opened to their attack and it is said that they could have rushed into Richmond Sunday night and taken Jeff Davis out. At any rate they did not seem to have Richmond in view, but turned off and proceeded through Hanover and K. Wm. to King & Queen. I reckon they gave you all a great fright, at least I should judge that some were almost beside themselves if Mr. Owens tells the truth about Reuben Garrett and L. S. Gresham. While opposite R. Cauthorn's I went over to see him and asked him if Cousin Pike's trunk should come to his care to receive it and take care of it for me. He promised to do so. As to my not mentioning the things you sent in my last letter, you must recollect I wrote to you the first thing the next morning after getting to camp and had not overlooked them. Indeed I was so wearied and sick for several days after that hard march from Wmsburg that I did not feel like overlooking them. They all were in place however - the shirts too - and it is hardly worth while to say I was thankful, you know I always am. Especially after being starved so long on our trip, was I very grateful when I found them here ready for me. Peach's box came to light too, and I got the bacon and butter. The peas were a great treat as our stomachs so much crave vegetables. The Irish potatoes are very good and we have had one dish of hominy. The bacon the Commissary gives us ( $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. per day) is of such a character that we can't eat it - it is so strong and rank - and if left to that source alone we should certainly suffer for something to eat. But especially do I enjoy the "home victuals" when I recollect that loving hands have fixed it, and that they are accompanied by the prayers of a loving wife.

I am happy to hear that Cousin Jack has gotten me a suitable horse and that she suits you so well. I should judge the horse must be cheap too, if it cost only fifty (50) dollars. Had we not better raise a colt from her - I don't wish Linda to have any more.

I suppose you have heard of the great victory around Chancellorsville. Gen. Lee claims it, I believe, as the greatest victory of the war. The carnage on both sides must have been dreadful, our loss said to be 10 and the Yankees 20 thousand. We have to mourn the death of "Stonewall Jackson" who has played so conspicuous a part in the history of this war, and whose name has been such a terror to our enemies. I suppose you have heard that Albert Rennolds was wounded, whether severely the papers do not state. But, dear Pat, these victories do us no good. I mean as to the attainment of peace. We are only wasting our strength by hurling our forces against the enemy without attaining any decisive advantage.



Camp 10th W. Regt.  
May 12th, 1862  
Barlow's Farm

My dear father

I received your letter of the 10th with an anxious response for it  
and have been long since I had heard from you. Your prayer to me to  
write often I have tried to do as far as I was capable. We have been  
so full about lately that I have not had the chance to write that I have  
been having. In the night we cannot carry writing material along and that  
I am a great loss sometimes to get paper to write you a few lines. I  
wrote you last however of the mechanical things, having been sent  
there to prevent the loss of the horse cavalry into Richmond. The fact  
which they were about here was a great excitement in the city, in fact  
Richmond was entirely opened to their attack and it is said that they  
could have reached into Richmond Sunday night and taken Tell Davis out.  
At any rate they did not seem to have Richmond in view, but turned off and  
proceeded thro' the hands of A. M. to the city. I think they gave  
you all a great fright, at least I should judge that some were afraid  
because themselves in the night. I think about the middle of the night and  
A. G. Graham. While Captain K. Graham's I went over to see him and  
asked him if he would take a trunk should come to his care to receive it and  
take care of it for me. He refused to do so. As to my not mentioning  
the things you sent in my last letter, you may recollect I wrote to you the  
first thing the next morning after getting to camp and had not overlooked  
them. Indeed I was so worried and tired for several days after that I had  
rather from memory that I did not feel like overlooking them. I had all  
seen the place however - the animals too - and it is hardly worth while to  
say I was thankful you know I always am. Especially after being starved  
so long on our trip, was I very grateful when I found that here ready for  
me. I had a box came to light too, and I got the paper and butter. The  
peas were a great treat as our soldiers so much crave vegetables. The  
Irish potatoes are very good and we have had one dish of them. The  
bacon the Commissary gives us (the per day) is of such a quantity that  
we can't eat it - it is so strong and rank - and it is not so good  
alone we should certainly suffer for something to eat. But especially do  
I enjoy the "home vegetable" when I recollect that loving hearts have raised  
it, and that they are accompanied by the prayers of a loving wife.

I am happy to hear that Captain Jack has gotten me a saddle horse  
and that you are well. I should judge the horse must be a good one  
if it is only like the others. Has he not better ride a mile from  
here - I don't wish him to have any more.

I suppose you have heard of the great victory at the Battle of  
Gettysburg. I believe, as the greatest victory of the war. The  
carnage on both sides must have been terrible, our loss said to be 10 and the  
Yankees 10 thousand. We have to mourn the death of Stonewall Jackson who  
has done so conspicuous a part in the history of this war, and whose name  
has been a terror to our enemies. I suppose you have heard that  
General Hancock was wounded, whether severely the reports do not agree.  
But, dear father, these victories do us no good. I mean as to the attainment  
of peace. We are only waiting our strength by hurting our forces against  
the enemy without getting any decisive advantage.



Tell Sally Bett I have got that button on my coat which was sent to Bouewares (?) when we left and when I get it I will get the ring made and send it in a letter. If I can get to Richmond I will have sent you the two Messengers you asked for.

Tell Willie He must make haste and learn to read. Was sorry to hear that Mollie was sick - how does the little one get on! Has she learned to talk yet?

(There was no signature on this letter, but the handwriting looks like that of Joseph L. Pollard)



...I have not had a chance to read it yet. I will get it for you and send it in a letter. If I can get to Richmond I will have sent you the message you asked for.

Billie's mother is here and I am sorry to hear that he is sick - how does the little one get on? Has she learned to talk yet?

(There was no signature on this letter, but the handwriting looks like that of Joseph P. Folger.)