

Camp 26th Va. Regt.
Dec. 23rd 1862

My dear Pat -

Winston will start over tomorrow for King and Queen, and I must write by him to let you hear from me, tho I have nothing very particularly to write about. I wrote to you not long since by mail, which I reckon you have received.

There are yet no furloughs granted, except in cases of disability. It does seem hard, very hard, that we should have to be away from our families so very long without seeing them. Even the negroes in the army can get to see theirs, but we are kept bound down to the iron military rule - when I think of these things my heart sometimes sinks within me, but I go on hoping that a way may be opened up yet by which to see you and my little ones. I almost forget how the children look, it has been so very long since I saw them last. As I wrote you in my last, Col. Page says when he sees an opportunity he intends applying that furloughs be issued to two men in each company at a time. He has not applied as yet, that I know of, and I know not when that opportunity may occur. I hope it may be soon after Christmas.

There was strong talk at one time of our being sent to N. Carolina. And indeed our Commissary was ordered to collect 10 day's rations for the march, but since our complete victory at Fredericksburg, and the enemy's being driven back in the above state, it has all been hushed up, and I suppose we are here for the balance of the winter.

I understand those cavalry men from Newtown neighborhood are still about there, taking their pleasures in riding about etc. It seems strange that those young fellows without families should be allowed these privileges, while the married men and all in infantry are kept so closely confined.

Dick has not written me a word about Charles and Fuller, whether or not he intends doing as I directed him. I suppose tho he is like Benard says by Mr. Rennolds, never got time to attend to anything. I have hired Charles out here for a cook, if Dick will send him over. The great difficulty in the army is to get clothing for them, the government not being able to furnish even the soldiers. And then they come very high, that is pants and jackets. Have you managed to kill any of your hogs yet? Did you get the salt from Mrs. Smithers? Did Solomon Schools bring you the cotton? I have not heard from you since they came over, be so good as to write very soon.

Tell Cousin Jack to have my shoes made and send them by Winston. I do not want them made out of the calf-skin unless there is a plenty for you and the children. If there is just enough for you and them, have me a pair made out of the leather Dick had tanned. But tell John to make them larger than the last he made - they were a little too small. Next month there will be salt distribution in Richmond for the families of King & Queen, and I should like to get the portion belonging to me. I shall write Dick about it. He and Brother are such slow team tho I am afraid he will let this chance slip too.

Hand late 1941
1941

1941

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I hope you are well and happy...
I will write again soon...

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I believe I have written all that I can think of now. You do not know how ardently I wish to see you and the chaps. Oh that I could see you but for a short time, and may our good Lord hasten that time. I am very well, dear Pat, and now in conclusion I pray God that he may still continue to protect and watch over you all and hasten the time when there will be a reunion around the old family hearthstone.

Believe me your constant husband,

Jos. L. Pollard

My love to you and the children, and if not a merry and happy Christmas may you enjoy a peaceful and quiet one.

J. L. P.

I believe I have written all that I can think of now. You do not know how sincerely I wish to see you and the family. In fact I could see you any day of your time, and my only hope is that I can see you very soon. I have not heard from you in a long time, but I hope you are still well. I am well and hope you are the same. I have not heard from you in a long time, but I hope you are still well. I am well and hope you are the same.

I believe it best to close now.

Yours truly,
Wm. M. Folger

We have no more news at present, but I hope you are all well. I have not heard from you in a long time, but I hope you are still well. I am well and hope you are the same.

W. M. F.

