Camp Longstreet
Mar the 27th 1863

the boys are making a small raiser on a ball
I will join them in a few minutes
Yours
Henry

Dear Ma

I am in receipt of yours of of 12th. in which you urge me to return an immediate answer,

Your particular business seems to be concerning the Badge the way of the matter is just this, it belongs to Tom but he left it to me to wear on my visit home last summer, on conditions that I should give it back to him when we met again, therefore not wishing to trust it by mail and knowing I would not have another chance to see him perhaps until after the War and thinking he would not have occasion to use it again I thought it would make no difference, wether I kept it or not, and as for being careless about throwing it about loosely in my coat, I know it was just as safe there as it would be in the Treasury department at Richmond "You hear me"

So you see you ought not to accuse me of carelessness, and where the great trouble was, you accused me of giving. I cannot say unless you wanted to trouble yourself. And as for disobedience concerning the runaway scrape I am sure I did not disobey you in that case, for you never told me once not to hitch that mare to that buggy. I wrote pa in a letter to you how to act in that case. I am glad you have got your long sought-after kitchen is finished, will I suppose by the time I get back home be in use. Aunt Rose's idea concerning it was rather a nice one, "No doubt" it will be a great addition both as regards convenience and appearance. You will find it very troublesome to move the other house down the hill. I doubt if you can succeed in doing so

I got a letter the other day, that ought certainly to break me if ever again a word more about the girls but notwithstanding all this, I am obliged to think of them, for they are what we are fighting for. and anybody we suffer for as we are, certainly they ought to be continually on our minds, I and myself as well as all the rest of my mess are just as fond of talking about the girls as anybody, so you may just imagine what our conversation is, the other day I went to a house in the country not far from here on guard, there was a real old Virginia family in possession, with two or three pretty girls, so you may just know what a time I had with them, I got a ring from one of them, promised to wear it and am now in possession of it I am going to carry her to the minstrels before long.

I have a good remembrance the other evening, I think they were right pretty

You will no doubt [illegible] off. Harry you ought not to be trifling with an innocent girl's heart. but understand me I have given her no hint that I was in love with her, neither am I, but only tried a ruse to pass time, "you hear me." I will enclose a very fine letter in this to let me know what to think of it. I expect this war may stop soon.

What makes you so particular about my telling anybody my secrets why don't you know I have not any secrets, all I have every body sees them in my actions.

I feel considerably ashamed about the "Lizzie L. affair" don't think I will ever want to write to strange girls a letter again. Let me hear from you soon about everything that is going on, Remember me kindly to Miss Salsbury if you please. Love to all the family and the Darkies, I am as ever your most

affectionate Son Harry

Isaac begs me to say a few words.

As a natural consequence he says tell all of the Howells he has been very sick but is getting better. hopes to see you all soon. Give his love to Lett and children. sends her five dollars. Tell Eliza he says she must not take up with none unless he marry her. that is what he request. His love to all the home folks. E. Black Howell to which

from Isaac

The reason I write such a miserable hand is. I have no place to rest it. my accomodations for writing are miserable please excuse it.

Because
any thing
intended for us
gratefully
received
Many thanks
to her are
unbounded
& never will
forget her
kindness
Henry

Camp Long Street
April 7th 63

My Dear Ma

Yesterday yours came to hand, bearing intelligence that you had not received but very few letters from me, Let me assure you every letter you have written has been answered regularly. I have not neglected a single one because your correspondence is one of most importance to me consequently I would do any thing in my power to encourage you to write as often as possible

You, judging from your last, seem very much concerned about the manner in which we Soldiers are fed, it I must say is really hard, but if the Country for which we are fighting is not able to do better, we must put up with it, and have to be willing to it "Willing or not" I do not wish you and Pa to give yourselves any mental trouble about the way we ~~get~~ have to suffer as regards Eating matters but

it would delight me to receive
a box of provisions. I'll give you
an idea of our fare, I'll say we
had for dinner some bacon about
two or three years old, rank and
smelled awfully and some hard
tough biscuits, I was hungry when
I sit down, but declare I had to
quit before my appetite was satis
fied, your proposition about letting
James come home, suited me exact-
ly, because he wished to go home
and being a very safe hand Polly
and myself, intending sending
back our winter clothing, which
we would certainly have to throw
away, if we had no chance to get
them back, everything suits exact-
ly, and when the weather gets warm
enough to pull off under shirts
overcoats, and so with two covers
I will send one of my blankets
back as one will be sufficient
this summer, I understand Gen
McClellan has taken command
of the army of the Rappahannock

again If that be case it will
be sometime before we fight again
This is only a Camp rumor
a Yankee picket told one of our
so the other day across the river
So you may put as much dep
endence in it as you please
I am now enjoying very fine
health in very good spirits, only
once in a while I get home
sick, together with lovesick
but just getting a letter from
home and about the
girls dispels all that. You dont
know how much good your letter
done Old Tally. I liked to have
killed myself laughing at that
fool Nigger, You must write
me word which one it was
Tally was caught right there
as well as Sister E, prety badly
I hope the old fellow may be
victorious in his attempt, But
"No" I understand he then a
rival a young Man of the
same name. Do you think

Tell Lizzie I have my eye pick to get a letter from mason & mrs run away

I send a paper to Lizzie & Sarah & courage of our Mayor Gen & mind all such rest & c Theo

he can stand anywhere when such a man as Tally is about. The idea is ridiculous in the extreme, This is the 1st day of April cold and windy, in fact as disagreeable as dead of winter in our sweet and peaceful State

I often wish I could be with you all, but content myself by remembering that this is my place and I can I will stay, so long as my life is spared or the war lasts, which I think but vainly I suppose will last not much longer, Did you get the letter I sent you enclosing the 20 bill, you did not speak of it in your last why I ask the question now, Ask Walt why he don't write to me. I am looking daily for a letter from him. I wish that bridge would not be made and get built, so you can write me some current news, about the people you know what concerns all the family write soon

your most affectionate Son

Per W. D. Williams
April 7th 1863

Harry C. Miller
3rd S. C. Regt

from Va

Mr C. V. Miller
Pendleton Village
So. Ca

14

Respects of Mr D. Williams
at Petersburg on
the way to wife
& baby

no 14
1863

Fredericksburg, Va

Dear Ma

May 10th 1863

I wrote Pa a letter the other day giving a sort of sketch of my whereabouts during the week of the great battle. Now as I said to him I will try and finish it in this to you —

I left off where our Brigade was at the brick Church, just about three miles from Chancellorsville, the battle ground of Sunday, Kershaws, Wilcoxs, Mahones, and the balance of Andersons and McLaws, division were sent up there Sunday evening to hick out the Yankee General Sickles, who had under him about 12 or 13,000 men. Our, or rather a part of Kershaws Brigade and Wilcoxs Engaged the enemy that evening, (I E) Sunday at the brick church, defeated them with great slaughter, and they then moved toward the river, McLaws, who was in command of both Divisions, did not push on immediately, but kept swinging round to the right in order to make a junction with Earlys forces who were approaching in from Fredericksburg — while we lay in the field on which the battle was fought, slight breastworks were thrown up in order to protect us from the terrible shellings the Enemy —

were giving us, with the batteries that protected their rear, several of our men were hurt during the day, two were struck on each side of me, not either of them more than two feet distant. A piece of shell struck the little mound of dirt right in front of Tally, That evening about an hour by sun we were ordered to move forward, the whole column ~~moved~~ moved right on the heels of the flying, the pickets always fighting. As our brigade was going through an awful thick piece of wood, as battery about a quarter of a mile in front of us, began a terrible firing, the trees were not much larger than your arm, and there was no protection to the ~~troops~~ so on we moved, the shells falling thick in our ranks, and literally tearing things to pieces, the men were so horrified at the awful noises the things would make bursting right among them, that it was with difficulty the Officers could get them to march in any sort of a line, This — of our Reg was so disordered, they were thrown out of line entirely, and had to get in rear of the column, Our Reg and the 7th & C, were marching side by side, and with the exception of some men, kept as good time as if they were drilling Brigade drill

Gen Kershaw ordered a halt once to put every thing to rights again, came up to where our Reg was, seen what beauty line it was in, Remarked as he looked down the line with a pleasant smile on his face, "Yes here is the old Third in a beautiful line at that" and then said — "To think one of my largest Regs had to be thrown entirely out," speaking of that 15th.

All this while the shells were bursting in our midst tearing trees, men, and every thing else in their way, all to pieces. Three or four bursted right in front and rear of our Comp, and you can have an idea what awful noises they made, something like a close crash of thunder, In a few minutes here came one of Kershaws Aids, says he to our Regimental commander "The Genl says that battery is right in front of this Reg and, and when you get to the open fields — which are about 50, or 100 yards ~~in front~~ ahead of you, you must charge" and then ordered us to fix bayonets, we did so, and as he rode off, he raised his hat gave a shout and said, "I glory in the third" I felt then as if I could have fought 40 tigers, in fact I may say I was not excited during the whole while, but must say as all the rest did from Genl down, dodged like the deuce

In a minute or so, we were off again right through the bushes like a drove of Buffalo, and about the time we emerged from the bushes, the battery limbered up, and off they put as hard as they could go, we pushed on and soon were in possession of the hill they had just left, we pushed themso close, they left everything, knapsacks — haversacks, blankets, and clothing of every description, also cooking utensils,

We here halted again, formed the line and pushed on after the flying foe, fighting going on all the while on the line, hundreds of prisoners were taken, also reported the Army were going toward the river "Fell Mill" not having any pontoons they jumped right in never minding the consequences, After gaining possession of the hills overlooking the river, our Artillery had full, sweep and then such another lumbering, could not be excelled, excepting on sunday morning, May poor fellow fell victim to their devouring ~~fire~~, After several hours firing, at each until all the Rebs backs were across they kept it up, About four o'clock in the morning all got quiet and the weary Soldiers were permitted to

South Anna Jan. 1st 1864

Dear Wife & Children I dont know, we may be on a march in a few days, we are now in camp, you know where we are, I want you to write often, Good Bye

Your husband
Manning

rest, we laid down after taking a hasty meal of Crackers, and boiled meat.

Early next morning after about an hours rest, we were aroused and put in motion, Our Comp was sent out on a scouting expedition, on the banks of the Rappahannock, The day was very warm and, you may know it wearied us considerably, some of our boys broke down and had to stop. We went several miles up the river, spied round a while, and then marched back to where we left the Brig- and to our surprise, it was gone, so we had to put out after it, Marched up towards Chancellorsville, about six or seven miles and found it had gone up to support A. P. Hill, who had more Yankees than he could attend to.

They had not all crossed the river, but instead, the number on this side, had been increased to an enormous ~~amount~~ amount, Joseph, I suppose intending to give us another struggle before he started, but Uncle Robert Edmund put a stop to all that by simply calling up his Artillery, and throwing Thunderbolts at them by the hundreds, Joseph finding his men becoming unmanageable, at last gave

his consent, and over they went with much lighter hearts, In the meanwhile it commenced to pour down rain in torrents, we staid there all night — and until the next day, about 1 o'clock we once more started back to our old camp to the delight of everybody, The roads were awfully muddy, and we had about 15 miles in front of us, but the majority of us got to camp before sundown, which we found in an awful condition, All the tents gone, and what few were left, were cut in ribbands, It was raining and cold, we soon got about after a while, and made a little bivouac of some Yankee fly tents we had captured, and brought along, laid down and being so tired and sleepy, were soon fast asleep,

I forgot to say our boys (C.) those in my mess got some splendid Yankee blankets, but I was so well pleased with my own downy blanket, I would not throw it away to pick up any, Although my opportunity to do so, was fine,

I succeeded in exchanging with one though, for a magnificent canteen

They seemed much disposed to think they had got a most h-ll of a drubbing — as one of them remarked to a crowd of us,

This morning we were aroused about daylight, and made to put on our trappings, take our guns and form the Regt, we stacked arms, and were ordered to ~~put~~ keep on our trappings, I understand it was to be ready to keep off a move expected from Stonemans Cavalry, and then again we understood the Yanks were making some demonstrations on the other side of the river, but we poor privates know nothing until it is right on us, I suppose though, it is all for the best, and we that every are perfectly satisfied.

To day comes the sorrowful news of Stonewalls Jacksons death — what a blow that will be to the Confederacy, this Army will miss him sure,

Capt Cuthbert of the Palmetto Guards from Charleston is dead, being mortally wounded the morning I spoke of being on picket; his company relieved us, Ask cousin Rosa if she dont know him I think I have often heard Dr Bacon speak of him, I dont know but what he was a great friend of Dr B's

We all lament his loss very much

Now since I have devoted the foregoing pages to military subjects, suppose we talk of something else —

From what I can learn all the young Ladies are getting married, it is a pity they wont wait until after the war is over, And then we can all have a showing, Ella Maxwell I suppose is married by this time, I wished I could have gotten to see her before it was over just for the sake of old times —

How is Miss "F." getting out? I is just in Town as regards her, he will favor her "No doubt" I hope he may, I would like to see them make it out, Have you seen or heard anything from L, or A since you wrote how they are getting on, I would like to hear from them very much —

Last Nigt time you write dont be bluish about my being in that battle, I have just passed through, Your thanks to the Almighty I am perfectly well satisfied were sufficient, So just write me the sort of letter I am speaking of and much for the better, Write soon to your most

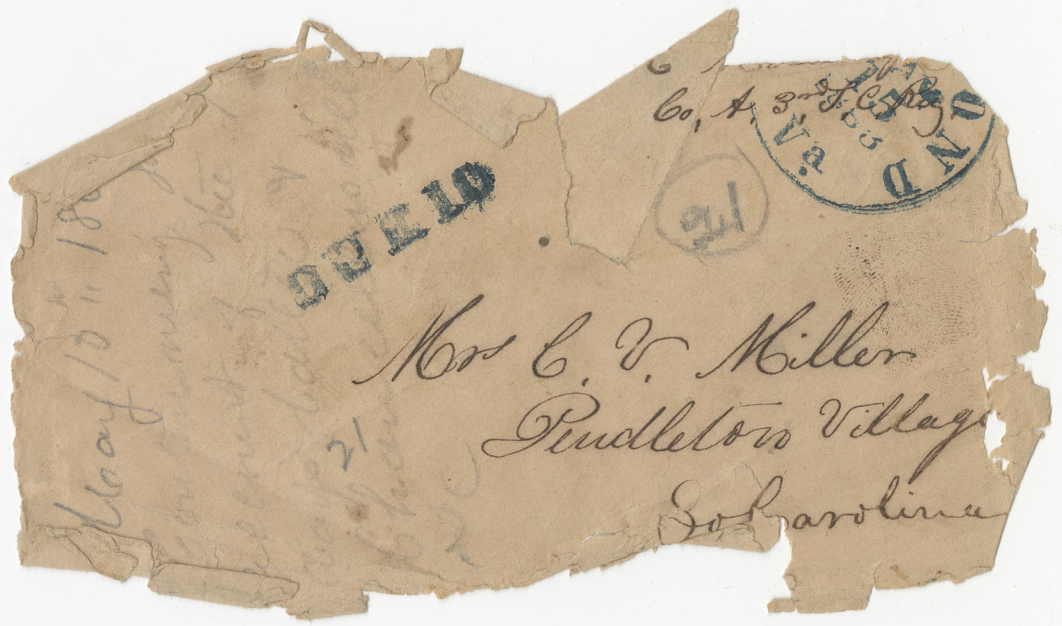
Affectionate Son

H C Miller

My love to all the family

Howdy to the Darkies

Be anything else but bluish when you write again


Mrs C. V. Miller
Pendleton Village
So Carolina
Co. A 3rd S.C. Vol
Va
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Miller