

James Stewart
Direct to Co. F, 101st S.V.C.
Via Nashville,
Tenn

1916

1863

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Winchester, Tenn.
Aug. 10th 1863.

Dear Sir

Your kind letter
was recd while we were at Memphis
and I had answered it once but
had not mailed the letter, and while
packing it got into a box and now
will try to let this reach you.
We started from Memphis on
June 24th and after marching
some 800 miles we came onto our
sister friends. We skirmished that
afternoon, also on the 25th, 26th & 27th.
On the 27th our brigade was in the
advance, and skirmishing from
4 o'clock A.M. until dark.
We arrived here July 3rd and
my lay during that time it
rained with scarcely an intermission.

For 2 days and nights it rained
in torrents. You may imagine
that it was a rough time. Every
stick on me was wet, and at
night, we were so tired that we
laid down in the mud and slept,
while the rain was pouring down.
It was the roughest time I ever
saw, and I hope I shall never
be called upon, to make another
trip like it. But our "scetch
friends" had to "skedaddle" in
a hurry. Had it not been for the
rain, Gen. Boegg, and his army
would have had to fight us or
surrender, but the rain made
the roads so bad that our trains
could not keep up with us, and
we could not march and fight
on empty stomachs. There was
about 20 days that we were on
half rations, and I tell you Will,
that we had a scarcity of " grub".

It aint pleasant to go hungry,
to say the least of it. I have been
sick for over 6 weeks, and I now
am on duty again. I lost 27
pounds, while sick, and expected
at one time, to go under the sod.
Had I been well, I would have
answered your letter as soon as I
got here, but you see I could not.
You asked me, "If I liked Soldier's
Life?" I can not say that I do
but still I never will regret
that I came. This rebellion
must be crushed, and why should
I not help? It is a sacred
duty to defend the "flag", and
every one should feel it to be so,
and ever be ready to sacrifice
life if necessary, in the discharge
of that duty. 'Tis thus I feel,
I will now close for the present.
Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain
Your Cousin & ever
L. J. B. 1862

Bridgport Ala.
January 34th 1864

Dear Cousin

I was somewhat surprised when I rec'd a letter from you today for I thought you had forgotten me; but, I am glad that is not the case. I had written to you, and had no answer, so I concluded to wait until this "Cruel war is over" and then call on you, and wake you up. You see by the above, that I have hopes of its closing, and of

getting home once more.
I can assure you that such
is the case. I think this
next Campaign will be a final
and decisive one, as we have
doubt the troops here now, that
we had before the battle of
Chickamauga, and when we
do move, I am certain the
old flag will be victorious.

We are not doing much here
now, nor do we expect to, until
the first of April. Then we
expect to take Atlanta, and
divide the territory of the Southern
Confederacy, again. The end will

soon come, I hope, but if it
should not, I think of re-enlisting.
My time will expire in July 1865
or in about 17 mos. Our Army
has been changed greatly since
I was home. In place of the
20th and 21st Army Corps, we

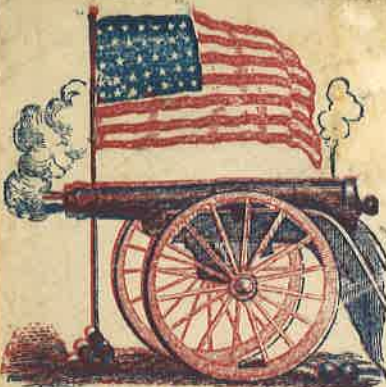
have the 4th Army Corps. All
the troops in those corps, have
been placed in the 4th Corps.
I belong to the 1st Brigade, 1st Division
now. I did belong to the 2nd Brigade
1st Division, 20th Corps. Our Corps
is much stronger than the 20th
was. We have 37 regts in our
Division now, before we had only 12.
The weather has been very nice
here, we only had 7 or 8 cold
days this winter. Today the
sun is shining brightly and
it is as warm as it would
be there in May, but the
nights are pretty cool. We
have log huts built, and
have good times. Plenty to eat
and not much to do. I come
on duty one day out of six.

I would like to see you
all, and also to join in that
pleasant chat your mother and

mine had together, and to
help to thresh, but I expect
to thresh rebels in the spring
and it is rather tougher work
than threshing wheat. So far
I have escaped well, only having
been wounded once. I have gone
through 3 battles and quite a
number of skirmishes. The last
one was the hardest, and I hope
I shall never be in such a hard
one again. In that
one there was about 30,000 killed
and wounded. I think ~~2000~~
more ~~to~~ the ~~entire~~ ~~of~~ the war.
Well. It is hard writing
when I can not find any thing
to write about, but I'll see you
when the war is over, and tell you
every thing I know of.
Give my love to all the
friends. Such as they may find
of you, well. I am yours affectionately,
John C. Smith

1864

Mr. William Crawford
Rural Ridge
Allegheny Co.
Pa.



Our Compromise.