

Christopher Cowan Anderson letters:

- To sister November 11th 1861 from York Town, VA

Dear Sister:

Henry is writing to Brother Marcus now, but as I have not written to you in such a long time, I have concluded to write too. I have got nothing to do today nor tomorrow until after dinner. So I will have a good opportunity of writing you a long letter. I have just [?] from [?] and left Henry writing. He is getting along very well now, being on permanent guard duty at the [wharf?], has to stand two hours out of every eighteen, night and day. I am on [provost?] guard, have to stand every other day, but not at night though, there I have the advantage of Henry. I just did get in by some good luck. One of my [?] had been detailed on this guard but happened to be a little [?] at the time and I offered to take his place, which he agreed to. I hope [Stew Raius?] will continue his guard all the [?] I will get off for the whole of that time without standing at night. We have hired a cook and have got off from the very unpleasant task of cooking for ourselves, we pay \$12.00 a month and eleven of us to pay it. I do not [begrudge?] the money at all, for I would rather do anything else than to cook and stand guard. I have a plenty of spare time now, and if I only had some books to read I would not dread the campaign much. While I am speaking of books, did you get those books that [?] the day I left home. I lent him eight or nine of my books, some of which I would not lose for anything. The life of [Spencer H. ?] is one of the books. Please send it to me when you send that [?]. When you send the book, write me word immediately so that I may be looking for it. If you do not it may lay out on the wharf [?] for four weeks before I ever find it out. We get some of the nicest beef you ever saw if we only had any way to cook it. We boil it and eat it just that way. I never was so sick of flour in all my life, I always rejoice the good old cornmeal, we used to get [peas?] but they soon stopped coming. Corn bread and peas are just as good eating as I [?], if I could always get it. We buy turkeys[sic] and pay from \$1 to \$2.23 a pair and potatoes at \$1.00 a bushel. Though I did get one bushel today for \$.50 by a little [?] eggs from \$.20 to \$.23 a dozen and at the same a piece, chickens cost [?].

We have got two Yankees here in jail now. They [?] me they belonged to the New York seventh regiment. They have on a fine blue broad-cloth uniform, in [compared to which?] we look like a gang of negroes in dress. They are very handsome and manly looking, bold and defiant. They cursed us like [?] when they first came, but [seem?] very well pleased now, always laughing and talking. They say they are bound to whip us bare but will not say where they are going to make the attack. Though they are [?] to make it, [?]. One is a [?] and [?]. Our men frequently have [skirmishes?] with the Yankees at Newport News. [Cobb's legion?] had a slight brush with them not very long ago. [?] stop for a while.

November [15th?]. After a considerable [row?] with the [?] in arresting some of them for drunkenness. I will [?] my writing. While I think of it I want to say something of my clothing. I did not have but one pair of cloth pants and one cloth coat, which you sent to me by Henry Bunn last summer. I left the pants hanging on the wall in our room and told Clara to put them in my trunk; I gave her the key for the purpose. I would like very much to have a jacket to reach to my hips of the same material [of the those vest?] or something similar, I have no under coat, but that cloth one, and that is too thin for this

winter. I can't wear my overcoat everyday you know, you can make one for me and send it with those [books?], you had better send those blankets too, also some envelopes and a small supply of paper. We are nearly out of envelopes have [mine?] only and one [?] of paper. Henry sold all the paper, but about about[sic] two quires at twenty cents a quire, the soldiers have to pay sixty cents for it and thirty five cents a pack for these [?] yellow envelopes. If they are that high in Georgia you need not send them in that case. The envelopes are not near as fine as the one this letter is in, nor near so good, they are made of this common wrapping paper that is used in stores.

We did not get the leggings you or brother rather ordered. We will stand in great need of them this winter. You could make a pair in two hours of the same material as you did those vests being so coarse, I would not have them a speck finer, they are just as we want them. If they only had sleeves to them, I would not give them for any lady's jacket. I wish they were jackets or coats, what use do we have here for fine clothing? It is sordalike [sic] going to church dressed in ball-clothes, only four times as bad.

We are having miserable weather now raining a good deal of the time and cloudy and chilly, the ballance [sic].

I came very forgetting to tell you what a sad and fatal accident lord place in Cobb's legion two or three days ago down below [?] at Newmarket bridge, Newman kelbridge is just two miles Hampton and the order was given to fire on any-body that started across that bridge. [Maj. Bagley?] of the legion, a captain and lieutenant were standing near the bridge and a crowd of men or Yankees came galloping right to the new bridge, got right on the legion before they found out, and were hailed by the May: and his party, they answered "Virginians" and turned put their spurs to their horses and fled, just as they ran, some one of the legion, unknown, gave the order to fire, when the greater part of their [bangat?] and killed. Maj. Bagley, wounded the captain in the hand did broke a private below the knee, which had to be amputated. It is supposed the private will die, his name was Rodgers. All the loss was on our side. May: Bagley is from Augusta. The men of the legion told me the same tale at different places. Magander is down there now in two miles of Newport News and I heard that he was not going to come back until he got into a fight. One of his Orderlies told me he was going to attack one of those places before he got back. Two men from Augusta, by the name of [I... and D...?] belonging to the 10th Les. regiment discarded to the enemy in Newport News and not many days ago, mask that, that looks suspicious. I would not be much surprised if they did come back, that is four men, [?] discarded from the [Ges.?] Regiments on the Peninsula this year. Dr. Oliver, a graduate of Mercer University, a native of those in Houston and from Taylor County discended us not long ago and I suppose he is gone home. I must close as one of the men is waiting for to carry my letter to the office.

Good Bye. Love to all. Henry is well.

Yours Affectionately,

C. C. Anderson