

Camp Georgia Yorktown Oct. 6 1861

Dear Ma

It is now Sunday, and as I have no letters employed out I will [... ..] writing you a letter. Aunt Sarah and Cousin Isie came down to our camps yesterday evening and [... ..] with us. Cousin Isie has had several chills and doesn't look as well as when she first came up. Aunt Harriet left about 1 ½ weeks ago. She spoke as if she might go [...] before she went home. When I wrote to Porcia and [Adilla] a day or two Kitt was sick with chill and fever. He went on duty yesterday and stood guard. He said he had another chill this morning though he looks very well. There is a good deal of sickness of chills and fevers in our regiment. Hardly any other diseases prevalent among us now. Fred (Henry) Wimberly is now sick with Billions fever and is reduced a good deal. Fred (Joshua) is up the river at a private house sick with chills and fevers, and his brother Johnny is there with Rheumatism, but I learn they are both improving and will be down in a day or so. We turned out a larger company yesterday evening than we have for a month, about forty men. Some of the co's containing around 100 men don't turn out more than 25 men for duty, but there is a great deal of deceit practiced among the men., but I think it is a mighty poor soldier that would pretend he was sick in order to avoid duty but many do. We are all still at Yorktown, and I believe will stay here through the winter, though we were expecting to go down to a place on the peninsula called Harwood's mills to spend the winter, but I understand now that we will stay here. I wouldn't care if we could be sent back to Brunswick to spend the winter, for I learn that Gov. Brown has asked for 5 armed regiments from the secretary of war, but I guess we won't go back to Georgia before peace is made. I believe it is mostly the case that those unaccustomed to hard labor and living endure the camp life better than those who are accustomed to living hard. It was reported here the other night that the Yankees were landing below us, and Cobb's cavalry went down there and found it not so. I am afraid we will have to stay here a good while without a fight. It seems to me that they are progressing the slowest about Washington that they could. We have had very good weather lately I have not seen any front yet. We have had no very cold weather yet. We received a letter from you to Kitt yesterday evening, was glad to hear from you all for it was the first letter we had received from you all for nearly two weeks. I wish we could get letters from home every 4 or 5 days. I wrote to you or pa 4 or 5 days ago, and one to the girls day before yesterday, also one to Bennie [James] yester day. Col Colquitt is going to give a sort of dining today. He has invited Gen Magruder and a good many officers. Aunt S and Fred's wife are over there, and will fix it up I guess. Col Colquitt still has command of Yorktown. It has been pretty warm the last 3 or 4 days. I have a cot to sleep on, and I find it much better than sleeping on the ground, I will be glad when we get our mattress ticks. But if we moved very far I expect we will have to loose some of our things. I hardly ever have any cooking to do now only when one of our cooks are sick. We (our mess) generally has pretty good eating when there is anything good we can buy, but it is hard to get hold of anything now. I saw an account of a battle at Lexington last night where our forces whipped them and took many prisoners and much booty. It seems that we gain all the victories nearly, but we will have to gain so many before they can find that we will not be conquered by them.

We have I recon five thousand men at Yorktown besides many more regiments at various points on the peninsula, I recon we could at a few hours notice concentrate 11 or twelve

thousand men for a battle at most any place near here, but I am afraid we will never have that to do on this peninsula. We have to a chaplain for our regiment yet. Almost every body cusses and swears. I never heard so much of it before I came here. I believe two thirds of our men are profane. But you need not fear my becoming profane or a drunkard or a gambler for being where so much is carried on, does not the least entice me to it. A great many play cards and gamble but I don't know one card from another and I don't intend to find out. I wish I was in a company where all the men were intelligent and moral like the Wimberlies and few more men we have. Yesterday 1st Lieut Nelson came back from Richmond with his commission (for you know he was sergeant) and brought a keg of whiskey and treated all the men to a drink of it, and some of them got pretty tight, but you may rest assured that I never touch a drop only for medical purposes, and I have done that but 3 times. I don't love it and never intend to cultivate a taste for it. I believe I told you in a previous letter of Magruder's review of the Yorktown troops, where we were parading on the field Col Winston of the 8th Ala reg. drove one of this captains off the field for some mistake in the movements I guess and the captain has called for a courtmarshall and I hope they will do something with old Winston for he is the meanest sort of a colonel, all his men nearly hate him. His Lieut Col is nearly as bad as he is, and while he was charging around hollowing at his men his horse threw him and I was mighty glad of it too, although he don't concern me, bug I hate to seen an officer treat his men like negroes. We have just as good officers as I want, I like every one of them. Fred makes a very good officer. Our Capt is a mighty clever man to his men, and our field officers are all clever men. I was very sorry Lieut Crocker had to resign for I like very much, but we have a nice man in his place (Mr. Nelson). None of our officers have ever spoken a cross word to me yet, it don't trouble me to get along with them. Judson is well and hearty and is a good soldier. Fred is also well. Col Colquitt has been a little unwell but is well at present. Kitt has a chill occasionally but is always up and about. When you write tell me all about the children and negroes and everything about home. Has Linton Sparks gone to Arkansas? How is the Dr's and Mr. Peak's families? Is Mrs. Sparks staying at G.T. yet or has she gone too? Give my respects to these families and to all of my acquaintances and especially to all the girls. Is Aunt [Smitha] still with you? Love to Pa and all the children.

Tell me about them and the negroes. I will write again in a few days. Write often.

Your affectionate Son,

Henry Bunn

Yorktown

Virginia