

of things which I above all
others I desire.

The next day we formed
our line on Gen Hill's left
I threw up a line of works
by the way, see the Army of
Northern Virginia have become
quite a good set of dirt dig-
gers, but I do not think there
is any disgrace in using
all lawful means to pre-
~~serve~~ our lives for enough
of gallant spirits have
already fallen in this
cruel war. What a noble
fellow was George Chapin!
Here that family have suf-
fered! But whom God loveth
he chasteneth, he intends only
their gold to refine, their
dross to consume.

Camp Stone wall

Dec 5th 1863

Dear Sister

As we are again in
our old camp & the Yankees gone
I suppose I can give you
an account of our campaign -
Yesterday week we marched
down to words Gen manie
ford I were about forming our
line on the left of Gen Hill
when firing commenced in
our rear, Gen Johnston sup-
posing it to be Yankee cavalry
sent out the 2nd Va as stir-
rishes to hold them in
check, but they soon found out
that instead of cavalry it
was the 3rd Army Corps com-
manded by Gen French, so
our division about faced
formed our line & advanced

We drove their line of skirmishers back upon their line of battle when the firing commenced in earnest on the Yankee side as yet our line had ~~been~~ moved very little, at this time our color bearer was shot through both legs & the colors fell to the ground, I threw down my gun & took the colors, the line was reformed & with a rebel yell we dashed forward, but were met with such a terrible fire that we were compelled to halt, formed our line along a fence & held our ground until dark when we withdrew, being under fire about 4 hours, I was complimented on the field by Gen Walker's Adjutant Gen

And Gen Walker also took my name, so you see I have endeavored to do my duty Maj Terry also since our return to Camp has complimented me very highly - I now have a very honorable place though by some considered dangerous but I think that one place is as dangerous as another for God has appointed our stay & we are perfectly safe until that day comes, whether I will continue to hold it or not I cannot say as the colors do not properly belong to our company - But enough about self for fear you think I am disposed too much to blow my own horn.

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We lay quiet in our works
 expecting the Yankees to advance
 but they were not disposed
 to do so & on Tuesday night
 withdrew across the Rappahannock,
 we then moved up to
 our old Camp & now all
 is apparently quiet, some
 think that the campaign
 is not yet over but unless
 they do something shortly
 the weather will declare
 an armistice.

How much I miss my best-
 fellow (George Chapin) you
 have no idea what an
 attachment grows between
 two soldiers who are con-
 stantly together. What a
 noble fellow he was! a
 gentleman & a soldier. I
 wish I could add a proper

Christian, but can we not
still hope, as doubtless he
was the object of many our
our next prayer & his life
was such a moral one
(though I do not place any
confidence in morality), still
his life was so free from
any gross sin that I still
have hopes that he now
rests in heaven. May God
comfort the afflicted Mother
sisters & brother? I was
so unfortunate as to lose
my knapsack & now am wear-
ing his clothes, but I may be
able to draw clothes from
the P.M. they ought to fur-
nish me & must, the shirts
I get here are white &
get dirty very quick, but
I have already gotten two much
from home I will depend in the -

7th

future on the compedacy
If you will send me
Elihu's address I believe I
will write to him though
I never had much influ-
ence with him perhaps I
may induce him to endeavor
to lead a better life -

Oh how much more real
enjoyment I have now
for my part I can not
see how a wicked man
can be a good soldier.

Give my love to Uncle
James & Lady N^o 1 & also
Uncle James & Lady N^o 2
& all friends. Your bro-
A. B.

8th
7th

You need not read this page.

W. I. W. P
G. P. H. b