



Bridgport Alabama

Oct. 29th 1863

Dear Uncle and Aunt

It is with the greatest pleasure that I seat myself to pen a few words to you in answer to your letter which I received a short time since. we are in Alabama again having pretty good times now. This is the third day we have been here its the longest we have been in any one place at a time since we left the Potomac army. we are now in a post near the Tennessee river all the duty we do is to guard prisoners and deserters from the rebel army they come into our

lines every day sometimes
twenty or thirty together.

They all say that the next
battle will decide this war
if Bragg gets defeated they say
that his entire army will
disband. if that is true you
will hear of Bragg army
disbanding in one month
from now for Genl Grant
will whip them just as shure
as he did Pemberton's army
at Vicksburg. he is a General
that fights to whip and we all
have confidence that he will whip
the rebel army the next time he
fights them. well Uncle Franklin
I see that you are getting along
finely with your falls work.
I really would like to be up
there and help you pick apples
while and to eat a few.

next fall if I am alive
will find me in Washington
County for this war cannot
last untill then. you will
think that this south western
climate agrees with me pretty
^{well} when I tell you that I weigh
178 pounds I want to gain one
pound more for I always thought
I would like to weigh 180 then I
shall be satisfied. we have rather
short rations out here but when
we get short we go on to the
mountains and shoot a hog so
we manage to live pretty well.
my tent mates now are Horace
Dowd Mike Donchue and Andrew
Harris they are all good fellows
Andy Harris sends his respects
to Adda Louisa. mine also tell
her ^{that} when this reaches you I hope
she will be in better health than

when you wrote to me last.
 Aunt Polly I most forgot to tell
 you that my shirts were just
 the thing Tell Mother that I was
 suited once for I am most afraid
 that when I was at home I was a
 little inclined to find fault with
 things that were not just so.
 This trip a soldiering will do some
 of us fellows good. if we ever get
 out of it we shall know how to
 appreciate good things. I tell you
 a fellow can get old here very
 quick uncle Franklin used to
 say that some folks ought to get
 older they can get older here without
 much trouble. There was a report here
 last night that Gilmore had taken
 Charleston. our men are fighting up
 near Lookout mountain we do not
 hear yet how they are progressing
 every soldier about here is in good
 spirits we all think this war is nearly
 over. I do not think of anything more
 to write so I will close by sending
 my love to you all. good bye
 direct hereafter to from your absent
 Co K 123rd 1st Brigade }
 1st Div. 12th A C } soldier
 Nashville Tennessee } Henry Welsh



Mr. Franklin Garner
South Granville
Washington Co.
N. Y.

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