

Bridgeport Ala. Dec. 24 1864

Dear Ann

Your letter dated the 2nd of this month came to hand yesterday. Of course you have seen in the newspapers an account of what has been doing about here and between here and Nashville. We have been very near four weeks without mails or any Rail Road communication with the North. It was a very lonesome time for us. The Rebels are once more beaten back from the Rail Road and the mail came through yesterday. I expected lots of letters but only got one and that a very short one. But it made me very glad to get that.

The last letter that came from you, until today, was dated the 17th of November and I got it on the 29th of the same month. So you see that some of your letters have gone astray. I have no news to send to you, only that I am well and have been very well for a long time. It made me feel very uneasy, on account of not hearing from home. I hope that the Rebels will not be able to cut our Rail Roads any more. It was expected that they would try to capture this place but they did not come. Of course we were not sorry.

The weather has been quite cold here part of the time. I do not think that we shall go from here this winter and I am very glad of that because I like it here as well as any where they could place me. Still if Sherman and his army will be able to get to some sea port and remain there any length of time maybe that we would be sent to the Regts.

I have received no letters from David Williams.

We had to do Out Post duty for a little while but it is given up now, and we have but very little to do, and if the Rebels will let us alone for a while we will thank them very much. I believe that they are about used up, and will not trouble us any more in a great while.

Please give my warmest love to Dack__ & Ma_g_ and Father & Mother &c &c

Tell Tommy to continue to be a good boy, and to be very kind to his little Sister. Dat will write them a letter in a few days and will tell them what a nice Christmas Present Dat has received from the little boys and girls, that comes to School to him.

I will send you \$10. (ten Dollars) as soon as it will be safe to do so.

Praying that the blessing of Heaven may abide with you all

I remain Truly Yours

W Charles

Bridgeport Ala. Dec 28 1864

Dear Ann

I received an other letter from you dated Dec. 4, containing the good news that you were all pretty well and that my friend W.E. Jones was on his way home I had almost given up seeing him any more but I do hope now. It is a wonder though that he was enabled to keep soul and body together, when so many thousands of his fellows died all around him. Of course I do not wonder that you are uneasy about me. Why should you not be uneasy when you can not hear any thing from me. You must do as you tell me to do. Put your trust in Him who is able to save us, and hope for the best. We did expect a Battle at this place and it was all excitement for a week or so, but the Enemy did not come. Of course the danger is not over yet, but I do not think that Hood and his army will be able to do us much harm because he is all ready very badly Whipped you will before this gets to you see the accounts in the papers It does seem to me that it will be most impossible for the Rebels to hold out much longer I think that by the first of July next the War will be over Because, for the life of me, I cannot see where the men and money is coming from for them to start an other campaign in the Spring

All that remains now to be done is for Gen. Grant to destroy or capture the Rebel Army at Richmond As soon as that is done Rebeldom will fly to pieces. Lee's army at Richmond is the only power that keeps the thing together now. When that is gone the last hope of the slave owners is gone and then we we shall have peace "May the Good Master hasten the time"

Bridgeport Ala. Dec. 29 1864

The mail did not come in to day. quite cold no news of any kind

30th

No mail to day but it is said that the trains will run this far in a few days

Tell Tommy & Sissy that Dat has a Wach a present from the little boys and girls that he has been learning to read. It is a very good wach and cost \$20. Is Joel there yet. Give my love to all am very sorry that Dack's feet are so sore

I have not heard a word from Hood and his army for a couple of days

A Happy New Year to you all

W. Charles

[On U. S. Christian Commission stationery]

Nashville Station, Jan 7th 1865

Dear Ann

Reached this place last evening and the talk is that We will start for Savannah in a few days

It rained and snowed yesterday last night it froze quite hard and it is clear overhead this morning

I have \$10. to send to you but I shall keep it untill I get to the Regiment No one knows when that will be or how much money it will take to keep one from from starving on the way Will write again to morrow or before We go from this place

My love to all
Most truly yours
W Charles

Crestline Ohio Jan. 17 1865

Dear Ann

Here I am near the center of the State of Ohio, and one of the meanest places in the whole world for all I know We did think that when we would get to the Free states we should be well treated but never since I have been in the service have I met with so much unkindness as we did here last night. It was nine o'clock when we got here and of course had to stay all night, and in all this town no better beds could be furnished the soldiers than the Barroom floor.==

It is very cold. I hope it will not be long before I can return to the sunny south again. I can stand the cold weather very well but the unkindness of the people I can not endure my love to all,

Yours in haste

W Charles

Greenwich Ct
Jan. 23 1865

Dear Ann,

I got to this place about noon to day and met with a very great disappointment in not finding Joel at home. Alice and the children are well. She has the most intelligent children that I have ever seen

I must return to the city tomorrow as we sail for Savannah tomorrow afternoon or Wednesday morning

saw John Lewis yesterday the old man was very glad to see me. he took me to somebodys house and very kind people they were. Deacon Lewis looks well is doing well. He gets about (\$900.) nine hundred dollars a year and only works six hours out of the twenty four For one I am very glad that the old is so comfortable

I also saw Mr Alfred Harris and heard him preach in the afternoon yesterday.

I sent a letter to you from New York City this morning-----
I stayed with Cadwaleder Richards last night he gave me my dinner yesterday and breakfast thi morning, and would take any pay from me saying that we would settle that the next time we would meet-----

Oh how I would like it if we could not get a ship for two or three weeks so that I could come home but never mind the time will soon come when I can come home for good May Our Heavenly Father spare our lives is the most earnest prayer of yours most

Truly

W Charles

Please give my love to all

Joels oldest boy reads first rate in the third reader & I am so glad to see that Joel has such good children

Yours in haste

W. Charles

Will write to you again tomorrow if I can

(On stationery of the U.S. Sanitary Commission)

New York City
Jan. 24th 1865

Dear Ann,

I have just returned from greenwich and I am told that We can not go from here untill a week from tomorrow.----

I saw this morning Jim the brother of Alice. He said that you were for five weeks without hearing any thing from me and that you felt very bad about it. I feel very sorry, but you know that it was not my fault. you see there was no way to send letters from Bridgeport for a long time

The last letter that I received from you was dated the 4 and nobody knows when we shall get to the Regiment so as to get letters from home

Had a very good visit with Alice and the children She washed for me two pair socks and one shirt and made one new shirt for me. I paid ninty cents a yard for the stuff. Its a bully shirt. My visit to Greenwich has done me no good I am only ten times more lone some and home sick than before. Is Joel up there yet. does he intend moving up there. Joels two olddest boys came with me from the house to the R.R. Depot to see their Uncle Bill get on the train They are very nice children.

It is getting dark and it is cold in this Old Barracks. Will write again to morrow.

Have good mind to go and stay with Dick Morgan again to night.

Please give my love to all the family Tell Tommy that it will not be a great while untill Dat will come home----

I feel very sorry that I was not able to see Joel

Yours very truly

W. Charles

Greenwich Jan. 27 1865

Dear Ann

You see by the above date that I am still in Greenwich I did think of going back to the city to day=but Alice would not let me go. She says that I must stay untill monday morning I do not think that we can get a ship for Savannah untill next Wensday. So I can stay here untill monday if I like. Although the longer I remain here the more Homesick I become

Alice has just recived a letter from Joel dated at Arcade the 23d of this month in it he says that Brother "William is all right and in the Same place" little did he think when writing that letter that his Brother would himself read it I am very much disapointed in not seeing him.

Alice has washed all my clothes and she has fed me so well that my cough has almost left me and I am able to talk quite plain For four weeks my throat was so bad that I could hardly speak a loud word

The weather is quite cold Joel youngest child is almost sick with the cold. He is as nice a child as I have ever seen I have no news whatever to send to you. I have not seen the news papers to day.

Alice sends her love to you and would like it very much if you were here Please give my warmest love to Dack__ & Ma_g__ I do hope that they are well. You will also give my love to father and mother and all the family.

Dats sends lots of love and kisses to Tommy & Sissy and yourself If my own children has grown as Jimmy has I shall certainly not know them. If my life will be spaired to come home to to them. I do not believe that that this War can last a great while longer.

By the fourth of July next it will be at an end. With the blessing of God it will. other wise it will not. Hoping that you are all well, I remain truly yours

W. Charles

Alice wishes you to tell Joel to come Home----
Is Wm E. Jones at Home give my love to him if you see him
Poor Mag Higgins is gone. I felt very sad when Deacon Lewis told me that she was dead.

Yours very truly

W Charles

Bedloe's Island New York Harbor
Jan. 31 1865

Dear Ann,

We left New York City yesterday, and it is said that we are to start for Savannah this morning-----

I left Alice and the children all well but some lonesome because Joel is not there. The weather is and has been pretty cold. My health continues pretty. that cough of mine does not trouble me so much as it did

Please give warmest love to Dacky and Mang__ and father and mother and all the family

Alice said that she was going to write to you in a few days. I left my Over coat with her and some shells Alice washed all my cloths and treated me with the utmost kindness and so did all of the people of Greenwich

You remember my speaking about Martha Stoothoff. She says that she would like to have have that likeness of hers thats there sent to her. so if it is not to much trouble you will please take it out of the case and send it to her She says that she will send it back to you again if you want it she only wants it to take copies from it. Direct to Miss Martha J. Stoothoff Greenwich Ct.

Alice made me promise to bring you and the children to make them a long visit next winter, so if we live we must try to go for we shall have good time But there is but little use of talking about things so far a head. Still there is no harm in thinking about such things and hoping that they may come to pass If it was not for hope you know the heart would break.

Tell Tommy & Sissy to be good children and kiss them ever so much for me

Trusting that you are all well I remain

Yours Very Truly

W Charles

Blairs Landing
South Carolina
Feb 6 1865

Dear Ann

We left Bedloe Island New York harbor on the 31st of Jan. and had a pretty rough passage to Hilton Head S.C. We were very much crowded on the ship so much so that there was not room enough to lay down

We got to Hilton Head friday afternoon and yesterday morning we started up Broad River and after sticking in the mud several times we got to this place--and here we are in a grove of Live Oaks grove We are some hungry for we have had no rations since day before yesterday noon!!

There is fighting going on about 30 miles from here
Lots of wounded came in here yesterday==

I know not how soon we shall be sent to the front most likely in a few days

My health is pretty good considering all things
my love to all and many kisses for yourself and little ones

may God bless you

In Haste Truly
Wm Charles

Blairs Landing S.C.
Feb. 1865

Dear Ann

You see by the above date that I am still at this place I have been here now two weeks tomorrow and can not tell you anything about how long I shall be oblige to remain here===

I am detailed and put on duty here as Sergeant of the Hospital Guard and am very bussy every day, and have no time to write any more just now than to say that I am pretty well But it is very sickly here there are a great many very sick I do hope to get a way from here before it will be come hot It is as warm here now as it is in the month of may in Cattaraugus.==

please give my love to all yours in haste

W Charles

P.S. write one letter and direct it to

Sergt W. Charles
Camp Blair S.S.
Via Hilton Head

Beaufort South Carolina
Feb. 9 1865

Dear Ann

Yesterday I was sent from Blairs Landing to this place with some sick men. I have just got them from the Steam boat to the Hospital and am going back this fore noon. My health is very good, only am a little tired and sleepy this morning. Have been up all night. This is quite a pretty place and it is very much spring like although it was very cold last night.

Give my love to all. I see no prospects of getting to my Regt. at present. In haste

Yours most truly

Wm Charles