

Hope Landing Va
March 6th 1863

Mr Hammond

Dr Sir

The Capt
Arrived here last evening and brought
me a pkg in which was a book from
yourself & family with your kind
wishes & prayers. I am very much
obliged to for your kindness to me,
When I left Chicago I believe that
I promised to write to you when I
joined my Regt. but up to the present
time have had no opportunity to write
to anyone but Mother and one or two
in the family. Our Regt has been doing
constant duty since the 1st of last
September. And when^{we} were obliged to
stop in order to recruit it was generally
true we could not get writing materials
About two weeks since we were

Relieved from Picket duty at King
Georges Court House since then
have been in our present camp.
the rumor is however that we are
ordered to move in a day or two. We have
had very pleasant weather for the greater
part of the winter. the last month
tho we have had a good deal of snow
and rain consequently the roads are
in a terrible condition. If the fearful
ones at home could see what the actual
state of affairs are here they would
soon be convinced that there is
no danger of our ultimate success
if we only do right. For miles in
every direction beyond our lines the
slaves have left their Masters bring-
ing with them all the horses mules
cattle and whatever else they could
get hold of. Their places must be
filled by soldiers from the Army
or the people must starve, and the
more intelligent of the Citizens

Admit it. Neither are the Slaves as ignorant as they have been represented. The Majority of them are more intelligent than the poor Whites. Ask them where they are going and what they are going to do and they very readily answer that they are going north, and to work. Many of them leave more comfortable homes than they can hope to secure for many years. Yet they are willing to work & to suffer if they can only be free. Land here is very poor in quality as well as in price. The wealth consisting mostly in slaves Virginia or that part of it that we have been in is nearly drained of her entire Male population those that are left being the old and disabled. Now if the north will only stand firm we can conquer them in less than a year and when their Army is once

disbanded and the slaves free
we need have no fear of their ever
being able to raise another. Many
were deceived into enlisting more
were forced in. And the majority of
the men are heartily sick of soldier-
ing. Everything indicates a movement
in a few days but where I have no
idea. Since I have been here my
health has been very good and I
have enjoyed myself very much
My best regards to yourself &
family

Very truly yours
A. Wiswall

A. Throuse
March 63

Austin 1863

Wesley Landing Tex
April 3rd / 1863

Dr Mother Bro & Sister

I write to you all together
as I have not time to write to
each in detail. I rec two letters
from Mother yesterday and
one from Chas & Clark. Each today
Clark is expecting to go home soon
I believe. Would liked to have
seen him before doing so but
shall not be able to do so, probably.
Today I am 23. You all Mother will
remember if the rest do not and
a very disagreeable day it has
been. Last Evening it commenced
snowing & continued to without
intermission until this afternoon.

I was on guard last night
and rec the full benefit of the
Storm. Tomorrow we are to be
reviewed by the President and
Genl Robker. One of the cops
from our Co is going home on
a furlough. and when he comes
back I would like to have you
send me a pr of Boots a
couple of Hickory Shirts and
a box of Frank Millers
Leather preservative

Have Knowles make the Boots
No 14. he has my measure I
want the made of the best French
calf and sewed the legs to be
large and come up above my
knees 5 or 6 inches all around
double lippus and double soles

the straps to be of leather and
strong. have him be particular
about the leather and have no
flaws in it. have the lugs made
so they will turn down, have
plates on the wheels to prevent
their running over. The Boots
will probably cost \$12. or 15,
but they are necessary. I suppose
you folks generally can send
them to me as a birth day
present. if not will send you
the money as soon as we
are paid off. the pkg can be
left at S. H. McCreas 209
South Water St Office. Room
No 3. 2^d Floor. Where it will
be called for. Must be left before
the 15th

the price is high but it
is a good deal more econom-
ical than to wear Govt. Boots
and a good deal healthier one
fruitful cause of sickness
in the Army is wet feet. the
Boots I brought with me have
stood me so far admirably
but are now nearly worn
out. My best regards to
all my friends. ~~Not~~ forgetting
Knowles. All write soon

Your aff Sons Bro
Austin

Hope Landing Va
April 5th 1863

Dr Uncle

I was very glad to hear of your continued improvement in health. Clark tells me you will probably start for home a week from tomorrow also that he will accompany you. I should have liked very much to have seen you both before you started but as I cannot then I shall endeavor to make the best of it. I have got along very well since my enlistment and thus far have enjoyed myself much better than I anticipated on entering the Army. It is an excellent school for the study

of Human Nature, and a very
pleasant one too if we will only
be contented. The Army has improved
very much since General Hooker took
command. And if he only continues
in the way of well doing we ought
to give the Back Bone of this Rebellion
some pretty hard knocks if we do
not break it. There is a strong feeling
in the Army among all parties
that Copper headism in the
Northern States must be crushed
out and the Government sustained
to the End at all hazards, and
I believe the feeling is stronger against
Northern Traitors than it is
against Southern Rebels. There would
be scarcely a word said now against
the enlistment of colored soldiers

Where six months ago there
would have been open Mutiny.
Clark tells me you will endeavor
to get me a Commission before
going home I shall be very glad
to see one, but shall not be disappoint-
ed, nor discontented if I do not
get it. I did not enter the Army
for office nor for pay, but because
I thought it my duty and because
I wanted a personal interest in
this great battle for right and
justice. And God willing I
propose to remain in it in any
capacity We shall see fit to put
me until the struggle is ended
be it high or be it low

As ever your aff. nephew
Austin

Quincy

1863

Camp near Warrenton

April 28th 1863

Dr Mother

Pa

Your letters of the 12th
& 20th just reached me last evening
We have been on the march for the
last week or two & consequently
have failed to rec our Mail with
any regularity. Have not rec the
things you sent as yet the man
who brought not having come
up with the rest yet. You seem
to think that I would be surprised
at your spending the summer
at Mr H's. I am not rather
expecting it. and am perfectly
willing. and anything that will
add to your happiness will meet
with no opposition from me
So that has made up her mind to
go to the Hospital. All I am

have no objections her milled
sums set upon it and I
see no reason why her desires
should not be gratified as
well as any ones else. We started
several days ago to make a Raid
upon the Rbs but owing to the
bad weather and other causes
have been unable to accomplish
any thing as yet. Our Regt has
done all that has been done
by the troops in this Brigade
We have taken several prisoners
and horses besides killing a number.
Our Squadron was called out at
three o'clock this morning and
have not returned as yet. I did
not go as my horses back was
sore. The mails will be very
irregular while we are marching
and you must not be alarmed
if you do not hear from me for

for several weeks at a time
but do not fail to write to me
regularly as my letters are one
of my greatest pleasures. Kate
speaks of some Photographs
that she sent. all that I have
rec are yours May, Oakes & Mallie.
What is the reason that Liz does
not answer my letters. Give my
best regards to all my friends in
Chicago & P.

Your affson
Austin

P.S. When the War is over I will ^{travel} ^{bring}
^{with} you and Kate through Va and
show you some of as fine scenery
as you could wish for. You would
enjoy the spending the month of
May or June here in Warrenton
it is a beautiful town, Mountains
Hills, valleys & brooks making up
a scene of rare beauty. the other
Evening I was on Picket just as

The sun was setting, it had
been raining hard all day but
cleared up beautifully about 5 o'clock
and everything was so bright
and fresh and withal so quiet
that I could not realize that a
short time before it had been a
scene of strife and blood shed and
even then we were expecting the
enemy at any moment
Such is war

Yours aff

Sam Austin

Potomac Creek Va
Dr. Mather May 10th 1868

Again have we
had a battle or rather series
of battles here on the Potomac
and the result although not
as complete a success as we had
hoped for is still a success
there was less straggling than
I ever saw after so hard a
fight. The Soldiers were in
good spirits and confident of
their ability to whip the
Rebs. The Cavalry have been
on the go night and day for
the last thirty days making
scouts & Reconnoissances and are
pretty well tired out tho we are

in Camp now and will probably
remain for a day or two to receive
our pay and recruit up a little.
We have not been paid for over
six months. Through the Cow-
ardice or something or all of
Genl Averil we were not
with Genl Stoneman at
Richmond. We should have
joined him near Gordonsville
but after driving the Rebs from
Kellys Ford to Rapidan Station
we halted and finally turned
back and joined the Main
Army much to the indignation
of all the Soldiers. We have had
several brushes with Sturges & Mass-
bray Cavalry lately and in every
case have thrashed them severely.

My Boots & Shirts have arrived
and are very nice indeed. I wish
you would send me a couple
of towels by mail one of mine
was burned and the other stolen.
How Uncle's health improving?
Give my best regards to all my
friends. I wrote to Chas a few
days since tell him to write often.
Near what gone to the Kinspetat
yet where does she propose going?
An order has just come to
sign the pay Roll and we shall
probably see our pay this after-
noon

Your aff Son
Arthur

Acquia Creek Va
June 5th 1863

Dr Mother

Have just rec a
couple of letters one from you
and one from Clark also
those towels and socks they are
very nice and I am much obliged
for them. We have just rec orders
to write our letters and be pre-
pared to move in the morning
the whole Army being under
marching orders. It is re-
ported that Lee is trying to
get into Maryland again.
I hardly know what credit to
give it. but think it only a faint.
I hope there will be some
movement soon however as inac-
tion is the great bane of the Army

Clark says that he and
Uncle Joe will come down
and see me if they can
get papers. I know of nothing
particularly interesting to
write you. My health &
spirits continue as well as
ever for which I cannot be
too thankful. Am very glad
to hear of such a change
in the tone of Eds letters
I cannot think but that he
will be protected and brought
safely through all the perils
that surround him
Circumstances do not alter
Gods power. I am very
glad to hear that your
health is so good and
that you enjoy yourself
so well

You say that Chas does not
like Chicago. Well it is a dull
place compared to St Louis.
What is to prevent him
entering the College any
time he may desire? I might
have sent you some money but
the Mail is so uncertain here in
the Army that I did not like
to risk it. And as I had an excellent
opportunity to invest a small
sum thought that I better
do it, and besides like to keep so
some with me in case of accident.
Give my best regards to Mr
& Mc & family also to all
my other friends in C

What is Phronia doing?
By the way I almost forgot to
tell you that I am a newspaper
correspondent now. The Capt

wished me to write for one
of the Whiteside Papers and I
occasionally furnish them
with a short Article

Yours Affly Son
Austin