Camp near Rappidan River 28th September

My Dear Moll,

I have waited some five or six days expecting to hear from you. I have only rec'd 3 letters from you since I left home and none from Nan (?) We are still encamped upon the hills of the Rappidan & enjoying ourselves as well as could be reasonably expected. Last Tuesday we expected a fight. We were all drawn up in line of Battle on the brow of the hills of the River & opened fire with all our guns upon the Yanks but they failed to reply & we remained there in line of Battle till night & returned to our Camp as they showed no signs of fight. The may cross after awhile & give us Battle but I hardly think it probable until they withdraw some of their troops from Tenn. It is said that Yankee army is greatly demoralized. I suppose you have heard of our grand victory in Tenn. I hope Tenn will soon be free once more. I am of the opinion that our army will hold its own from now until the War ends as they have adopted the most rigid measures to suppress desertion. 23 men have been shot for that offense since my return that I am aware of & presume several others that were in other Divisions have met the same fate. Several were shot in less than a ½ mile of our Camp. 2 last Saturday which I thought I would witness simply because several of our company was going & I had never seen the like before. It was certainly an awful sight. Think of 2 young healthy fine looking men in the prime of life on a beautiful Sept day marched out into a field in front of a Band of Music tied with hands behind them & shot to death by 24 men. One was a Georgian & the other a North Carolinian. One of them stood it like a man to make a short speech in which I heard him say tell my wife & my mother that I was fully prepared to meet my fate & hope to meet them in Heaven. The other one had nothing to say he seemed to be very depressed. I know not what to write dear Moll to interest you as everything is so very quiet with us here that is so far as fighting is concerned. We are a little annoyed with daily dress parades & inspection. We have 2 drills per day dress parade at 6 ok & inspection every Sunday morning at 9 ok. Our Battalion makes quite an imposing appearance on dress parade. We are all required to appear in full uniform dark blue pants & light gray jackets.

Let me know if you have got the trunk (?) from Richmond or if you have hard anything of the Box or Satchel. I have written to Mr. Young to try to find out where he left the Satchel but as yet have heard nothing from him. I am needing my flannel drawers but know of no way of getting them if the winter sets in early which I think will be the case. We will go into Winter Quarters sooner than we did last year. I can then get a Furlough to go after my clothing. What has become of Buck has he been heard from yet. This leaves me in usual health at least as good as I can reasonably expect. Tilman (?) sends his respects to youall. I dream of you all often & long to see the time come for us to go into winter quarters. I have been looking for a letter from Unis (?) as you wrote that she has written to me several days ago. Give my love to her & say to her I hope her letter will come up soon. My love also to Pug and her children and Pa and all the rest. How does the little Dr stand the cool weather and no boots tell him he must get his feet hardened to the cold tell Gin her Pappy will be there after awhile & not forget him. I wish I could see a safe chance of sending you some money if you need any about having

your (?irch) fix or borrow it till I can send you some. There is some talk of our going back to our other camp between Orange CH and Gordonsville. If so I think I will have a chance of sending you some money. Give my love to all my family particularly Dr. Bolling (?) Mrs. G. & Tom (?) & any others that may inquire after me. Let me know if Mr. Layne ever got well & be sure and write immediately to your ever fond and affectionate George. Farewell dear Moll for the present.

amp Mas Rippoisten Heve, 30 Tear Mulo Jave mailed done fino or day clay expecting to hear from you I have or I letter, fort you 8 ines I left homest now from Man. He are still encomper copon the hilly of the Rappison tangoning survey, as a as could be sensonably expected Last hinder He of puter a fight the were all drawn who in lim of Butto on the brow of the biles of the River & spenes for with all our Gung infinit the yanks but they failed to reply we remains there in line of Battle Tile night factured to our Camp as they showed no signs of fight. They made Trass after awhile I give in Batto but I havely Think it probable untile they wishdraw Some of the darops from down It is said that youther army is greatly demoralized duppon you have hears of and grand Vactories in find & hope denn will Som to free ones more dam of the spining that

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I wrote to you yesterday which I presume you will get by Thursday mail. I wrote to Pa from Richmond & left it at the Sinwood (?) House for Phil Durninll (?) to take to Scottsville. I have just got through making up my dough for rolls for supper. We only eat twice a day & enjoyed the cakes & chicken very much. I did not eat a meal on the Packet. I had some of my cakes when I left Richmond after staying there two days. Yesterday was Fast day & was strictly observed throughout the army. Our old Company is in fine condition in the Gettysburg fight we only had one man killed 6 wounded & 5 taken prisoner. The company now numbers 83 men for duty. I am in good health. I was very tired when I marched here as I walked from Liberty Mills St. Gregory & (?) about 11 miles the first night. I slept out & got a hard chill but feel no symtoms [sic] of a return. I hope my dear Moll that you will keep in good spirits & remember that it is not through choice that I am here separated from you & the children but through a sense of duty I owe to my country. It is for the high regard I have for you & my dear little children that I am staying here & am determined that it should never be thrown up to you or either of them in after years I skulked from my duty. And I am of the opinion that you will fully concur with me. Yes dear Moll I know you would like for me to be with you all but at the same time I know you have too much respect (?) for your husband to have him dishonor his duty.

I am in good spirits our officers are willing to do all they can for me on yesterday while talking with my Capt. at his Tent I was in the act of showing him my papers he remarked that he did not care to look at them says he, I know you are all right Thomas & know that you will always return whenever you get well enough said he was never uneasy about me when I was gone but he knew my health was bad & that he had all confidence in me.

Now Moll you must write to me as soon as you get this I will 25 ____. Tell Nan she must (?) look for a few lines from me soon. I want you and her to rise early (?) & step around as it is certainly very conducive to health & you must quit eating so much.

As soon as I draw my money I will send you some I sent \$5 in my letter yesterday which I want you to hand Pa & I will send him the other \$5 soon. Kiss the children for me & learn (?) Gin as you can without pressing her too much & make her wear her Bonnett & fix Albert a hat & tell him he must be a good boy if he wants his Boots tell Nan she must go to Pine Grove and take the little Dr behind _? When I get some money to send you I want you buy him some clothes. I must close for the present, hoping to hear from you soon. I am very truly yr fond husband

George

Note: Sideways in margin of first page:

Don't forget to put my Watch down in the bottom of Nan's Trunk & keep it locked up till I come

ion restatoley wh I presione you will get by their day mail Since House for Phil During to the wort to Pa Scottiviles I have just got the ray to making up my dough for males for suppor wo the asses were a day dengoys The Cates & cheaten very on a ment on the Packet I has some of on cake, who I left - Rehow of Hast day over, strictly observed throughout The and. our of Company is in fine consilion in The Gety blog fight the one has one mans heller 6 mounted to the poisons That inting now number 83 mm for dely I am in go hereit I was very tires who do much s I weeks from Liberty melly St. Grayora 1 10 ... 8 gra at 1 miles the first might a safe and has a hord chies hot fue ous Symloms of a relum. I hope my Edear Mold that you will tak in good Therite of remember there it is not through choice the dan here seperates from you I the cheeren but through a some of duly regard I how for your tany door ails mino that it show never to thrown who to you or either of Them in after years that I shocked from my duty and I am of the opinion that afor wild fully Con our with mw.

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