

Knoxville, Tenn, April 28th 1862

Dear Wife,

A runner leaves our camp tomorrow morning who will take letters. I enclose you one to father and mother which you will please mail at Qualla Town. It is likely you will have an opportunity of writing to me by Indians who will come to join us. Up to this time I have not heard a word from you since I left. I am hourly looking for a letter from you.

There is every probability now that we will be assigned to the mountains for this summer with our head quarters in Sevier County. While in Jackson we heard but little of the Depredations of the Tories in East Tennessee but here we hear a great deal of them. Military men consider it a verry essential point to rid the country of them. And all seem to think that our Indians are the men especially adapted to that service. They want us occasionally to make a dash in the Cumberland Mountains but much as you here of the Cumberland in Jackson here there is more talk of the Smokey Mountain range. The probability now is that instead of being sent to the Cumberland Mountains we will fall back to the Smokey as soon as we are armed and Col Coleman will be sent with his command with us. Col Coleman was in my room a few minutes ago and says his men are now here and that he thinks he will get marching orders today to go to Montvale Springs which is between here and Macon County. He thinks his men will act in the planes at the foot of the mountains while ours scour the mountains. He is now with Gen. Smith.

Our company wears the big bell. Yesterday John Sawnook preached to our boys in the Presbyterian Church in the city and it was crowded to its utmost capacity while hundreds were disappointed in not getting in. He first went to the Baptist Church but it was running over full an hour before the time. They then all went to the Presbyterian Church and he preached there. Of course he pleased them all and acquit himself well. The city papers are full of puffs of our company, but they decidedly puff the wrong white men and so till they learn more about us and stick a little closer to the truth I will let the men they puff patronize them. This accounts for your not receiving the Register. The editor may be all right but if he is he is awfully misled. We have been so busy since coming here that I have not had time or I would have written a communication for the Asheville News. I may write some for it yet. I would not for a great deal have Mr. Thomas resign his place as captain now. He works for us night and day. But for him we might have got into a bad box. I now think he will be our commander when we organize the Battalion.

I was yesterday introduced to Major Morgan's wife, sister, nieces and a whole string of his cousins. They are ladies of the highest standing. I believe pretty nearly all the Majors people are religious except himself. He is far removed from that standard. He says they are verry much grieved about him and think him a "Hell of a Fellow". I am afraid he will one day find himself so.

You cannot tell how verry glad I would be to see you. I will go over on a flying visit as soon as we get fairly underway but cannot leave now, even if I had a furlough. I can get myself detailed to do some recruiting over in Jackson when things get so I can leave. My health is quite good and except slight colds all the boys are well. We have I expect the most civil company in the service.

A kiss for you and Mollie and Sally. My love to Martha and Jessee and your mother brothers and sisters and all. Say to all the friends and neighbors I would write to them but have not a moment's time. I have written as many letters as I could possibly find time for.

Your affectionate husband

Jas. W. Terrell

Mrs. Ann E. Terrell

Written across opening of preceding letter

May 1st

Tell Mat he can't get anything now at Knoxville but the agent is to let me know when he can supply him

Say to Mat Campbell I think it a bad chance for him to get castings such as he wants here at this time. I never saw things so high. The foundry is occupied all the time in making things for the army. Will in a few days inquire more particularly.