

Strawberry Plains Tenn.
May 12th 1862

My Dear Wife

You will hardly believe that I have not yet received on line from you. One letter, I judge it was from you came to Knoxville. Capt. Thomas took it out put it in the pocket of his over coat boxed up the coat with some other goods for this place, box, good, coat and letter, all came up missing. Hencefourth, direct to me as follows. Lieut Jas. W. Terrell Strawberry Plains Tenn – till I give you other directions. I will then get your letters I hope. Day after tomorrow Cline and Galbreath will reach the camps. I presume, when I expect to get a letter from you.

Camp life agrees with me well so far. I never had better health, but for being separated from you and the little ones I would as soon be here as any where. We have a very pleasant camp in the best kind of a neighborhood of good Southern people, it is some four or five miles to the Union settlements. Our business is to drill and guard the West end of the bridge. Our men are learning the drill verry rapidly. We will this week organize another company of Cherokees. Colemans Battalion reorganizes tommorrow at Clinton. I hear they are going to elect Capt. Thomas Cole if they do we will be attached to them and our head quarters will verry probably be this place. But all this is conjecture.

I have formed a good many acquaintances here some as good men as you ever find and the ladies more so! Some of the latter are verry desirous to so you because I told them you could read the Cherokee books. Stoogatangah preached here yesterday and made himself a lionbro, Wm. Has not come yet. Have you heard from him? Where is David? Have Williams House and bro Eb joined the Qualla Town Company yet? If they have not tell them to do it. The company will probably do good service yet. I know what I am writing, but may not say more at present.

The news from all quarters now is good except from New Orleans. We are whipping the Yankees in Va and at Corinth when ever they leave the water they are at once driven back with great loss. I still adhere to the opinion that this summer will terminate the war and that in our favor. Now is the time for every man to do his duty. We must raise corn and we must meet the enemy if we have to go ragged and make our old clothes do another year. I feel now that I am at my post. We are not yet well enough drilled to go into the field but we have relieved a company that was and will son relieve another. We guard the bridge while we drill which some company had to do. So far as quieting down the opposition in East Tenn. the Southern men tell me that our Indian company does more good than a whole regiment of whites. We have the praise of having the most civil company that has yet been here. My love, to all the friends and kin. Kiss Mollie and Sallie for me. I will be home in June on a visit.

Your affectionate husband
Jas. W. Terrell

Written across page 2 (due to shortage of paper)

Wm. Conner was wounded in the leg at the fight at Cumberland gap. He was all the one of the company that was hurt. He is getting well fast so Col. Walker told me.

I will write again soon. Mose Wahhahoo has the measles. A few of the Indians are complaining mostly those from Cherokee County. The white boys are well.

A young rich lady and handsom has just sent me a boquet. Don't get jealous. I told her yesterday I was married.

I am verry anxious to see you and will go in June. I want a big Strawberry Pie.

Your Jimmy