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CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF ABRAM HAYNE YOUNG

Edited by MARY WYCHE BURGESS *

Abram Hayne Young was the eighth and next to youngest child of Thompson Young and Martha Hawkins Young of Newberry County. His paternal grandparents had immigrated to America from County Down, Ireland, settling on a large tract of land in the Stoney hills on Bush River, in 1768. Hayne Young was born March 31, 1840 at Frog Level (now Prosperity), and was killed May 6, 1864, in the Battle of the Wilderness. He had been enrolled June 6, 1861, by Lt. Col. Barnard E. Bee; the company later became part of Kershaw's Brigade. By degrees he was promoted to third sergeant. A. S. Salley ** reports that he was wounded September 20, 1863; his diary continues through August 23, at which time the summer campaign ended. He is reported on the muster roll of Jan. 1, 1864, as absent since wounded, then reported on muster roll of Feb. 29, 1864, as present.

Except for two letters written while on leave, there is an unexplained gap between December, 1862, and February, 1864. Most of the letters are addressed to his sister, Mary Jane, the wife of Henry S. Boozer, a captain in Company H., Holcombe Legion Infantry Regiment.

The letters show Young to be a sensitive, intelligent young man, evidently of some culture, although the spelling is inconsistent and erratic, and punctuation and capitalization demonstrate a probable lack of formal schooling. He was deeply religious; his wants and habits were the simple ones of a country boy, albeit a very hardy one. Each letter ends with a rather lengthy closing, expressing affection for and greetings to each member of the family, often named. Young's handwriting is a beautiful, rather Spencerian script. For the most part, each letter covers both sides of a folded 8x12 sheet of stationery.

Kershaw's Brigade fought, and fought well, in most of the battles, large and small, in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Its tattered remnants laid down their arms at Greensboro, N. C., on May 2, 1865, nearly a month after Appomattox.

These letters are the property of Capt. Vernon Hayne Wheeler, United States Navy, retired, of Newberry, grandson of Mrs. Mary Jane

* A free lance writer in Greenville, Mrs. Burgess is author of *Contributions of Women: Education* (1975).

** A.S. Salley, *South Carolina Troops in Confederate Service* (Columbia, 1914), II, 353.

I complied with the instructions relative to the troops, passed a few days at Washington to close my accounts and resisted some proposals which were intended to tempt me to remain in the service; but the army had sunk to a very contemptable condition at that period of our history.

On the 6th of June [1803] I found myself in Philadelphia where I had the happiness of being united for life with the charming and excellent woman who gave you your birth.

My life was little diversified after that even until the beginning of the year 1812 when preparations were made for another war with Great Britain. I had some years before when every American bosom heaved with indignation at the insults offered to our country by the attacks on the Frigate *Chesapeake*, offered my services in case of war.

The Secretary had received me courteously and announced that it was the intention of government to give me the command of a regiment. That unfortunate affair was adjusted and no war took place. In the winter of 1811 - 12 I was invited to accept the command of the 2nd Regt. of Artillery about to be raised and received the appointment. I commanded the department composed of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware during the year 1812. In February 1813 I was appointed to the command of District No. 3 of which the city of New York was Headquarters. That place was threatened by the Enemy's fleet and Gen. Armstrong had pressed the Government to station me there the preceeding autumn. One of his first acts when made Secy. of war was to order me thither. I was at the same time promoted to the rank of Brigadier. In August of the same year the alarm having ceased at N. York I solicited and obtained leave to join Genl. Hampton's division on the Chateaugay Frontier.⁷ I remained the first part of the winter in that inhospitable climate but was obliged to return to Philadelphia for the recovery of my health in January. In March 1814 I was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed to the command of the Northern army on Lake Champlain. In 1815 peace was announced & I was left out of the Peace Establishment — My history since has been uninteresting & you all have witnessed the greater part of it which I have passed in Philadelphia.

Adieu my dear boys

(Signed) George Izard

⁷ Major General Wade Hampton had charge of the Niagara Frontier. Ryan, "Diary of a Journey," p. 67.

Boozer. For permission to edit these letters, I am grateful. Another descendant, Miss Mary Boozer of White Rock has supplied helpful information and assistance.

A. H. Young also kept a record of the company's movements in Virginia from March 1862 until August of the following year. A copy of this manuscript has been placed on file at the Society along with a poem, "On Guard."

Head Quarter 3rd S.C. Vol.
Near Chent [Kent] County, Va. May 13, 1862

Dear Sister

. . . . I am in joying very good health under such Sircumerstance but I Supose you have heard of our retreete before this time . . . I can't write what we have underwent in the retreat but hope I will live to tell you all about it som day. Our Camp was 70 strong when we started but the second day it was down to 40. We was turned back 3 or 4 times in the retreat on Sunday 4th day May 1862 we was in the fight at Williams Burg but it was aul canonading. Non of us was hurt but the bauls whisld and bums busted over us but God was with us and we pushed on them and they give back. O Sister I can not pertend to discribe it. We are in 18 mils of Richmond and are expecting a fite most eny day.

We suffered a grate deel for something to eat in the retreat [from the peninsula] but it is aul over now and we have plenty to doo now. I stood the march first strate but it is one to be long remembered. Their was a grate many give out on the way—those that stod up to that ma well be cald good pluck.

Sister we are still in a worsor fix know for the goverment has redust us dow to only 2 wagoons for the use of the regiment. We wount be alowed know coocking utensil only what we carey with us and non will be alowed tentes only the Conle of the regment one tente. We are hear in the woodes taken the weather as it comes. Their is a good deele of complant about Such fair and being prest in for the war but I take it aul easy for I have learnt that to be the best plan, not to let things troble me. Tomorrow the regment is to be reorganized. . . .

Hayne

July 3rd, 1862

Camp on the battle
Ground of the 1st

Dear Parents.

Knowing You are ancious to hear from me and I am stil Spard and am enjoying very good health—hoping You all are well.

I have nothing moch to write only I have went thru or ben in two engagements and have come out without being tetchted while many many others fel dead on eather Side of me or was wounde. I had now idey how So many could come out with out being kild for I have heard som that was not in the fite [Malvern Hill] say that was the auffles fite that they ever heard. (Sunday the 29 June & tusday the 1st) we was engaged in. Dear Parents I most close for the presant. we are under marching arders . . .

Hayne

(On back of same sheet)

List of the Kild and wounded of Company C

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Kild—Corp J.M. Kelley | Privat L.C. Kinard |
| Wounded—Capt. Maffett | [Corp.] George Griffeth |
| Lieut Wilson | " B. D. Maffett |
| Corp Long | " Reagin |
| Corp Joe Albriton | " Sigman |
| | " Thom Wilson |
| July the 1st Wounded— | J. J. Gallman |
| D.P. Slygh | J.C. Stockman |

Camp near The James River—6 miles
from Richmond. August 11th 1862

Dear Sister

Your Letter of the 31st last month came Safely to hand. . . . We have moved three times in a weeke and have had Several hard marches for the last weeke and when we was not moving I was on guard. . . . It is very warm hear now . . . and it is affe hard on us a marching. . . . We have moved over from the Chicamauga to near the James River to take the plase of Longstreets divishon. They are going to Jackson or it is reported so. I saw Som of the Legeons last night . . . they are going to Richmond and from their they dont no wher. . . . I have been appointed buy the Col. to drile the conscripts . . . I am all the Sergt in

the Company at this time. . . . You have no idey how moch I have to doo but I get a long very well. . . . Their is a good many Sick in the Regt at this time. I think they will get better if we would get to rest a while. . . . Sister I doo not know whether to say to make thoas shirts or not—I have two shirts and three pare of draures which is tolarble good and that is as many as I can cary. . . . Sister pleas excuse this bad wrote letter. My Love and respects to all, tell the negros hody, write to me and direct as before . . .

From Your Loving Brother. Hayne.

Camp Near Fredericksburg Va. Dec. 19th 1862

Dear Sister— . . . I wrote you a few lines sence the fight which I hope you have Rect. I know you all was very ancious to hear from me for I supose you Seen Somthing in the papers a bout the 3rd Regt geting cut up so. Our Co and one or 2 others that was on the left wing of the Rtggt was not exposed so moch as the wright. I supose you have Seen the casualites of the Regt by this time so I will not Say eny more. Every thing is quite a long the lines now but I expect old Burn-sides will turn up som other plase, and then we will have to go doble quick to face him a gane, I am in hopes we will get tentes sone now. The weather is prety cold hear now but we are geting uster it. A grate many of our boys got Over Coats & Blankets of ove [off of] the battle field but I did not get eny thing for I never cear a bout teching the dead Yankees—and som got Loads of U S money. . . . Sister I rec.^d a Letter from Abbie a few days a go and stated that A. Thompson was suffering very bad—he had now clothes nor Shoes and the Snow was 4 inches deep. O that is bad. We think it bad hear when the most of us have good clothes and shoes. I havent heard from Brother Henry in som tim, I hope he is all safe altho I have heard that they had a fight at Newburn N.C. I cant get to see nor hear eny thing from Brother Joseph. . . . my coat that I had last Spring was left at Richmond in a box when we got our uniform Hope you all are well and wish you a mery Christmas. . . .

A. H Young

Feb. 3rd 1864

Dearist Sister—Mary

To day one weeke a go I bid You all fare well . . . It makes me feel melincoly when I think of . . . the prospect before us Tho I believe our Boys are generly in good spirits yet. And from what they tell me I think if eny troops have Seen hard times it is thoas under Long Street.

When I reflect on that it almost makes me Shed tears. . . . I feel a little lost as it has ben So long Sence I was in Camps. . . . The eitch is but little better. I hope You all are well and those hoo was Sick are better. . . . Sister I want You to write to me whether You hear eny body talk a bout me Sence I left a bout me Staying off So long (or what the Girls have to Say) &c. It is very coald so you most excuse me. . . .

H.

Camp Near Russville Tenn
Feb 3rd 1864

Dear Father and Mother

I am now in Camp—I arived hear yesterday all Safe and Sound. . . . only had to walk a bout 10 or 12 mile.

. . . Last night . . . it raned Sleeted and Snowed, but this morning it has cleard off very coald and windy . . . I found the Boys genly well and tolarble well fixed to Shelter them Selves tho their huts are very Small. Our Divishon has gust returnd from a big Scout—they went down near Knoxville but did not get in to a fight. They say that the Yankees have all falling back to Knoxville. They Say they had a very hard time while they was out . . . it is very onsertan how long we will remane for we are not in the armye that lays Still and doos nothing. . . . we are geting Som free clothing and Shoes . . . our boys are mosley all Shod but are in need of clothing yet. . . . Dear Father, I evere remanes

Your affectionate Son

Hayne

[no date]

At present Our Rgt is over stocked with old clothes. Capt Shell our Q. R. came in with all of our old clothes that had ben Sent of to Richmond. I and N. H. Young got our blankets and quilts that we left at Manassas 2 years ago, but did not get our Shirts nor drawers that we left that time. . . . A day or two ago we had to bundl up and march down hear which is a bout 25 mils . . . from Knoxville Tenn. Wher we are now we have Ardors to not fix up any bivoacks—by that I dont think we will Stay long. I dont care if we would only move camp to a better place for their is now watter near than a mile. . . . The weather changes hear very often. . . . I would like to See Somthing from home a bout this time. Tho we are faring tolarable well on bad flour and poore beef. . . . I havent Seen very much yet but have a very poor

opinion of the people hear. . . . My health is better to day tho I have a boil On my back which pesters me Some—a long with the eitch it is only a little better than when I left home. . . .

Hayne

Armev East Tenn: Camp near
New Market. Feb. 17th 1864

Dear Sister Mary

. . . Sister I understand that thoas at home that has to go out in Survis has ben stoped from going to the Coast. If so and eny of them talk of coming to our Regt and you should hapen to have the chance try and get one to come to our Co. and recruit for me. I would like to get home a gane wors than ever; as their is a good many getting home that way—but Sister don't show this or let it bee known that I am writing for a recruit, tho it Tis no disgrace to get a recruit. . . .

The old Veterans of Longstreets Armev is good yet if they only get plenty to eat—that causes more disadiffaction than eny thing els. . . .

A. H. Young

Armev East Tennessee
Feb 25th 1864

My Dear Sister

. . . I was very tyard last night being the third day on the march and I dont think it would eny Story to say that I had the Soarst feet that I ever have had Sence in Survis. It was not becaus we marched So far but the roads was so very bad. Every morning the ground was frose as hard as a rock—by the middle of the day it would bee nothing but mud and the slickest hills to clime that I ever Saw and the most them. That is one grand objection I have to this country. Then watter is not two pleantifull hear. The armev has falen back a bout 50 or 60 miles and I doo not know that we will make a Stand hear—for Longstreet fawls back and then advances a gane. So to day we know not what we will doo to morrow nor which way we will go. We are continuly going. When we was at New Market we had fixed up very comfortable quarters but did not get to stay but a few days after we got them built—that has ben the way all this winter and we have been fooled So often that I dont think eny of us will take much panes to fix up eny more this winter for I dont expect we wile be still moch more untill a big fight comes off. Sister, Their is a good deel of excitement hear a bout going in to Cavalry; not exacly cavalry but mounted In-

fantry. The talk has got up that Longstreet wantes all his men that can mount—that is fernish them Selves with horses in thirty days—to let it bee knone and it is thaut that all that can get horses will bee allowed thirty days to go home and get them Selves horses. And if that is So we will find out in a few days, and I am very ancious to get in to it. . . .

We are Stoped to day and it ma bee for some time at the Blue Springs on the R.R. a bout 10 miles from Greenville Tennessee. . . .

Brother Hayne

Camp Near Greenville Tenn
March 8th 1864

Sister Mary—

. . . we have Sent off all of our heavy Bagage. It is to go to Columbia S. Ca. for Storage as we think pece will be made before we need it a gane. . . . Longstreet is still granting furloughs as free as ever and from that I don't think he entends dooing moch yet a while, tho it is hard to tell for the Yankees may move so as to make us do something. . . . My health is very good at presant tho the eitch is a little troblesom yet. . . . Give my best respects to all enquiring friends &c and love to pa, Ma & Martha, to you and Lilla¹ and kiss Lilla for me, (and tell Lilla for me to kiss my Sweete hart "if She nowes hoo it is" for me) from Your true and most affectionate brother

AH Young

Camp of the 3rd So. Ca. Reg't
Near Greenville Tenn. March 13th

Dear Parents and Sister's . . . tho far a way my thoughts are often with you: and are ancious to now what and how you all are dooing. As far my Self I am dooing all most as well as I could wish to doo in the Armeey, but moch rather bee with You all a gane at home. O! how Sweete dose the word home Sound, but moch Sweeter are thoas that Constitute the word home. I doo recond their was thousands of men like my self before the ware was not Sadsified at home or did not now how to enjoy it: The comfortes of home—but O! I recond they and my Self if we Could get home in pece (which I hope will) would now how to enjoy that dear Sosiety at least for a while. And I hope never to forget thos to hoom I Should love equal to eny Save one hoo is a bove all—of hoom I have heard som thing and a grate deel off buy the Revernt Thompson Slone to day. He delivered a most exlant Surmont

¹ Lilla is Mary Jane Boozer's two-year-old daughter.

. . . and Ses also he will hold prair meeting every night that the weather is favorble to doo so. . . .

Gen'l Longstreet has been gon to Richmond for nearly a weeke but for what perpos I ca not say. Time will tell us all things. I Still keap in hopes that all will work to gether for us in the end. There is a grate many that is willing to give it up and have give it up. . . . But my oppinon is that this Armeey hear is in as good Spirits as eny other part of the Confederte Armeey, and there is non hoo have boore more of the hardships, and are still willing to endure them rather than Submit to Such men as are Seeking to destroy us and all we have. For the Yankees hear say that they want to kill and hang the last man from So. Ca. I dont write this to disharte you but rather to encorage You to bare it with fermnance and hoping for better for we all of Carolina will be runt if Subjudigated. For their is plenty of men in the South now that is willing to whip (us) So. Ca. back in the Union, but we are not near whipped. If the men at home and in Congrees would doo their part the men in the field is Sufishent if fead well. That is all that will whip us. Longstreet has ben feeding his armeey from what he geathers up in the Contry hear all winter. but it is geting Scears. We have kiled a bout all the old poore beeves that can bee found and are now kiling up the poore Sheep. It looks like and is a pity to kill the Sheep when the wool is so moch needed in the Confed'e. . . . Now Sam Paysinger is off with Lieut Wilson hoo is geathering up horses in this country for Cavalry & artillery Survis. . . . If we will only remane hear we have a nof to last us and have plenty for Some time. . . . Yesterday we drewed only two thirds of a pound of flour and other things les in perproposition [proportion] that was only for three days. They Say will get more the next time. . . . It is very disargreeble Some days hear aspecky when the wind blowes for we have now hutts nor chimneys—just Stand a round the fire and get Smoked as black as a niger. Hear I will bring in the only thing that you did not Send that You auto have Sent is Soap. . . . except that I dont think if I had ben their I could have packed up the tronk with eny thing better. The cakes was splended every one that eat of them prased them and I devided them a mongst a good many.

We was also glad to See the gug of molasses. . . . Lieut Wilson gave me in place of the two pair of Socks which You Sent me last faul by A.A. Kibler, two more pare as he had worne out mine. So it is all wright and You need not Send me eny as I think 3 pare of wolen & two pare of Cotton Socks will last me 6 months or more if I dont lose them. . . . I dont think we will get eny pay in a month or two yet. . . . I Still think our Government is good . . . I am Sorry that I ever wrote home

a bout a horse but Old Kershaw told us to write for them and their is nothing more sead. . . .

A H Young

Camp of the 3rd S.C. Regt
near Greenville, Tenn. March 20th 1864

Dear Sister,

I have just returned from the front to day we was ordered down to Midway on Monday last at which time the enemy was thought to be advancing. On Tuesday we went to Bulls Gaff at which place we expected a fight but did not have one. There we staid until yesterday evening (Saturday evening) and it was believed that the Yankees did not intend coming any farther so we returned to our old camp today near Greenville Tenn. Report is that the Yankees with the principal part of their Infantry is at Morristown—also report is that they are fortifying at that place. It seems that they are making the Spade their principal gen^l—for they fortify every hill that they gain. Sister, I wrote to you last Sunday at which time all was quite but on Monday morning not one hour after I mailed the letter we started on the march—very unexpected to me but so is the case frequently with us in old Tenn . . .

For the last week the weather has been very disagreeable. While we was on picket it did not rain but was cloudy and cold and very windy. And we was pretty hard up for something to eat. While down there we only drew 2/3 of a bushel of wheat bread meal or not bolted and a good deal of oats and chaff all mixed with it—the awfulest stuff that I ever tried to eat tho it was marked on the bags Taxes in kind.² It is what the boys call the new Ishew. But I am back now where I have plenty to eat. . . . meat ration is very short two, and I am sorry to say that if we don't get more that I fear a great many of our men will turn out to stealing and I fear will cause a great many to go home without leave, but I hope I may never have to come to that—Tho it is hard to do without or almost without anything to eat but we must bare with a great deal before subjugation—

Monday morning 21st . . .

This morning I rose with a slight tingle of the Sore throat and cough. . . . It is cloudy and cold a nof to Snow or Sleet. We are going to move camp at 8 o'clock about one mile to get in woods . . . please excuse bad writing for I am very cold at this time. . . .

A H Young

² The confederate government had imposed a tithe of ten per cent on everything raised on a plantation, collected by a steward and forwarded to the army.

Camp Near Greenville Tenn

March 25th 1864

My ever dear Sister

To day I received the Sad and affecting news of the death of our dear brother³ "hoo I hope is in the promised land". I now his bereft wife taken it hard, for it Seams that this cruel war is taking a way all the loved ons and the many promising men of our Country. I Sympathize with Sister Arietta in her troubles for they are many . . . We most try to beare with it hoping all things will work to geather for good. . . . Our famely has been very fortunant untill this year. It Seams that our troubles has come down upon us, but I cannot say eny more at present for I am Sad to day—for hoo can tell what tomorrows news will bring—and hoo can tell how Sone I may hear the war drum Sound to Summondes me to the battle field—"Sister Pray on." . . . Sister! How I love to write to you. There is Somthing lovely, yes very lovely in the name (Sister) and its utterance rarely fales to call up the warm affections of the gentle hart. The thoughts that circle round it are all quite beautiful and pure. . . .

On Monday last we moved camp to get wood more handy—we are only a bout one mile from our old Camp. We have hear wood and water both handy Tho we are not So well fixed yet dooing very well considering the bad weather. On the 22nd of this month their was a very heavy snow here a bout 8 or 10 inches deep and has been very cold but to day it is warmer and the snow is a bout all gone but the roades are very muddy. And their is some talk of us having to move. Some think that we are going to Virginia, others think we are going to fall back to Bristole which I think very probely for food is geting very Scears hear boath for men and horses, but I dont think we will leave hear untill the weather clears up and the roads get dry. Tho it Seams that we need not fall back only for geting provishon for instid of the Yankees presing us they have gone back towards Knoxville. . . .

You wanted to now if my boots hurt my feet. They did at first but doo not now. They are paying me very well at this time. When I have to go out in the mud I Stick my pants in side of the boot legs and walk like I dont care for the mud. . . .

A. H. Young

³ Joseph A. Young, born Feb. 7, 1832; killed March 9, 1864.

Dear Sister. I wrote you a few lines while at Lynchburg . . . but I am Sorry to Say that I wile not write many more letters till we get pade off. . . . I thought at the first of this month I would write a Sketch of every day but I havent time nor paper. . . . On the way from Tenn. on the Cars it was very cold, snowed a little, and we met with but few favors only one place that they gave us eny thing to eat. But this ware has lasted two long for the people to hold out giving like they was at first. The women in Va Shode them Selves at every little Town and greeted us with Smiles and waved white poketts hankerchiefs but that was not sadisfieng a hungre man. Tho we waved and hollard, but would rather seen somthing to eat than the white hankerchiefs. Nothing more.

Monday Morning the 4th [April] 1864

Weather cold and cloudy. Some rane in the evning and all night— News from the front all quite. Scouts report the Yankees no father than Morristown. I heard that one of the men that was wounded in the rade on the comisserie store has sence dide and the one that was killte the night of the rade was a lieut. Also that they had som thirty or 40 under guard. I hope nothing wile bee don with them.

Tuesday 5th

. . . T. M. Paysinger Started on a Scout this morning probly for Knoxville. . . . The Brigade was enspected by Lieut-Col. Anderson of Gen'l Bragg Staff. . . .

Wednesday the 6th 1864

Today for the first time in more than a weeke the sun shone out and how beautifull. Every thing looks chearful in camp. Col J. D. Nance was relieve from command of the Brigade and taken comand of the Reg't. Col. Kennedy having returnd and being Senior to Col Nance. . . .

Thursday 7th

. . . We had batallion drile. I driled the recruits a gane. Sence Col Nance has taken comand, I expect we will drile every day only when on a march. . . . On dresparade this evning orders was read out to change position of company in this Regt. Co. 'C' is third from the right now, it has caused some dissadisfaction in the Regt but that is the case whenever Nance is in comand.

Camp of the 3rd So. Ca. Reg't
near Bristol Tenn April 10th 64

Dear Sister— . . . Tonight Cousin Nathan will leave. Im glad he is geting home for he needes to get Some place or he will never get well in Camp. Sister I will send my old wollen Socks home. They will be worth somthing their and I can doo very well with out them now, and it ma be by a little worck would doo me another winter. . . . I also send my old gluves and in them I send my tobacco bag as have but little use for it now and have nearly runt it. I will Send it wher it will be taken care of as it was given to me by one of the Fair Sex. I want to take care of it to remember hear. You wanted to now if we draude any clothing—we do not, have not, in some time. I doo not need eny myself at present but their are a grate many that doo—both clothing and shoes. . . . I have no use for money only to buy paper and tobacco for their is nothing els to be had if we had all the money we would want. . . .

Hayne

Camp of the 3rd So Ca Reg't
Bristol Tenn April 11th 1864

My Dear Brother ⁴

. . . You will See from the head of this that we have moved a gane Some 60 miles back from Greenville. I hope the publick will not think we got Scared of geting a whipping that caused the fall back for I have now idey that such a thought ever enterd old Longstreet head. From what I can larn it was for two reasons. First to get provishon more handly for we have been living on what could bee gathered throu the country and that has give out So we had to get it from the borders of Va, N.C. And the second and I think principle reson is to be wher we could renforce the Armeey in Va. at a short notice, for it is generally believed by the leading men hear that the Yankees are going to make a nother desport effort for Richmond this Spring and Summer. And it is thought we will get and early invotation to the ball as old Gen'l Lee likes to have a good many at all his gathering and I dont think he will Slight us and probley will give you a ticket as he likes our performances I think pretty well on such an occasion. Their is now one that expects eny thing to bee don in East Tenn this Spring by the enemy, but it ma bee we will make a move that will cause som thing to be don, but at present the Yankees have not fallowed up our retreat. And we are now

⁴ James E. Young, born 1834, a member of Company A., 1st Florida Cavalry.

resting contented in camp . . . except for the last 3 or 4 days. For three weekes it either rand or snowed every day. . . .

The other night their was a partie of Gen'l H. Worffords Brigade (of Ga.) made a charge on the comissarie department at Bristol and taken a quantity of flour & bacon—but in the charge their was a Lieut kiled and several privots wounded. They have some 40 of them in the guard house. That is rather bad news from the army of East Tenn. It would seam from that we was not geting a nof to eat. . . . I was a little suprised to hear that Brig. Gen'l Evans had taken comand a gane. I have Seen and red the trial of Col McMaster which convend at Williamington, N.C. We have it in pamphlet form and from the oppinon of the Cort it seams that Gen'l Evans is not worthy of a command to my oppinon. I am sorry that Such ever had to be Stamped on the character of a sone of So. Car. or riten in history. . . . The health of the Army is genly good except some few cases of small pox. . . .

A. H. Young

April 21st 1864. Camp of the 3rd S. C. Reg.
near Gordonsville, Va.

Dearest Sister—

. . . It was very reviving to me tho tiard from the march and very little to eat yet amidst theas tryals the eavning and night past a way very pleasant to me. And after Sleeping and dreaming about home &c was aroused from my Slumbers by the drum and sone we was on the march without eny thing to eat for breakfast, and we had to march to this place before we could get eny rations which was 7 miles to go today. And to our surprise when we got hear, we drawde more at one time than we have draude in 6 months before. First draude corn meal, one and a fourth bb pr day to the man, bacon one third of a bb pr day. And boath very good quality moch better than we ever draude in East Tennessee. And also draude Some Shugar & coffee a nof to give us a cup full to the man one a day. And Some Soap the first Soap we have gotten in more than 6 months. And also some rice. Three days ration of each and all. So you see that at present we are geting plenty if it will only hold out. . . . I am like the most of our boys. Virginia is my home for it seams that we allways get better fead hear than in eny other State. Tho we expect to have some hard fighting. And as we have been run about so much Sence we left Gen'l Lee last year that he is feeding us a little high Sence we came back to Him, to encourage us to stand to the rack, fodder or now fodder. Of corse he expects to neede us sone or he wouldent have Sent for us. . . . All of our divishun is hear

and in 3 days more all of Hoodes old divishun will bee hear. We rode on the cars as far as to Shollitsville and from their hear we had to walk. We are in two miles of Gordinsville now. Expect to remane hear untill all of our Corps comes up, then will move up on the line which is some 10 or 15 miles. We have now waggons with us now and will be in bad fix untill ours comes up if we should have to move a bout moch, but I will trust in R.E. Lee to provide for all such, for when we was under him before we was well cared for in every respect. And I am glad we are under him a gane. Hope we will draw some clothing & shoes and also some money, for we are all with out money. Sister, our men, Long-streets men, look like ragged rebbles "as the Yankees calls us" beside the men hear of Lee's army. They have good clothes and look fresh but now wonder for they have been in winter quarters ever sence we left them last September, while we have trafalde over 2000 miles and dont now what winter quarters are. . . . I am sorry to hear that the fruit is all kild and that every thing is backward this Spring & doo hope a good crop will be made for it will be grately needed. . . .

A. H. Young

This morning it is raning but it is the first rane sence we came to Va. . . . We are camped about 8 miles from the 15th Reg't camp. A grate many of them have been to see us but we cant get off like them. Our officers are a grate deel strictar than theirs. Their is a good deel of dissadisfaction in our Reg't a bout the officers but I will not say what, a grate many of us are very anxious to get home in peace, then the stars and bars will come down and we all will be on an equality. . . .

A few nights a go their was a one leged Soldier caught in our regiment stealing. He Stole Lt Wilsons coat and Several other things from others but was caut gust as he was leaving. . . . he did belont to the first So. C. Regt—lost his leg at gettersburg. . . .

A. H. Young

Company C. 3rd S. C. Regt Camp near
Gordonsville Va April 30th 1864

Ever Dear Sister—. . . As we have a little quite time now and are geting prety plenty of rations we all are feeling quite lively and chearfull. . . . We are campd in a beautifull place and have good watter and are drilling every day. It looks like old times in Va. And am proud to say that we are having preaching nearly every night tho I cant Say that their have been moch change raught bout yet but hope it will be sone.

Their is only two preachers in the Brigade and they need assistance but the ministry is like all other departments. Their is Some ones that doo not doo their part for I think the minersters have a grate deal to doo if they will doo it in this war. In one of our Brigades (Humphres Mississippi Brigade) Their is a grate revival going at this time. Hope it ma continue untill it spreads throu our hole Divishon.

Yesterday we had a grand review by the greatest of Generals: Gen'l R.E. Lee Reviewed Longstreet's hole Corps; There was a grate many of the fair Sex out to see us. And after the review was over they all crowded a round the old Gen'l to Shake handes with Him. And Some Said they had Shuck handes with the gratest general in the world, but none but those that wore Stars and bars could Shine with the Ladies on yesterday. And I believe that is prety moch the case throu out Dixie land but I need not dwell on that Subject now. Sister, I am very moch obliged to You for the paper and envelops You Sent me, also for the Soap. . . . We have not got eny money. . . . I heard to day that we would not get eny untill the first of July. I doo not no that it is a corect report—if it is their will be a grate deel of discadisfaction with the men. Some Say that they are going to give us tobacco. If so it will not be quite so bad, but I want money. . . . Sister, we have drawed some shoes and some clothing. I drawed a round jacket And Person M. Hawkins drawed a pare of pants and they was too small and I let him have a pare of mine . . .

May the 7th 1864

Field Infirmary

On the [?] range C.H. & T Fredericksburg

Mr. Young

Sir: I avail myself this morning to drop you a line to let you know that your Son (A. H. Young) is dead. He died last night. He was shot through his left lung yesterday morning. I have all his things and I will take care of them the best I can.

I will try to get some of the boys to mark his grave. Our infirmary are on a small branch between the railroad and Chancellorsville on the left hand Side of the road as you go down from Orange C. H. Chancellorsville and on the Side of the branch next to Chancellorsville.

I must close. My wound are paining me so I can't write any more.

Yours Respect fully

Henry W. Reagin
Co. C 3rd S.C. Regt.