



MSS219 David N. Lilley Letters, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

Wednesday Nov 18th 1863

In Camp South of the Rappahannock River

Dear Sister

I take this opportunity of writing you these few lines informing you that I am well at this time hoping this may find you the Same. I received a letter from my Cousin yesterday She was well also one from Mother and She was well. I received one from my Brother John some time ago and he was well and he said he had no notion of enlisting and I think he has formed a good resolution. I received a letter from a lady friend of mine her name is Maggie Sowers and She told me that She had saw one of my Cousins By the name of Martin Davis. I want you to tell me when you write again who he is or from whence he came for I was not aware that I had any Cousin By that name. Cousin Henrietta told me in her letter that my Aunt Ann sent her regards to me to that I could not reply for I do not know any of them Aunts or uncles I want you to tell me if you know any of them and tell me where they live and I will write to them some time when I am not busy. I think your letter states that Miss Sallie Sample worked at the mill if She does and you should chance to see her tell her that I am well and give my love to her for her and use to correspond regular but tis played and now as the cost over run the profit and Dave found it out By looking over my letters that you received from me last winter you will find that was to thick to last long. have you heard anything from Martha Mathoney if you have tell me how She is getting along She writes to me occasionally But I have not wrote to her for Seven months she wanted me to send her my likeness I told her I could not see it But I am going to get one taken and send to you the first chance in return for the one you sent to me for I suppose you would like to have it as you have none of mine and have not saw me for so long But I am still the Same old Dave as I ever was no bigger nor no smaller But I am not so quick as I use to be.

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Annie we have had some of the finest weather this fall that I ever saw in my life
tis as pleasant down here now as tis in may But when winter sets in tll be the other way
as tis always sweet or sover in virginia for my part I would a not care how soon they take
me out of virginia for they cant take me to any worse place. My how I would like to see
you and all of the family I do not think that I would know you if I was to see you
I believe that is the only desire that I that is not fulfilled that is my only desire and I hope
that will be granted to me. I received two months pay yesterday enclosed a you will
find some of it to lay away with the rest and if I am never home to use it you can
dispose of it in what ever way you think fit. there is some talk of the army making
another move But as to the truth of the report I cannot say But if we move you will
tell of it But if I dont write for two or three weeks you must not be uneasy about me
for when we are on a move there is not time to write so you need not be alarmed
for if any thing happens me you shall hear from me for I will write or get some
one to write for me. You wanted me to tell you if Charles E hayes had got Back
no he has not yet returned and that is not all he never will as long as he can
stay away But he is not much missed for he never was much of a soldier any how
Jim and Sam hamilton ought to be both together in some home gard Regt
for they are not fit to be where good men are wanted if I was so minded I
should give you some account of there soldiery conduct and as for Sam hamilton
he never was in any battle in his life for the first battle their regt was in it run
that is the reason they are not down here at the front the same as our regt is
But you need not say any thing as it is affair of ours But Annie you may rest
assured that your Brother will never run I dont care how hot the enemys
fire is I will stand as long as any of them

I will close write soon
From your Brother

Direct 1st Division

11th Brigade 2nd Corps Make no mistake and write soon
good By

David N Lilley

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that is the reason they are not down here at the front the same as our regt
is But you need not say any thing a it is affair of ours But Annie you
may rest assured that your Brother will never run I don't care how hot
the enemys fire is I will stand as long as any of them

I will close write soon

From your Brother

David N Lilley

Direct 1st Division

4th Brigade 2nd Corps make no mistake and write soon good By