



**MSS219 David N. Lilley Letters, American Civil War Digital Collections: Letters,
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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

Head Quarters 2nd Regt Del Vols
Camp near Rapidan Station
Sept 28th 1863

Annie

My Dear Sister

In answer to your kind
and Ever welcome letter which I received in due
time this Evening containing five dollars and your
picture. I write you these few lines and inform
you that I am enjoying good health at this
time hoping this may find you enjoying the
Same Blessing. You Said in your letter that
you would Be uneasy about me now Annie
I do not want you to Be uneasy for if the
least accident happens to me I will let you
know without delay Annie I am afraid you
are put to a great deal of trouble on my account
I am afraid that I Bother you to much
although I have never asked you for a favour
But you always granted it cheerfully But
I hope to Be able to Repay you for your
kindness you know that I am loath to
forget a kind favour such as you have often Bestow

Head Quarters 2nd Regt Del Vols
Camp near Rapidan Station [inserted
text][underline] va [end underline][end inserted text]
Sept 28th 1863

Annie

My Dear Sister

In answer to your kind and Ever welcome letter
which I received in due time this Evening Containing
five dollars and your [underline] picture. [end
underline] I write you these few lines and inform
you that I am enjoying good health at this time
hoping this may find you injoying the Same
Blessing. You Said in your letter that you would
Be uneasy about me now Annie I do not want you
to Be uneasy for if the least accident happens to
me I will let you know without delay [underline]
Annie [end underline] I am afraid you are put to a
great deal of trouble in my account I am afraid that
I Bother you to much although I have never asked
you for a favour But you always granted it
Cheerfully But I hope to Be able to Repay you for
your kindness you know that I am loath to forget a
kind favour such as you have often [Underline]
Bestow [end underline]

Annie I think your picture looks like you in Every
Respect. But I think you have Broke Since
I last Saw Saw you. pray dont think that
I think you are looking old But what I mean
is that your ^{health} has most assuredly Ben Bad and you
have not told me of it yet your photograph
was very acceptable indeed for I had often wanted
you to Send it to me But I never liked to
Bother you for I knew if I asked you to Send
it to me you would Break your neck But
what you would Send it to me well Annie
I will give you a word or too on the times that
we are Spending down in the lo lands of old
virginia we are now incamped one mile from
a most magnificent Stream of water called
the Rappidan River the prettiest place that
I have Saw Since I come into virginia we have
a most magnificent encampment in a Small
woods it would astonish you if you could only hear
the Sill notes of the Bugle as they arouse us from
our Slumber in the morning to answer to our
names in the morning this is called Reville
at night we are all called to quarters By the
Same Sill notes this is called latoo

Annie I think your picture looks like you in Every
Respect. But I think you have Broke Since I last
Saw Saw you pray don't think that I think you are
looking old But what I mean is that your [inserted
text] health [end inserted text] has most assured
Ben Bad and you have not told me of it yet your
photograph was very acceptable [underline]
indeed [end underline] for I had often wanted you
to Send it to me But I never liked to Bother you
[underline] for [end underline]. I knew if I asked
you to Send it to me you would Break your neck
But what you would Send it to [underline] me [end
underline] well [underline] Annie [end underline]
I will give you a word or too on the times that we
are Spending down in the lo lands of old
[underline] virginia [end underline].. we are now
incamped one mile from the most magnificent
Stre[inserted text]a[end inserted text]m of water
called the Rappidan [underline] River [end
underline] the prettiest places that I have Saw
Since I came into [underline] virginia [end
underline] we have a magnificent encampment
in a Small woods it would astonish you [inserted
text] you [end inserted text] if Could only hear the
Sill notes of the Bugle as they arouse us from
our Slumber in the morning to answer to our
names in the morning this is Called [underline]
Reville [end underline] at night we are Called to
quarters By the Same Sill notes this is Called
[underline] latoo?? [end underline]

as for meal hours I cant tell you the precise hour
for we do our own cooking and eat when
ever we fell disposed. I must tell you of
a mess that we had the other evening me and a
Comrade of mine was out on picket we were strolling
around and come across some green tomatoes
I asked him if he was fond of preserves he said
that he was well says I I think I can make
a mess I had often saw mother stew them and
I thought that I could do the same as I had
saw her do. and now for the mess I got the
tomatoes cut them up in small pices and
put them in a small cup started the fire
under them cooked them half an hour took
them off and oh you such a holy mess you
never saw I give one gag and you know
what followed there was some thing wanted
what was it from the taste I thought maby sugar
was what was wanted But I hadnt any nor
neighr had he So I will give you my word them
is the last tomat I ave will ever under take
to Preserve while I am in the army. Annie tell
me in your next letter how Mrs woods and
her Daughters are coming on likewise Mr Crips

as for meal hours I Cant tell you the precise hour
for we do our own Cooking and Eat when Ever we
fell disposed. I must tell you of a mess that we had
the other Evening me and a Comrade of mine was
out on picket we were Strolling around and Came
a cross Some green tomatoes I asked him if he
was fond of prserves he Said that he was well Says
I I think I Can make a mess I had often Saw mother
Stew them and I thought that I Could do the Same
as I had Saw her do. and now for the [underline]
mess [end underline] I got the tomatoes Cut them
up in Small pices and put them in a Small Cup
Started the fire under them Cooked them half an
hour took them off and oh god Such a holy mess
you never Saw I gave one gage nad you know what
followed there was Some thing wanted wahat was
it from the taste I though maby Sugar was what
was wanted But I hadent any nor neighr had he So
I will give you my word them is the last tomat Dave
will Ever under take to Preserve while I am in the
army, [underline] Annie [end underline] tell me in
your next letter how Mrs Woods and her Daughters
are Coming on likewise Mr Crips

Annie I dont think there will Be any fighting of
much account this fall they do not seem to Be
making much preparation for the fall Campaign
if we move our camp I will let you know without
Delay give my love to my Brother Alfred and
tell him that alletter from him would Be kindly
Received
By me. give my love to Mrs wood tell her that
I am well likewise Mr Crips and all the rest
of my acquaintances not forgetting the Younger
Class. There is no use of me Being Backward for
indeed I would like to See Some of the young
girls of my acquaintance But time will
Bring us all together what a happy day that will
Be Annie I will not detain you any longer
in Reading this for tis getting late Bed
time and I think Perhaps I had Better
Say finis and Bid you Adieu in Silence
But in tears

I enclose a Bit of our dear old flag
keep it to remember the ones we leave
I remain Your true and
Affectionate Brother

David N Lilley

Is answer as soon as convenient
From your Brother David N Lilley
good Bye

Annie I dont think there will Be any fighting of much
account this fall they do not seem to Be making
much preparation for the fall Campaign if we move
our Camp I will let you know without Delay give
my love to my Brother Alfred and tell him that a
letter from home would Be kindly By [inserted text]
Received [end inserted text] me. give my love to
Mrs wood tell her that I am [underline] well [end
underline] likewise Mr Crips and all the rest of my
acquaintances not forgetting the Younger Class.
there is no use of me Being Backward for indeed
I would like to See Some of the young girls fo my
acquaintance But time will Bring us all together
what a happy day that will Be [underline] Annie
[end underline] I will not detain you any longer in
Reading this for tis getting late Bed time and I think
Perhaps I had Better Say finis and Bid you
[underline] Adieu [end underline] in [underline]
Silence [end underline] But in tears I enclose a Bit
of our dear old flag [underline] keep it to remember
the 2nd Delaware [end underline]
I [underline] Remain [end underline] Your true and
Affectionate [underline] Brother [end underline]
[underline] David [end underline] N Lilley
Ps answer as Soon as [underline] Convenient [end
underline]
From your Brother David N Lilley
good [underline] By [end underline]