

August the 7. 1861 Yorktown V.A

Dear Brother I again ^{take} the opportunity of
trying to write to you to let you know that I
received your kind and loving letter in due
time and was glad to here from you all and here
that you was all well I would have wrote sooner
but I have bin sick for 3 weekes I was vary low
when I received your letter I am bad of yet
but I do hope and pray that I may git well
and live to return to my desolate family inst
more ther is about half of our company sick at
this time and some of them is bad of there was
one of our company departed this life last night
and it is to be hoped that he is gone to rest where
there here will be ^{no} battles to fight nor no lamenting
to git home but where all is well he was among
men by the name of Harrison army son of James arrys
and I think he was a good boy I heard some of our men
say this morning that they thought he was prepared
to dye as to fighting we hant had many battle since
the battle at Bethel Church all of our men has
gone down ther know but our midgment general
Mcgrooder has tuck 10 thousand men down there
and is a going to attack newport news this is the
morning that he was to make the attack but we hant
herd from them to day it will be a severe attack
for they ar well fortified there I think our men will
take it but they will lose many of ther men

They left here the other day with John and
Brack ~~the~~ hemhills Brother he dyed here and they
took him home I want you to give John hemphill
howsdy for me tell him that I would be glad to
see him tell old aunt Cate hemphill howsdy for me
I am so weak that I cant hardly set up to write
But I will try to give you a little history of the battle
at Manassas Junction on Sunday the 20 of July they
had a fearful battle there they fit one hole day
they only kild about 5 hundred of our men and
wounded about 4 or 5 thousand our men kild 7 or 8
thousand of the yankees I wounded 15 or 18 thousand
of them We skipt them Badley and took every
thing they had the say when they did retreat that
they run over one another & woman & children and
kild lots of them selves I suppose the like never
was knowd in the world our men got about 70
pieces of Canon & 20 thousand stand of armes
And 500 wagons & Teams besides thousands of
other things they say what they got from the
Enemy was worth one Million & a half of dollars
If I made no mistake in reading your letter I think
that you said that mother said if she had
somebody to come with her that she would come
to see me I would give this hole world if I could
Just see her coming But that I never expect to
see tell My Dear old mother howsdy for me if I
could see her this mornning I dont know what
I would give I still try to pray that I may

Since to get home next more to see you all but
it is doubtful about that tell Mr Walker that
I send him hearty and my best love & respects tell
him to remember me in all of his prayers give Mrs
Satherwhite and family hearty for me and all inquiring
friends tell George & gemina hearty for me tell them
that I think they might write to me I would write to
them but I somewhat writing to do for our boys that
I have not got the chance tell Mr Allen that I have not
forgot what I owe him & if I live to get back I will
pay him give him my respects Columbus & Joseph
Williams is well it nity bad to be sick here for there
is nothing to eat that a sick man can eat we are
looking for Thomas Walter & others here today many
write to me that she was going to send me a box of
Apples & Cucumbers & onions she would send me
something that I could eat but she hasnt the
Money to get it with nor I have no money to send
to her we have not got one cent of our wages yet they
own us about 150 dollars each know if could sum
of it we could buy something that we could eat here
but it would be here to pay their prices Apper lines
to Martha it made proud to think that you put up
your petitions in my behalf Martha I do hope and
pray that they were heard and answered in heaven
I also try to pray for you all as well as I know
how there is a sheep of wickedness going on here
but thank god I never have pertuct with none
of it nor I never intend to as long as I live

Let that be long or short I want you
to hasten to write soon as this comes to hand
If we should live to see that time come
around we will be disbanded the 13 of November
in Raleigh

So nothing more at present unless Remains
your loving Brother till Death

So far well Peter Patut to J. M. Patut

And family Mother and all
inquirers friends