

Copied,  
Camp 15th Ala Regt.

Near the Upper Rappahannock

Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear wife,

I have just learned that a Mr Hall leaves in a few minutes for Ala. I have just borrowed from Wilcox' Adyt. Gen. a sheet of paper upon which to write you a hurried note. Capt. Whalley reached us day before yesterday, bringing your letter to me, which was received, I assure you, with as much delight as a weary, thirsty, traveller on a desert trail, a green spot or a sparkling spring. I have read it and re-read it till I think I could almost repeat it, by heart. When I shall be able to write you again I can't tell. We are cut off from mail facilities; but we talk of appointing a Brigade P.M. and furnishing him a horse so that he can go to the nearest P.O. on our line of march and bring to us our mail. We are in about a mile of the River - seven miles above the Warrenton Springs, the Yankees are all across the river and are disputing the

Passage of our Troops. Last night we could see the smoke and flame arising from the ruins of that once magnificent watering place. The vandals have burnt it and in their retreat they are laying waste every thing - burning private houses in many instances. The cannon are roaring in that direction - our forces are doubtless engaging the rear Guard of the enemy - when there will be a general engagement of the two armies which seem to be concentrating on the River, I can tell - He had a little skirmish with the rear guard of the enemy on last Thursday at a place called "Mountain Run" or "Kelley's Heights". The casualties on our side was small some one or two killed & four or five wounded - Our Regiment was under fire of their Artillery, but no one hurt - The drum is now beating for the troops to fall in - I must close - I am well - God bless you my dear wife & protect & preserve you till in his goodness & mercy he reunites us in the prayer of your husband

Whately, I & Francis are well so is Lou & the other boys generally