

(Address written on back fold)

Jas W. Terrell Capt. & A. Q.M.
Regt Thomas Legion
N.C. Troops
Due 10

Abingdon
Oct 19
Va

Mrs. Ann E. Terrell
Qualla Town
Jackson Co.
N Carolina

Via
Raleigh &
Asheville, N.C.

Camp Near Abingdon Va
Oct 19th 1863

My dear wife

I have not written to you since the tenth inst. And I presume that by this time you are getting anxious to hear from me. Since my last we have had stirring time. In half an hour after my letter was closed I heard firing down on our front. I and Capt May rode down the road apeice and could distinguish the musketry. The firing continued all day. We got ready to go down and at ten o'clock at night we were ordered to start I got my wagon train out and started and had not more than got straight in the road till I met Gen William's retreating train. We were ordered to turn around and go back which we did and at two on the morning of the 11th we started up the country on retreat, by the time we could see day we were two miles above Greenville when Capt. Folsom a quartermaster who was in front of the wagons was fired on, this caused the train to stop till our Legion which was immediately behind it passed to the front. We then started again and had not gone half a mile till we met the Yanks who in the night had flanked us and got in our rear, a brisk fight at once commenced when our boys charged the enemy and drove him back. In the fight Lieut. Tom Welch was supposed to have been done by some of our own men. Both Cavalry and Artillery here passed the wagon train and went to the front. We pressed on the Yanks and drove them about four or five miles against ten o'clock having some seven or eight charges to make when we turned them off to our left. Our trains then passed them and waited till our troops came back and we then proceeded to Rhea town, where a large body of the enemy was supposed to be. We however passed through without being molested, but our rear guard was attacked there but got through. There we seperated from Gen. Williams. We had not go a mile till Williams was again engaged with them. We started to him and the whole concern came very near to being captured in consequence of the Ky Cavalry being at one point overpowered, but we passed the critical point and took on road to Jonesboro while Gen. Williams fought the enemy on the other road. Before we got to Jonesboro Gen Jackson, started with our troops to reinforce Gen Williams at Leesburg while the wagon trains in charge of Capt T D Johnston and myself kept straight on to Jonesboro. Without further molestation we reached there a little after dark. There we heard that the Yanks and Williams were so mixed up that it was impossible to tell which was next to us and the General Jackson and his command were cut off and in all probability captured. I did not for a

moment believe that they were captured but I thought it likely that they were cut off. Being then without orders I on my own responsibility took up the march for Zollicoffer which place I reached after much difficulty about ten o'clock Monday morning and as I got there I heard that Gen. Williams and Jackson were both coming on – on different roads. Gen. Jackson followed me while Gen Williams followed his wagon train. Williams got in Monday evening and Jackson Tuesday morning. Our boys had marched sixty miles without food or rest and had literally cut their way through vastly superior numbers of enemy. All whom I have heard speak of it say that out getting out was the most brilliant ----- of the war. Our boys are the heroes.

Ed went.

The retreat from Tennessee was unexpected to me as I thought our movement would be supported from Virginia but I presume the attitude of Meads army made it unsafe to weaken our forces and so we were left wholly unsupported. I presume we will again chase the Yanks as it is now their time.

On our retreat from Zollicoffer this time all the Bradleys wer lost on the way. None of them were hurt as the Legion was this time in no fight but we don't know but that the Yanks may have picked them up but I am of opinion that they dodge the Yanks and will make their way home through the mountains.

Gen. Williams complimented our boys in the highest terms both on the battle field and by a special order on the 14th at Zollicoffer. And even Mudwall Jackson as the boys call our "Brig" after always trying to slander us came out in a fulsom order highly complimentary to the once despised Legion. But he can't raise himself verry high with us. I have in all our pinches been on duty and I think my services were worth something and were appreciated by the army but so far as the Gen is concerned I am still under arrest, and will be till I obtain a trial unless the General "plays out" before a trial can be ordered, a thing which I do no consider improbable. I am now about as fast as a "June Shad" but my health is improving.

I have still no news from home. I hope however you will continue occasionally to write as I may possibly get a letter. I'd give a dollar a word for a letter from you. I write a short article today to the Raleigh Register while Col Love writes to the Asheville News. I presume you will see his communication. Both papers will I presume publish the orders complimenting us.

I write this in a meadow in sight of Abingdon while sitting cross legged on my red blanket with my port folio in my lap. It is a very tiresome way of writing but I judge you will be able to read my letter.

I am in hopes we will get to join Col. Thomas, and get away from our present Brigade commander. His whole brigade now consists of that part of our Legion which is now here. He and Col. Love command precisely the same men and as Col Love is infinitely the best commander we have no more use for Jackson than a cart has for three wheels, and in fact he is of no more use to his army than a third wheel to a cart.

Let this letter be seen by any of our friends and neighbors who may wish to see it. I can't of course name all the boys but all that are with us are well. Tom Welch, Jason Conley, Ben Conley, John McConnell and Jasper Dills are in some hospital between here and Lynchburg. They were sent off from Emery and Henry College a day or so ago.

My love to all the kin, respects to friends. And of course as many kisses as you can count to you and the sweet little ones.

I hope this winter will end this war and that our Heavenly Father will spare us to meet any, live together in love and peace when it is over. I am not without hope of seeing you this side of Christmas, though of course I don't look to Gen. Jackson to favor such a move.

Your affectionate husband

Jas. W. Terrell

(written across last page)

I have not written more than a tenth of what I could tell you of our "ups and downs." If I were with you but preserve this letter and it may help to preserve dates in case I lose my Journal.