

From Alex M. Bedford to Mary E. Bedford

[page 1]

November 4th ad 1862

Mrs[.] Mary E. Bedford

Dear Wife[.]

as this is Tuesday & the fourth day of the month being Eleven years since we was married I embrace the Presant opportunity to write to you & to inform you I am geting a long as well as could be expected[.] I suppose you have got my letter befor this time as I wrote one (to you) soon after I was wounded & taken prisoner[.] I have been well treated[.] fare [far] better than I expected[.]

before the battle we had marched hard day & night & it was so dusty we was dusty as dogs before going in to the fight & then after we got wounded & fell in to the Fedarels hands [*text stricken through*] we lay on the ground four days & then sent to luka a bout 25 miles from Corinth[.] in a few days the Ladys from the country [pared?] in to our hospital & brought clothing & something good to eat as it was not long untill we all had a change of clothing[.] my shirt would nearly stand a lone when I puld it off which you know I must hav felt greatly relieved when I got on Clean clothing[.]

in a few days [*text stricken through*] Capt[.] Furnish[.] Thos. Clasby & myself got permission [permission] to go to the Country a bout 2 1/2 [mils?] but after staying a few day we found that they was not able to keep us[.] So we by Thomas management was able to get out to this place 26 miles from luka in

[page 2]

Franklin County Alabama[.]

we ar at one Mr[.] [Lawrence?] Thompson's[.] he is a very old man but very welthy[.] he has a son in law living with him by the name of Pride[.] he is a Phisician [physician][.] we have evry thang we could desire[.] we have a nice little frame house called the office we stay in[.] this is of some thirty yds from the mane building where we are furnished with evry thang we want[.] Thomas has been faithful to me as a brother[.] dressing my wound & doing evry thang to make me comfortable & the kindness I have received from this family I never will forget[.]

I have Suffered a great deal in the last few nights[.] I got rather Smart [*text stricken through*] all thre of us & the Doctor got in to a carriage & [*text stricken through*] rode to Tuscumbia some ten miles distant[.] it was too far for me[.] I have suffered with my left hip & sid [side] & back nearly ever night since[.] I cannot account for my hip hurting so unless it was cased by the ball cuting the [leaders?][.] the ball entered my left side & come out near my back bone which must have [MS. ink blot] severel [leaders?][.] the wound is fast heeling & it does not seam to pane me[.] the Doctor thinks the ball drive in part of my shirt & untill that decays it will hurt me more or less[.] a nough on this subject[.]

I am in good spirits & have no reason to change my mind as to the final result of this unholy war[.] you have often heard my opinion what I thought the Cause of the war & the final result[.] I see no reason to change[.]

[page 3]

I have not heard a word from you since I left last December[.] you must know how anxious I am to hear from you all[.] I would give anything to see you & children but if it give me no more pleasure than when I last saw you[.] that is Afraid to show my self[.] I prefere staying untill the war is over[.] there is more sorrow attached to such visits than Joy[.]

I hope & Pray that we may have peace & that soon & stop the war cry from every tongue[.] I want a honorable [*text stricken through*] Peace which we must have before the war closes[.] if I get

killed I cannot die in a better cause[.] my desire is to live & to be spaired [spared] to return to my family & to rase [raise] up my little children as near right as my concience [conscience] may dictate for me[.] God bless them[.] I think of them often & specially when I see other little children[.] my Prayers Shall ever be that my life Shall be prolonged to return to my Family after Peace is declared in our land but if it is God's will to cut me off & number me with the dead I say Amen to it[,] thy kingdom come[,] thy will be done on earth as it is done in heven[,] Shall be my Prayer[.]

I hop you will not let the children for get me & have them to learn all they can[.] be sure to have them at the book every day[.] they can learn a great deal at home & it is uncertain when we will be able to have a school[.]

I want you to write to me as soon as you get this & let me know how you are getting a long & Neighbors & Relations[.]

[page 4]

I am better contented as I know your Father is with you & you will not suffer as long as his life is Spaired & not disturbed[.] that is the greatest consolation with me[.] have your Father to write to & send me a [ful?] letter[.] I want Father not to over crop himself[.] I want my Farm sowed down in grass[,] all that is not cultivated[,] say timothy as the seed is so easy saved[.] I rather have it in grass than to lay idle & any horse he may have to spair on the place or any thang else[,] Sell it & to do as he pleases with evry thang as I know he will do all he can for the best[.]

I often think of my neighbors & Relations[.] I would be Glad to see them all & converse freely on any Subject we pleas[.] I hop the time not far distant that we can enjoy this blessing[.] I would like to know whether Oscar Nelson got home safe or not[.] he left us a bout the [*text stricken through*] fifteenth of August[.] I have written four letters since he left & I promiced twenty dollars a piece for (the answer to) three of them but no letters yet[.]

do not delay one moment of time in writing[.] direct your letter to luka hospital (Via) Corinth[,] meanin by the way of Corinth & I will be sure to get the letter[.] I must come to a close[.] Give my love to Father & tell him I often think of him & wish I could hear from him often[.] give my love to all Brothers[,] Sisters[,] Relations[,] Neighbors & Friends[.] tell Mr[.] [Huffaner?] he has the two best boys in the world[.] I have tried them faith ful[.] tell Mrs[.] Roberts that Smith helpt me off of the battle field & dressed my wound & waited on me untill our army was forced to retreat[.] he though wild is as kind a hearted a boy as lives & for his kindness I never will for get[.] kiss all the little Children for me & tell them this is fro[m] their Pa.

From your affectionate
A.M. Bedford