

The report was given as requested to be subject to the order of my children.

Etta A. Anderson

Woodbury, NJ Jan. 4, 1881

Dear Madam,

I can hardly tell you how disappointed I was at again finding my efforts to procure Genl. Anderson's autograph fruitless. I desired so very much to add to my now nearly complete (Major Genl.'s all complete but Genl. A's) collection of memorial manuscripts an order officially signed, or an entire letter of his. I knew him to have been one of the bravest & ablest of the C.S.A. Commanders. From the material I have gathered I propose to publish a biographical work & for some reason I have never come across anything from the pen of Genl. A. My collection of autograph letters & orders I have had handsomely bound in six volumes – two pages were inserted blank to which I hoped sometime to attach manuscripts from your noble husband. Eventually I suppose these volumes will become the property of some large historical library. Thus you can see my manner of preserving my manuscripts & my purposes. I should dearly like to have one of those original reports you have. They are just what I would prefer most not only for my forthcoming book but also as a most fitting paper for my volumes of autograph orders, etc. Could you not loan me one of them for this purpose – that is the paper to remain in this collection but as your property & subject to your order? It would be most carefully preserved I assure you. Where ever I have found the friends or relatives possessed of such papers they have readily complied, & I cannot see why anyone should object to your forwarding me one of those reports under those conditions. Several widows of deceased generals have given me their only official papers or letters for insertion in this collection.

If you cannot & will not accede to this request then can you not send me an entire letter of the general's although only signed "Patton," & send me for copying & insertion the two reports you have, but the better way to send them is by registered letter? I will take good care of them & return when I have copied, of course.

I thank you for your kind letter & kind wishes. I know they are meant. I have ever been most kindly treated & aided by the ladies of the South.

Pardon this long letter but I wished you to understand my purposes.

If you can possibly, do say that I may retain one of the reports under the conditions named.

Hoping to hear from you soon I am,

Your obt. svt.,  
B. Perry

Mrs. Etta A. Anderson

[Below is a note that was written for Etta Anderson at the end of this letter from Belmont Perry. The note was written by her youngest daughter Maggie.]

Mama,

Four cravats came this evening from Aunt Cara. They are like the one aunt Kate got for Tabitha Christmas. Lily got \$1.00 from Halbridge this evening for the organ.

Your baby,  
Maggie

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.