

Camp Near Richmond, July 19th, 1862

Dear Mother,

Your letter of the 15th ult was received a week ago today, ten days after I got the one written a week after. I have been looking anxiously for one this week, but as the mails are so irregular and slow I do not feel uneasy on your account. I have been on the sick list ever since I left the Regiment until a few days ago, suffering with the fever and diarrhea, a disease that is very prevalent among the troops stationed around [around] Richmond. Having the fever so regular is pulling me down by degrees, and I shall do my best to break them by taking quinine several days before I expect a return. I could have gotten a furlough when I was at the hospital but I did not think that I was sick enough to leave the Regiment, and more particularly at that time, when we were expecting great events to transpire at any time. Now since things are changed and no prospect for an immediate engagement, I would like very much to get a short furlough of 40 or even sixty days, to visit you all, but there is no such good luck for me. I have very little hopes of being allowed to go home until the war is ended, for all the furloughs and transfers have been stopped, and there is not the least chance of the 2nd Florida Regiment being sent home, for I heard Mr. Mallory say that he had proposed to the Secretary of War to "Send on two or three more Regiments from Florida and form a Brigade of Floridians." Gov. Brown was out to to [sic] camps several nights ago and made a speech in which he complimented and thanked us for the good name we had won for our State. Mr. Wilson stayed a day and night with us, he leaves for home on Monday, will come out to camps to-morrow to see us and get all letters we may have to send home, he is looking well and just as he did when we left. Why didn't you write by him? It would have come through in four days, instead of no telling how long. I hear that the Eighth Regiment is ordered on here, and I am glad of it, for there are several boys in it that I want to see. And because they joined for home Service, I think it is a shame for them to elect Gen. Floyd, after Capt. Amaker went to the trouble of raising it. I wrote a long letter to each of the following named boys three or four months ago but have not received an answer from either of them. There is some excuse for Hardy and Willis Denham for they were in active Service, but Tom Footman had time to write before he left for the field of action. In Monday's fight, while we were charging through a piece of hammock land two wild turkeys flew up in front of our Regiment. They had scarcely gotten above our heads before one of them had his head taken off by a grape shot. Lieutenant Hampton [Elliot L. Hampton], of Capt. Parkhill's Company [George Washington Parkhill, Company M], had charge of the ambulance Corps and which kept in the rear of the Regt to take care of the wounded and he got the turkey and had him for dinner next day. I got a piece. Several deer have been seen by our men as we charged through large hammocks and swamps. Col. Perry leaves for his home this afternoon. I believe he intends going to Alabama where his wife is staying at present. He is a brave, generous and cool commander. He is a good officer and he enjoys the full confidence of his entire command, if we should lose him I do not know what would become of us. Capt. Mosely [Alexander Mosely, Company H, 2nd Florida] is in command of the Regiment, is a good officer but too young to have so much responsibility resting upon him. Our first Lieut died of wounds received at the battle of Seven Pines. The 2nd Lieut was severely wounded in the same fight and it

will be a long time before he will be well enough to take command of the Company. So we are under the third, and a very poor officer he is. When Capt. Mosely is absent the Regiment is under the command of the accomplished and high-toned Captain Musgrove [M.J.C. Musgrove] of the old Sixth Company. This is one of the reasons that I want to get out of the regiment, for I cannot obey an officer that I can't respect. I am tired of running around in the Virginia mud after the enemy, and want to get a four legged animal to do the rest of my soldiering on. I would prefer picket duty twice or three times a week, to fighting all day and pursuing the foe at night through mud half knee deep, and then we don't have so much fighting to do. Tell Mr. William Taylor that Capt. Mosely got a letter from Mr. Hatch a few days ago saying that he was at Hampton and had entirely recovered from his wound, was in excellent health and had a good time generally. I think I will write Grand Father a letter and enclose it to Mr. Hatch and get him to mail it for me in Hampton. Have you ever gotten an answer to the letter I mailed in Yorktown? Does Miss Ellen hear from home yet? I see by the papers that Mr. Lamb of Massachusetts, a telegraphic operator on General McClellan's staff was taken a a [*sic*] prisoner in the recent engagement. If I knew that he was a relation of the Lambs of Beverly I would try to see him. The non-Conscripts have to stay in ninety days longer than they first thought. Tell Eb that he must write to and tell me all about the young ladies. Clothing is selling at the most exorbitant prices in Richmond. Remember me to Mrs. Croom and family and ask her to tell Hardy to write to me. Cousin Mack is still in town but will be out in [a] few days. The rest of the boys are getting along finely. The boys unite with me in love to you all. Give my love to all friends and relations, and accept the same

From your affectionate son,
D.E. Maxwell

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