

Camp, Sept. 21st, 186[3]

Dear Ma

I would have written long ago but had not the chance of getting it off. We have seen horrors since you heard from us last but we are both safe so far. We have had a battle here for the last three days fighting off and on all the time. Our regiment has had two brushes at the Yanks; fortunately or unfortunately I was not with it. I will tell you how it came that I was not. Well, yesterday morning when the regiment went in, I had no gun, for on the march here the Major had taken my gun to carry for me and put it in the ambulance and it got off from the regt [regiment] so I was without a gun, and Maj. Blaunt [Nathan Snow Blount] got me to carry his horse to the rear to take care of him, but this morning I brought him in to him and came to my company. There are enough guns scattered about for me to get one. C.O. [Cosmo Bailey] wants to write so I will quit.

Your affect [affectionate] son
C.F. Bailey [Charles F. Bailey]

I will send you a letter that was captured on the field. We captured a great many and there are very few that are well written

Camp on the Battlefield, Sept. 21st, 1863

Dear Mother

We are now camped on the field of Battle 7 ½ miles from Chattanooga. The fight commenced on Friday the 18th, with pretty heavy skirmishing. We were in hearing though not engaged and it commenced in good earnest on Saturday. We were not engaged until late in the evening and then for a little while only. We lost one killed and some 14 or 15 wounded. One only was wounded in Co. D and he very slightly. The 6th Fla. was very badly cut to pieces, losing nearly 2/3 in killed, wounded, and missing. Yesterday we were expecting it all day and did not fairly get into it at all but we charged up and captured some prisoners and a stand of colors and fired a few shots but night ended the fight. Today we expected to fight again but during the night the Yanks left and at last accounts were crossing the Tenn. [Tennessee] river. We are in Buckers [Maj. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Sr.'s] Corps, Prestons [Brig. Gen. William Preston's] Division, Triggs [Col. Robert C. Trigg's] brigade. I must close. We are both well. Good bye. I will write more fully concerning things the next I write.

Your Affectionate Son
C.O. Bailey [Cosmo O. Bailey]

Item 49866. Transcribed by Nicole Milano, University of Florida, 2008.