Civil War Letters Of Charles S. Randall

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CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF
CHARLES S. RANDALL
Jane Story McCullagh

The following are transcribed from the original letters of my great-grandfather, Charles S. Randall, to my great-grandmother, Margery Hurlbert Randall, while he was serving in the Civil War. I received them from my cousin, Charlotte Landon Shoemaker, of Canton, Pennsylvania, who obtained them from their current owner, Lola (Mrs. Edgar) Randall, also of Canton, Penna.

(Editor's note: Every effort has been made to transcribe all three of these letters as they were written. It seems quite clear that the loneliness, pressures of being at or near the front, and the general trauma of war show clearly through the actual contents of the letters).

Camp Judson April 5th 1865

Dr wife through the prudence of god I yet retain my reason and am permitted to attempt to address you this morning finds me quite lame but able to be about with no important change I should have written one day before I came from picket tired thought would wate might get a letter from you did not receive any the latest was the 13th the wether is pleasant and warm makes me think of home more than while cold just at this time there is a drove of Cattle passing here to the front the roads are lined with soldiers going to join shermans army there was a lot passed monday while I was on picket which some of our boys saw they said they wer from bradford Co and Newill others this morning I saw a man from pennsylvania he came from Petersburg said he was from the 50 Eng but did not know about any of our boys there is a large army in this state about one hundred and Eighty thousand men there was a man came from there day before yesterday he said sherman drew 177 thousand rations pr day and troops still coming the acct given of the last battles looks favorable both Grant and sherman I still Reman here how long is more than I can tell my tent mate A Mr Smiley from franklin is sick with Diareaha has ben for some time and home sick two Coloss Newill is well I heard A E Dan was sent north to some hospital he will likely get his discharge for some unknown reason I felt very lonesome last knight I got to thinking of home and the anxiety you have manifested for my return together with the responsibility as a father and a husband desiring the well being of all yet deprived of your Co which alone would make me happy will try to submit to the demands of war trusting in the divine being for protection from the many temptations and evils of the present life and dangers to which I may be called to pass not forgetting you my Dr wife in my feble petitions to the throne of gods grace hoping you may lean upon his almighty arm submit to the many trials you may be called to pass discharging the duties of a wife and mother with christian fortitude hoping we shall soon meet to share Each others joys and sorrows never more to be seperated while life shall last is the desire of your unworthy Companion To the girls I would say take the counsil of your mother Rememebering you are in the slipey paths of youth you will see many things to charm you per chance after you may arrive at riper years you will look back upon the counsil you have received from your mother and exclain how kind how just for a mother to counsil her children Rememebering she is your best friend hope you my girls which I feel so proud of whose Co I delight to enjoy may not spurn at the counsil of your mother and Jany To my boys I hope you will remember to mind your mother and work what you can be kind to each other try to make each other happy.

To mother Randall I still Remember my Duties to you as a son realizing the uncertainty of life and while opportunity presents I write a few lines to let you know that you are not forgotten by me I felt very uneasy this cold winter from all accounts the winter has ben very severe for fear you was uncomfor-
able I hope the time will soon come when I may be permitted to return to enjoy a short visit with you and get some dried berries and sweetcake should like to send you something but the distance is to great I should like to see you all try to make your self as happy as possible tell Sally she must not Scold if things does not go quite right — and to Mother Hurlbert tell her she is still rememberd by me one that Raised a Such a dutiful wife for me I shall feel indebted to would that her health was good so that she might enjoy life with her children much better tell betsy not to worry about John Kelee from all I can learn he has got a good place better than this the time is fast drawing nigh when he will return to enjoy your Co And you my loving wife I hope you will try to cheer up not worry about me to destroy your Comfort and happiness I like to have you write just your feelings it does me good to learn just how you feel if there is any thing bothers you let me know that I may sympathize with you there is no one that knows my feelings as well as your self and there is no one that has the right to know if we have the right disclose to each other our feelings of love to drive from the minds the lonely hours we have to pass away do not think they will be calculated to render me more unhappy it will surve as a stimulent to me so that I can pass the time more pleasantly knowing that I have a Companion worthy of all my love one that I can confide in that will stick closer than a brother how I would like to shake the welcome hand that use to be extended to help in to the door at Canton but perhaps will have the prieledge again I have often heard it said that after marage after ewing a few years the love grew cold the feelings became indifferent toward Each other how is this I would not give one cent for such a companion tell all your troubles if you have any I wrote to you to send me some tobacco some time since have you sent it how do you get along for money have you got any and tell me if you want any I suppose the lambs begin to come forth by this time be careful to save them if there should be cold storms shut the sheep in the barn you asked me what timenelly folded I have forgotten thing in June may be in may you Can tell a few days before she folds when her bag looks Spotted like drops of milk on the out side She will fold very soon in two or three days I guess I have written a plenty for this time hoping to get a letter from you soon will close remember Remember this is from your Ever true and loving husband Charles S Randall To Margery My True Wife good day Marg Tell the girls they must write I cant get time to write to them.
A natural reading of the text is not possible due to the quality of the image.
I got a letter from you the other day dated 16th March. It is dated Feb. 23rd and not from your usual handwriting. I have just written and told you to write your name and address on the letter and send it back. I hope you are well. I have not heard from you for a long time.

The boys are doing as well as can be expected. I am doing as much as I can with the help of the others. I am very busy and have no time to write. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon. The boys are not doing too badly. I am doing as much as I can. I hope to return home soon.
Much beloved wife this day finds me here in this camp about as I have ben we was moved to the camp one week ago today I have not Receivd any letter from you since the one dated March 13 I feel in hopes I shall get one soon The wether is warm plesant the News is prevalent here that the President is Killed which makes me feel very bad after so long a struggle with so much anxiety for na-tional existence that he should be deprived of the priviledge of seeing the end but so it is if true Johnsons Army of this state had Not surrendered at the last account but he had better if he knows what is well for himself I think the war will close soon if Sherman fights Johnson in this state it will not prolong the war but hope they will not fight you may know more news than I do I dream of seeing you evry little while how I should like to see how you look are you poor I should like to hear from Vanness since the fight at petersburg I have no news to tell you has doty got the money on the bond I think we shall not buy any cows this spring as I do not get pay you will have to get along with the farming the best you can but do not worry about me I shall do the best I can hoping to see you soon must close Remain as ever your effectionate husband from Chas S Randall To Margery Randall Tell the children I want to see them very much give my love to all This Saturday the 22nd of Apr finds me well one of our men has just come from the front he ses we are all going back with him to the Co they lay close by Goldsborough he says they are doing a little Camp duty is all There is to be an armistice for 30 days to try to stop the war I hope the thing will close and we may permitted to return home to see the loved ones I comenced writing this Sunday but did not send it because I heard we wer going to the front I feel as well as comon hop you may be all well in good spirits you Can direct to the Co and Regt as before I got a letter from you to day dated 26 of March is the last I have got from you My Dr wife believe me ever faithful and true remembering me to him who has created all things we have got no pay yet good day from C S Randall To Margery Randall write often
Dear Wife,

This morning finds me well, as well as common, just came in from guard sleety and tired but as I was thinking of home decided to seat myself on the bunk to tell you where this morning finds me well knowing your strong anxiety I have to remain here in this camp about 4 miles from Newbern think we shall move to our lines in a day or two if our men was sent yesterday the battle to go in a day or two. I some man from the front this morning he said every thing was quiet no picket to be done also talked with a lieutenant belonging to our regiment the fighting is not as learned the reason we are hold and report was they had our descriptive lists and no guards. They rather loved not to find us they ever present there think we will be mustered out in 30 days I doubt being mustered in I think will get home by the 15th July perhaps before God knows it hope so the sooner the better for me. I suppose you are as well as I am you are pleased with all the news relating to the end of the war know more than I do as I have no means of knowing only as I can pick others or run for paper today let us hope for better news better times the weather has been quite cold here for two days this place is quite unhealthy I think it will be more healthy at Goldsbrough. Our camp is about one mile from that place in camp. Mary Jo I cannot describe to you my feelings of anxiety to see one more to tell you the many things I have in store for you.
The lack of necessary means

The little doctor, in a kindly mood,

The ground was hard, the charity

Neglected, and our joy, our

Well, a little flame, a word, a nod,

Looked for, and to our comfort, nor

Clear, sweet, and pure, to our

The Italian, in his, the study

Her heart, it seems, has no

The letter, in his, the study

The little doctor, in a kindly mood,
Camp Parmer Apr 24th /65  Dear wife this morning finds me as well as comon just cam in from guard sleepy and tired but as I was thinking of home desided to seat my self here on the bunk to tell you where this morning finds me well knowing your strong anxiety to hear I remain here in this camp about 4 miles from Newbern think we shall move to our Co in a day or two 4 of our men was sent yesterday the ballence to go in a day or two I saw a man from the front this morning he said evry thing was quiet no picket to be done also talked with a Lieutenant belonging to our Regt he ses the fighting is over I learnt the rea- son we wer ordered to report was they have our descriptive lists and we could not be musterd for pay without them or rather could not be paid til they wer present some think we will be musterd out in 30 days I doubt being musterd in that time if they come to a settlement we may get home by the 4th of July perhaps before god knows I hope so the sooner the better for me I suppo you are apprised of all the news relating to the end of the war know more than I do, as I have no means of knowing only as I can pick others I sent for a paper today let us hope on for better news better times — the wether has ben quite cold here for two days this place is quite unhealthy I think it will be more healthy at Goldsborough our Co is about one mile from that place in camp Margery I cannot describe to you my feelings of anxiety to see one more to tell you the many things I have in store for you The society here or any whar the army camps is Nigers and soldiers I have seen a few decent Looking folks since I came here the Lieu wife is here in camp decent looking woman but the majority is hard looking I long for the time to come when I may be freed from being ruled by military authority so that I can go where I think best I have not ben as far from Camp as Newbern since I came here 7 months of the time of my enlistment has passed away some part of that time I have had all I could do to keep my self in the right train of thought but thanks be to god that gave me the victory and spaired me til the present moment and that sercum- stances are so that I can inform you of my health and present hopes of meeting you my Dr wife the one I promist to love and cherish the fondest of my hopes you may know the feelings of gratitude I ow to him who does all things well I am concious of the many dangers we have to pass while in this life even away from war but hope I may pass them all and finally meet you again at the Old home in union to shake the the welcome hand is my heart felt desire I shall have to tell you about business I wrote to lewis about the bond tell doty I should have sent him power of atty but I could not get it filled out you must Excuse me for not writing sooner the reason was I was watting to get a letter from you Good day I remain as ever your loving husband write as before to Co and Regt Chas S Randall To Margery Randall the letter dated 28 of March was the latest I have Receivd.