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7-27-1862

## J. H. Miller, Jr. to H. R. Miller (27 July 1862)

John Henry Miller Jr.

Hugh R. Miller

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Camp Near Skypelo July 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Uncle

As we leave here in a few days and I may  
not have time soon again to write to you, I take the  
rest this Sabbath gives a Soldier to reply to your long  
neglected letter. When I received it, I was worn out by  
the constant watching and desponding spirit of a retreating  
soldier, with the enemy at his heels and his  
home lying just before him, to all appearances soon  
to be in the hands of the enemy, it was whilst we were  
at Baldwin, and about the same time I heard  
that you had started with your Regiment to  
Tenn. These are the reasons why I did not answer it  
when received, and you can well appreciate  
why I did not join your Regt, when Corinth had been  
evacuated before I knew of your kind offer. I could  
not think of going to be with the enemy in a few miles of  
home and no one with my wife and children but  
negroes. Col Yucke had almost planned me the Adjutants  
place, but one of his old Lieut from Tenn came expressly  
from there to get it, and he could not resist his request.  
I am Ordnance Sergeant of our Regiment  
and find it rather an easy birth, one that relieves  
me from all night duty. A part of this army is already  
gone and the news of course is that we all leave  
here (except Pikes army) soon. We have orders  
to cook up three days bations of hard bread.  
Our destination is Chattanooga or Lookout ~~Pass~~  
Price Van Dorn & Breckinridge are to remain in this  
state (or be the army of Miss) with it is said 50,000  
troops - the numbers I think too large, if other regiments  
are like ours, we number over 1200 and it is seldom  
we have 100 fit for duty, and I think the first march  
will reduce us to 600. for I think we have  
600 as good soldiers in our regiment as can be  
found, as for the most of the others the Lord help

them. But I presume you have seen enough of the service to know something of Soldier kinds. I have no news from Father since the Yankees took possession of the River - The last letter from him, stated - the authorities had burnt 195 bales of cotton for him, the Log had been submerged, the crop totally destroyed and he had to build a boat and ferry his people to Beaver-Dam Ridge the stock being in such vast numbers on the sand ridge, the steck was intolerable - the water had subsided, he had returned and planted some cotton - I hear a portion of cotton, among is in that country but we never know what credit to give such rumours.

We have had some refreshing showers lately and they come none too early to save the crops; as it is, the crop per acre will be small, but the number of bales will be immense - I think it will be bought all over the Southern Confederacy for 15cts per bale. The wheat is a failure - your Cousin, Gen Hugh Reid sent word to Cousin John to come to Corinth and see him, he has not availed himself of the invitation yet - circumstances make the men, & effect if we had been born North of Mason & Dixon's line we would never have been in the Federal army.

I have just heard of the death of two our Regt Sam Pequen and John W Miller - they died at home. There is a good deal of sickness in Camp and Country - mostly of a Typhoid character.

Our relatives were all well the last account - Since commencing this letter I learn, <sup>we</sup> will start on Wednesday or Thursday - go by Mobile to our home Gen - When we locate I will try and write you again, hoping you will find time to drop me a line - My respects to Cousins George & Eddie. Address to the care of Col W H Tucker 41st Regt Miss Vol - Gen Pettion Anderson, Brigade - Jones Division your affectionate Nephew John W Miller Jr



Baldwin  
After the outbreak of war  
Montgomery.

Mrs Hugh R Miller  
Pontotoc  
Mississippi

Geo. H. Miller, Jr.



P.A.L.  
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Col Hugh R Miller

- Regt Miss Vol.

Richmond  
Va