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James T. Jones to Sallie Jones (21 March 1862)

James T. Jones

Sallie Jones

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Camp, near
Kapada, Va

March, 21th / 62

Dear Sister

I am now near the railroad
near a stream by the above name (Kapada)
we was ordered this day Friday, two weeks
to fall in line of march & after spending
the day around our arms was ordered to
return to quarters & remain until Saturday
& again formed, & lay round our arms
until sun set this was Sunday.

The first day Saturday instead of
Friday Sunday evening at sun set we
left our old camp & marched until
10 o'clock at night & at 5 o'clock morning
we were 10 miles from Davis Ford
at 1 P.M. we pitched camp the distance
of march not known at twelve o'clock
that night we pitched camp & marched
until 4 where we halted until sun rise
the next morning, was ordered into line
marched some 3 or 4 miles

feeling very some what tired taking
my dinner with some virginia
hams, as we have been living
on half rations since we left our old camp
with two others, Mr. Williams, Spinnery
& my self left rations for our dinner
after starting dinner we took a nap of
about two hours we paid no back & left
for our company joined late in the
evening & after marching a short
distance was ordered to camp

The next morning at 7 left camp
the distance from Davis Ford not known
we marched until 4 in the afternoon
& camped 15 miles ~~where~~ from where we
left at 7

The next morning was in line
of march & after a march of 6 miles
camped Thursday at noon where we
will remain for two or three days
Friday was spent ~~at the~~ at this place
also Saturday with two tents to the
company Saturday we received
orders to strike tents to march
at 8 in the morning at which time
it commenced raining & the day was
rainy & disagreeable & we had to take
the rain all day in the evening orders
were countermanded
we again had the use of our tents through
the night at 2 o'clock P.M. we were again
ordered to march & after a march of
4 or 5 miles camped some 16 miles from
our old camp Davis Ford,

Monday morning at sun rise we were
again in line of march & after a march
of a mile & come to a halt until 3 in
the afternoon then ordered in line marched
1 1/2 miles we camped until sun rise Tuesday
morning again left camp & after a march
of 15 miles ~~the night was spent~~
we were again ordered to camp & as soon
as our arms were stacked I left the company
for my supper after supper

I joined the ^{company} for a good night's
rest ~~but~~ ^{the} has been spent but not so
pleasantly as I should have liked to
have spent as I was short of blankets
& rain through the night with ~~and~~
the air something cooler than of ~~before~~
at 8 Wednesday morning we were again
ordered in line for drill but received orders
to march & after breaking ranks
to leave. The orders were countermanded
Thursday morning ~~we~~ were again ordered
to march & after a march of 6 miles
came to a halt where we will remain
probably until our time is out
we had ~~to~~ pack I have taken notes of
our march since we left Harrisburg
& I will say. To close my history I have
never had just butch a time ~~in~~ as for
the last two weeks the most of our time
without any thing to eat & a great
deal of time. ~~we~~ we had several
days rain & no shelter
& some of our company are in camp
here with but one blanket others have
more the cause of some not having
but one pair is that they had them
to pack but I have been very fortunate
in that respect I have been bunking
with Sgt Oglesby & has was allowed some
baggage & sent two pair in his bundle
& being fortunate in another respect
as if our company bought a horse
& being one of that no sent two pair
more on the horse & pack I have

Sister. only a short time after we
pitched camp our mail come in for the
first time in ~~some~~ ^{some} several days
& ~~for~~ in opening the mail there was
two letters handed me one from you
& one from R. S. Young at Richmond
he has gone ~~there~~ ^{there} their sick but
is fast improving
Sack with pleasure I receive your
letter as ~~to~~ ^{to} this was the first I have
receive from you since Christmas
but never have I since I have been
in the army ~~with~~ ^{with} or before joining
receive ~~any~~ ^{any} letter that caused me the
trouble of this letter I have never rec'd
one ~~to~~ ^{to} apprise me more than
the commencement of your letter
to speak of your address & the
cause of the address
To think that some one has reported
me to be a drunkard & a gambler
is more than I can stand
Sack in this I give you my word
that I never have but see in my
life much less since I have been a
member of the Ladies Blues if this
is not satisfactory I can get the company
to certify by to my not gambling
neither was I drunk Christmas this
I can get the company to certify
& I will say this that I live as near
the same life here that I did at
home & hope my relations will suffer
no ~~un~~ ^{un} ~~business~~ ^{business} as to ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~conduct~~ ^{conduct}

during my absence if that should be
one, two, three, or, 4, years no matter what
length of time I am absent remember
I am your same brother & say to my
parents that I will remain their same
son to give them selves no uneasiness
Dad my relations are dear to me & I can
never think of such a thing

I acknowledge that since I have been
back I taken some few drinks of whiskey
I have also taken for a amusement
a few games of tuckor

but to be plain & I hope you will
excuse me in making use of the saying
The man who says I was drunk Christ
or even since I have in the service
or that I ever bet a cent. lies. This
is harsh but true & as a brother I
ask of you to tell me in your next
letter who told you or who the friend
was that called on you & said that one
of our company told him if you know
who the Person was that reported this
let me know this report is more
than I can stand & you must tell
me Dad I would not be standad
as this has standad me under any
consideration

The trouble it has gives my relations
& confidence that others will loose
in me as being the same person that I
was before I left home

I will hear correct, the gentle in you say he
reports that this is not a blue ... what

not my hope was not your wish to you

gambles This, not so you will excuse me
in speaking of him as a gentleman
but I say there is several that do not play
cards for money & what I say I
will swear to

Sack I leave this subject & after you have
read this if you are not satisfied or any
of my acquaintances let me know & I
can get the company to certify to what
I have said I mean all who are present &
I believe I could get the man who reports
the lie to do the same if he will face me
& this he has got to do & if you dont
tell me who the person is I shall
never forgive you although you are
present almost idolizing you & not only
you but the family but Sack I have
been slandered & such a way that I think
you should tell me. My temper is not
& I will leave this subject to your con-
sideration

Sack My health is very good
& has been ever since I left home
except colds which has never confined
me from duty our company is coming
after the march but as for my self
I have stand the march well & have
been at all drills since we left
Camp Davis Ford & today I have been out on
we are one of six hours the other not so long
this evening we have another of an
hour & a half Orange, Ct. House, Va. is the
I will close, direct your letters
as before to the change in the office Office