

This letter by William A. Chunn of Cassville, GA to his wife, Lila, was written while serving in the Georgia State Troops before enlisting in the 40th GA Infantry Regiment, Co. I.

Head Quarters, Camp Saphins near Griffin, Georgia, Sep 8th 1861

My darling wife,

This is the holy sabbath day but it is not observed in the manner that it was at my child-hood home. No chime of the church bell breaks the stillness of the morning air or Sunday school children neatly dressed seen wondering their way to the house of God to receive religious instruction but the shrill notes of the fife and the role of the drum have taken their place. I took a view of camp this morning as officer of the Guard and had a fine chance of learning how the men spend the holy time. Many were gathered in squads telling jokes, other vying with each other in profaning the name of their God, while very few I found reading the holy book. Camp generally are great sinks of inequity tho that can be greatly remedied by having a religious commander. The men are very much dissatisfied with the present (unintelligible) on account of his being a wicked man & a perfect whiskey. Our company has given the old man the comical name of (unintelligible) It suits him better than the name of Col. I don't think his election will be ratified for the Regiment cannot be organized as long as he presides. Capt. Saxon as Sen officer is acting Col. and has done much toward organizing on yesterday. I am now acting capt. of H company. If we succeed in dislodging ole Worthing, we can elect Saxon with the greatest possible ease. If this should be the case, the boys will elevate me to the captaincy of (unintelligible) to a higher office; but I really prefer to remain where I am, for I feel incompetent. Yet I will not refuse. Darling, I wish you would see that my coat is made.

We have a very nice tent - a wall tent 10 by 10 -- we have not yet furnished it with a table shaw & C (or G) as we are determined to go over at Underwoods Reg if the officers are not displaced! This is not one of them that makes an pretentions. I will be up in the course of a week or two at fartherest. I will (unintelligible) and stay at home five or six days. We commence drilling our company regularly in the morning. I sent to the office on yesterday and also today hoping some mission had been sent me but was sadly disappointed; what is the reason of your silence. If you but know my extreme (unintelligible) I know you would have written before but I shall send to the office on tomorrow if disappointed. I shall think very strongly that you all have forgotten me. In directing your letter address them to Lieut. W.A. Chunn. Camp Stephens near Griffin Georgia. Give my love to all the family. Kiss Helen receive one for yourself.

Your affectionately,
Wm A Chunn