

Charles H. Atkins Letters

2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles

1861

Camp on Shoal [illegible] Mo. Sept 22

My Dear Julia

Your long looked for and [illegible] wellcome [sic] letter was received a few days ago and nothing could have gave me more pleasure at this time it brought many things to my mind that I had entirely forgotten and before I had closed reading it I was bathing it in tears. Could you and all our friend at home know how much pleasure it was for us to hear from you I am shure [sic] you would write oftiner [sic] than you do I was Sorry to hear that you had been Sick and I was not there to wait upon you and to kis your parched lips Julie I love you better than I ever did in my life and would give any thing on earth for a few moments conversation with you to tell you of my troubles and hardships I have endured Since I bid you adiu [sic] but it is imposable [sic] at this time. you Spoke of coming to See me if it was posable [sic]. I know you cannot come now if there was any posable [sic] chance you may depend that I would leave no means untried to accomplish it. I do not know when we will leave this camp but when we do I Suppose [sic] we will go on down to the Arkansas line. we have stoped [sic] hear [sic] for wat [sic] purpose I cannot tell unles [sic] it is to wait for the Sick to come up which is achived [sic] there is some in or [illegible] behind that is not able to traval [sic]. Capt [sic] Gamble from Washington died a few days ago and one of our company also died about the Same time. William Wright a Son of Uncle Amos Wright of Sevier County I wrote to you that White was Killed on the battle field at the [illegible] I wrote we had heard that it was the Case but found out it was a mistake though Shot through the back of the head with a musket ball he is re covering [sic], you wrote you had not Seen nothing larger than a [illegible] Since I left I am very Sorry that I cannot Send you Some money. we have not drawn our pay yet and do not believe there is ten dollars in the Company our Col [sic] tells us that as Soon as we get to head quarters which is near the [illegible] we will draw all that is due us and you may rest assured that I will Send you all that I can which will be fifty or Seventy five dollars and more if I can we can have no war news only what you have already heard we hardly ever get a news paper and when we do it is as old as the Hills: I wish I could get the S. W. Demecrat [sic] evry [sic] weak [sic] but then it would take So long to get it here the news would not be interesting only that concerning home. you spoke of having my [illegible] to look at and shedding tears over it at that I had yours and my sweet little Fannies to look at I know that I would bathe them in tears for the thought almost makes me cry I want you to Send yours and Little Fannies when Brown comes back

Tell Miss Fannie that I am very much obliged to her for the few lines She drafed [sic] in your letter I will write to her in a few days and give her a discription [sic] of the ladies of this Country. there was a Ball given in Town last night I did not go my self for I could

not enjoy my self and think of you at home. you wanted me to tell you who it was that ran of [sic] from the battle field. I cannot Say for their friends would think hard of me it is Sunday and we our all going to preaching.

Maj Brown starts in the morning for Sevier County for our clothing I want you to make about two Suits of heavy clothing and two [illegible] Shirts one Suit will do if you have not time to make more though I hope I will be at home before I have much use for them write a long letter to me by him when he returns tell all my friends to write I must close may god [sic] help you and be with you til [sic] I return good by Remember me and believe as ever your affectionate husband forever
Chas H Atkins

Little Rock Ark

April 8th 1862

My Dear Julia

No doubt you will be surprised to receive a letter from me at this place but such is war. Camp one night at one place and in all probability start at day break to some unknown part of the world that you had never drempt [sic] of going to before. We arived [sic] at this citty [sic] about 3 o'clock this eavning [sic] the Boys in fine Spirits there is about Four thousand troops in all here. they will take up the line of march in the morning for Durals Bluff on White River. our Regiment will not Start before the day after tomorrow being as our train mules are all very near broke down from hard marching Since we left van [illegible]

I have very little news to give you even our Colonel has not the remotest idea of the object of this grand move of all the army unles [sic] it is to reenforce Gen. Beaureguard [sic] who is [illegible] at Island no 10 on the Misissippi [sic] River fighting the Federals every day. Gen. Price is also moving in the direction of White River in advance of us there is no forces left on the Border of this State unless it is Gen. Pikes command The Suposition [sic] of a greate [sic] many men is that we are going to the Mississippi [sic] River and there the desisive [sic] Battle will be fought.

Since I have been writing news has been brought into camps that the Federals have been in Van Buren Ft. Smith Since we left I cannot hardly believe it though it may be possible I have also just learned that a dispatch was recived [sic] here this eavning [sic]. Stating that there was fighting [crossed out word] going on Balls Bluff above Memphis ,and that our men was repulsing the enemy.

Dear Julia it looks as if our prospects was very dark at this time and that our country was to be over run with northern devils but I think the families in the South (I mean the extreme South may rest contented for before Southern men will permit their soil to be disgraced by Federal troops. Southern Streams will flow with blood – Royston [illegible] who was wounded at the battle of Sugar Creek died a few days ago. his leg was amputated just below his knee he only lived a few days after the operation was performed two of our company who was taken prisoner. at the battle made their escape and got in to camp this eavning [sic] Mr [sic] Rind says he has not time to write now but

will the first chance he has time James and myself have all been sick they have not been possit [sic] traveling. I was hauled three days in an ambulance I have been improving for Several days and at this time feel very well but considerable reduced So we are all three in what I would call good health at this time.
do not send any more letters to me directed to Ft. Smith. as it will be imposable [sic] for me to get them and for what I know may fall into the hands of the dutch for them to laugh over as Soon as I can learn where we will Stop I will let you know I will also write every chance I have, and give you all the news I can write to me every chance you have of sending me a letter. I would be glad to hear from you every week if I could – I must close for I have allready [sic] written more than I expected when I commenced [crossed out] and and your Pa and James are both a sleep in the tent and snoring worse than a forty horse [illegible] engine. give my love to miss Fannie and all the family. Kiss little Fan and Anna...and for you the best wishes of an absent but devoted husband. pleasant dreams to you to night my Dear I must go to bed. good by
C. H. Atkins

Camp New Gorodin Ten
Nov 16th 1862

Dear Julia

I write you a second letter The other has been written several days and I have added to it until it would be hard for you to understand the last part of it when I first wrote it I thought I would Send it by Flanagan and about that time James Rind obtained a Furlough on Surgeons certificate of disability it was Sent up to McGowan He would not sign it by this time Flanagan was gone So I had not Sent him my letter So yesterday there was an order to send one from every company to take letters and money home and Henry Penney was the one sent from this company The money I send you can use it to the best advantage by what ever you Sweet little children to my boosem [sic] If I have written any thing in my previous letters that has offended you let me ask your forgiveness for sometimes I will state my self to write to you and in less time than two minutes there will be maby [sic] half a [illegible] around me So that it is almost imposable [sic] to write but I hope I have not been guilty of writing any thing that has been offensive [sic] to you James has got another forlough [sic] for 30 days. I do not know whether he will get to come home or not.

Give H Penny you receipt for the mony [sic] though I believe I mentioned that in my other letter.

Give my love to all enquiring friends and for your self the best wishes of your affectionate husband

C.H. Atkins

[illegible writing at bottom of page]

Letter fragment

you think you will [illegible]. There is yet money due us from the government – and I gues [sic] we will draw again between this and Christmas and if So I will if I have an oportunity [sic] send it to you

We will leave here in a few days for Mobile Ala or Muffresborough [sic] Ten.[sic] One of the Lieutenants of this Regiment heard the Gen. (McNair) Say that as soon as we went into winter quarters that we would be sent home for our honers[sic]. I hope it may be true but I dont believe it there is no news of importance here evry [sic] boddy [sic] wants here from home and get home if they could honorable [sic] it is useless for me to say at what time I will come. you may depend that I will make use of the first oportunity [sic] I have for nothing on earth would give me more pleasure than to see you and to press you and my

Camp near [illegible] Tenn.

Dec 12th 1862

Dear Julia

I have an oportunity [sic] of sending a letter to you or that is of sending it to Polk County Ark and it can be Sent by mail from there I have no news to write that would interest you. War with all its horrid attendants is all that looms up as far as our short visions may penetrate. A gloomy prospect indeed but I live in hopes that it will in some way or other work for our own good. the main boddy [sic] of our army is now encamped at this place and Murfresborough [sic] about 12 miles from here. the Yankees are at and near Nashville a distance of 35 miles from this place Strongly fortified So Said there is Skirmishing every day. down about Nashville and our men has within the last few days captured Several thousand prisoners there is no telling how [illegible] the two armies will be brought together in battle if we have them to fight. I hope we may be able to give them a sound thrashing. We have no news from the Army in Virginia nor from Gen Prices forces but I Should Supose [sic] they were doing the best they can. it was reported here Some time ago. that Gen Colms and his command was crossing the Mississippi River. I hope this is not true. I think they ought to Stay. and guard our own State. and Texas. I wish our Division could have the Pleasure of attending to the Yankes [sic] over there in Ark and Missouri I think we could set them back beyond the limits of our own State. at least if not through Missouri

The health of our Regiment is tolerable good there is not a man reported sick in our company there is three or four absent sick I do not know whether they have got well or died two of our company have died recently Sol Reno and Romp Sanders you was not acquainted with either thoug [sic] Capt [sic] Rind knows them. I do not Know what was the disease they died with as I was not with them My health was never better than at this min. Jas Rind has got about well again Jas and Newt Park are both in good health. I have not had a letter from you Since Hill came back and it does look like I cannot get to hear from you. I cannot promise you when I will get to come home. The prospect for it looks very gloomy at this time. but I hope it may brighten soon. Some how or other it Seems to me or I have gotten up the idea that all is not going on well with you. but I hope my imaginations are groundly [sic] I hope you will not let an oportunity [sic] pass without writing to me the money I Sent you by Henry Penny. you can buy meat and flouer[sic] with and as soon as I have another chance I will try to Send you more I will not attempt to give you a description of our Travels Since we left Ky. we have been marching for the last three weeks throug [sic] Snow and mud. and over frozen ground and a greate [sic] many of the men nearly bare footed and Some entirely so. but yet

they Seldom mummur [sic] I will bring my letter to a close. May the god of Heaven protect you and our little children. I remain as ever your affectionate husband
Charlie Atkins