

**Corpus of American Civil War Letters
A12-03, William T. Presley**

**Source: William T. Presley Papers, 1862-63, Civil War Letters
Auburn University Library, Special Collections**

William T. Presley was born in South Carolina in 1835. By 1860 Presley and his family were living in Autauga County, Alabama. During the war he served in Co. A, 1st Alabama Cavalry.

Transcription provided by Joyce Hicks

Gate City Hospital
Atlanta Ga
Oct 22th 1862

Dear Henrie I wrote you a letter this morning and had no Idea of leaving this Evening But as there is a squad to be sent off this Evening I shall go with them for I am worn out staying at this Hospital we are only allowed 2 meals a day and then one half the time the Victuals are not more than half Dun and then the miserable stench in a Hospital would make a well man Sick I will have to leave without hearing from home which is a pain to me in the letter I mailed to you this morning I Enclosed \$20.00 Twenty dollars and I will Enclose \$20.00 more in this letter you need not write to me any more until you hear from me again I am fearful about sending money by mail but it Seems to be all the chance to get it to you. I am afraid I will not get your letter or I Say your letter I Suppose you have written to me before now for I wrote to you to write to me Immediately at Atlanta Ga. oh if I could only see you and them Dear little Babies I would be Proud but there is no telling when I will see you. but be in good Spirits all the time and Pray to god to guide me Safe through this war that I may at last get home with you and them blest little ones. it is almost as much as I can bear at times but I hope the time is not far distant when I can be at home and live again in Peace try to improve the Children all you can in Education and in manners and tell them to be Smart Boys So that Papa can brag on them when he comes home Kiss them over and again for me tell them papa will come home some time to see them and Stay at home with them to go to the wars no more.

it is getting late and I will have to close for the Present May God in his mercies Guide and Protect you and them dear ones in my Prayer for you it is a hard job for me to quit writing for I could set and write all day but I must close no more at Present but remain your affectionate Husband and Friend

Willie
Wm. H.A. Presley

you must Pray for me and Pray that God will Spare me to once more be at Home with the Blest ones there and not be again disturbed by the Sound of the drums as notes of the War Bugle

Goodbye
Willie to Henrie

Tullahoma Tenn
Nov 10th 1862

My dear Wife I this beautiful Monday morning seat my self to write you a few lines to inform you that I am in tolerable good health at present except a verry bad cold and a Slight Head Ache. I hope these lines may find you and family in good – health I Just this morning heard of the Death of Newton which I suppose you have heard of before now. I was glad to hear that he got home before he died. He has paid the debt that we must all pay Sooner or later and is no doubt better off that he was here on this troublesome earth. for life is verry little Satisfaction to any at this time. Poor old Father and Mother what a trial it must have been to them and old Aunt Dinah. to give him up I am at Tullahoma with the Reagt that Newton and Wright belonged to. I got here yesterday evening on the Cars and my Regt has not come yet and I thought by going to this Regt that I would get to see Newton and Wright but alas I was Sadly mistaken. the Company tells me that Wright is at Knoxville a nurse at the Hospital there. I am with Noah Looney at this time he is at the 34th Alabama he is in verry good health. he found all at home as well as could have been expected. Mary ahs another fin Girl though I suppose you have heard of it before now

John Ward and Hiliard are here they are both up but not verry well John looks right puney. I have Just seen 3 of my Regt they are in Camp about one mile from here I will go to them Henrice you must write to me as soon as you receive this and Direct your letter to me at Tullahoma Tennessee Care of Capt. W.T. Lary and I will get it without any doubt or I say without a doubt. I dont know So well for I hav'nt recd a line from you in so long that I have Just about give up trying to hear from you.

I sent you a few lines by Jacob Sutter from Chattanooga to let you know when I left there I had just heard that Newton was getting well only a few days Since but Poor fellow he is gone the way of all the earth things that knew him once will know him no more for ever oh that Solemn thought. to think that we are no more to See him if we ever do it will be after death.

Henrice I must stop writing for the present. I feel to Solemn this morning to write more. but if nothing happens you shall hear form me again soon

My love to Bro Evan and Isabella and to Narcissa and the Children and reserve the largest Share for your self.

May God guide and protect you all this my sincere prayer for you dear Family Good bye for awhile

your Husband
Willie to Henrice

At Courier Post near Middleton Bedford County Tenn
To Mrs. W.T. Presley from Willie Presley

June 4th 1863

Dearest Henrice your kind letter dated May 24th was handed to me yesterday by Bob you cant imagine how glad I was to hear from you and to hear that you were all well and am happy to inform you that I am in fine health, at this time and hope when these lines reach you they may find you and all the family still in good health. I was surprised at the few lines I read from Gns I had no idea he could write well enough so that it could be read. you must encourage him all you can and above all try to learn him to Spell correctly and learn him when and where to begin words with Capital letters if you are not certain about how a word is spelled look in the Dictionary for it if you have one and if you have no dictionary look in the Spelling Book or Some other until you find it. For instance Right means not wrong Wright a mans name Rite ceremony write to from letters with a Row Presence to be with Presents gifts and a great many other words are pronounced the Same but spelled entirely different. and when he is writing and come to speak of him self tell him to always put a capital I and not say i done so put a little i But say I am going to school I learn fast I want to be glad to see you and also learn him to connect the syllables of each word to gether and not say Fath – er and Moth – er but Father and Mother join the Syllables together so that there will be no difficulty in knowing how much there is of one word. Henrice I expect you will be wearied at me for tying to learn you how to teach the children but you must not for bad spelling and writing is not so good and the words are all spelled correctly it helps the bad writing out. I am Still acting as courier and am Boarding at old Grand Ala Landerse's yet. I am a great pet with her She thinks and Thing her (Big Boy) says is all right that is what she calls me, she often has be to Sing for her. She is very religious and fond of Singing when I tell her about receiving a letter from you she as hastily inquires after the health of my family as if you was her children we have had three messes of Irish Potatoes and Englishe Peas. I get as much Butter and milk as I can use and you know I can use a right smart chance of it when I am well and hearty. so much for my Boarding house I will now tell you something about my Horse (Stone Wall) he is a beautiful dapple Grey and is as fine as Split Silk holds his head up and can beat almost any of them traveling. I can get Four hundred dollars for him just as easy as take it. I have him in a fine clover field when I am not using him and when I take him out to carry a dispatch he is in for a play the first thing he knows me as far as he can see me, and is always in for a play with me well Henrice I reckon you dont card to know any thing more about my horse I will bring this tiresome letter to a close for fear I weary your patience. tell Narcissa I am waiting patiently for a letter from her. I have written twice to her and have had no answer. my love to all inquiring friends Kiss all the children for me twice over May God in his mercies guide and protect you through this unfriendly world is my sincere Prayer for you dear one Write soon I remain your divoted

Willie
To Henrice
Roberson Springs
Ala