

**Corpus of American Civil War Letters  
TN5-04, William G. Clark and Moses Woodfin**

**Source: Tennessee State Library and Archive, Civil War Collection  
Box C31, Folder 6, Letters—Adams, George Wily, etc. – 1861-1864**

**William G. Clark (b. ca. 1841) was a private in Company D, 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. Clark was from Millersburg, Rutherford County, Tennessee. He and his older brother, Newton, were killed at the Battle of Missionary Ridge.**

**Transcribed by Brittaney Whittenburg, April 2009**

**Proofed and corrected by Michael Ellis, July 2009**

**William G. Clark to Emily Clark**

December the 12 1861

Dear mother I ceat my self  
to write you a fiew lines we are all  
in tolerable good health at present  
hoping when those lines come to hand  
they may find you all well some fiew  
of our company are sick and ware sent  
home Capt Mitchel lost one of his men  
this morning died a fiew momets a go  
there is some fiew that have got the  
measles there is none in our company  
yet John Hale got a pare of boots  
made and they ware too small for him  
and i took them and you need not  
have me any made your letter got  
miss placed and went to bowlinggreen  
and i got it this morning we got  
the things that you sent us G W  
Mcmurry preached hear last tuesday night  
there is prairs hear every night we are not  
in no regiment yet thre is over three  
thousand men hear and they are coming  
in nearly every day

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You said that you wanted to know  
what we had to eat and who  
was in our mess Ben and <Fren?> [Pvt. Ben Nisbett and poss. E. Nisbett of Co. D]  
Nisbett Macknerry Tom finger nuton [Pvt. Thomas L. Finger of Co. D and Newton Clark?]  
are my mess mates Scott come  
down and joined lytles company  
<????> pork Beef and Rice we do not

get any corn meal but plenty of  
flower we draw molasses when we  
want them and plenty of Sugar  
and tolerable plenty of coffy i do not  
need any more bed clothes now tell  
mose that his gun was valleyed  
at \$16 dollars if we draw the  
money for our guns i will send  
it to him Newton says that he  
is comming in a few days if he can  
get a furlow i am coming home  
christmast if they will let me  
and if they will not i can stay  
i have not been sick since i  
have been in camps iam very well  
satisfied hear so fur

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I got a letter from harvy  
Clark a few days ago he said  
that they ware all well and  
no hopes of a fight I am glad  
that the boys are comming  
by to see us tell James and  
Rachel ~~to~~ that i think they  
might write to me I will  
write once a week and often<er?>  
if i can it is time for us  
to you out on drill and i must  
bring my letter to a close  
nothing more at this time  
write asoon as you get these  
few lines Remaining yours as ever

W. G Clark

To Emily Clark

**William G. Clark to his brother James A. Clark**

Camp Trousdale      1862  
January the 8

Dear brother

I take my pen  
in hand to write you a few  
lines to let you know that  
i have not forgotten you  
we are all in tolerable  
good health at present  
hoping when those lines come  
to hand they may find  
you all well too of our  
company ware sent home  
sick this morning there is  
some cases of the measles  
hear James Moore was  
elected capt Jim Doak  
is our third lutenant  
our election for  
Chaplain will be  
tomorrow Macmury and  
a preacher from Willson  
county are the

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Candidates for Chaplain  
but i think Macmury  
will be elected we  
have got Mr Gitt<e?>n for  
our drill officer  
it is getting late and  
i will bring my letter  
to a close write as  
soon as those lines come  
to hand nothing more  
at this time remaining  
yours friend as ever

W. G. Clark

James A Clark

[Jame A. Clark (b. ca. 1838) also served as a private in Co. D, 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry]

**Moses Woodfin (b. ca. 1832) was a resident of Bedford County, Tennessee and served with the Clark brothers in Co. D, 45<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. He was married to the Clark brothers' sister, Rachel.**

**Moses Woodfin to Emily Clark**

Rock Island Ill Aug the 23th / 64

Dear Mother in Law

I Read your Kind favor Which Cam  
duly to hand I am Sory to hear of the Inis of litte Emer this L<eaves?>  
me well hoping this may find you all well & doing well you w<anted?>  
me to give you the Particulars of the deaths of Wm & Newton I  
will try to do so ~~with pleasure~~ Wm was Kiled instantly he  
never moved nor Spoke after he was Struck Newtons Right arm  
was taken off at the Sholder I was hurt very bad in my left arm  
Newton and myself ware carid back to our Hospital in the  
woods his wond was drest & news came that our men ware falling  
Back the grape begin to fall around us our trifling Doctors <run?>  
off & left us thare Same 30 wounded thare with out Eny asistance  
But one Chaplin who was brave enough to stay with us he done <all?>  
he cold tho all the Doctors in the world cold not done Newton Eny good  
he did not talk But very little nor did not Complain much he only  
Camplained of his Bed being hard he lived from Wednesday until  
Sunday Noon about day lighth when he past away like going  
to Sleep with out a Strugle or a grone & I have no dout But he is  
now at Rest I had him Buried on a nice litle mound as desant as  
I Cold you can only amagion my trial & suffering while we lay  
thare in the woods with nothing to Eat part of the time but a little  
Corn that we picked up ware the horses had fed we ware Caried in  
to Chattanooga on Sunday Evening whare we ware treated very  
well I staid thar about a week I Sympathize with you in  
your Bereavements but yours is only that of Thousands of others  
James & <Espy?> is well Sams Box came Safe you may Send me & Jim  
asuit of cloths all in one Box mark to both of us Barrack No 6  
<????> Write often yours with Respect  
I wish I cold write more Excuse this           Moses Woodfin