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Civil War Letters

written by:

Cpl. William Pinkey Maxwell
60 NC Co. D (Confederate)
to: David Maxwell
(father)

in: Henderson County, NC

Henderson County, NC

P.S. Let me Know if you find other records referring to the Maxwells mentioned or the Hospital mentioned.

Madison Co. N.C. Camp [illegible] at the 15 · 1862

Dear Father I now seat myself [illegible] you of my health at this time I have not lin well sinc[illegible]ne here But I am better now than I have bin since I came [illegible] Riley has bin sick the most of the time but he is better [illegible] well there has been a good many of our company [illegible] there are severel sick yet but no one dangerous Th[illegible]as a grate steer hear yisterday orders came from the govener for [illegible]el Mcdowel to order 200 men to Transelvany to [illegible] the men their in to camp there 200 soon mad up to go and [illegible]rmed & prepared their rashins for three 3 days they were [illegible] this morning but it was stoped by som means and they sent [illegible]aptain to see if there was a rebellion or not when he coms [illegible] the men will go if there is any Rebellioun & if not they will not [illegible] it was talked that they were going to Edeny vill also to bring th[illegible] but I do not know whether they will go there or not we heard [illegible] that they fought a batle there 100 men engaged and the [illegible] lasted about one ½ half our and the ground was as blody as [illegible]ughter pen & 6 or 8 mortaly wounded I heard yisterday that [illegible] Edeney & I. M. Lyday were dead I heard also that the fu was no[illegible] yet & they were to meet & fight it out I think they had [illegible] go to the wor if & fight there the typod fever is here in camp [illegible] severel cases of it G. B. Freeman of our mess has been [illegible]th the feever for a bot a week he is better now I have bin expecti[illegible] take the measels but I have not token them yet I may not [illegible] them

We have hard tim[illegible] [illegible]statined in an I sland in the river
we are surrounded by the [illegible] by a line of gard + there is no chance
to get out of hear witho[illegible] pass It is hard that we cannot go no where
without a pass only inside [illegible] encampment we drow flour + bacon
to eat + rise + shugar [illegible] [illegible]awed beef twist a bout a mess at a time
and that is all [illegible] to eat we have to draw our water also
the spring runs a stream [illegible]ut as large as my thumb and that is
all the water we get to [illegible]k + do our cooking this is all the suply for
800 hundrede men + you [illegible] know that we suffer for watter very
often + it is very good it is very Dry + du[illegible]r it almost stifles us when we are drilling
there has been no rain hea[illegible]e I came hear except 2 small shours
and neither of them w[illegible] hardly a wet amans shirt if he had bin
out in all of it I [illegible] yisterday that up the river the corn was
dying for the want of rain [illegible]e was aman came here yisterday from Richmond
he says that peas will b[illegible]d in a short time he said that the south
had made a proposition [illegible] North that they would go back to the
union + pay all their ex[illegible] if the North would but I do not think
the North will except [illegible] have sent too Letters home and I have
got no answer yet I h[illegible] heard a word from home since I left there
are you all killed in [illegible]deney Battle or why is it that you do not
wright to some of us a[illegible] all our company have got letters but us
I want to hear from hom[illegible] the worst of any thing I ever wanted to hear
in my life I am oneasy [illegible]bout home and will be till I hear from there
I am very ~~a~~ much d[illegible]ide hear nor I never expect to be any other way
till I get home a gain the[illegible] is a good many geting furlows now and I think
I will get one in a [illegible]k or too + come home } Wm. P. Maxwell
direct your letters to [illegible] springs post office Camp smith N.C.
in cear of capten C[illegible]. Fletcher } I want you to wright as soon as you
get this I hope ~~it~~ this will [illegible]nd [illegible]ow all well tell Dicy to right + let me
know how here and m[illegible] Babys are coming on I want to see them very bad

Septe. mber 14— 1862

Camp Martin Greenvill Tennissee

Dear Father I now take my seat to inform you that I am well at this time hoping these few lines may find you and the rest of the folks all well we are Stationed in green County Tenissee on the west side of Greenvill in sight of the town rite on the bank of the Railroad our tent is in about 25 yards of the railroad where we se the cars three or four times every Day there were 3 car loads of Souldiers passed hear a friday on their way to Richmond they were from Gorgia they said that Stone wall jackson was surrounded we are in about 400 yards of the Depot where it will not take long to get on the cars and leave this place when ever orders come for us to go and I dont think it will be long till we leave hear and where we will to I cannot tell it may be to the Comberland gap and it may be to virginia or Kentucky there is no telling where we will go I would rather stay heare a while longer as we have a very nise place to camp But water is very scare Well watter and lime stone at that it is a Bad chance about getting washing don we hire our washing don pay 10 cents a garment I want you to help Dicy take care of the truck for I do not expect I will be at home soon and maby never again I think you had better sell my horse if Dicy has not plenty to feed him on for I dont think there will

be any chance to buy provision another year and it would be better to sell the horse than to do without Bread I am a feared my family will Supper we have drawed no meny yet nor I do not know when we will it is talked in camps that we will leave hear in a day or so for the comberland gap there is a man hear now that says the yankeys ar not scrounded at the comberland gap he is jest came from there we have boxed our clothes there is fourteen of us put our clothes in one box I will send you a list of their names and each mans name is on his clothes or a piece of paper fastened to them ones I want you to devide them out To their folks when they come after them the Box is directed to M.M. Patton in Hendersonville with Rileys name on it we rote a letter to Patton to take ceare of it till you can get it you will have to go and get it or send and bring it to your house the stage contracter says he will send it as soon as he can we paid 3 dollars to the contracter to haul it to Ashville and he will not receive pay no futher as his contract end there you will have to pay the frait from Ashville to Hendersonville and when they come after their clothes make them pay you before you give them up I would make

To David Maxwell and family

Camp martin green County Tennissee sept 24 1862

Dear father I now take the pleasure to inform you that I am well at this time hoping these few lines may find you all well there are severel of our men sick the sick list yisterday morning was 16 in our Company there was a man shot in the hand by a pistle going off accidentally on sunnday evening last the ball entered the heal of the hand and rainge up in to the rist and the ball is in his hand yet and will stay there I reckin we received our state County yisterday $50 Some says we will get our confedrate County & wages the tenth of next month ~~of~~ they have taken our large tent from us and gave us avery small one that 6 men can scarsely scrouge in to it but there is nine of us has to stay in it but i think ~~We~~ we will have them divide a litle letter to day I do not think we will have to leave here soon as our men have run the yankeys from the Cumberland gap and drove them away in to Kentucky Jon Brown let here monday morning and me and Cary sent our old kapsacks home by him and gorge B. Freeman and Riley Carnwell sent there in mine you Can give them up when their folks

Calls for them our box of clothing was gon before Brown got back from Knoxvill or we would have sent it by him it left here a sunday morning and it is now at Kendersonville if it has not ben delayed at Asheville you can go and get it Brown promise to haul our tool box that we left at Asheville to Edeneyaill for us I wish you would pay him for the hauling of it if he dos haul it as I did not think to pay him for it then right to me the amount you had to pay and I will send it to you you will have to go to Edeneyaill after it I mailed a letter to you last week for fear you do not get that letter I will say a few words to you about the box of clothing there was 64 of us put our clothes in the box and I want you ti divide them out each moms name is on his cloth you will have to pay the frait from Asheville home and make them pay you when they come after the clothes the box is sent to Kendersonvill in ceare of m. m. Patton you will have to go there and get it I sent you a list of the name in the other letter if you get that letter you wi

know what to do with it if you do not get the letter and cannot under under stand this one right to me and I will give you a new list I want you to right to me and let me know whether you get my letters or not and whether you get our box of clothes and our knap sacks and our box of tools and rite as soon as you get them perhaps you would like to know what we get to live on here I will tell we have got a new comissary and we ar living prety well all but sleeping and we could sleep if we were not scrouged so bad we get plenty of beef bacon and flower and salt and rise and we draw rye to make coffy and shugar to sweeten it and candles and soap there is prayer here every night or two and while prazer is going on in the tent there is men a cursing and swaring all round the tent but they have passed a good rule here this morning they gave the heads of each mess orders to let no man quarrel nor curs nor swar in the tent we have got shut of our rowdys our mess ar all peaceable boys Re Collins is left our mess Perry Hood is left our mess I will now close for this time

4 September the 26 1862

Dear Father I a gain seat my self to let you know that I am well yet and have Som bad neuse to tele you I have gust came from the Depot With a bucket of water and I saw there the box that the corps of W.M. Bryson captin was in ther is a man by the name of eles and Bryens Negro a taking him home there was a battle fought on the 16 of this month in Maryland on the other side of the Potomick and Bryson & his company were in the battle and Bryson was shot throw the head and killed on the ground he was the only man that was killed in the Company Ben Hamit was wounded the negro said that John was well and was not hurt J.T. Cox was well our men have came back this side of the potomick they say the yankeys wer badly whiped the 14 N.C. Rigament was cecut all to pieces ther was a grate many men killed in both sides while I was at the well there was a man shot in town by the name of masen he was shot near the park at the breast bone with tuo balls It is not expected that he will live till night the man that shot him was Charles Erwin they both lived in greenvill town it was an old gruge betwit them

September 26 I David maxwell

This is the third man that has bin killed on the acount of that old griege I do not know what it is I was in a bout 400 yards of the man when he was shot an heard the fire of the gun or pistol there is a grate many sick men here John Pinkerton it is thought has bin dying ever since yisterday morning althow he was not ded a litel while a go he is in the hospetal Riley Laning is not expected to live Bosily Laning is sick and in the hospetal I have not seen them since they left camp there is only one of our company in the hospital thou there is severel sick it is so dy and hot here that I am a feard that we will all get sick here there has bin no rain here in 8 weeks there are very tight on us there is a man now in the gard house for going to sleep on his post he is put in for 14 days and is not allowed to eat nothing but bred and water and there was another taken up for steeling money and he had to ware a flower barre two hours and walk round the gard line before the point of the bayonet all the time and then he is to be chained to a cannon ball for thirty days

September 26

golaspys horse Company have just come in they are going to Knoxvill there was 120 yankys prisners passed here yisterday evening on their way to Richmond they were taken in Kentucky there has bin a grate many souldires passed here going towards Richmond they are fiting in that direction almost every day Josep Blyke and Morgan are here they came here a wendnsday and are going to stay till Sunday they have preached two or three surmonds Our men are runing away three of them have left one by the name of John Case runaway a thursday and gorge N Williames and Ebern Hestelow left last night the captin sent after them this morning I have not heard from the hospetal this morning This saturday morning and I am well Cary is well Riley is riting a piece to send in my letter I have not got but one letter Since I came here I want you to right to me and let me know how you are all giting a long and rite soon for I love to hear from home I must now bring my lines to a close so nomore at present but But remain yours Wm. P. Maxwell

To David maxwell

November the 5th 1862

Rutherford Co Murfreesboro middle Tennissee

Dear father I now take pleasure to inform you that I am well at this time hoping these few lines may safely reach and find you all well as to the health of our Regament it is not very good at this time I cannot tell you how many there is sick at this time but there is a good many and sickness is increasing last Sunday there were only about 4 or 5 sick men in our compny this morning the sick list numbers 16 this looks like a right smart increse in 3 days there has been 3 deaths since Sunday evening 2 of our Regiment one of our Compny his name was John B. Clayton he was taken Saturday morning he kept going about till 10 or 11 oclock when he took his bed and never rose memore he Died Sunday evening about 6 oclock this is taking a man off in a very short time he died with Brain feever he was buried the next evening he was taken a mile and letter from camp and buried in a yankey grave yard where they buried their dead when they were there this was a very sudeed Death and should be a warning to us all little did he know the day

before he was taken that death was so nigh as he was trying to keep men to gamble on Oh what an awful thing but it looks like if the trouble a man sees in camp are not enough to cause a man to try to live in a right way there is nothing that will turn him as to my part I expect from this on to try to do as nigh right as I can and have him doing so ever since I left home last and I hope you will all try to do the same way for I never more expect to see you on earth again for a man does not know here one day that he will be alive the next but it may be that I will live to get home again we are still here yet but a most all the Regiments are gone towards Nashville and they have been fighting two days there it was reported last night that our men had taken a little town by the name of Edgefield near Nashville and 150 of our men were killed this may not be so it was said yesterday that our Regiment and some others were kept back as reserve but after dark last night we were ordered to cook 2 days Rashion and be ready to march this morning but we are here yet 12 Oclock and we may not go we heard the cannons this morning very playing and the gard

said they heard them all night we have had no news from there to day but I guess we will hear in a short time we are in a close place Neuse is here that Rosencrans is moveing in rear of us to Chatanuga and if he gets there we will be cut off from Railroad transportation but I hope he will be prevented we have heard several times that neuse has went to henderson that we were all killed and taken prisners this is not the case if you here such reports you need not believe it for we have not lin in no fight yet nor neither have we bin taken prisners and I am inhops we will not be We are under the comand of General Breckenrige and Colonel Walkers Briggade Maj McDaniels Regiment our me do not have to go on picket very often I have not bin on picket but once yet and there is a good many of our me that have not bin on yet I was the first one that was ~~taken~~ sent on picket from our company I and 6 others was sent out and I was the commanding officer over them we were sent about one mile from camp we had to lay out all night but we were relieved the next morning by a new picket when we started the Agitant told us if we would bring him a Yankey over coat the next morning he

he would give us 15 dollars for it but we did ~~hatch~~ ~~but~~ ~~we~~ not get nay me I wright this letter to all Father and Mother and Brother and Sisters and I want you all to wright to me for all the pleasure that I have is hen I get letters from home for I tell you that a man in camps sees but little pleasure in camp I got no letters from non of you since we left Groenville and we have bin hear 3 weeks to day tell Dicy that I have not got narry letter from here since the last of September I would be very uneasy about here but I hear sometimes our letters dosnot go it looks like a long time to not hear from home in over a month This maks the fourth letter that I have rote since I came here and I have got no answer as to the weather it is very warm days and cold nights and arye and very dusty tell Riley to stay at home as long as he can we get aplenty of Bacon and beef and more than we can eat but we only get one pound of flower to the man perday and that maks bread scase we drawed some corn meal yisterday I am inhops we will have plenty of bread from now on I saw more beacon in one pile yisterday than my house would hold Cary is well got Tousen is well Wm P. Maxwell