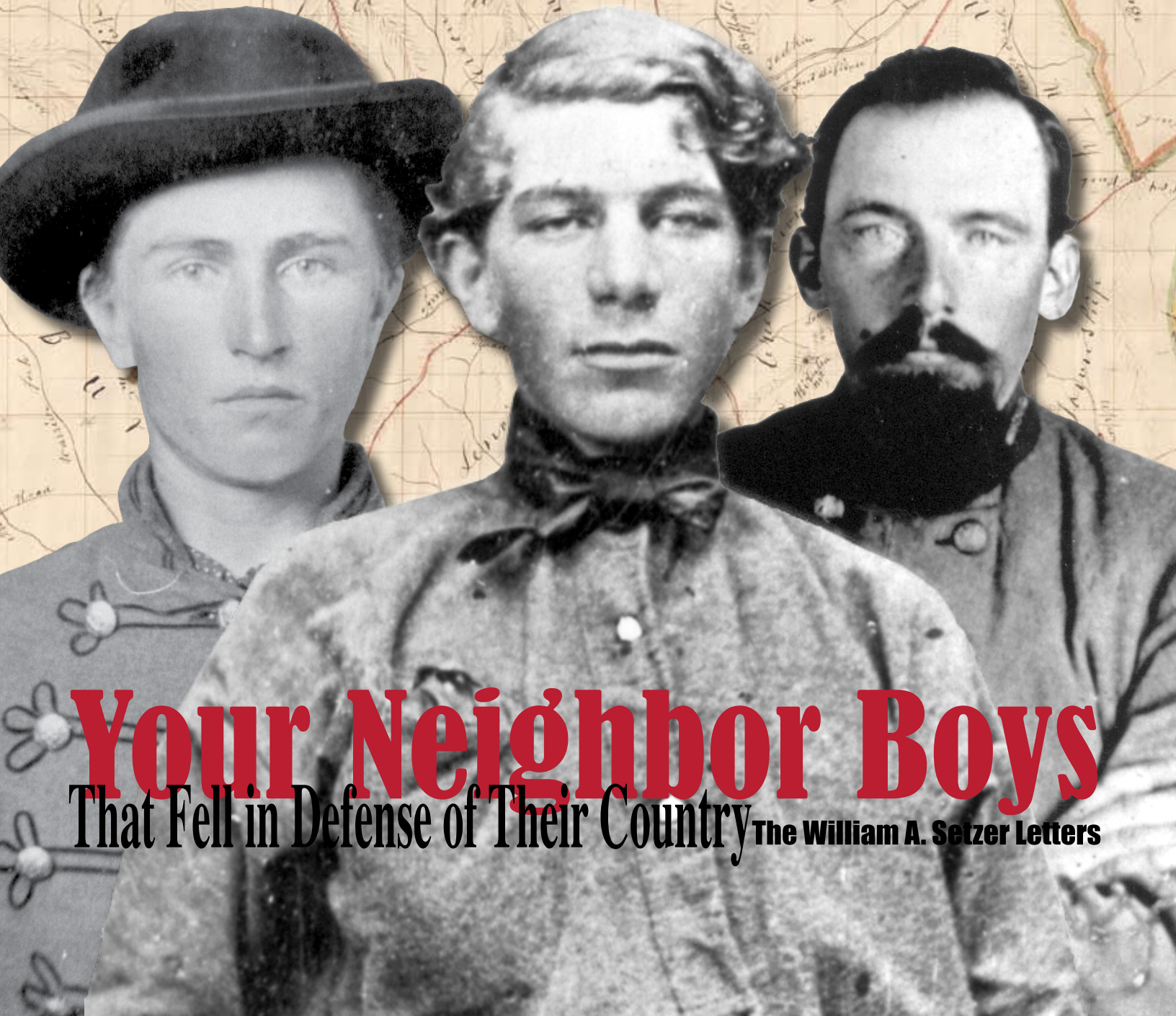


COMPANY FRONT

THE HISTORICAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1

2015



Your Neighbor Boys

That Fell in Defense of Their Country The William A. Setzer Letters



Front Cover

Left to right are fellow Company F soldiers; John A. Tuttle, George L Powell and John B. Holloway

Inside Front Cover

The gravestones for Harriet Setzer and Thomas W. Setzer. They are buried in the Arney Family Cemetery, located at Penelope Baptist Church in eastern Burke County.

Back Cover

1868 map of Caldwell County



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CONTENTS

Your Neighbor Boys

That Fell in Defense of Their Country The William A. Setzer Letters

Edited by Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr. and Greg Mast

Introduction.....	4
1861: Throne in A Regiment.....	8
1862: Shot All to Peases.....	18
1863: Tha Kill So Meny of Us.....	46
1864: Tha Made the Grape and Canister Fly.....	64
Biographical Index.....	74
Bibliography.....	94

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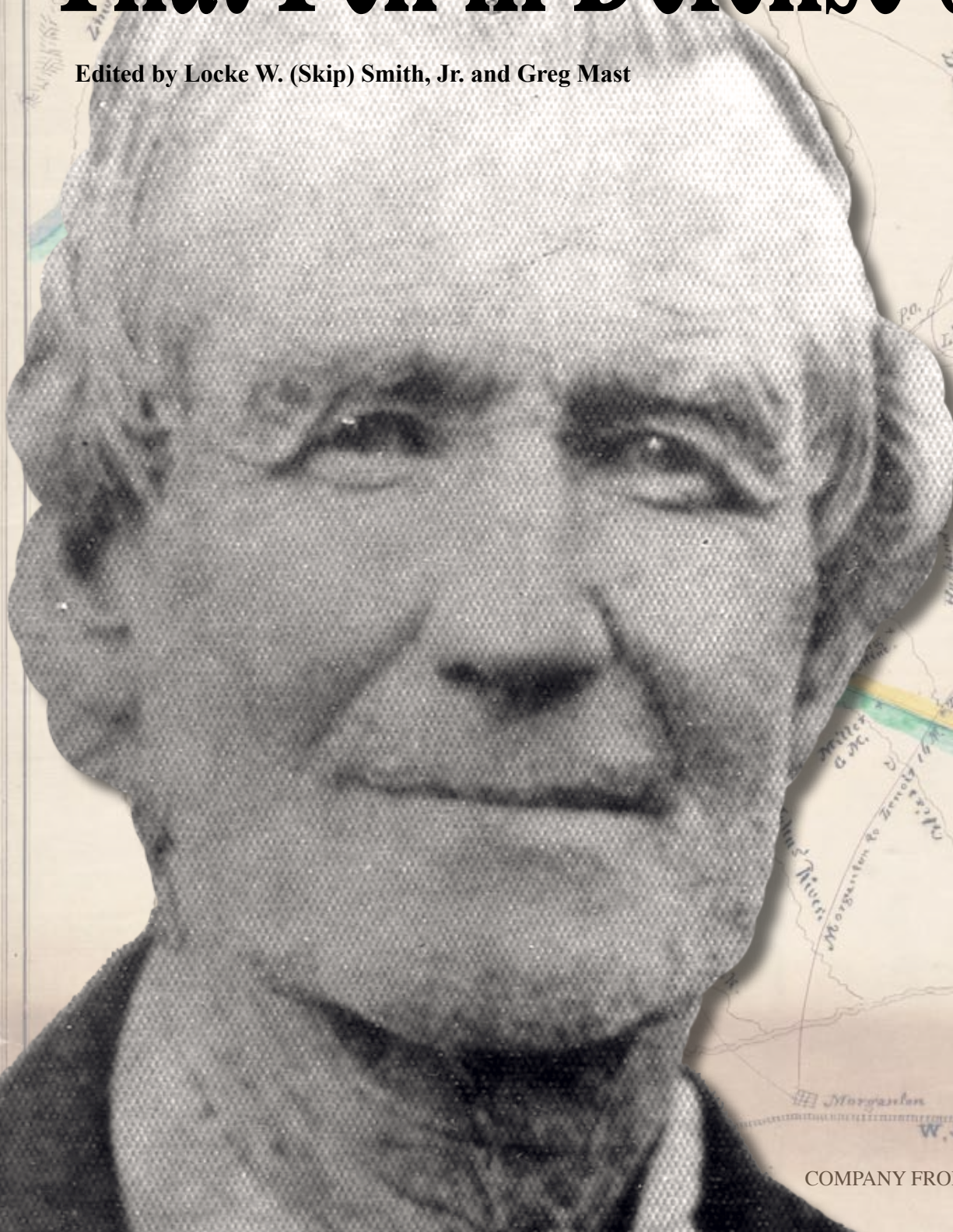
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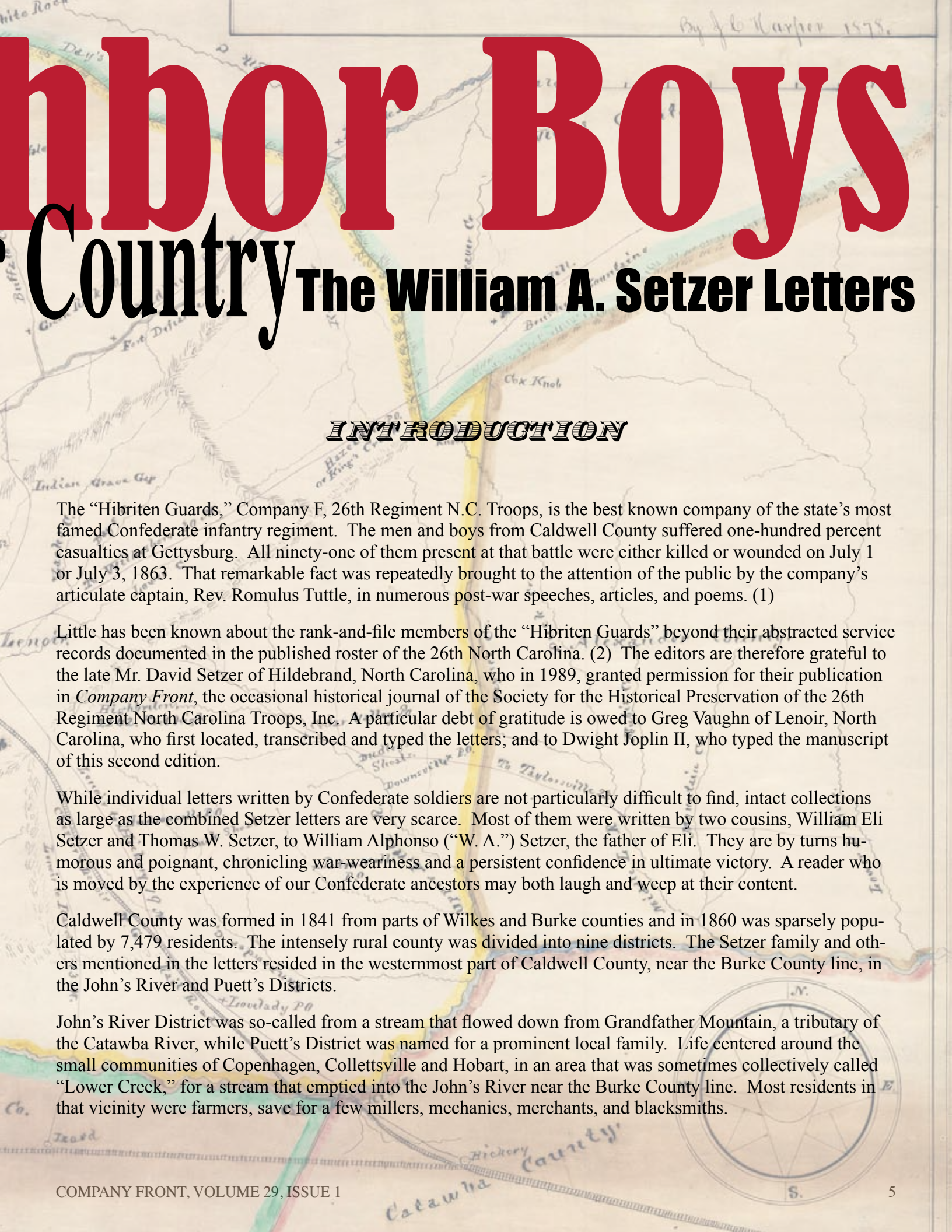
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Your Neighbor That Fell in Defense of Their

Edited by Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr. and Greg Mast





Hibriten Boys

Country

The William A. Setzer Letters

INTRODUCTION

The “Hibriten Guards,” Company F, 26th Regiment N.C. Troops, is the best known company of the state’s most famed Confederate infantry regiment. The men and boys from Caldwell County suffered one-hundred percent casualties at Gettysburg. All ninety-one of them present at that battle were either killed or wounded on July 1 or July 3, 1863. That remarkable fact was repeatedly brought to the attention of the public by the company’s articulate captain, Rev. Romulus Tuttle, in numerous post-war speeches, articles, and poems. (1)

Little has been known about the rank-and-file members of the “Hibriten Guards” beyond their abstracted service records documented in the published roster of the 26th North Carolina. (2) The editors are therefore grateful to the late Mr. David Setzer of Hildebrand, North Carolina, who in 1989, granted permission for their publication in *Company Front*, the occasional historical journal of the Society for the Historical Preservation of the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops, Inc. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to Greg Vaughn of Lenoir, North Carolina, who first located, transcribed and typed the letters; and to Dwight Joplin II, who typed the manuscript of this second edition.

While individual letters written by Confederate soldiers are not particularly difficult to find, intact collections as large as the combined Setzer letters are very scarce. Most of them were written by two cousins, William Eli Setzer and Thomas W. Setzer, to William Alphonso (“W. A.”) Setzer, the father of Eli. They are by turns humorous and poignant, chronicling war-weariness and a persistent confidence in ultimate victory. A reader who is moved by the experience of our Confederate ancestors may both laugh and weep at their content.

Caldwell County was formed in 1841 from parts of Wilkes and Burke counties and in 1860 was sparsely populated by 7,479 residents. The intensely rural county was divided into nine districts. The Setzer family and others mentioned in the letters resided in the westernmost part of Caldwell County, near the Burke County line, in the John’s River and Puett’s Districts.

John’s River District was so-called from a stream that flowed down from Grandfather Mountain, a tributary of the Catawba River, while Puett’s District was named for a prominent local family. Life centered around the small communities of Copenhagen, Collettsville and Hobart, in an area that was sometimes collectively called “Lower Creek,” for a stream that emptied into the John’s River near the Burke County line. Most residents in that vicinity were farmers, save for a few millers, mechanics, merchants, and blacksmiths.

According to the 1860 Federal Census there were 229 households in the two districts, forty-two of which held one or more slaves. The population consisted of 1,238 whites, 26 free blacks, and 221 slaves.

The Setzers, authors of most of the letters in this collection, were not slaveholders, unlike the Corpenings, their close relatives. Other prominent families in the area (and names mentioned in the letters) were Arney, Bradshaw, Braswell, Courtney, Crump, Estes, Fleming, Gragg, Holloway, Kincaid, Moore, Powell, Prestwood, Shell, and Tuttle. Most of the families were intertwined through marriage, creating a genealogical nightmare. The reader is directed to the Setzer Family Tree on page 45 for an example of these connections.

A glimpse of the Setzer Family is contained in the 1860 Caldwell County census. They all seem to have lived in Puett's District, near the county seat of Lenoir. The man to whom most of the letters were addressed, W. A. Setzer, was a forty-three year old farmer when the census was taken. He owned real property valued at \$2,500, and \$1,000 in personal property. He lived with his wife Eliza and seven children. Eli, soon to be a soldier, was 15. The other siblings, occasionally mentioned in the letters were Harriett, 16; Daniel, 13; Romulous, 11; Elizabeth, 9; Albert, 7; and John 3. The six older children were noted by the census taker as having attended school within the past year. It is most certain that the Thomas W. Setzer of these letters is the same Thomas Setzer, age 20, who resided in the household of farmers William Setzer, age 63, and Jane Setzer, age 60. William Setzer owned real property valued at \$2,500 and personal property with a value of \$750. (3)

Like many nineteenth-century Americans, the writers of the Setzer letters spelled words exactly the way they pronounced them. Thus, in addition to their historical interest, the letters provide a record of the dialect spoken in northwestern North Carolina at the time of the Civil War. To retain that feature, spelling is completely unaltered. The letters are totally without punctuation or paragraphing. Those features have been added by the editors without comment. The first words of each sentence have had their first letters capitalized. Occasional clarifications have been inserted into the text within [brackets]. A biographical index has been added to this second edition to provide more information on each individual mentioned within the letters. The letters have also been numbered and are presented in chronological order. These two additions will help provide context for the reader. Lastly, some connective history of the 26th North Carolina and the "Hibriten Guards" has been included.

The Society for the Historical Preservation of the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops is privileged to publish this second edition of the William A. Setzer letters as a tribute to the members of the Setzer family, both past and present, whose voluminous correspondence and careful stewardship have made this important historical material available to posterity.

1. See, for example, Captain Tuttle's article "Unparalleled Loss" in *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65*, ed. Walter Clark, 5 vols. (Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 1901), 5:599-604, hereinafter cited as Clark, *Histories of the North Carolina Regiments*. Thomas W. Setzer, one of the author's of the letters, was not in the July 1 battle but was wounded on July 3.

2. Manarin, Louis H., Weymouth T. Jordan, Matthew M. Brown, and Michael W. Coffey, comps., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, 19 vols. to date (Raleigh: N.C. Office of Archives and History, 1966-), 7:533-548, hereinafter cited as Manarin, et al., *North Carolina Troops*. 7:533-548, hereinafter cited as Manarin and Jordan, North Carolina Troops.

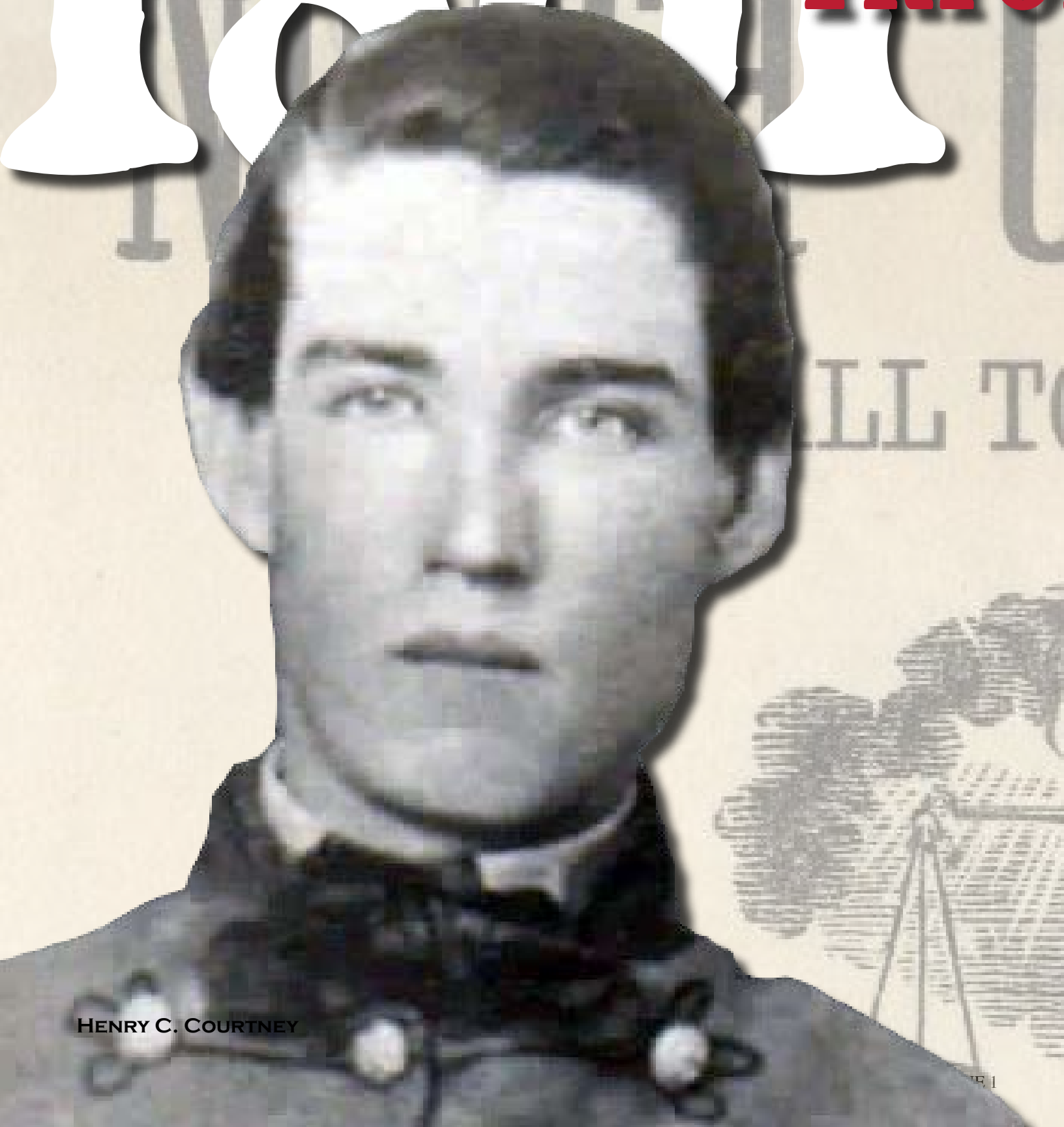
3. Linda M. Staley and John O. Hawkins, comps., *The 1860 Census of Caldwell County, North Carolina* (Lenoir, N.C.: Caldwell County Genealogical Society, Inc., 1983), 8, 11, hereinafter cited as Staley and Hawkins, *1860 Census of Caldwell County*.



WILLIAM A. SETZER

1861

“Thro



HENRY C. COURTNEY

ne in a Regiment”

[Editor’s Note] The first letter was written by Private Lawson W. Corpening of the “Burke Tigers”, Company E, 16th Regiment North Carolina Troops.

LETTER 1

“Partial Letter”

Raleigh June the 17 1861

Dear father [William C. Corpening] and mother [Cassa Setzer Corpening] brothers and sisters,

I now seat myself to let you now that I am wel at this time and I hope when thse few lines come to hand they same like blesing. I will say to you that I am very well satisfied now but I would be better satisfied if I was in firginia [Virginia]. Now I will say to you that we [Company E, 16th N. C.] have elected our head officers, but they say they dont now when we will leave here but they think we will leave in too weaks, but we want to leave as soon as posibel.

We have station close to the Caldwell ruff and ready boys.1 I see them every day. Monroe powel [Thomas Monroe Powell] and W.A. Tuttle [William A. Tuttle] is fat and sassy and W.A. Tuttle ses that he would be glad to see H.R. Setzer [Harriett R. Setzer] and he sed that in her arms he long to sleepe.

I want you tel all of my kin and friends howdy for me. Uncle fonzos [William Alphonso Setzer] to rite to me. I will stop writing now but it



WILLIAM A. TUTTLE

*“THE BOIS SAIS THEY CAN WHIP FIVE A PEACE,
I THINK I CAN WHIP SIX MY SELF.”*

hant could rite to you if I had time. Nothine more but remain your eflectionate son until death.

L.W. Corpening [Lawson W. Corpening]

Send your leter the care of Captain Kirsey [Elijah J. Kirksey]

1. The “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” was the local name for the first company raised in Caldwell County. It was subsequently designated Company, 22nd Regiment N.C. Troops (1st Regiment N.C. Volunteers).

[Editor’s Note] The “Hibriten Guards” were almost entirely from Caldwell County, and the company enlisted at Lenoir on July 15, 1861. The company was named for nearby Hibriten Mountain. On July 31 the men and boys of the “Hibriten Guards” for Raleigh. There they encamped at Camp Carolina, at the Crabtree Creek camp of instruction. From there William Eli Setzer wrote home.

LETTER 2

Raleigh N C August the 4th 1861

Dear Father [William Alphonso Setzer],

I now seat my Self to Rite you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hoping when theas few lines come to hand that they will find you ingoying the Same helth. We have got to Raleigh and ar stationed at Crab tree Creek 1 two miles from Raleigh. I am very well satisfied but I wood be beter Satisfied if I was in Rich [Richmond]. We have plenty to eat. There is about 1800 Soldiers at Crab tree Creek [Camp Crab-tree or Camp Carolina was the Wake County training ground used as a Camp of Instruction at the beginning of the war]. There is about 40 yankes at the fair grounds.² I want you to tell mother [Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer] houdy for me and all the bois too. Tell HR [Harriett R. Setzer] to Rite to me. I dont no when we will leave here but I expect we will leave in about three weeks. We ar stationed clos to the caldwell Ruff and Ready bois [Company A, 22nd N. C.]. I see them evry day. They ar bad egs I tell you. Tell Harriet to tell all the girls houdy for

me. Tell betty [Mary Elizabeth Ann Corpening] to Rite to me for I have not much time to Rite nothing more at present.

W. E. Setzer [William Eli Setzer] to W. A. Setzer

1. The camp was located on the Crabtree Plantation, three miles west of Raleigh.
2. Another camp of instruction was located on the state fair grounds. The identity of the forty Yankees is uncertain, but they may have been prisoners taken at the Battle of First Manassas.

LETTER 3

[Date of letter not complete]

Raleigh N C aug 1861

Dear father and mother brothers and Sisters,

I now take the oportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hoping when theas few lines come to hand that they will find you ingoying the Same health. I Received Harriet leter and I was glad to hear that you was all well. I am well and well Satisfied but I wood be beter Satisfied if I was in Missouri. I dont no wether I will come home or not, but I think I will. I Rote you a leter and you never Rote back. If you dont Rite to me I will [illegible word] you. I weigh one hundred 40. I want you to tell mother to Rite to me and lum [Daniel Columbus Setzer] too. I am much of a man. I tell you I want you to Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter. Nothing more at present but you affectionate Son until death.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

*“W. E. SETZER IS FAT AND SASES AND CAN BEET ENY
BODY IN CAMP A PLAYING MARVIL [MARBELS], AND HOW
BAD THA WONT TO COM HOME TO SEE THEM GIRLS*

LETTER 4

Raleigh N C Aug 25 1861

Der Sir [William Alphonso Setzer],

I seat myself to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope when thees few lines com to your hand tha will fine you in the Same State of helth. I hant nothing of much importance to write you. That W. E. Setzer and D M Copning [Daniel M. Corpening] is allso well at this time, and most all of the Compney. Onlay a few is sick.

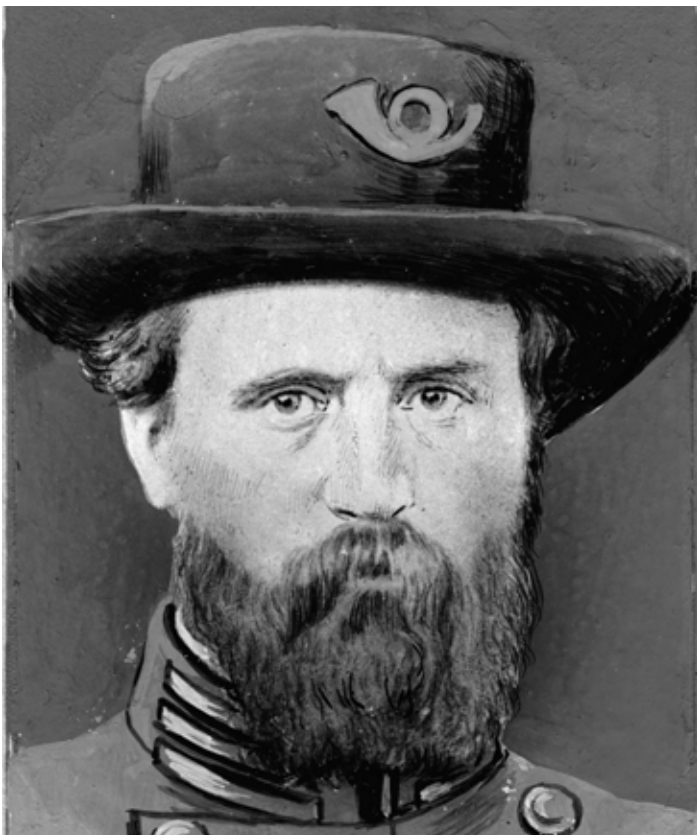
We expect to git throne in a rigment this week if the compney stays to gether that long for hit is the [least] sadis fide that I ever seen. And if we wont John Hollwa [John B. Holloway] for a capton and if we dont git him air [or] N. P. Rankens [Nathaniel Patterson Rankin] dont dew beter, tha is a bout ten of us going to leav and go som wher els. We though we had a good capton [Rankin] but he is the worst out now. He wont go out to drill and wont let non go home hardly and sets and looks as Sour as the devil, and tha hant more than too air three men that would fite for him. Non like him and if had made that he was so bad bfore I gine this compney, I woden a bin her now. I am very well Sadis fide her if we had a capton that was Som body, and if we git in this rigment hit will bee the twenty Six [The 26th N. C. was officially organized two days later on August 27, 1861].

W. A. Setzer, I hav ben in and at meny plases but this is the god dams plase that I ever Seen, som Fuazs [Fusses], som Sings, som gits drunk, som curses, Som plays cards and all Sorts of devil ment that white men couda think of. I will [tell] you wher we air at. We air three miles from town on the railroad that run from Raleigh to Richmond, and the cairs [cars] pass ever day too air three times.

Tell W C Copning [William Crawford Corpening] [that] D M Copaning is fat and sases W E Setzer is fat and Sases and can beet eny body in camp a playing marvil [marbels], and how bad tha wont to com home to see them girls. So no more at this time. Write to mee as soon as you git this if you plese.

T. W. Setzer [Thomas W. Setzer]

W. A. Setzer



NATHANIEL P. RANKIN



JOHN B. HOLLOWAY

[Editor's Note] The 26th Regiment N.C. Troops was officially organized at Camp Crabtree on August 27, 1861. Former U.S. Congressman Zebulon Baird Vance of Buncombe County was chosen colonel, and nineteen-year-old Henry King Burgwyn Jr., a recent student at Virginia Military Institute, became lieutenant colonel. Abner Bynum Carmichael of Wilkes County was chosen major. The "Hibriten Guards" were designated Company F of the new regiment and another Caldwell County company, the "Caldwell Guards," became Company I. On September 2, the regiment left Raleigh for Morehead City and from thence to Bogue Island. An encampment, called "Camp Burgwyn" was established six miles from Fort Macon, probably on the site of the present town of Atlantic Beach. Sometime prior to October 6, another camp called "Camp Wilkes" was founded two miles from Fort Macon.

"I HAV BEN IN AND AT MENY PLASES BUT THIS IS THE GOD DAMS PLASE THAT I EVER SEEN, SOM FUAZS [FUSSES], SOM SINGS, SOM GITS DRUNK, SOM CURSES, SOM PLAYS CARDS AND ALL SORTS OF DEVIL MENT THAT WHITE MEN COUDA THINK OF."

LETTER 5

Bogue island Carteret County N C

October the 14th 1861

Dear father,

I now take the oppertunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hoping when thees few lines come to hand that they will find you ingoying the same state of health. I have nothing of much importance to rite to you. We have movee since you left hear up close to fort Macon. We have had no fight yet but exspecta fight evy shortly. We have provisions cooked to do us three dais. They say they yankees have landed on Shaelete foot island [Shackleford Banks]. I think we will have a fight in a short [while]. I hard that you got home safe. Their is two companys of yankees on the fur end of this island. 1 The bois ar all aneious for a fight. We think we can whip six thousand yankees. The bois sais they can whip five a peace, I think I can whip six my self. Their is tow ships in sight now, and is at the lower end of Shaelete foot. Now if the yankees want to get thinder and trim [illegible word] just let them land hear or at the fort. We will feed them a canon plates and grape and musketry. Tele mother and the reste of the bois that I wante for them to protect tenessee [Tennessee]. So I will bring my leter to a close nothing more at present. Rite to me as soon as you get this leter.

W. E. Setzer to

W. A. Setzer

1. There is no record of any Federal landings on either Bogue Island or Shackleford Banks at this time.

LETTER 6

Camp Burguin Carteret Co

Bogue island Oct the 14th 1861

Der Cozen [William Alphonso Setzer],

I take pleasher to write you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and all of the rest of the boyes is well, and I hope when thees few lines com to hand tha will fine you all ingoying the same blesing. I hant nothing of much importance to write to you at this time, only I would like to see you all won time more be fore

we all went new york. For I can her from up thair that we air all taken prisners, but I rote hit was a ly before I herd, and when you her of us going to new york you may say that tha is a meny sand fidders hole stop up with the yankes. The yankes is a landing on this island, so tha say. Tha is ship in sight ever day and some times tha is as high five or six in sight at wonst and we spect a fight ever day.

The yankees firde [fired] on a ingland [England] ship won day last wek. We dont now whether tha don eny damage or not. We couda her the cannon roar and ex pect ted a fight. Then tha had us to rud up our gun and giv us tenn rounds of catteredds, and you never seen boyes so iger to get in a fight as we was.

Tha had a larm [alarm] up her in camp last night, and had us to cook a nuf to doo us three days to go and fite the yankees that had landed on this island a belo new bern. Whitch was a fault but tha was som of Camels Rigmint [The 7th Regiment N.C. State Troops, under Colonel Reuben Campbell, was also stationed on Bogue Banks] went, but we hant herd what tha don.

Tha was a yankees ship got to the shore wher tha was men fishing on this island, and tha taken the yankees ship and all, and then tha giv the ship up to them and let them go. The yankees giv them knife and hand cuffs to kitch niggerse for them, and tha was found out and taken up and put in the fort to thump thunder at five sence a clap.

We hav move from wher we was when you was down her. We hav move in a mile and a half of the fort, but I dont know how long we will stop her. Som sais that we will leav her in too weeks, but tha is so meny tales a go ing that I dont now the truth when I her hit.

I and G. L. Powell [George L. Powell] went over to buford [Beaufort] the other day and gorge [George] got tite, and he was the funnis feler I hav ever seen. We hav plenty to eat but not much to drink but som times we git a nuf to get tite.

G. L. Powell and W.W. Cannon [Wesley W. Cannon] is our cooks and tha doo fine. Tell Eliza [Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer] and all the rest howdy for me and allso howdy your self. So nomore at this time onley remain you Cozin un till dith.

T. W. Setzer

W. A. Setzer

LETTER 7

[Date not known – estimated to be November 4, 1861]

Bouge island Carteret County NC

Dear father and mother, brothers and Sisters,



GEORGE L. POWELL

I now take the opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time, hoping when these few lines come to hand that they will find you enjoying the same state of health. I have nothing of much importance to write to you, only we have 81 Yankee prisoners. We got them yesterday. They got shipwrecked night before last about 16 miles up this island. Their vessel ran ashore and broke all to pieces. The Yankees got out on land. They had sixty-four horses on board of their vessel. They all got drowned [drowned] but twenty-four. We got them and lots of other valuable property. The ship is not worth anything. The engine is good [good]. They said they had started to Hatteras [Fort Hatteras] and got washed ashore. The poor fellows gave up like courtesans. We had to double back about four miles. They said they had no arms, but two cannons but I now it is not so. They are from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Pennsylvania. We are going to send them to Raleigh for safe keeping. They said they started from Fort Monroe in a fleet of 72 vessels and they got lost from the rest. They said they were going to attack this place yesterday or today. We had a hard storm last Friday night.

We were anxious for a fight but they gave up. We are all well. I want you to write to me as soon as you get this letter, for I like to hear from home. I don't think I shall come home till my time out. We can only get a seven-day furlow. Tell all of my friends howdy for me. I am well satisfied here. So nothing more at present but your affectional son.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

There were two negroes with them worth a thousand dollars apiece

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

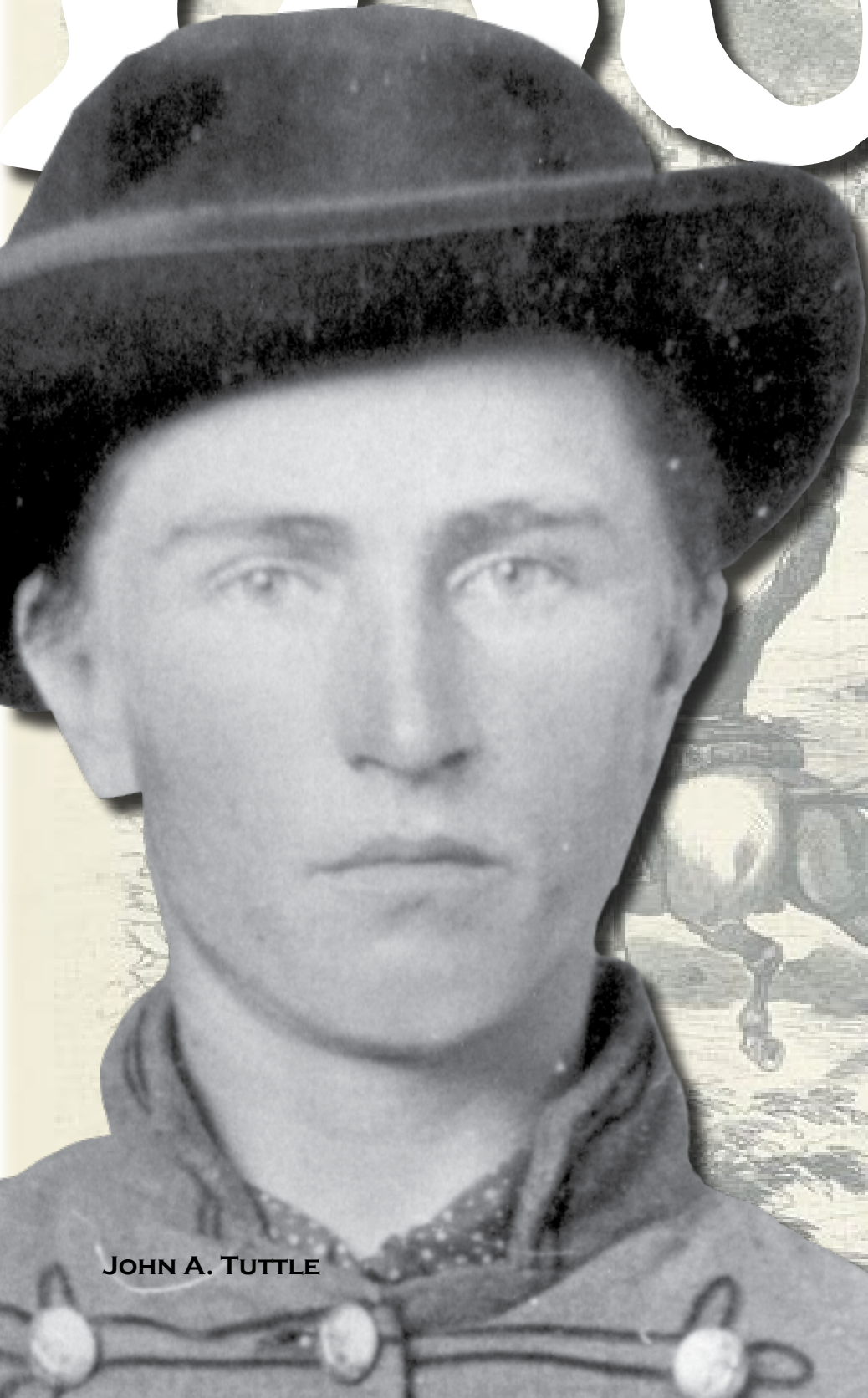
1. The Federal steamer *U.S.S. Union* grounded on Bogue Banks about November 3. Companies F, H and K helped to salvage the wreckage.

[Editor's Note] In late November 1861, the 26th North Carolina moved back to the mainland at Carolina City, near Morehead City, and established winter quarters at a place called "Camp Vance."

"I AND G. L. POWELL [GEORGE L. POWELL] WENT OVER TO BUFORD [BEAUFORT] THE OTHER DAY AND GORGE [GEORGE] GOT TITE, AND HE WAS THE FUNNIS FELER I HAV EVER SEEN."

1862

“S”



JOHN A. TUTTLE

Not all to Peases"

LETTER 8

Camp Vance Januar the 12th 1862

Dear Father and Mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now seat my Self to Rite you a few lines to let you no that I am well at this time, hoping when theas few lines come to hand that they will find you injoying the Same State of health.

I received yourn and harriet leter the other day and was glad to hear from you, and to hear that you was well. I got that box you sent by John Tuttle. I was glad to get them. We have moved in our houses. We have got them finished. I was glad to get in them for I was tired of staing in tents. We have a good house to Stay in and plenty to eat, play the fidle and dance and So on.

I think I Shall come home about february. I wood com Sooner but we received order yesterday for not to furlow no body else tell further orders. They ar expecting a fight at Newbern. they Sent to our Regiment for all the extra guns their was. To [two] Regments went to Newbern the other day. Their is Severn Steamers their. I expect that they will have a fight their in a few days.

I will be at home as Soon as I can get a furlow. I cant tell the very time I can come before. It is just as it hapens wether you can get a furlow.

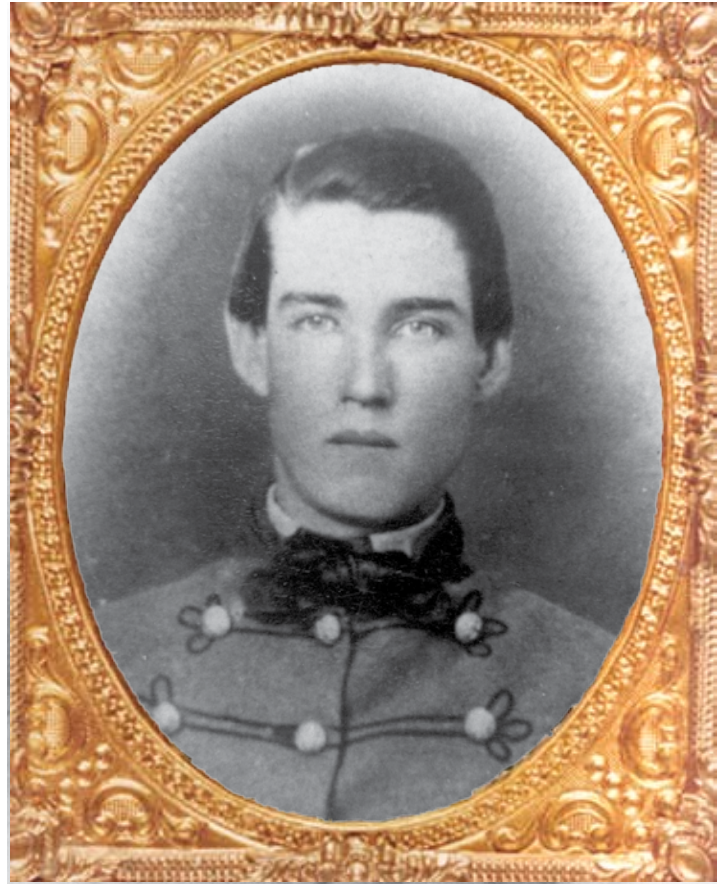
The bois all well. We have had no cold wether hear yet. Their was a Ship recked Close to the fort [Fort Macon]. Ite was recked the other day. I have nothing of importance to Rit. Their has ben Sever Storms on the [illegible word] this fall.

Their was four fish caut the other day between the for and bofort [Beaufort] on the Sound that weighed a thousand lbs a peace. They calde them the black fish. The largest one was 17 feet long, the smallest one was twelve feet long. you rote to me for to get you Some [illegible word] Sheles but I cant get them unles I go twenty five or thirty miles from hear. I have got Some Small Shells that I will bring home when I come. I will haft Stop Riting for the keep So much [illegible word], no man Rite. Some Singing, Some hollering, Some pestering a body. So nothing more at present but Remains your affectionate Son until Death.

W. E. Setzer



ZEBULON B. VANCE



HENRY C. COURTNEY

LETTER 9

North Carolina Carterete Co

Camp Vance

January the 13 1862

Dear Cozen [William Alphonso Setzer],

After my beste respects to you I can informe you that I am well at this time, and hoping when thees few lines Com to your hand tha may fine you and famly well and ingoying the grates plesher that is a loude for folks to ingoy.

I recive your leter the other day, and was glad to her from you, but hit was a longue time before hit Com. we hav got in our houses donn, and move in them. Tha air a range. So tha make a fore Squair pen, and all inside is as Cleen and won of the purtes plases that you ever Seen. Hit is in a pine grove of longe leaf.

You ought to Com down and See this plase. You and father [William A. "Billy" Setzer] and uncle daniel [Daniel Crump] Com down and see us. And the Curoosity is to be Seen her, and Stay too or three weeks with us. I now you could Com if you would.

We haute had eny fite it, but I cante tell how Soon we may hav won. Tha air a mity talk of a fite at new bern. Tha is twenty yankee Ship at the mouth of nuce [Neuse] river, and tha Say tha air a going to attack new bern in a few days. 1 Tha is seven or eigh thousand of our men at new bern, and more Coming, an if tha doo hav a fite, I donte think we will be in hit for this reasons; tha will leav us to defende the forte. I expect when you her from us a gain, you will her of a big fite Som wher a boute her, all tho hit may not bee.

Tha has another Ship run a Shore between wher the other won was and the forte. Som Say hit is a inglish [English] Ship, and som Say hit is a yankee Ship, and So I Cante tell you what hit is, but I hope hit is a yankee Ship.

The Col [Colonel Zebulon Baird Vance] has Stop given furlows for a while, and for my Self and Eli [William Eli Setzer] to Com I Cante tell you when we Can get to Com home. But if we Can git a furlow we well Com Som time this winter or Spring Some time to See you all won time more, and if we donte when our time is oute you may liik for us then if we air a live. W. E. Stezer, D. M. Courpen, J. A. Tuttle, W. W. Cannon, H. C. Courtney [Henry Clay Courtney], G. L. Powell, and all the reste of the boyes is well at this time. Tell my folks that I am well. So nomore at this time, onley I wante you to write to mee as Soon as you git this leter, and donte lete hit bee as longue as hit was before. So nomore at this time, only I Remain your Cozen untill deth.

Thomas W. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

1. This flotilla was the Burnside Expedition, which attacked and captured Roanoke Island in February 1862 prior to the assault on New Bern in mid-March.

[Editor's Note] The Regiment abandoned its newly constructed winter quarters on January 26, 1862, and moved to "Camp Branch", within four miles of New Bern.

LETTER 10

North Carolina Cravan County

Febreuy the 9th 1862

Dear father and Mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now take the oppertunity of riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope when theas few lines come to your hand that they will find you injoying the Same State of health.

I received you kind leter dated the 30 and was glad to hear from you. We have moved from Camp Vance up close to Newborn on the Nuse river. We ar working on the river evry day a making brest works and lakies. Thers three or four forts on the river.

We had a general review yesterday at Newborn. Their was Six Regments their. [Gen. Lawrence O'Bryan Branch's command consisted of the 7th N.C.S.T., 26th N. C., 27th N. C., 33rd N. C., 35th N. C. and 37th N. C.]

I WILL HAFT STOP RITING FOR THE KEEP SO MUCH [ILLEGIBLE WORD], NO MAN RITE. SOME SINGING, SOME HOLLERING, SOME PESTERING A BODY.

You rote to that you wanted to now something about Milos Edmiston [Milas Edmisten]. You said that he come home a told that we was the worst set of bois he ever saw. The reason he got mad no body woud pay any attention to him. The reason he left so soon is this: we got orders to cook three days rations. We was expecting a fight at Newborn, and he got scard and leFort He will get a whiping if he dont mind how he talks. He is the biggest courd in the Southern Confedracy. He never don any thing to be put in the gard house. Hary cook [Harry Cook] is as good as Milos. I will stop riting now about the rascal.

You rote that you wanted me to come home about the fifteenth of this month, but we dont get a furlow, but I Shall be at home when my time is. They ar a going to try to get Some regulars out this regment. If they can get four hunder Regulars they will be at home the first of April. I think perhaps I Shall join the regulars. If I do I will be at home Shortly. 1

Tele Harriet that I received her leter yesterday morning. I will stop riting now. Give my beste respects to lum [Daniel Columbus Setzer] and rom [Romulus Monroe Setzer] and Elizabethe [Jane Elizabeth Setzer] and Albert [Albert G. Setzer]. We dreu twent two Dollars yesterday and I will Send you five. I wood Send you more, but I am a fraid it wood no get their. Granny [Jane Holloway Setzer] and granfather [Daniel Setzer] that I am well.

W. E. Setzer

1. Eli refers to the fact that the 26th North Carolina was a volunteer regiment for twelve months service, and that the men fully expected to be discharged after their term of service. The Confederate Congress passed a bill in March 1862 that extended the service time of all such units for the duration of the war.

[Editor's Note] On March 14, 1862, the 26th Regiment North Carolina "saw the elephant" at the Battle of New Bern. The regiment anchored the Confederate right. However, it became imperiled when a militia force on its left fled from its position in a brickyard, leaving the men cut off from New Bern and with an unfordable creek in their rear. The regiment escaped the trap by means of a few small boats and the heroic efforts of Lieutenant Colonel Harry Burgwyn, and retreated to Kinston.

LETTER 11

Northe Carolina Lenoir County

March the 21st 1862

Dear father and mother, brothers and Sisters,

I this morning take the oppertunity of riting you a few lines to let you now that I am an the land of the living yet.

The yankes havent got any of us yet but come very near it. They have taken ar kild two men out of our company [Nathan Bradshaw and Richard Upchurch]. We lost Some 95 men out of our regiment. I wood a ben at home last thursday but we received order that the fleet was coming up the river, and we coudent get off.

Thursday we was orderd to our brest work. We staid their a while and then we was orderd to Croatany six miles from the Brick yard. We staid about one hour and then we was orderd back to our entrech ments. The yankes wer a landing above Croatany.

We got back to our entrench ments. Their we staid all day and night. Soon a [illegible word] morning the enemy was in about a mile of us. We wer ready for them. At 8 o clock the firing comensed, and continud three hour and a half. The Malishia [militia] was stationd close to the Brick yard. Our regiment was on the rite of them. The enemy flanked us on the rail road. They Malishia run and the come rite throuy. They yankes got in thee rear of us and we was bound to retreat. If we could had men that wooda fought their at the Brick yard, we wood a whiped them. We repulsed them two times. Their forcus was from twenty to forty thousand, ours was from four to five thousand. 1

We dont no how many men we lost, but some say that we had kild and wonded about two hundred, and about two thousand of the Yankees, but I think we kild moree than that.

The enemy didnt come a near the rite wing of our regiment. The four left companes fierd some twenty rounds. Part of our company fierd about ten times. The yankes got evry thing we had – all our clothing. We havent got a thing, only what we have got on. Rom Tuttle [Romulus Morrison Tuttle] is a coming home. I want you to send me some close and a quilt. I dont no when I will be at home. We ar stationd at Kingston [Kinston]. We ar expecting a fight evry moment. We ar ready for the blasted thing again. They had some fifty or Sixty gun boats. Let them come out from the cost [coast], and we will [illegible word] them. They may over pour us, but they cant scar us.

I will bring my letter to a close. So no mo, But remains your affectionate son. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

dont no when i shall be at home

1. Burnside led approximately 11,000 men, the North Carolina troops numbered about 4,000. Federal casualties were 471, Confederate 578. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, [page number]. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, [page number].

[Editor's Note] From mid-March until mid-June 1862 the 26th North Carolina served in the vicinity of Kinston. On March 15 it was assigned to a brigade commanded by Brigadier General Robert Ransom, which eventually comprised the 24th, 25th, 26th, 48th, and 49th Regiments N.C. Troops

LETTER 12

Camp Near Kinston

April the 19 1862

Mr. Setzer [William Alphonso Setzer]

Sir, I can inform you that I am wel at this time, hoping theas few lines may find you wel. I hav nothing to write. We hav not had any fite yet. Eli [William Eli Setzer] is well. I, dan [Daniel M. Corpening] and Powell [George L. Powell] is also well, and all the rest I believe. Sir, I send you your money by John Ballew, which is 50 dollars. Do with it as I told you to do. Dan also sends 20 dollars which he wants you to give to father [William Crawford Corpening]. So no more, as I hav not got time to write any more write to me Soon.

W. W. Cannon [Wesley W. Cannon]

to W. A. Setzer

LETTER 13

North Carolina Lenoir County

April the 20th 1862

Dear father and Mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now take the oppertunity of riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope when theas few lines come to hand that they will



ROMULUS M. TUTTLE

find you injoying the Same State of health.

I have nothing of much importance to rite at this time, only I wood be glad to See you all. I can not tell when I will be at home. I have reinlisted and drew my bounty.

We ar expecting a fight hear. I have bin on picket and have just got back. The yankes ar advancing. They ar Some fifteen miles from Newborn.

We have fine weather and have had for the last month. It has bin very hot hear for the las week. I got them boxes from Kinston that day the Recruits have got heir. Some of them ar well Satisfied and some er not.

We have moved Since you was heir, About a half a mile. Tell mother that my close Suted me very well. Tell the bois that I wood like to See them. I will haft to stop Riting now. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter. So no more at present But Remains your affectionate Son until death.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

LETTER 14

North Carolina Lenoir County

April the 20th 1862

Dear Sister [Harriett R. Setzer],

I now Rite you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope when thes few lines come to hand that they will find you injoying the Same State of health.

I Received your kind leter and was glad to hear from you, that you was well. You have Rote to me in evry [letter] that you have rote me in four ar five months that you have Some thing to tell me. I am very ancious to now what it is. If it is any thing good, I want to now it, and if it is any thing bad I want to now it. I want you to rite to me as Soon as you get this leter and let me now what it is, for I am always ancious to hear Something. I will Stop riting now. Rite to me evry chance. When this you See, Remember me thoug many miles apart we may be.

W. E. Setzer to H. R. Setzer

“I EXPET TO STAY IN THIS WAR TELE IT EANEDS. IF I DIE IN THIS WAR, I WUNT TO DIE IN DEFENCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.”

LETTER 15

“Partial Letter”

North Carolina Lenoir County

April the 20th 1862

Thomas [Davenport] Setzer to Elisabeth [Arney] Setzer,

Dear wife,

I now rite you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope theas few lines may find you well. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter, and let me now how you and the children [They were the parents of ten children, with the youngest being eleven months old at the time of this letter.] is a geting along. If you nead Any mony rite to mee as Soon as you can, and I will try and Send it to you. I got you a leter rote yesterday, but I dont no whether you can read it ar not. I am well and well Satisfied hear. I have nothing much to rite at this [time]. So no more at present, but remains your affectionate husband until death. Hand this to my wife I will direct my leters to Lenoir all of them.

LETTER 16

North Carolina Lenoir County

May the 2nd 1862

Dear father and mother, brother and Sisters,

I now take the oppertunity of riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope when theas few lines come to hand that they will find you ingoying the Same State of health.

I have nothing of much to rite at this time, only I wood be glad to See you all. I was sorow to hear that you had hurt your Self.

Uncle Tom [Thomas Davenport Setzer] is not well, he has got a bad cold. Neal Crump [Henry Cornelius Crump] and Bill Bean [William W. Bean] has got the measles. The rest of the Bois ar all well, and well Satisfied

You wanted to no wether their was any chance for me to come home or not. Their isent any chance for to come home now. The second Brigade is orderd to york town [Yorktown], and we may be orderd to Some place before long. We have had Severl pickets fite Since you left hear. Our pickets taken three men prisoners yester-

day. It is Supposed that the yankes will attack Wilmington in a short time. If they do we will be orderd their.

I got them Boxes to the camp that day, and all the close that was in them. Me and uncle Tom and Joseph Winkler [William Joseph Winkler] and Mat Crump [James Madison Crump] and tom Crump [Thomas Crump] and Neal Crump and Bill Bean and John Kincaid and Elisha Sherill and Lum Tuttle [Columbus A. Tuttle] tents to gether. We have a jolly time to gether. I have bout me a fiddle, But the worst of it is that I cant play.

I wood have Sent my money home, But I lond [loaned] Bill Gather [William Wiley Gaither] forty Dol-lars the other day. I want you to tell mother to try and rite me a leter, for she has not rote me a leter Since we Ben in Camp, and tele uncle Joseph Corpening to Rite to me, for I havent herd from him Since he was on the island. Tele him tha I wood be very glad to hear from him. I wood like to come home to See you ale. Tele all of the girls that I wood be glad to See them, but you See how it is. It is hard times now, but were a Coming. Tele Harriett to Speak a good word to the girls. Tell I come home, tele grandfather [Daniel Setzer] and grandmother [Jane Holloway Setzer] that I am well. Tell give gran mam best respects. I havent herd from her Since I left home. I want you to rite to me as Soon as you get this leter. So no more at present, but remains your affectionate Son until Death.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

[The following was a part of this letter]

T. D. Setzer [Thomas Davenport Setzer] to W. A. Setzer. I now rite you a few lines to tel you now that I am not well at this time. When you go to lenoir after paper get the leters for my wife [Elizabeth Arney Setzer]. So no more at present. Rite to me as Soon as you this leter. To W. A. Setzer

PS I saw Eli townsend [Eli Townsell] this morning and he requested me to tender to you and family his kind regards. He Says he wood like to receive a leter from you and will answer it with pleasure. He is a member of the 19th Cavelry Reg. State troops [19th Regiment N.C. Troops was also known as the 2nd Regiment N. C. Cavalry]. He is fat and full of fun as ever. So no more at present But Remains your affectionate friend until Death

W. E. Setzer

“TELL THE GIRLS NOT TO FANCY D. M. C. TOO MUTCH UNTIL MY SELF AND ELI COM HOME, FOR THA NEVER SEEN GOOD LOOKEN MEN UNTILL THA SEE US. TELL THEM THAT IS RUTHER A BRAGING, BUT I CANTE HELPE HIT.”

LETTER 17

North Carolina Lenoir Co

Campe Macgruder

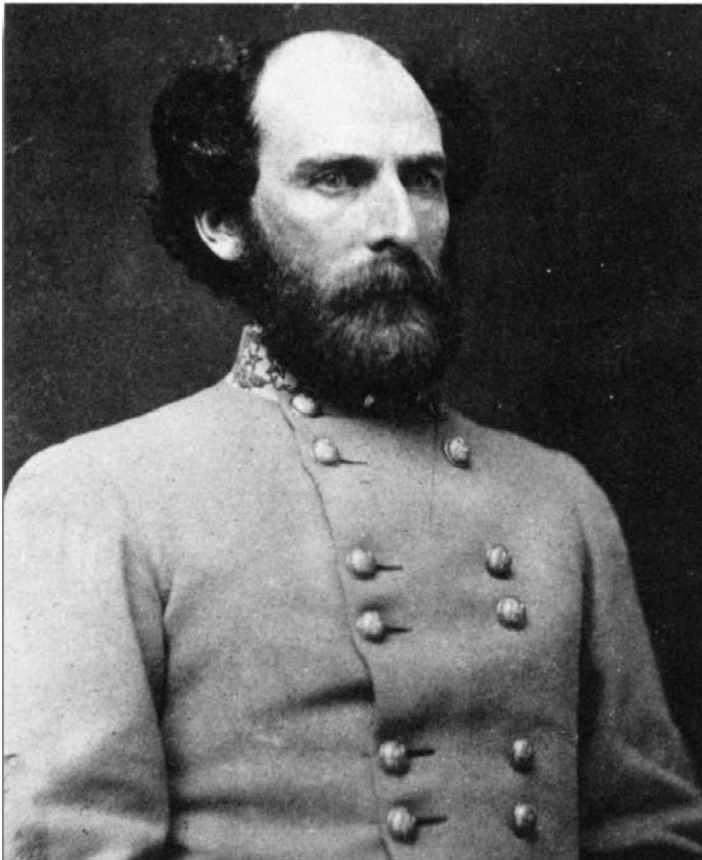
May 17th 1862

Dear Cousen,

I the plesher of writing a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and truly hoping when thees few lines Com to your hand tha may fine you and famley in good helth.

I receive you leter Som week a go and was glad to her from you and to her that you and Tom [unable to identify this person] got safe and found all well. I hav nothing grate to write to you at this time onley I would be glad to See you and all the famley. The fite that you thought would Com off So Soon when you was down her hante now nire [no nearer] than when you was her. Moste all the men has lefte her and gon to ritchmond. Tha hante nun her but our brigade and I exspect hit will leav too.

Our pickets and them hav a fite ever now and then. Col. Z. B. Vance has got his Cominstion to make up a leageon [Zeb Vance unsuccessfully attempted to raise a "Legion" in the spring of 1862] and take our Rig [Regiment] with him and if he does that we will get oute from under olde Ranssom [Robert Ransom], cond found him.



GEN. ROBERT RANSOM

Tha is a heape of sickness her in Campe now. Tha has bin three of our boys dide this week and a grate meny more Sick. Leander Brown, H. C. Kincaid [Henry C. Kincaid], Hary Cook has dide this week and I think tha a boute forty of our Compney Sick now. Brother Tomas [Thomas Davenport Setzer] is very low but not as bad off as Som of the reste of the boys. Eli, G. L. Powell, J. A. Tuttle is well at this time.

We hav move Sence you was down her. We air Camped in Site of Kinston, and I will tell you wher I am now. I am at the raile road bridg below Kinston a guarding hit. Write to mee Soon if you plesse. So nomore at this time only I remain your absence Cousen untill deth.

From T. W. Setzer
to W. A. Setzer

LETTER 18

Camp McGruder Near Kinston

May the 31st 1862

Dear Father and Mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now take the pleasure of riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines may find you ingoying the Same State of health.

I have nothing of much importance to rite at this time, only I wood like to see you and the rest of the neighbors. I received your letter the 28 of this month, which gave me much joy to hear from you all and to hear that you was well.

You wanted to Something about uncle tom [Thomas Davenport Setzer]. I saw him the day before he died. He never talked to me any a tall, he was so weak that he coudent talk. He told me about a week before he died that he was a going to die. I Saw him Saturday and Sunday before he Died and I thought then that he wood die. I ast for a furlow for him, but could not get any. He wanted to come home very bad, but he dident say any thing about his property or folks.

I have no mor nuse to rite at this time, only the yankes is supposed to be faling back from Richmond. I think we will go to Richmond in a few days. I wood like to go their. General Jackson [Stonewall Jackson] is cuting his way through the North Western part of Virginia. We have no nuse from Corinth in Mississippi.

The rest of the Bois is all well. Mat Crump and tom [Crump] and Neal [Crump] is, and tom Setzer is all well and well Satisfied. Thomas Setzer is trying to hire a Substitute. I wood like to come home to See you all, but their is no chance. I could get to come home and Stay about a month, and then I wood haft to go to Some other company and come in as a conscript, and before I do that I will always Stay in the army.

I expet to Stay in this war tele it eaneds. If I die in this war, I wunt to die in defence of the Confederate States. I will haft to Stop riting now for the want of time. Their is not as much sickness in the Regment as their was a while back. Give my respects to all the neighbors. I want you to rite to me as Soon as you get this leter, for I am always ancious to hear from you. So no more at present, but Remains your affectionate Son until Death. Rite Soon.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer



HENRY K. BURGWYN, JR.



JOHN R. LANE

LETTER 19

Camp Mcgruder near Kinston

June the 14th 1862

Dear father and mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now take the oppertunity of Riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines may find you ingoying the Same State of health.

I have nothing of much importance to Rite at this time. I wood be glad to See you all. I Received you leter the 13th of this, which gave me much Sattisfaction to hear from you, and to her that you was well.

We ar Staing at the Rail Road Bridge across the River. We have ben hear a week. We ar going to leave heer to morrow. Our Regiment has mouved Since we have ben an picket Some eight miles above Kinston. We have not gone to Richmond yet. I dont think we will go Shortly.

It is thought that Burnside [Ambrose Burnside] wood attack heer they attack Richmond. let him come, we will meat him on the half way ground.

You Rote to me that you had a box for me and Tom. I woo be glad to get it. We haft to cold bacon and bread to eat tele I am geting tired of it. The bois is generally well. Their is Some Sick in our company.

The river has ben up very hie for the last week. It has spoilt lots of corn. The corn crops look fine. Their is Some of the best oits hear that I ever Saw. The folk is going over their corn the third time. Their is field that contains bout 75 achers of land. The corn all over the field is as high as a mans head.

Their may be Some chance for me to come hom after while. I was sory to hear that your wheat was So bad. I wood like to come home to help you cut your wheat and help to thresh it. I will haft to stop Riting. I want you to Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter. Mat [Crump] and tom Send their best respecte to you. Mat says you must Rite to him. I dont think their is any prospect of a fight hear. I want you to Send that box and I want you to Rite Soon and direct your leter to Mosley Hall. [Modern-day La Grange, North Carolina]. So no more at present, But Remains you affectionate Son until Death.

W. E. Setzer

LETTER 20

Campe Johnson

June 17 1862

Dear Cousen,

I wonts more Seat my Self to drop you a few lines to let you now that I recive those few lines you Sente mee, and was glad to her from you and to her that you all was well and doing well. I am well at this time and truly hoping when these few lines Com to your hand tha may fine you all well and doing well.

I hav nothing of eny grate intrust to write to you at this time, only I would like to Com home and See you all, but I Cante tell you when I will get to Com home, but I hope before long, for I wante to See the folks of Caldwell moste as had as I ever wanted to See eny Body, and Speshly the girls on lore Creek [Lower Creek is a small stream in western Caldwell County that empties into John's River near the Caldwell County and Burke County line.]. But whether I well ever See eny of them, or I Cante tell, but I hope I will return home Soon and See Mizz Ramson [It is thought that Tom is referring to Harriet R. Setzer] and those other girls that is on lore Creek. I think if my Self and Eli [William Eli Setzer] was their with them we Couda had Som fun with them. D. M. C. [Daniel M. Corpening] wris that hee has lots of fun with them, and I think if hee Can hav fun a most eny body els Couda hav Som fun too. But not braging on my Self all to gether, but my Self and friends. Tell the girls not to fancy D. M. C. too mutch until my Self and Eli Com home, for tha never Seen good looken men untill tha See us. Tell them that is ruther a braging, but I cante helpe hit.

But I donte ceair So mutch a bout Coming home now as I did a while back a bout too monts a go. I wanted to Com home very bad, but I am purty well Sadisfide now.

We eas oute on picket laste week and got acquainted with Som of the girls down her. We hante had eny

fite her, and now [no] hope of won. All things air Still all around her now and has bin for Som time, all tho you thought we wouda hav a fite her Soon when you was down her.

We hav lefte Kinston and all the brigade hav noved up the rail road nine miles towards gates borough [Goldsboro]. Tha air Som fore a five Rig [regiments] her, and Can her all ther drums beat from our Campe. The Camping is in beter helth now than hit has bin in too monts before. Tha hante but fore or five men in the horse pitle. I Cant tell wher we will go the nesc time, but I think we will keep Coming up the cuntry until we git home.

So direct you leter mosley hall to Lenoir Co, 26 Rig, Co F. [26th Regiment N. C. Troops, Company F] Tell all the girls and friends howdy for mee. So write Soon if you plese and let mee her from. You as now more at this time, onley I remain your absence Cousen until deth from.

Thomas W. Setzer to

W. A. Setzer

[Editor's Note] On June 19, 1862, the 26th North Carolina and the remainder of Ransom's Brigade entrained for Petersburg, arriving on June 21. On June 24 the brigade was ordered to Richmond, where it joined Major General Benjamin Huger's Division on the Williamsburg Road. It was now part of the Army of Northern Virginia. The 26th North Carolina was under fire on several occasions during the last days of June.

LETTER 21

Camp Near Richmond

June the 28th 1862

Dear father and mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now take the pleasure of Riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the Same State of health.

I have no nuse to Rite to you. We have moved since I Rote to you before. We ar staying in about four miles from Richmond. Our Brigade is on Picket now. We have had Some very hard Skermish fights Since we hav ben heer. Their was severl kild and wonded in our Regiment, but non in our compney. We was on picket yesterday. We wer in one hundred yards of the yankes all day yesterday. I am perty surtain that I kild a yankey. They ar skirmish fighting a going on now. I will haft to stop Riting now for the want of time. I want you to Rite to me as Soon as you git this leter and Direct your leter to Richmond va in the care of Colonel Vance, Comp F 26 Reg NC troops.

I think their will Be a larg fight hear in a day ar too. Their is Something about two hundred thousand men heer and more a coming evry day.

W. E. Setzer

[Editor's Note] On July 1, 1862, the 26th North Carolina participated in General Robert E. Lee's ill-conceived attack on Malvern Hill, sustaining sixty-three casualties, including ten men killed or mortally wounded in action. The Regiment moved to an encampment at Drewry's Bluff, on the James River below Richmond, on July 7.

LETTER 23

Camp Near Drury Bluff

July the 16th 1862

Dear father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now take the pleasure of Riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the Same Blesing.

I have nothing of much importance to Rite to you at this time. We have had a very hard time Since we come to Virginia till now. We have got our tents. We ar camped in a half a mile of Drures Bluff, sevn miles from Richmond.

We have had some very hard fiting to do Since we come heer. Las Tuesday was a weak a go we was in a very hard fite [Malvern Hill]. Their was lots of our men kild. I think the yankey los was greater than ours. Yhey faut a long time. Horses any a mount was kild. I went over the Battle field the next day. It was a terable Sight to see. Mens arms and legs and head shot of they wer a lying on won another. Some was Shot all to peases with canon Balls. The horses was ling thick.

Their was forty five in our Reg kild and wonded. James Bradford was Shot through the thumb. Wade fileps [Wade E. Phillips] was Shot through the thigh. Mat Crump was Shot a little, But it is well long a go. Their was severl others in the companes said they was wonded by a Spent Shell. They haven't got me yet, But they come mity near it. I think I put an end to Some of the Scoundrels.

We had to March about five days through the heat and dust. The dirt in the roads was from four to five inches deep, and but little to eat. I think we will stay hear a while. We have lots of work to do in making Brest works.

Tom and J. A. Tuttle and George Powell is well. The Soldiers in our Regment is generally well. We hav Routed the yankes from about Richmond. The opinion of our officers is that Mac Clellen [George B. McClellan] will come up the River and attack us, and land scater and come in to Richmond an the [illegible words].

I Saw L. W. Copening [Lawson W. Corpening] yesterday, he was well and harty. I see some ot the Ruff an Ready Bois [Company A, 22nd N. C.] evr day. Lawson seys he wood like to be at home to fly round the girls. I wood like to be their my self a while. Give all the girls and neighbors all my bes Respects. Tell them I am as harty and healthy es I ever was. Lawson Sends his respects to you and would be glad to get a leter from you.

You art to a saw the old twenty six Stand up to the yanke Scoundrels. I want you to Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter, and give me all the nuse, for I am ancious to heer from you, and how the folk is a giting a long. So no more But Remain you affectionate Son until Death.

I will Send you five Dollars in this leter. Bill Gather [William Wiley Gaither] paid me ten Dollars the other Day.

W. E. Setzer to W. A. Setzer

procter Creek

Direct your leter to procter Creek, Near Richmond in the care of Col Vance, 26 Reg NC troops. Rite Soon.

W. E. Setzer W. A. S.

LETTER 23

Camp Near Drures Bluff

July the 27 1862

Dear father and Mother and Brothers,

I now take the pleasure of Riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time. I hope theas few lines may find you well.

I havent much to Rite to you at this time. I sente you a leter about too week a go and sent you five Dol-lars in it. I will Send you forty Dollars by Mr. Moode [Robert F. Moody]. he is heir, he is going to preach to day at ten a clock.

Ther is not much talk of any fiting hear now. The yankes is still under cover of their Boats an James River. They have received large Reinforcements for the las tow weeks.

Ther is no prospect of peace in virginia. The way the pepol think peace will be mad is to whip the yan-key Scoundrels. I tell you I kild Some of them in this fight. I think I laid a few in the Shaid. I am very Surtain I did.

I want you to Rite to me as soon as you get this leter. So no more at present, But Remains you affection-

ate Son, an Direct your leter to proctres Creek. Rite son [soon].

I will not send that money. I have lont it to I N. Copening [Isaac N. Corpening] to day, and has got his note and good [illegible word].

W. E. Setzer

[Editor's Note] On July 29th the 26th North Carolina moved from Drewry's Bluff to Petersburg.

LETTER 24

va Camp Near Petersburg

Aug the 8th 1862

Dear father and Mother, brothers and Sisters,

I now take the pleasure of riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope theas few lines may find you enjoying the Same State of health.

I have nothing of much importance to rite at this time. We have had some very hard marches Since I Rote to you. We ar camped a bout a mile from Petersburg on the South Side. I recived your leter yesterday, and was very glad to hear from you all. I begin to think that you had quit riting to me.

Their has ben Some very heavy canonading on the River this week. I dont think their will be much fiting done hear before October. I think the yankes is preparing to try Richmond. We planted one hunderd and fifty [illegible word] peaces with four Seige guns on the River to fire in the trans ports. They came up the night after we got them fixed, their transports came up and we let loos on them, and I tell you their was husling. It is thought that they Sunk a couple.

The Bois is all well. I wood like to come home how to eat aples and peaches. We haft to eat crackers and fat meat, it is a hard way of serving the Lord.

John Tuttle is in the hospital. He has got the mumps. I wood like to have Some clothes, a pair of pant-loons and a Shirt. You can Send them By Sombody that is pasing. Crops is the Best kind hear, their is the Best Wheat hear that I ever Saw. Their is mity hot wether hear.

I have Rote you about all the nuse that we have in camp. This makes the third leter that I have Rote to you, and have reseived But one. Give my best Respects to all the neighbors. Tell Harriet to try and Rite to me. If you have no paper I can Send you Some, we have plenty. I will Stop Riting now. So no more, But Remain your affectionate Son.

W. E. Setzer

Direct your letter to Petersburg va

LETTER 25

Va Camp Near Petersburg

Aug the 18th 1862

Dear father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines may find you ingoing the Same health.

I have nothing much much to Rite at this time. I Reseived your letter and was glad to hear from you, and to hear that you was all well. Ther is lots of Sickneys in our camp now. Ther is not many in our company that is sick. Matt Crump is perty Bad off. He is in the hospital at Petersburg.

Colonel Vance left us yestersday morning. He didnt like to leave much. He said he wood do them more good as govoner than he wood if he was Colonel. He made as a very good Speach the nite Before he leFort Lt. Colonerl Burguin [Henry King Burgwyn, Jr.] is our Colonel. Capt Steal [John J. C. Steele] is our Lutenant colonel and Capt Lane [John Randolph Lane] is our Major. Major Kennel [James S. Kendell] has Resind and gone home.

Their is the Best wheat and corn crop hear that I ever saw. I was Sory to hear that corn and wheat was So Bad on loor Creek.

Their is a talk of Brigade leaving hear. If we do go I dont no wheir we will go. I think if we leave hear we will go to Jacksons [Stonewall Jackson] Army. McClellan [George B. McClellan] is withdraing his forces from the River. It is thought that he will Reinforce pope [John Pope] in the valey of virginia. I dont think their well be much fiting done hear Before October.

We ar working evry Day and Sunday too making Brest works and Rifle pits. Tell Harriet that I well Rite her a letter in a few days. I will Send you Some money the first chance. You can do as you think Best. You can loan it to Some one, or By a mule or too. H. C. Courtney has got Back he is well and well Satisfied.

We hafte to eat meat and old bread. Chickens Sells at two Dollars a piece, watermellons at two and three Dollar a peace. You cant get nothing at any reasonable prise. H. C. [Henry Clay Courtney] Says the girls is fat and Sasy. I think this war will end Before long and then I can ingoy some happy hours with Some of them. Give my Respects to all the neighbors. I will Bring my letter to a close. Rite to me as Soon as you get this letter. So no more But Remains your affectionate Son. Tell John Kelly [John Kelly Setzer] that I am coming home Some of theas times to whip him. For I now he is a mean Boy and I now he cant fite.

W. E. Setzer

Direct your letter Petersburg

[Editor's Note] The 26th North Carolina moved frequently within the Richmond-Petersburg area in August and early September 1862 before establishing permanent quarters at Camp French, near Petersburg. Colonel Zebulon Baird Vance had been elected governor of North Carolina on August 7, and departed for Raleigh in mid-August. The brigade commander, General Robert B. Ransom, let it be known that he did not "intend to have any more boys to command regiments" in his brigade, and tried to prevent Lieutenant Colonel Henry King Burgwyn's promotion. That effort failed, however, and Burgwyn was raised to colonel. Captain John Randolph Lane of Company E was promoted to lieutenant colonel, and Captain John Thomas Jones of Company I to major. (Eli's information about the promotions in the preceding letter is incorrect.) Because of the tension with General Ransom, the 26th North Carolina was transferred to another brigade commanded by Brigadier General James Johnston Pettigrew, comprising the 11th, 44th, 47th, and 52nd Regiment N.C. Troops, and served with that command for the remainder of the war.

LETTER 26

Camp French near Petersburg Va

Sept the 24 1862

Dear father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now take the pleasure of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing.

I received your letter the other day while we was on the march, and was glad to hear from you, and to hear that you was all well.

We have Ben in twenty five miles of Suffolk, But we are now in camp. You wanted to know something about some money I sent home. Carell Moore [Carroll Moore] has got the money. I give the money to him when we started to Richmond, as we was going in to Petersburg. I told him to leave it at Harpers [James Harper] and he said he would do it. You can go to him and get the money, \$40.00 was the amount.

We are camped some four miles from Petersburg Va. We think we will leave here before long, our forces has crossed back over the Potomack River. Every day since our forces has Ben in Maryland has Ben five thousand [illegible word].

D. M. Coperning is kild. I was very sory to hear it. He had Both of his legs Shot off By a canon Ball at Manases. Dan Courtney has got to camp, and Some of the other Bois. Thom Setzer has never come. The Bois is generally well.

I will need no more clothing this winter, only a pair of Socks. We go to camp yesterday evening after a long march. Tell uncle Bill [William Crawford Corpening] he mite staid till I could a Seen him. I will Bring my leter to a close. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter. Say no more. Give all the neighbors my love and Respects. Rite Soon fer I am always ancious to heer from you all.

W. E. Setzer

LETTER 27

Campe Friench ner Petersburg

Oct the 8th 1862

Dear Cousen,

I Seate my Self to drop you a few lines to lete you now that I am a live and well at this presente time, and trully hoping when thees few lines Com to your hand tha may fine you and famly well and dooing well.

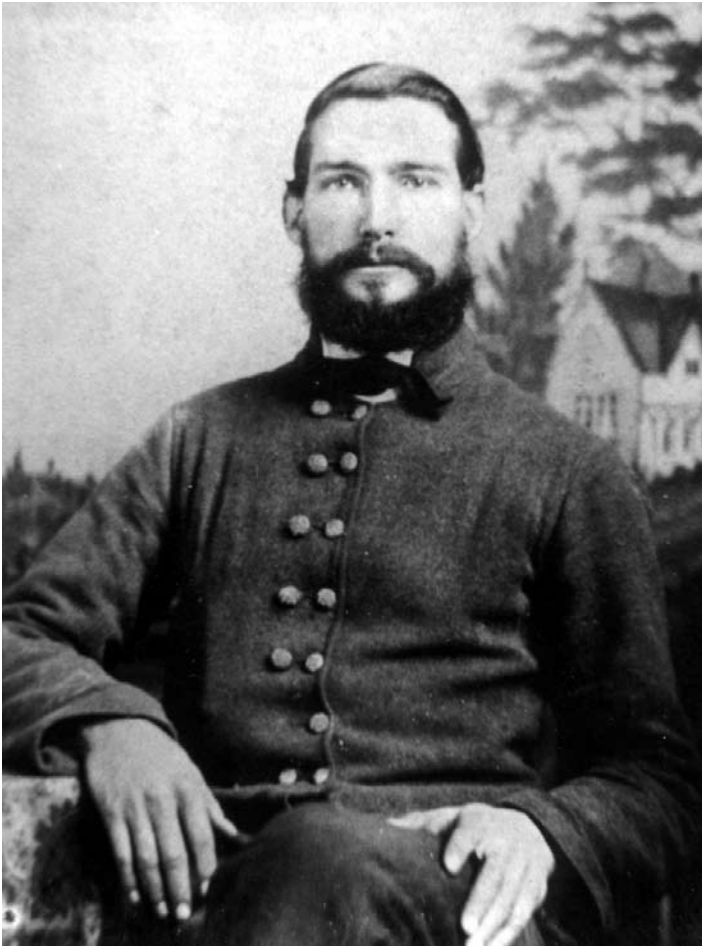
I hav nothing of eny intruste to write to you at this time, onley I would like to See you all won time more, but I Cante tell you when I will, but I hope before long for I am tired of Campe life.

I got to the Rigment on wensday after I lefte home on monday and found all the boys well, exsept Gorge Powell, and he is improveing Som what now. We only got one hundred and twenty five men at laste after So long a Stay. I fetch Joe [Joseph L. Setzer] threw Safte to the Rig and he is her in our company now [illegible word].

I hapen with bad luck with my boxes. I loste them. I fetch them on to Raleigh, and then had to put them on a mail trane, and Couden go an it my Self. I had to go on a nother train, but Collete [Orlando Columbus Collett] and Fleming [James William Fleming] was on the train that the boxes was on, and tha Said tha would hav them taken Cair of when tha got to wldon [Weldon], but tha never look fore them when tha got their. And when I got their, I Coulden fine them, and I thought tha had taken them on, but tha haden and So I hante Seen them.

Tha woulden lete mee go back to get them, and I tride to git that damd Fleming to go after them, and he woulden go. I tole him that I would pay all exspence if he would go, and he woulden at tall, and a damber Shit ass than him never was than him, and that damd bill is. An he hante worth hells room. He lays in his tente all day. You Cante see him oute of his tente with oute he goes to the docter. I wante you to tell bob [Robert E. Fleming] that I Said he mite go to hell and bee god damd, and the nex thing I aske him to doo he will doo it for mee. I wouden doo a thing fer him to Sav him from hell.

We hav bin on pickete won week Since I cam back at Sitz pointe [City Point] on James river. The yankees has had posesion of it.



ANDREW H. COURTNEY

Tha is a talk of Col. Z. B. Vance a taken us to North Carolina, but I cante tell you how true it is, but I hope he will. He is gon to See the presidente a bouite it. We air in three miles of Petersburg at this time, and the helth of the Company is purty good now. W. E. S. [William Eli Setzer], and J. A. T. [John A. Tuttle], and J. L. S. [Joseph L. Setzer], and J. M. C. [James Madison Crump], Thos. C. [Thomas Crump], Neal C. [Henry Corneilus Crump], and H. C. C. [Henry Clay Courtney], and all the boys off lore creek is well. So write Soon and giv mee all the nuse. So nomore at this time, only I remain your Cousen untill deth.

From T. W. Setzer

to Mr W. A. Setzer Esq

LETTER 28

Camp French near Petersburg

Oct the 12th 1862

Dear Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now take the opportunity of Dropring you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope theas few lines may find you enjoying the Same Blesing. This makes the Socond leter that I have Rote and received but one. I woud like to no what is the reason you dont Rite, tel what you ar doing, I think you have vacated Caldwell.

I have no nuse of interest to Rite at this time. It is raining to day. We hav had no rain hear in a long time. Tell [illegible word] them Boxes that Tom Setzer started with hav never got heir yet, and I dont think they will. I want you to Send me a pair of Slips 1 and Socks. The Boxes is at Weldon NC.

The Bois is all well and harty. Their is a talk of the yankees making a nother attact on Richmond. I dont no my Self. Things is out rageous. Shooes Sell at fifteen and twenty Dollars a pair, comon pantaloons ten to fifteen Dollars. The money I Sent by Carell More [Carroll Moore], Bill Ballow [William A. Ballew] hes got it. You can go to him and get it.

We have none to much to Eat, but plenty of hard worke to do making Brest works. I think we will Stay heir Some time. I woud like to come home to See you all, But their is no chance now. Give my respect to all the neighbors and keep a good part your Self. Tell Mother [Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer] and Columbus [Dan-

*“THE BOIS IS ALL WELL. I WOOD LIKE TO COME HOME
HOW TO EAT APLES AND PEACHES. WE HAFT TO EAT
CRACKERS AND FAT MEAT, IT IS A HARD WAY OF SERVING
THE LORD.”*

iel Columbus “Lum” Setzer] and Romulois [Romulus Monroe “Rom” Setzer] that I wood like to See Some of their Riting. Harriet rote that Lum was sick, But I hope he is well. I have no mor nuse to Rite. Our men has ben falling Back from the potamac for the last week. I dont now what their idea is, But I hope it is all for the Better. Rite as soon as you get this leter. So no more, But Remain your affectionate Son. Rite Soon.

W. E. Setzer

W. A. Setzer

1 Slips – either a nightshirt or a pillow case, ideally made of linen material.

[Editor’s Note] The following letter written by Wesley W. Cannon is included among the Setzer letters. Cannon enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 1, 1861, but transferred to Company H, 58th North Carolina. on May 1, 1862. The letter is written from that regiment’s camp at Cumberland Gap to William Alphonso Setzer, the father of William Eli Setzer.

LETTER 29

Cumberland gap Kentucky

Oct the 15 1862

Dear Friend [William Alphoso Setzer],

I am happy to say to you that I am well and hearty, hoping this may find you well also. I must say to you that we hav to march a gain. We are going to lundon, Kentucky. We hav got our provishions reddy for the

march. We will leave to day for lundon, about 75 miles from here.

We hav seen hard times since we left lenoir. We hav crossed rough mountains, and now we have to go on picket gard every other day here all around the mountain. You art to see how the yankees fortified this place. They built battaries all the way up the gap of the mountain plum to the top, but our men did not hav to charge ther battaries, but they charged there stomach and cut ther stuffing off, and they vacwated and left here.

Our men is a giveing them fits now in Kentucky. Our men has taken 10 thousand prisoners, and kild 4 thousand, and tuck 15 canons and losts of comissary stores, so the couriers brings news from there.

I wood be glad to see you here to take a veiw of the beautiful country from the top of the cumberland mountain. It is the pretty ist view you ever seen. I recokon it looks like I can see back home. This is avery pretty place. The yankees cleared a bout a thousand acres of the mountain off to see the rebels, as they call us, but they left without the sight at last.

Captain dula [Thomas Joshua Dula] has not got here yet. Our fair is good now. We get flower and corn meal and beef and bacon and rice and shugar and sheepe too. I want to no if you hav receivd any money from captain J R ballew [Joseph Rutherford Ballew] for me. I sent a power of attorney to him to draw my money what was due me ther up to my transfer, and I also told him to send it to you. Rite to me if you got it or not. I want you to keep all of my money and noters till I come home, if ever i do. If any comes in my name you are awthorized to take it for me, and keep till I call for it. I want you to give me all of the news in Caldwell, good and bad, and whare Eli and Tom Setzer is. Rite soon if you please. Tell your father [Daniel Setzer] and mother [Jane Holloway Setzer] howdy for me and give my best respects to tham, and also give my respects to the girls. I must close my letter. Nothing more only I remain your friend.

W. W. Canon [Wesley W. Cannon]

to W. A. Setzer

Direct yours to Tazewell Po

Tenn co H 58 NC regt [Company H, 58th N. C.]

in care of col palmer [John B. Palmer] and it will follow on after me.

Miss H R Setzer, I send you a Sheete of yankee paper and an anvelope

[Editor's Note] In early November the 26th North Carolina moved into eastern North Carolina and encamped at Tarboro to help counter a Federal raid up the Roanoke River. On November 2, at Rawl's Mill in Martin County, six companies of the 26th successfully engaged a Federal force ten times their size, but the regiment soon returned to Petersburg.

LETTER 30

Camp Near Tarrboro NC

November the 9th 1862

Dear father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now take the oportunity of dropping you a few lines to inform you that I am well at this time. I have had the chills and feaver, but have got over them. We have ben marching for the last two weeks. We were marching all day yesterday through the Snow. The Snow was from five to six inches deep. The Regiment has ben in a fight five miles from Williamston. I was not in the fight. The enemy is advencing up Ronoke River. I think we will have a hard fight Before long. You said you was coming to See me, I wood be mity glad to See you, but I dont want you to come tell we take up camp Some where, then I want you and mother both to come. We ar now two miles from Tarrboro. I do not no how long we will Stay hear. I will haft to Bring my few lines to a close. I have not time to Rite. you neadent to Rite tell I Rite a gain. So no more at Present.

W. E. Setzer

LETTER 31

Camp French near Petersburg Va

November the 15th 1862

Dear Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now take the pleasure of Riting you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time, and hope theas few lines may find you enjoying the Same health.

We have got Back to Petersburg after marching for three weeks. We have been all over the eastern part of North Carolina. I have had the chills and feaver while we were at Williamston. We have Seen a mity hard time Since we left hear. We marched all day through the Snow. Some of our Bois wer barefooted. We come on the train from Tarrboro NC.

I want you to come to See me. I think we will Stay hear a while. I want you to fetch me Something to eat and drink. You wanted to no wether I could Sell five or Six gallons of brandy. Good brandy sells at 5 dollars a quart. You can bring it, I will sell it for you. I want you to Bring me a pair of pantloons and a jacket and a hat. If you can get it sind a pair of Socks. We ar camped at our old camp four miles from Petersburg. The health of our Regiment is very good. The Bois is all well and harty.

Their is Some talk of peace Being made. I hope it will. Tell Columbus [Daniel Columbus Setzer] that I wood Send him Some powder, But it is ten Dollars a pound hear. I want you to be shore and bring me Some chestnuts. By me Some and I will pay for them. I will pay any price for them. Things is awful high here. I want you to fetch Mother with you. I want you to come Rite off, So no more But Remains your Son tell Death.

W. E. Setzer

LETTER 32

November the 15th 1862

Dear uncle [William Alphonso Setzer],

I seat my self to drop you a few lines which will inform you that my helth is not good. I hav bin sick three months and a half and I dont get any better but I hope theas few lines will find you all well. I hav no nuse to write to you. it is hard times here, evry thing is high. I herd that you was coming down. I dont want you ginit out.

G. L. Powell

to W. A. Setzer

LETTER 33

November the 15th 1862

Dear Father [Tillman Setzer],

I want yo to Send me Something to Eat and drink. If you can get me Some chestnuts I will pay for them and some appels.

Joseph Setzer

[Editor's Note] In December 1862, the regiment moved back into North Carolina as part of the concentration of troops to oppose the expedition of Union General John Foster against Kinston, White Hall and Goldsboro.

LETTER 34

Camp French Near Petersburg

December the 31st 1862

Dear father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I now Seat my Self to Drop you a few lines to inform you that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines may find you injoying the Same Health. I have nothing of interest to Rite at this time.

We Started to NC the same Day you left hear. We got to goldsborou the next morning By Day light. We went from their to Mosley Hall. We Staid their about a hour. We wer not in the Battle of White Hall, But come very near it. We got back to Petersburg the day before Christmas.

I think we will Stay hear a while. Their is Some chance of geting a furlow. I think I will get to come home Before long. We have Drew our winter clothing. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter for I am ancious to heir from home. So, no more.

W. E. Setzer

[Editor's Note] The 26th North Carolina. moved back to Goldsboro in February 1863, and participated in the unsuccessful attempt by troops commanded by Major General D. H. Hill to capture New Bern.

1863

“The

LETTER 35

N C Camp Near Golesborou [Goldsboro]

Febrary the 25 1863

Dear Father and Mother, Brother and Sisters,

I now Drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines may find you well.

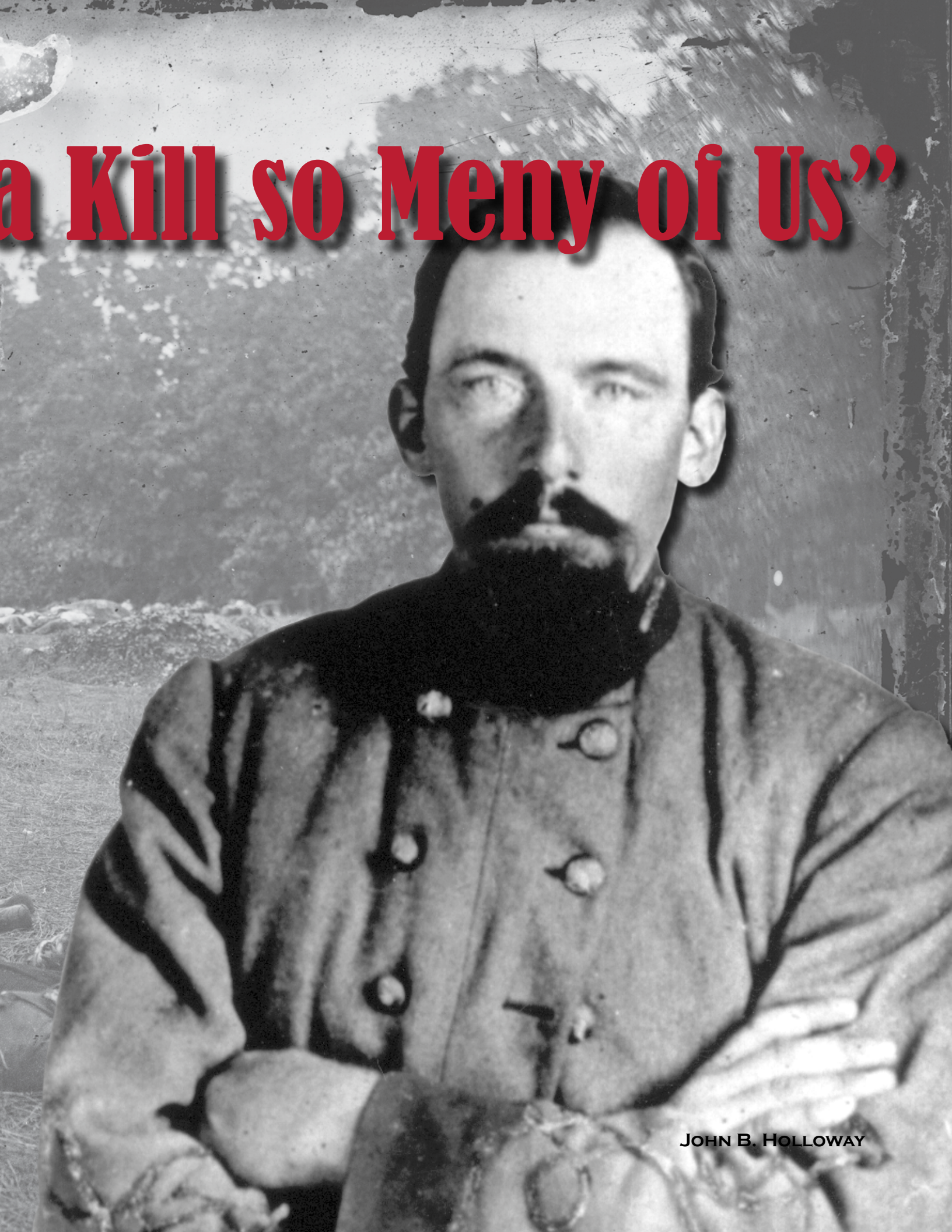
I got to camp the day after I Saw you, and found all the Bois well and harty. I found the Regm at Golesborou. I got my things along very well By paying the freight on my Box. It went very hard with me for a day or two, But I have got use to it again.

I dont think their is much chance of us geting to go Back to Petersburg Shortly. We ar Still in the old pine Smoke. I tried to get you that [pistol – see letter 60] But their was none in Sallsbury [Salisbury]. It was knight when we pas Raleigh, or Els I wood a got Some their. I will go up to Golesborou this Eavning to See Wether I can get eny their.

I have no nuse to Rite except is Some talk of the yankes trying Charleston or Willmington Before long. Me and Tom Sold our Brandy for Eight Dollar a gallon. The made it hop while we had it. You can tell Columbus [Daniel Columbus Setzer] that I can By him a coat for thirty Dollars, But I wodent have one of them if they was to give them to me. Their is not much talk of peace Being made, nor I dont think it will in two years. I had Some hopes when I was at home of peace Being made, But I dont think their is any chance now. I will haft to Bring my leter to a close, for I haft to go to drilling. I wood Rite more if had time. Rite to me as Soon as you get ths leter. So no more at present, But Remains you affectonate Son tell Deth. Direct your leter to Golesborou in the care of Colonel Burguinn [Henry King Burgwyn, Jr.].

W. E. Setzer

a Kill so Meny of Us”



JOHN B. HOLLOWAY

LETTER 36

“No date on the letter”

Dear Father,

I will drop you a few lines to lette you now that I am well at this time and doing [illegible words] and will stay here for a week or too. The Regment is still where it was when I rite to you the other day, five miles from Town.

I will Send you thirty dollars in this letter. I wod a sent it by hand But I did not know when any Body wood be pasing. I have Bout me a very good watch and it cost me a good price. I will Send it home the first chance I have, Rite soon.

W. E. Setzer

Direct you letter to Goldsboron NC in the care of Colonel Burguinn [Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn, Jr.]

LETTER 37

Greenville N. C.

March the 24 1863

Dear Father and Mother, Sisters and Brothers,

I now Rite you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines will find you well. I wood have Ritten Soner, But I have not had time. We have Ben marching for the last three weeks nearly evry Day and knight through the mud and water. It has Raind nearly two thirds of the time, and Snoad one time. I Suppose you have herd of our late fight at Newbern on the 14th of this month. Their was Some three or four men kild in our Reg, and Some twenty wonded. I Shall not undertake to give you a full Detail of our march, for I have not time and it is Raining.

I will give you a Short Sketch now: we left goldsboro about the first of the month and went from their to Kinston, and from Kinston to Newbern, and from Newbern to Greenville, and from Greenville to within Eight miles of Washington. Their we Staid five days.

We come Back to Greenville yesterday. Whear we will go next I do not no. I am in hope we will get Back to Goldsborou Before long. We have no close a long, only what we have on. We ar tolerable Black about

this time, But the Bois Seem to be in good hart. General Hill [Daniel Harvey Hill] Says he is going to tent us through this Spring and Sumer. I tell you it is a hard way to Serve the Lord in theas low lands of [illegible word]. I am giting tierd of Eastern NC. I had Rather be any whear Els.

I have Rite you about all the news. Me and the Bois is all well. Tell Columbus [Daniel Columbus Setzer] that I Recived his leter, But I have not time to Answer it. You can tell Mister Jones [Unable to identify this person] that if he will give me fifteen Percent on the Dollar, and pay it Back in State money, that he can get it. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter you affectionate Son.

W. E. Setzer

Direct your leter to Goldsborou N. C.

[Editor's Note] The forces under D. H. Hill, including the 26th North Carolina , moved to Washington, North Carolina, about March 30th, and laid siege to the town. Federal reinforcements arriving by the Pamlico River forced Hill to abandon the siege on April 15, and the regiment returned to the Kinston area.

LETTER 38

Camp 26 Regt N Carolina Troops Near Washington

April the 12th 1863

Mr. W. A. Setzer

Dear Father and Mother, Sisters and Brothers,

I will rite you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hope theas few lines will find you all well. I have nothing of interest to Rite. The Bois is all well and harty. G. Harstin [Green Harden Harstin] is Coming home. He wants to Borow thirty Dollars. You can let him have thirty Dollars of my money when he gets home. Let him have Confederate money. I have Rite you about all the news we have, for I tell you it is a dry time. While I am Riting this I hear the Roar of Canons. Rite to me as Soon as you get this leter. So no more.

W. E. Setzer

Direct your leter to Goldsboro NC

[Editor's Note] The following letter is written from William Fleming, a kinsman of the Setzers, who enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina. at age 35, January 7, 1863.

LETTER 39

Camp near Washington nc

April the 13th 1863

Dear Cousins and family,

It is with pleasure that I seat myself to drop you a few lines by which you may learn that I am well, and hoping these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have nothing of importance to write to you, only that we have been a marching very hard for the last 5 weeks, and have had some little brushes with the Yankees. But thank God, I have come through safe so fure. We now have washington surrounded and old Hill [Daniel Harvey Hill] says he can take the place without the loss of a man at anytime he wants too. But I dont know what is the reason that he dont proceed, for we are all tired of lying here and listening at the cannons every day. Howdy H. R. Setzer. Write to me soon all the news you have up there. So I will close by asking you to write soon.

Wm. Fleming [William Fleming]

to W. A. Setzer

“THA TORE THE HOUSES ALL TO PICES WITH BUMB SHELLS, AND IT IS A LONSOM PLASE.”

LETTER 40

Camp 26 Reg near Hookerton

April the 20th 1863

Dear father, and mother, Sisters, and Brothers,

I now Rite you a few lines in answer to your leter, which I Received yesterday. I was very glad to hear you was all well. I am well at this time.

I have no news on interest to Rite, the Rest of the Bois is all well. We have Ben marching very hard Since I Rote to you Before. We havent Ben in any fight yet, But Dont no how Soon we will Be. We have left Washington and ar camped in Twelve miles of Kinston. We come hear yesterday.

Times ar very hard. We cant hardly Get a nuff to eat. I have Saw the Devil Since I come from home, marching through the mud and wading Creeks. My watch was Broke when I gave it to Joe Estes. You can get it fixt and take care of it tell I come home, if I ever do.

You can tell G. H. Hastin [Green Harden Harstin] that when he comes Back to come to Kinston, and if he wants to Bring any Boxes that he can git them to the Regt: our waggons goes to Kinston evry two days. I wood like for you to Send me Something to eat. I am gitting tierd of Old Bacon and Crackers. William Fleming Sends his Best love and Respect to you.

I cant give you a full Detail of our late march in Eastern NC. We have had Some men kild and wonded in our Regt. I wood like for pease to be made, But I never want it made in this world in the yankes favor. I had as Soon live in Africa as to live under A. Lincon [Abraham Lincoln] Government. I have Rote you About all the news we have in camp. Rite to me as Soon as you git this leter, for I have not time to eny time I want to.

Your affectionate Son

W. E. Setzer

William Fleming [James William Fleming] Died last Wednesday at Greenville North Carolina

W. E. Setzer

[Editor's Note] On May 1, 1863, Pettigrew's Brigade, including the 26th North Carolina, received orders to move to Richmond. From there the regiment moved north to Hanover Junction and was assigned to guard the various bridges of the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad.

LETTER 41



GEN. JAMES J. PETTIGREW

North Anna River near Hanover Junction

May the 13th 1863

Mr. W. A. Setzer

Dear Father and Mother, Sisters and Brothers,

I now Rite you a few lines in answer to your kind and affectionate leter, which I very Gladly Recived Some Time ago.

I have no news of importance To Rite. The Great Battle of Fredricksburg [Chancellorsville, May 1-5, 1863] is over. I tell you it was a Hard Battle. The trains have Ben halling off our wonded ever Since the Battle commenced, and ar not Done yet. Their was three thousand Prisoneers past hear this week, and more a Coming. Our brave General

Jackson [Stonewall Jackson] is Dead. He died day Before yesterday. Our Soldiers Regret The loss of that Brave man. He has led them Through A many a hard battle. He was wonded in the Battle, which caused his arm to Be cut off. I dont no wheher his Death was caused By that or not.

The Rest of the Bois is all well and in Good Spirats. I will Send Some money home as Soon as we draw. I want you to Bye me a mule or a horse or Something Els with my money. Spend it Some How. Wheat Crops looks very well hear. We draw four ounces of meat a day.

I have Rote you all the news we have in Camp. Rite to me as Soon as you Get this leter, and direct you leter to Richmond, Pettigrews [James Johnston Pettigrew] Brigade. We have Ben garding the Rail Road Bridge this Side of Fredericksburg across North Anna River. we ar Camped Some 25 miles north of Richmond on the Richmond and Fredricksburg Rail Road. I will try to Get them [illegible word – “pistol” – see letter 60] for you as Soon as we draw money. your affectionat Son.

W. E. Setzer Esq

“I WOOD LIKE FOR YOU TO SEND ME SOMETHING TO EAT. I AM GITTING TIERD OF OLD BACON AND CRACKERS.”

LETTER 42

Campe 26 Regt. N. C. T Neair hanovergunction Va

May the 21st 1863

Dear Cousen,

I Seate my Self to drop you a few lines to lete you know that I am well at this time, and truly hoping when thees few lines Come to your hand tha may fine you and famley well and a dooing well. I hav nothing of eny importance to write to you at this time, only I would like to See you all. But I Cante tell you when I will git to See you all a gin, but I hope before long. I think you have moste forgotten mee. You never write to mee, nor Say eny thing at tall whether you air dead or a live. I hav writen you too leters and hante got eny anseer it, and I will write this wone, and if you donte write this time, I will quit, but that is a nuf.

We air in Virginia. We lefte North Carolina for Fredericksburg, but the trains run to gether and that thodes be hine the time. So we bouden git thair till the fite was over, but it warnte the tran that we was on, but Some of the brigade. And we was Stop twenty five miles frome Richmond at hanovergunction [Hanover Junction] to gard a bridg a cross North anna river rail rode bridg. It is very perty please her. We [have] the beste of water to drink and git a plenty to eate. I had a heape druther Stay her than in the estern parte of North Carolina in a mong them frog pons, if it is farther frome home. But I think this sumer will close the war, So we all can come home and Stay. you donte now how tired I am of this war.

It hante my worth while to try to tell you eny thing bouthe the fite that was at Fredicksburg, for I wante thair and all the neuse that I har is frome the papers, and you now as much as I doo, if not moore. I hav Seen a grate meny wounded Soldiers pass her on the train, and the yankees prisners pass her some five or six thousand. So I will quit this Subject. All the boys is well at this time, only John Crump is Sick and has bin for the laste week. So write Soon, if you please. So fairwell for this time.

T. W. Setzer

To W. A. Setzer Esq

*“I HAD A HEAPE DRUTHER STAY HER THAN IN THE
ESTERN PARTE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN A MONG THEM
FROG PONS...”*

LETTER 43

Camp near Hanover Junction Va

May the 31st 1863

Dear Cusin,

I Seat my Self to Drop you a few Lines to inform you that I am well at this time, and I hope when theas few Lines Comes to hand that they may find you well and Dooing well. Cousin W. A. S., I shold Like to Se you one time more and Spend Som more time with you at home A hunting Squirrels, and to Eat Som of you meet and Bred and to Drink Som of you Brandy. I have no more to Rite to you at this time.

I am Say to you that I have Seen hard times Sins I saw you. We had a hard march to nubonn [Newbern] threw the coald and threw the mud and water, then a march to Washing[ton]. then we saw hard times, and now we ar campt cloase to North Anna River in a very pretty place. We have good water to Drink. We ar throwing up Brest work her, But I cant tell how long we will Stay her. I hav Sean a heep of yankees going to Richmond, they was took prisners at the fight.

W. E. Setzer is well and Stout at this time. Ale th Rest of the Boys But Georg Powel, he is not very well at this time, but not Dangerously bad.

I hav Rot [wrote] you a few lines Before ths Letter, and I hant no letter from you, only a few Lines in W. E. S. letter, and I want you to Rite to me as Soon as you git this Letter and gave me all the news you have. And Rite how wheat Looks, and the Rites of Every thing in Caldwell County, and Rite what a poal tax is, and give me all the news a Bout hard times.

Up her hour Rashing [ration] a day is a half pound of meat, and a pound and a Eight of flower, and Som Little Sugar, But not very mutch of hit.

Cousin Lizy [Elizabeth Corpening Setzer] I shouda like to see you. The time Seem Long Sins I Saw you, But I hope this unholy War will Soon end, So I can Come home to See you all. Houdy H. R. Setzer. I Should like to See you and have Som more fun with you. Houdy Betsy [Jane Elizabeth Setzer], houdy and all the Boys. H. R. Setzer Rit to me all the good news you have, and Rite how all the girls is. Tell umun I am wel. So I will close By asking you to Excuse my Bad Riting and Spelling. Rite Soon.

From William Fleming to W. A. Setzer Esq

[Editor's Note] In early June 1863, Pettigrew's Brigade joined the Army of Northern Virginia near Fredericksburg and was assigned to Major General Henry Heth's Division, Lieutenant General A. P. Hill's Corps.

LETTER 44

Fridericksburg va

June 9th 1863

Mr. W. A. Setzer

Dear Father and Mother, Sisters and Brothers,

I now rite you a few lines in answer to you kind and affectionate letter which I very gladly received some time ago. I have no news of interest to rite.

We have left Hanover Junction and ar in line of Battle Below Fredericksburg, expecting the yankes to advance evry moment. We came hear last knight. We have Ben at Hamiltons Crossing, and wer orderd hear last knight. We ar 8 miles Below fredericksburg, on the Rappahanock. We ar in about a mile of each other. Our pickets and the yanks ear in two hundred yards of each other. They talk and quarel with each other. We changed Some harpers [*Harpers Illustrated*] with them yesterday. We have orders to not shoot at each other unles eather Side advances. I think their will be a nother hard Battle hear in a few days.

Their is no Chance for me to come home and help you to save your wheat. I want you to Send me my watch and Twenty Dollars. I can swop it by giving some Boot, and get me a good watch for 50.00 dollars. Send me the watch and the money as Soon as you can.

I have Saw all of the Boys in the other Company and Lawson Corpening. They ar Generaly well.

Rite Soon and Darect to Richmond Va your affectionate Son.

W. E. Setzer

[Editor's Note] The above letter of June 9, 1863, was Eli's last letter to his father. By early August 1863, William Alphonso Setzer received three more letters, detailing the death of his son and the near-annihilation of Company F, 26th Regiment N.C. Troops.

*“BUT THEN WHEN WE MADE THE CHARGE, THEN
WHEN THA KILL SO MENY OF US.”*

LETTER 45

July the 14 1863

Charlottesville Va

Mr. W. A. Setzer

Dear uncle,

I can say to you that I am tolerable well, only as I suppose you are aware that I hav bin sick for some time. I can onley say to you in regard to Cousin Eli, [he] is wounded. I saw G. W. Hood this moring. He says Eli has his thigh broken near his body. He was left near the battlefield, as he was not able to be moved.

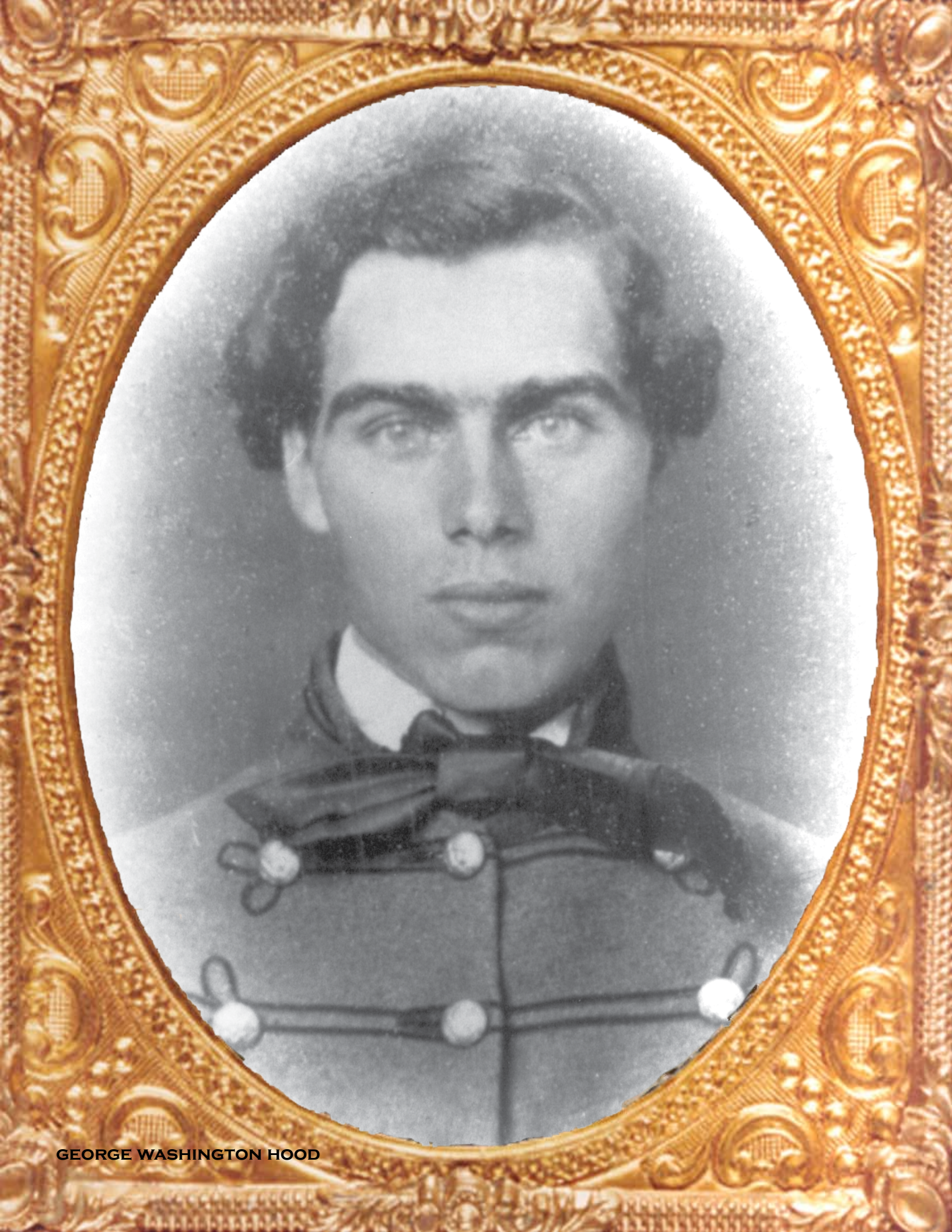
Ther was 14 men killed in our Company to wit; J. B. Holloway, J. B. Littljon [John B. Littlejohn], J. H. Coffey [J. Harrison Coffey], C. Coffey [Cleveland Coffey], J. Taylor, B. Braswell, M. Townsel [M. Townsend], W. Philips, J. Philips, J. Luis, J. Gragg, T. J. Cosort [Thomas J. Cozart], J. Curtis, W. Tomson [W. M. Thompson], R. Carswell.

T. W. Setzer is wounded, also W. Flemine [W. Fleming], George Arney, Neal Crump [Henry Cornelius Crump], T. Crump, S. T. Powell [Pinkney Powell] and in fact all the company but few. I forgot to say that Dan Cortney [Andrew H. Courtney] had his leg broken. Tell Sheriff Tuttle [Robert G. Tuttle] that I left his son, John [John A. Tuttle], in Lynchburg. He was nealey well. I cannot tell whar he is at this time. He may be in richmond va as a grate many went down thar to defend the Town. I hope this may find you well from you nepew.

Geo. L. Powell

to W. A. Setzer

[Editor's Note] The following letter to William Alfonso Setzer was written by 2nd Lieutenant William A. Tuttle of Company A, 22nd North Carolina. The Tuttle families were neighbors of the Setzer's.



GEORGE WASHINGTON HOOD

LETTER 46

Camp Bunkerhill Va

July 18 1863

Dear Friend,

As I am now at leasure a little I will drop you a few lines to let you know that Bill is yet alive and well, But it was By the Protection of a Divine Power that I am Safe.

The Battle of Gettysburg, no doubt, was the Bloodyist fight that ever was fought on the continent. I lead 3 companes into the last charge made on the Enemies works. I saw them falling on my Right and left, but Still on we went untill half our number had fallen, then we had to fall back, the Enemy mowing us as we went. Liut. Dickson [William W. Dickson] was lost on the Retreat.

I hope to God that none of my freinds will Ever look on such a sight as that field was. I will Stop about it. I hope I will git home and Desember it all. I am in command of the Regt. I reckon you think it is a poor chance when Bill Tuttle commands a Regt.

Eli requested me to write to you. I was the last one of his friends that saw him. I went by and saw him as we fell Back. I Dont think he will ever Recover. His thigh was shivered close up to his hip. He may be, But I have no idea that he is alive yet. He told me that he was willing to Die and that he hoped to meet me in heaven.



WILLIAM W. DICKSON

It was hard for me to leave the Boys, and if I had not been an officer I would have been taken with them. Jo Setzer [Joseph Setzer] lay close to Eli with his leg amputated above the nee, and Dan Courtney lay near them with his leg broke below the nee. These were all that were together. The Rest of them was about a mile at a house. I told them I must go, that the yankees was coming and with a heavy heart I took their hands, and a tear fell from our eyes and we parted.

If I never see you any more, think of your neighbor Boys that fell in Defince of their Country.

Your Sincere Friend

To W. A. Setzer esqr

Leiut. W. A. Tuttle

[Editor's Note] And finally a letter from Thomas W. Setzer.

LETTER 47

Pice [Peace] Institute horsepital Raleigh NC

July 29th 1863

Dear cousin,

I Seat my Self one more time to drop you a few lines to lete you Know that I am yet a live and well, whiles hundreds of my fellows Soldiers has fell lifeless Corps all a rond mee, and I was spaired, but I cante See how it was. But I truly hope when thees few lines Come to your hand tha may fine you all well and a dooing well.

I hav nothing of mutch intruste to write to you at this time, onley I would like to See you all. But I donte See eny Chance to git to See you all at Tall, for tha wonte lete mee Come home. Tha wonte giv eny furlows her.

I would like for you and father [William A. "Billy" Setzer] to Come down and See mee. I could tell you a heape, but I know that you air buisey in your crop, and So I wounte insiste on your Coming. But I would like to See you all.

I am Sorow to tell you that Cousen Eli was lefte behine in a bad condistion. I hate to tell you what he Said, but he requistted mee to tell you all how it was. I stade with him all that eavning after he was wonded, and all that knite and nex morning at day lite I put him in a ambulance. And tha was the laste that I Seen of hime, and purtneer the laste word he said to mee, [was] Tom tell my folks how it was. He Said that he was a going to die and he node it, and Said he was wiling to die and he wanted mee to tell you how it was. He was shot in too or three places in the arme, and one or too holes threw his Coate, and one Came wente threw his thie and broke the bone all to pecis. But I hav Some hope that he is a live Some wher it, and will git over it and git home.

We hav See a heard time Sence we Croste over in pennsylvania. We pass threw wone little town after a nother till we Come to Gattiesburg, when we run a gin the Yankees, and you may talk of this big fite and that big fite, but tha hante bin now Sutch fiting as was dun over thair for the firste days fite. I could all but walk over the field on dead and wounded. I never hav Seen the like before no herd the like. Wher our Regmente fought the yankees was on a hill, and [they] had three lines, and the lines wones was Shotiting over the forreste wones, and tha was all a firing, but we run them back a mile.

I wonte in the fite the firste day, I was in the thrd day. We lade in twenty Steps of our batters, and the hole grown Shuck [whole ground shook]. The yankes kill five horses rite in fronte of mee at wone Shote, and I cante tell how meny Casesarns tha blode up. But then when we made the Charge, then when tha Kill So meny of us. The yankees was behine a Stone fence. I will Close for I now that you air tired of reading. So write Soon and giv mee all the nuse that you hav and direct your leters to General Horsepital 8 Raleigh NC.

So nomore at this time, only I remain your Cousen untill deth, frome.

Thomas W. Setzer

To Mr W. A. Setzer Esq

[Editor's Note] The 26th North Carolina was shattered at the Battle of Gettysburg. By the time of its return to Virginia in mid-July 1863, it likely numbered no more than one-tenth of its pre-invasion strength of nearly 900 men. There apparently was some discussion of merging with another regiment, but that came to naught. Its strength was gradually rebuilt, as those lightly wounded returned to the ranks, and some new enlistees were added. Lieutenant Colonel John R. Lane was promoted to Colonel, Major John T. Jones to Lieutenant Colonel, and Captain James T. Adams of Company D to Major. All had been wounded at Gettysburg. General Pettigrew had been killed on the retreat from Gettysburg and command of the brigade passed to Brigadier General William W. Kirkland on August 29.

It is unknown how long Thomas Setzer remained in the "horsepital" at Raleigh, but he married Eli's sister, Harriet R. Setzer, at Lenoir on August 27, 1863, and returned to the regiment by October. As is clear from the first letter below, Company F had rebuilt its strength to about thirty men. Sometime in the fall of 1863, Thomas Setzer was promoted to sergeant. Thomas began referring to William Alphonso Setzer as "father" or "father-in-law" in his subsequent letters.

The first post-Gettysburg letter was written after the disastrous Battle of Bristoe Station, fought on October 13, 1863.

LETTER 48

Campe 26 Regt Near Rhapahanack River

October 20th 1863

Dear Father,

I seate my Self to drop you a few lines to lete you know that I am a live and well at this time, and truley hoping when thees few lines Come to your hand tha may fine you and famley well and a dooing well.

I hav nothing of eny grate intruste to write to you at this time, onley I would like to See you all a gin. I can Say that I hav Come threw a nother Storm of iron hail Safe and un hurt, while Some of our compney was kill on the field. It was a purty hard litle fite while it lasted. Tha was three men [killed] in our compney, twelve wouned and Seventeen taken prisoners. J. A. Tuttle was kill by a bayonet by char[g]ing over the yankees breste works. You can tell his folks that I borrid him the beste I could, and cut his name on a pice of plank and put it to his grave. Sisero preswood [Cicero Prestwood] was kill[ed] and Able Hudspeth. The the yankees left the field that nite and we stade thair too days, and then we fell back and tore up the rail rode and burnt it, and it a raining all the time and the mud half leg deep.

We croste the rhapahanock yester morning and stop on this Side, wher we air now, but I cante tell you how long we will Stay her. My Self and William bradford is all the men that belong to Compney F now. Lt. Carley [Charles McDowell Suddreth] and Lt. Hudspeth [Robert Newton Hudspeth] is her with us. It is a lonsom time in compney F now when I look a round and See nun of our boys and think what has become of them, I



CHARLES M. SUDDRETH



GENERAL WILLIAM W. KIRKLAND

cante helpe but cry, and it looks like our time will come next. But I hope not for I wante to see this war come to a close.

I think the fiting in this parte is over for the winter, for the mud is a giten to deep to march. So I will close an that. Write how you is a giten a long and how al the friends is, and all the nuse that you hav. When you git this leter tell [illegible word] that I am well. Tell that I said for him to stay with you for if he had a come with mee he mite a bin wher Some of the reste is. So write Soon if you plese. So fair you well for the time. So I remain your Son untill deth.

Thomas W. Setzer

to Mr. W. A. Setzer

“J. A. TUTTLE WAS KILL BY A BAYONET BY CHAR[G]ING OVER THE YANKEES BRESTE WORKS. YOU CAN TELL HIS FOLKS THAT I BORRID HIM THE BESTE I COULD, AND CUT HIS NAME ON A PICE OF PLANK AND PUT IT TO HIS GRAVE.”

LETTER 49

Camp 26 Regt N. C. T.

Gen Kirkland [W. W. Kirkland] Brigade, Heath [Henry Heth] Division, A P Hill Corps, the third armd Corps

November the 13th 1863

Near Oring [Orange] C. H.

Dear Father and Mother, Brothers, and Sisters,

I a gain Seate my Self to drop you a few lines which will informe you that I am a live and well at this time, and truley hoping when thees few lines come to your hand tha may fine you all well and a dooing well. I hav nothing worth your attentsion to write at this time, onley I would like to See you all a gin, but tha hante no Chance now, and So it hante worth while to talk a bout it know.

We had a purty fancy time when we lefte the raphanock river. We lefte thair laste Saturday knite or Sunday morning at too oclock, and com oute Some too miles and stop till day lite. And then move onn in three miles of Culpeper and formed a line of battle, and lade thair all day a looking for the Yankees. But tha never com in Site in front of us at tall, but tha Come on our lefte, and tha had a rite Smarte litle fite. We Could See them a fiting, and I had giv it up to go in to a nother Storm of bulets. But at Sun down we lefte their, and we march a the knite threw the mud and water as we come too him. And it was as cold as blases [blazes], and I hav never Seen Such a time with the waggens and artilery in my life before. Some was broke down, Some turnd over, all a long the rode frome Culpeper till Oring Court House. It was a General fall back with all the army, and what I Call a general.

We air with old Lea [Robert E. Lee] and Mead [George G. Meade]. We air at the Same position as tha was when I Com frome home. After all this grate campain that we hav bin, and cante See that we hav made eny thing at tall. We got Some prisners in the time of it, but what is that to the men that we loste in this litle fite that we had over thar at bristoe. We loste eleven hundred men in that fite oute of our brigade and look. But it hante worth while to tri to tell you enything a bout that, for you know moir than I can tell you.

We hante got but Seven in our compney, and it look like tha hanta going to bee eny moor Soon, for tha come in Slow. But I think by nex Spring tha will Come in. G. L. Powell is at the hospital, but I Cante tell you how he is. We air in Campe in Site of Oring [Orange] Court House at this present time, but I cante tell how long we will Stay her. But I hope we will Stay her Some time for we hav got tents and Chimneys to them purty well fix fer Cold wether. But I am a ferd tha wonte lete us Stay long, but if tha will take us to North Carolina I would bee willing to leav them all to git back to the old North State.

We had a big Snow Storm her the 7 in the eavning, but it didn laste long, nor it lay, but I tell you it was cold enuf for eny use. So I will come to a close by asking you too write Soon, fer this is too leters that I hav writen to you and hante got eny anseer. And I hante got but one leter frome eny of you Sence I lefte home, and that was frome hairrete [Harriett R. Setzer], and I hav write too leters a week, but cante her frome non of you. So write as Soon as you git this leter, if you ples. So nothing more at this time only remain you Son untill deth.

T. W. Setzer

W. A. Setzer Esq

[Editor's Note] The following letter is the only one surviving by William Alphonso Setzer.

LETTER 50

Nov the 27th 1863

Caldwell County N. C.

Dear Son,

I take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at this time, and hope when these few lines come to hand they will find you well. I have nothing of interest to write to you at present.

I received your letter dated the 15th of Nov, which gave us great satisfaction to hear that you was well, and had got back to your tents again. I have got my corn in the cribe. I did not make the nearest crib to the house full of corn this year. I think if I will be right stingy with what I have got it will do me. Corn is selling from the heap from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bushel, pork 30 cents, wheat \$3.00 per bushel.

I am going to start to Petersburg the 3rd day of December. Me and James Hood and Leander Houk, Robert Holloway and S. P. Dula and Richard Bush, with boxes for all of you. I want you to meet us at the Depot at Petersburg about thursday Evening the 4th of December. We will be there if nothing happens. If we hant there come the next evening and so on till we come. So no more at present.

W. A. Setzer

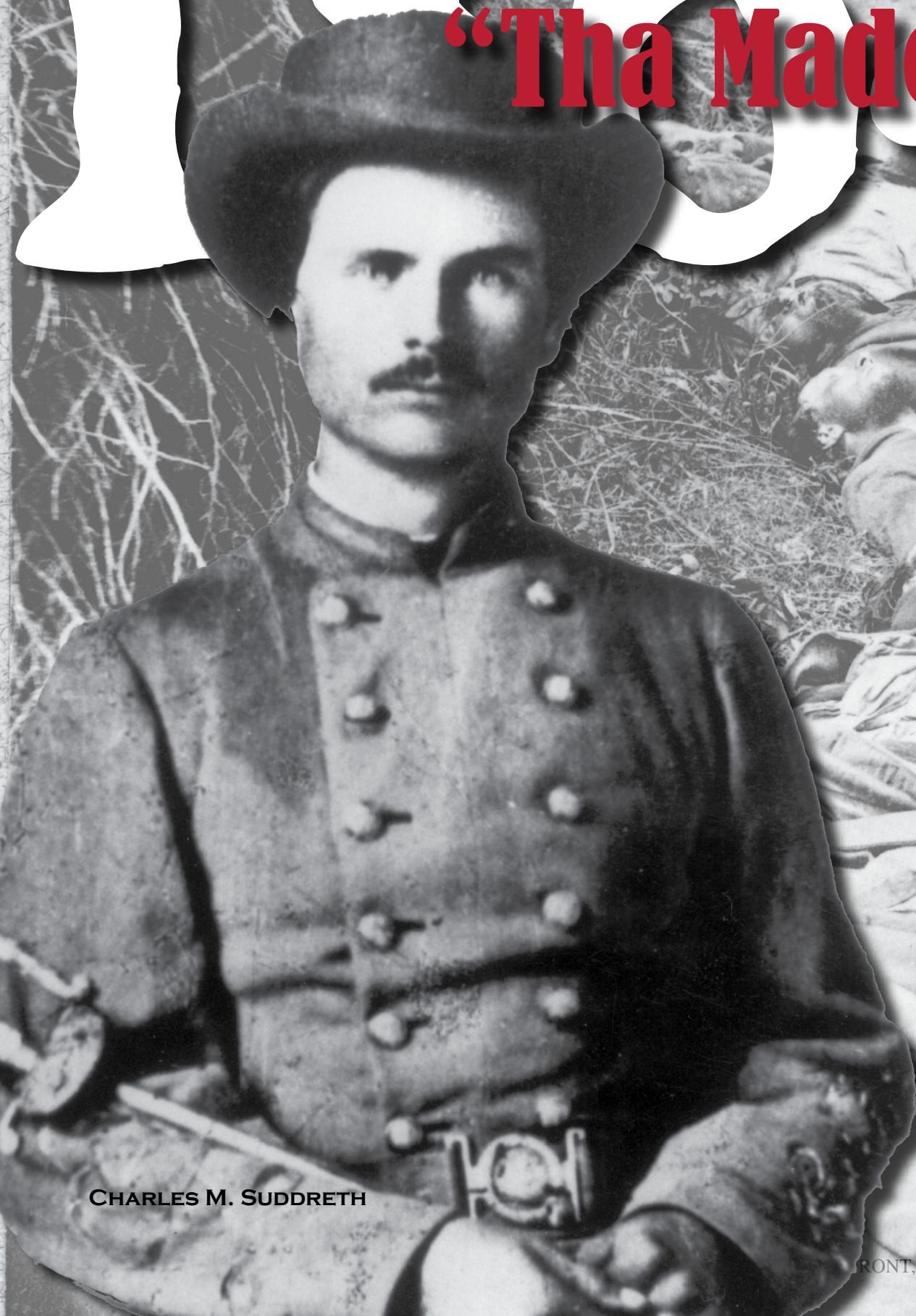
[Editor's Note] No letters from Tom survive from late 1863 to August 1864. Tom was wounded on an unspecified date in May-June 1864, probably at the Battle of the Wilderness. He returned to duty about July 1, 1864.

The next three letters are from Daniel Columbus Setzer, another son of William Alphonso Setzer, and younger brother of Eli, who had been killed at Gettysburg. Daniel served in Company C, 8th Battalion N. C. Junior Reserves. The Junior Reserve units organized pursuant to

a Confederate law enabling special reserve units of seventeen-year-old boys and men aged 45 to 50. The purpose of the Junior Reserve and Senior Reserve units was to supplement the Confederacy's disappearing military manpower.

1864

“Tha Made the



CHARLES M. SUDDRETH



Grape and Canister Fly'

LETTER 51

Camp Vance [Burke County, North Carolina]

June the 23 1864

Dear father,

I now Seat myself to inform you that I am well and hearty. The object of me writing you this letter is to inform you that we are a going to leave her to morrow morning bright and early fore Raleigh. Their we will remain untill further orders. From there we will proceed to Weldon or goldsborough or Kinston. It is uncertain how long we will stay at Raleigh. Sam [Samuel Rhodes] says we will Stay untill we draw Arms and clothings. The arms we drewed here we returnd them to day and all our accoutments. That box that I had here, you will find it in the comosary [commissary] in care of Thomas Hall Curtis. You can com and get it if you want it.

We elected our major [James B. Ellington] this morning. Soon we have three days rashion prepared. Our Company, that is Company C [Burke and Caldwell County], and Company A [Iredell County] and Company B [Catawba County], is a going gard. The rest is a going to stay here. Tell John [John Kelly Setzer] and Ann [Laura Ann Setzer] that I want be back to see them soon. Tell Tom to write to me and also tell [illegible word] To. Tell cousin Belle [Arabelle Corpening] and Bettie [Elizabeth Corpening] that I would like to see them, but they know how it is, and tell them that I am sorry that I have to go off and take their wrings [rings] with me. I had no idea, but what I would get to com home. Tell them that I would send in a leter, but the mail goes out by hand and the mailcarries has been breaking letters open. Tell them that I will take care of them, and send their wrings to them as soon as I get a chance. I must bring my letter to a close. Write as soon as you find out where we are, for I cant tell you where to write. You must all Do the best you can.

Yours truely

from D. C. Setzer

to W. A. Setzer

Tell the girls to write to me, and tell cousin Belle and Bettie that I [ask that] they will pardon me for not sending their wrings to them.

[Editor's Note] Camp Davis was located on Masonboro Sound in New Hanover County.

LETTER 52

Head quarters Camp Davis

August the 16th 1864

Dear Father,

I now seat myself to write you a few lines which will inform you that I am well and hearty, and in fine spirits. I have no news to write worthy of youre attension.

They boys has all landed safe. They arrived last Friday. They boxes never come untill yesterday, and when they come they were all spoilt. My box was spoilt. Evry thing you sent was spoilt except the apples, and they were nearly all spoilt. I would like to be at home to go with they thrasher, and get some Pot Pie and beans, potatoes and such like. Father, I am happy to inform you that I am in the best health now at the present time than I ever was in my life. I weigh 150 pounds, I fattend up since I come down here. They boys that was at home when they came back looked fotey. They dident seem galey like the rest of they boys that were here. You wrote to me that I had a fine brother [Zebulon Baird Vance Setzer] 1 at home and that mother said She wanted me to send a name for him. I have no name to send it unless you name it affter they Theroick Jackson or some other Fantask name. Tell John he will have to eat his watermillion for it will rot before I get home. I cant tell when I will get home. Tell the Girls they will have to waite Patencely for me to come home. Their is no chance, but what I will get to see them som time or other. Tell Rom [Romulus Monroe Setzer] to quirl his tail while I am her, for when I get home I will strten it for him. So I must close for this time.

Sergent D. C. Setzer

I shall wait impatiencly for an answer

1 Zebulon Baird Vance Setzer, son of William Alphonso and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, was born August 7, 1864.

“THA MADE THE GRAPE AND CANISTER FLY.”

LETTER 53

Head Quarter Camp Davis

August the 18th 1864

Dear Sister [Harriett R. Setzer],

It is with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that I have the opportunity of dropping you a few lines this evening, which will inform you that I am in a good State of health. I received a letter from you at the arrival of M. G. Tuttle [Marcus Gamewell "Game" Tuttle]. I was glad to hear from you for I had not heard from you since I left home.

I have no news to write worthy of your attention. We are still on Masonborough Sound, yet I would like to be removed from here for I am getting tired of this place. M. G. Tuttle has been very sick since he came back, but he is near about well at this time. Those things you sent me with Game were all spoiled except the apples. Harriet there is a strong talk of peace here. Some say it will be 12 months and others say in 6 months. I have no idea when the war will end, but I think it can't last much longer for old Abe [Abraham Lincoln] has been whipped this whole spring campaign. I made one mistake I ought to have had a capital letter for Abe, but it doesn't make any difference, for he is not worth a capital nothing, and I think he will have to give up the ghost. You wrote to me that you hoped that I would be almost ready to start home. I am not ready, nor don't expect to be soon, although I think I will get to come home about Christmas. I must close.

Sergt D. C. Setzer

I shall wait impatiently for an answer.

LETTER 54

Camp near Petersburg Va

August the 21 1864

Dear friend,

I cete my self to let you know that I am well. Thank God



MARCUS GAMEWELL TUTTLE



GIDEON PHILYAW



GEN. WILLIAM MACRAE

for his kine ness. Hoping theas few lines may fine you and your family all well. I saw Thomas Setzer yesterday and he was well. He said you wanted to no what you must do with that Puett note. I want you sir to see can that note forth with, and in nothing els but goale or silver. Git sum good lawer to attend to it. Dou with it as if it was your one and you will sute me. I want it so can right of if thay will haf it all will be right. I have got your mony to pay you when I cum home. If you need it your money is caseing nothing and I am coming home shortly. I think I am lucking for my discarg eny day. I carg you to attend to that bisness [illegible word] of. We are fighting, yet kling mones [Thomas L. Clingman] briggad capturd three thousand yesterday, and this day one boys is gon to try what thay can do. I hope thay may bi pass us. I dont think thar is any danger. I am in a hurry. I must close my few lines hoping the god of heven may bles you all, an well comply with my request.

from H. Bradford [Hosea Bradford]

to W. A. Setzer Esq

[Editor's Note] The following remarkable letter by Thomas Setzer describes two battles in which the 26th North Carolina participated in August 1864: Globe Tavern on August 21 and Reams' Station on August 25. The latter battle, in which nearly all the Confederate troops were North Carolinians, resulted in the near destruction of the famous II Corps of the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Major General Winfield Scott Hancock.

LETTER 55

Camp 26 Regt NC Troops

Near Petersburg Va

Aug the 28th 1864

Dear Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I Seate my Self this butifule Sabath morning to drop you a few lines, witch will in forme you that I am a live and well at this time, while Some of my comeards has gon the way of all the liven Sence my arival at the Regtmente. But truley hoping when when thees few lines come too your hand tha may fine you all well and a dooing well.

I hav nothing of eny grate importance to write too you, and rite Smarte too. I would bee very glad too See you all a gin and bee at home with you all, for I tell you that we hav a heard [hard] time of it her.

When I found the Regtmente, tha was on the front lines in too hundred yards of the Yankees, a Shooting at each other all the time. And a man couden look over the breste works with oute beeing shot in the head, and I Stade thair a week. And the hole time I was thair I donte think it was a minute bewhat I herd a gun or a Cannon fire, and Some times it was giste like a reglar fite. Tha was Several men got shot in our Regt while we was on the lines, and on Satureday after I got their, we was releave and march down the Rail Rode towards weldon too miles, and lade down till day lite. And at day lite we commence throig up breste works, and before we got them half dun we was ordered a way, and march down in the fidle [field] and forme a line of battle. And then tha was a charg orderd, and we charg the firste line of the Sharpshooter, and then haulted [halted] and lade down. And then the battrys commence, and that was as hard a Sheling as I ever was under in my life. I thought I would bee kill ever minute, for the ball giste ploude the ground all a round mee, and tha was Severl men kill and wound in the time of it. And then tha Seaste, and the we was call too attension and orderd too charge the yankees brest works, and we did So. Tha run as Soon we got in Site of them. We taken a few prisners, but we couden take the battry, and we Stop at ther breste works. And I tell you tha made the grape and Canister fly. Tha was a lode of grape Struck the breste work rite in front of mee, kill a man on my lefte and nock mee down, and wounded Capten Tuttle [Romulus Morrison Tuttle]. But never hurte mee eny hardly, and the fite Soon close the fite with oute eny thing mutch gaind on our Side.

We lade thair all day in line of battel in the Sun, and it was hot in Site of the Yankees, and the Sharp Shooters a Shooting all the time. And after dark that knite we fell back too the lea foundry at Petersburg on this Side. Donte you recolect Some larg Chmneys this side of the town in Site of town, a hundred and fifty yarde this Side? We commence throing up breste works, and in our fite on Sunday the Regt loste Six kill dead on the field and twenty three wouned, but now body was hurte in our compney but Capten Tuttle, and he was struck in the breste with a grape Shot. And tha is a feler [Thomas Absher] gon frome our compney but he was taken a prisoner we think. We Stade at the lea foundry untill the 24, when we march in the direction of dinwda Courte house [Dinwiddy Court House] Some tenn miles. When we fiel too the lefte and come to the Rail Rode not fur from Reames Station, when we found the yankees a gain on the Rail Rode.

We had them too charg a gain, and we did that with some affect on the Yankees. We capturd thirty one hundred prisners and sixteen paces of Cannon. When we charge them, tha Shot one voley and then throde down

ther guns and come runing over too us. The fite was on the 25 day of the month. Our loste was very Small, considern what a charge it was. The Regt onley lost three kill dead on the field and twenty wounded. I donte now the loste of the brigade [William McRae replaced Gen. Kirkland as the 26th N. C.'s brigade commader on June 22, 1864]. The Brigade Capterd fore yankees flags in the time and Cook [John Rogers Cook's Brigade] got fore or five and lanes [James Henry Lane's Brigade] got some. Our Brigade and Lanes and Cooks captured all the prisner a moste. I tell you we giv them Sut, but we fell back too Petersburg the nex day wher we air now lying in the age [edge] of town a resten. But exspect too hav too go on the front lines in a few days. We had too men wounded in the laste fite, A. T. Kerby badly, and Gid Philyaw [Gideon Philyaw] Slitley [slightly].

But olde grante [U. S. Grant] keep a cuming a now at the Sitty [city] or at our lines, but I think he as well too quit it for all the good he can doo. Olde grante Still holes the weldon rail rode and I exspect will for Some time, at for I think he will bee very hard too git off of the Rail Rode. So I think we will hav pice this winter, and that is the oppinion of the moste of the men. So I hante eny moore to write. Write Soon and giv mee all the nuse you hav, and how you come oute a thrashing wheat, if you air dun or, and how you air a giten a long with you work at home. I tole Hosey [Hosea Bradford] what you tole me too tell him. Tell Hattie [Harriett R. Setzer] I am well. So write Soon, So nothing more onley I remain you Son in law untill deth from.

Sargt T. W. Setzer

to W. A. Setzer Esq

LETTER 56

Camp 26 Regt N.C. Troops

Sept the 2nd 1864

Dear Fatherinlaw, and Motherinlaw, Brother, and Sisters,

I take the oppportunity this eavning, while wresting for a few hours for the firste time in Severl days, to drop you a few lines, witch will informe you that I am Still a live and well at this present time, and truley hoping when thees few lines Come too your hand tha may fine you all well and a dooing well.

I hav eny grate nuse too write to you at this time onley I would like to See you all one time more, But I am not a suair [sure] when I will hav the too git too See eny of you a gain, for I hante eny idy when the war will Come too a close, but I hope this winter will bring it too a close Some way or other.

We hav lefte the Breste works at Petersburg. We lefte thair the fifteenth of the month and march down the flank Back towards Dinwidy Courte house Some three mile, and forme a line of battel and throde up breste works and Stade thair untill knite before laste, and then move over towards the weldon Rail Rode Some mile, and commence throing up works and Stade thair till this morning, when we move in fronte Some ten miles, and hav commence hitting up works a gin. But I cante tell how long we will Stay her, but we cante go mutch farther with oute a Coming a breste the Yankees, and I wouden bee Suprise that we had a fite her in a few days.

Our Cavalry Capture twenty five hundred head of Cattel and three hundred horses and five hundred prisoners and Six wagons, the teams with Six mules hitch to a wagon. This all has hapen Sence we come down her.

For eny more nuse a bout the army I hante got eny. I am very Sorow that you had too giv up your mules tha you had too, but it is giste as I exspect when I was their.

I am glad that tha hav Caught R. E. Fleming, and if tha fetch him her he is as good as a dead man, for tha Shot Happeras [Little Happeras], he that runaway the Same time that Fleming did. And tha hav got too moore in the guard house that left the Same time, Clark [Detroit L. Clarke] and Hicks [James Hicks].

I got a letter frome Lum [Daniel Columbus Setzer] the other day. He was well at that time. Lum Can oute way mee, I onley way a hundred and forty pounds at this time. Tell Ed [unable to identify this person] that I Said that he haden olde Tom thair too swiste pases for him when the Patterroles [patrols] got a hole of him. I am glad you come oute so well a thrashing wheat. I will hav too close by asking you too write too mee soon, and give mee all the nuse you hav a about your crop of corne is, and how mutch [illegible word] you hav put up. So nothing moore, onley I remain your son untill deth.

frome Sargt T. W. Setzer

to W. A. Setzer Esq

LETTER 57

Headquarters Camp Davis

Sept the 5th 1864

“...AND A MAN COUDEN LOOK OVER THE BRESTE WORKS WITH OUTE BEEING SHOT IN THE HEAD.”

Dear Father,

I now seat myself to Drop you a few lines which will inform you that I am well and hearty and trully hope when those few lines com to hand they may find you well and enjoying the same State of health. I have no news to write worthy of youre attension. I recived your kind and welcom letter the 2nd of this month bearing date of the 29th of August. I verry glad to hear you all was well and hearty.

We are still at the same old place yet and I cant tell how long we will stay. We wer orderd a way last Monday, was a weak a go. We got as far as Wilmington and the orders were countermanded. We come back to camp, and we are still here, although we may be orderd of soon. their is no telling.

Tell all the girls that I would like to be at home to help them to Sing, but yea lords I cant tell. But I recon they wil learn me how to prepar to pucher bey the time I get home.

I recived a letter from T. W. Setzer yesterday wrote the 31st of August. He was well and hearty, and the rest was all well. He has ben in two fight Since he went back, one the 21st and one the 25. He never got hurt in either of them. I must stop writing for this time write soon.

Sergt D. C. Setzer

LETTER 58

Camp Near Petersburg Va

Sept the 27 1864

dear friend,

I cete my self to let you no that I am about yet, thang God for his kine ness, hoping theas few lines may fine you and your family all well. I havent Eany nues to rite. thing is all quiett at this tmime, but how long I cant tell. I am a lettle afraid thay will war us out. If Even petersburg goes up the thing is sittle, we are gon. Thar is one thing I want you and R. G. Tuttle to dou for me, that is to git a potision drawn up for a black smith in your naborhood in my favior and git all the nabors to cine it and cind it to govner Vance [Gov. Zeb Vance] stating who you want. And then he will recamine me to the secatary of war. You must rite what grat disadvants you labor under for the want of a smith, and thar is now [no] smith with in several miles. And you cant carry on farming with out a smith. Dou this rite of and I think I will git to com home. If this dont do I shal have to stay till next June, that is shore. I wad lik to ce you all and dou your work and be at home with my family. Dou this rite of and when you start it, cend me a letter and let me know how you are and how my family is git ing a long and if you ned your money. Let me no and you shal have it. I want that dept of Puett [illegible word] saw that it can git it eany time in the yallow boxes I dont no it [two illegible words] it in that way and all will be rite. I am yours with respect. rite shortly and of in [illegible word]. I am glad to hear from you at any time. Thomas is well

I saw him yesterday.

H. Bradford [Hosea Bradford]

W. A. Setzer Esq

LETTER 59

Head quarters Camp Davis

Oct the 5th 1864

Dear Father,

I now seat myself to drop you a few lines which well inform you that I am well and hearty. I received youre letter dated the 27th of Sept the 3rd of Oct. I was glad to here from you, and to here you all was well.

I have no news to write at present worthey of youre attension. Their was two men died last week out of our company. Their names were John Berry and Hunter [Julius Hunter], both from burk county [Burke County]. Fate Griffin accidently shot himself the other day through the foot near the little toe.

I was sorry to here that you was geting a long so slow with youre work. I wish I were at home to help you but you know how it is. I hope the ware will end a gainst next sumer. You wrote to me that if I would come home, that H. R. would have a quilting. I cant tell you when I will get to come home. It will be a long time before I can get to come. Tell H. R. that she must have a quilting when I get home, for you neednot look for me shortly. You wrote to me you had a notion coming down when you got through with youre work. I would be glad to see you com. I want you to bring me a gallon or two of Brandy for I am thirsty. So I must close for this time, write soon if you pleas.

D. C. Setzer

LETTER 60

Campe 26 Regt NC Troops

Oct the 17th 1864

Dear Father,

I seat my Self to drop you a few lines to in forme you that I am a live and well at this time, and truley hoping when thees few lines come to your hand, tha may fine you and famley well and a doing well.

I hav nothing Strang to write too you at this time, onley I would like too bee at home with you, but I hante theair. We air in a line of battel up a long the breste works exspeting a nother fite ever day. I have bin too fites since I written too you before, but I [know] you hav herd all a boutte it and it hante worth wile for me too try too tele youeny thing moore a boutte it.

I hav bought you a pistole [see letters February 25, 1863 and May 13, 1863] at laste. I giv a hundred and thirty five Dollars for it, and I think it is a rite [illegible word]. I bought it frome old Hosey Bradford and he sais that he thinks that he will git too come home before long, and he will take it home too you for mee. It is very heavy one and Shoots Six times. I dont gess you ever Seen one quite like it. So write Soon and give mee all the nuse. [illegible word] hav it and Mat [Crump] got our box. So write and air very mutch blight too you few the things you Sente too mee. So fair you well fer this time.

Sargt T. W. Setzer

W. A. Setzer Esq

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

The index provides brief sketches of the various regiments and individuals mentioned in the letters.

All military service record information is taken from Louis H. Manarin, Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., Matthew W. Brown, and Michael W. Coffey, comps., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, 19 vols. to date (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 1966 -) vols. II, V, VI, VII, XIV, XVII.

Also provided at the end of each entry for individuals is a list of the specific letters that the person is mentioned in. This letter numbering system does not include the following individuals as they are mentioned in just about all of the letters:

Harriett R. Setzer Thomas W. Setzer William Alphonso Setzer William Eli Setzer

***NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENTS
MENTIONED WITHIN THE
LETTER COLLECTION***

2nd Regiment North Carolina Cavalry (19th Regiment N. C. Troops). This regiment was organized on August 30, 1861, with Company F being raised in Guilford County. (Letter 5-2-1862)

8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves / 3rd Regiment North Carolina Junior Reserves. The counties of Burke and Caldwell raised a junior reserve company, known as the “Burke and Caldwell Reserves” in late spring 1864. On June 7, 1864, it was designated Company C, 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves. In January 1865, the 4th, 7th, and 8th Battalions North Carolina Junior Reserves consolidated into a regiment known as the 3rd Regiment North Carolina Reserves, and the Burke and Caldwell company became Company G of the new command. (Letters 6-23-1864, 8-16-1864, 8-18-1864)

16th Regiment North Carolina Troops (6th Regiment North Carolina Volunteers). One company from Burke County helped form this Regiment. The “Burke Tigers” organized May 10, 1861, and and subsequently designated Company E. The regiment served with the Pender-Scales Brigade (13th, 16th, 22nd, 34th, and 38th Regiments North Carolina Troops) of the Hill-Pender-Wilcox Division throughout the war. (Letter 6-17-1861)

22nd Regiment North Carolina Troops. The first company to come from Caldwell County, known as the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys,” organized at Lenoir on April 30, 1861. In July 1861, the company became Company A, 22nd Regiment North Carolina Troops (12th Regiment North Carolina Volunteers). The regiment served with the Pender-Scales Brigade (13th, 16th, 22nd, 34th, and 38th Regiments North Carolina Troops) of the Hill-Pender-Wilcox Division throughout the war. Two hundred and five men served in Company A during the course of the war. (Letters 6-17-1861, 8-4-1861, 7-16-1862)

26th Regiment North Carolina Troops. This regiment was organized on August 27, 1861 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Two of the ten companies were raised in Caldwell County, the “Hibriten Guards” organized on July 15, 1861, and the “Caldwell Guards” formed on July 31, 1861. Both companies mustered in the county seat of Lenoir. The “Hibriten Guards” became Company F and the “Caldwell Guards” became Company I of the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops. Company F had 242 soldiers served in Company F during the war, while 270 served in Company I. In July 1862, fifty members of Company I transferred to Company H, 58th Regiment North Carolina Troops, another Caldwell County command. (Letters 8-25-1861, 6-17-1862, 7-16-1862)

58th Regiment North Carolina Troops. Two companies from Caldwell County helped form this regiment. Captain John C. Keener’s company was mustered into service on June 25, 1862, and became Company E, 58th Regiment North Carolina Troops on July 29. More than 360 men served in Company E, probably the largest number in any North Carolina infantry company. Captain T. J. Dula’s company mustered into service on May 23, 1862, and became Company H of the 58th North Carolina, with 173 men enlisting in that company. (Letter 10-15-1862)

Absher, Thomas. A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on November 9, 1863, at thirty years old. He deserted to the enemy on July 15, 1864. (Letter 8-28-1864)

Arney, George (May 2, 1824 – February 25, 1904). Born in Burke County and resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on January 7, 1863. He was wounded in the right leg and captured at Gettysburg, resulting in an amputation. He was paroled on September 27, 1863, and discharged on December 31, 1864. He was married to Elizabeth Arney, but she died in March 1860. He was the great-nephew of Elizabeth Arney Setzer, the mother of the Caldwell County Setzer clan. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Ballew, John Gibbs (ca. 1821). The son of Peter and Rebecca Fleming Ballew, and a resident of Caldwell County. According to the 1860 Federal census he was married with a young child. He was a brother of William A. Ballew and Joseph R. Ballew. (Letter 4-19-1862)

Ballew, Joseph Rutherford (ca. 1832). The son of Peter and Rebecca Fleming Ballew, he was born in Burke County and was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted at twenty-nine in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was elected first lieutenant at enlistment and was elected captain on April 1, 1862. He resigned October 12, 1862 due to “chronic diarrhea” and “chronic disease of the lung.” He was a brother of William A. Ballew and John G. Ballew. (Letter 10-15-1862)

Ballew, William “Bill” Abraham (August 14, 1816). The son of Peter and Rebecca Fleming Ballew, who, according to the 1860 U. S. Census for Caldwell County, was forty-four years old and married with four children. He was a brother of John G. Ballew and Joseph R. Ballew. (Letter 10-12-1862)

Bean, William “Bill” W. (1846). Son of Enoch and Elizabeth Crump Bean, he resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He was wounded at the battles of Gettysburg and Bristoe Station and returned to service in early 1864. He was retired from military service on October 20, 1864. He later joined Company D, 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U. S.) on April 15, 1865. His father joined this unit on the same day. (Letter 5-2-1862)

Berry, John. A native of Burke County and the son of A. E. and Mary Berry, he enlisted in Company C, 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves at Camp Vance (Burke County) on June 13, 1864. He was promoted to corporal on July 2, 1864, He was hospitalized at Wilmington, North Carolina on September 16, 1864, and died on September 27, 1864 of typhoid fever. (Letter 10-5-1864)

Bradford, Hosea (ca. 1800 – ca. 1885). He was the son of Bennett Bradford, a blacksmith, and a resident of Caldwell County. He enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina at the age of sixty years old on June 22, 1862. He was discharged on December 3, 1864. He was married to Polly Collier on August 13, 1824, and their sons James B. Bradford, William Bradford and E. Jasper Bradford, also served in Company F, 26th North Carolina (Letters 8-21-1864, 8-28-1864, 9-27-1864, 10-17-1864)

Bradford, James B. Son of Hosea and Polly Collier Bradford, he was a resident of Caldwell County when

he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He was mortally wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862, and died on August 6, 1862. He was a brother of William W. Bradford and E. Jasper Bradford, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina. (Letter 7-16-1862)

Bradford, William W. (1844 – 1907). He was the son of Hosea and Polly Collier Bradford. He resided in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on January 7, 1863, at age eighteen. He was wounded at Gettysburg but returned to duty prior to May 5, 1864, when he was wounded in action at the Battle of the Wilderness. He returned to the ranks on or about July 1, 1864, but was captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Harts Island, New York Harbor until he took the Oath of Allegiance on June 18, 1865. He was a brother of James B. Bradford and E. Jasper Bradford, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina He was married to Martha Corpening, a sister of Lawson and Daniel Corpening, both who served in the war. (Letter 10-20-1863)

Bradshaw, Nathan (1844 – 1902). Son of Wilson and Malinda Bradshaw and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the "Hibriten Guards" on July 15, 1861 at eighteen years of age. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was captured at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862, and confined at Fort Columbus, New York Harbor, until he was exchanged on August 5, 1862. He was wounded at Gettysburg and captured at New Creek, Virginia on July 20, 1863. He was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio and released on July 25, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance, and enlisting in Company D, 11th Ohio Cavalry (U. S.). (Letter 3-21-1862)

Branch, Gen. Branch. Lawrence O'Bryan. He was born in Enfield, North Carolina, and a former North Carolina Congressman. At the beginning of the Civil War, Branch was elected colonel of the 33rd Regiment N. C. Troops, until he was promoted brigadier general on November 16, 1861. He commanded of the Confederate forces at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862. Following that campaign, he assumed command of a brigade that consisted of the 7th Regiment North Carolina State Troops and the 18th, 28th, 33rd, and the 37th Regiments North Carolina Troops. His brigade was attached to Major General A. P. Hill's famous "Light Division" that was in Lieutenant General Stonewall Jackson's Second Corps. Branch's Brigade assisted in capturing Harpers Ferry prior to the Battle of Sharpsburg and participated in the "Light Division's" storied seventeen-mile march to save Lee's Army at Sharpsburg. Branch was killed in action at Sharpsburg and is buried in Raleigh, North Carolina. (Letter 2-9-1862)

Braswell, Robert M. The son of William B. and Margaret "Peggy" Shell Braswell, he resided in Caldwell County, where he enlisted on October 15, 1862 in Company F, 26th North Carolina. He deserted on January 5, 1863, but returned to duty prior to being killed on July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was married to Sarah A. Taylor and they were the parents of a young child. He was a brother of Marcus Delafayette Braswell and a first cousin of James J. Braswell, Ryan Wesley Braswell, and Thomas N. Braswell, all of Company F, 26th North Carolina. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Brown, Leander. Son of Wyatt and Holly Brown, he was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the "Hibriten Guards" on July 15, 1861, at the age of twenty-three. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He died at Kinston, North Carolina between May 14 -18, 1862 of disease. His younger brother John Brown served in Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves. (Letter 5-17-1862)

Burgwyn, Jr., Henry King. (October 3, 1841 – July 1, 1863) Born in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, Burgwyn lived in eastern North Carolina. He was an 1861 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and attended the University of North Carolina prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. He was commandant of Camp Carolina (also known as Camp Crabtree) when the 26th North Carolina was organized at that place on August 26, 1861. He was elected lieutenant colonel of the regiment on that date and was promoted to colonel on August 19, 1862. He was killed on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg while gallantly carrying the colors of the regiment. He was buried in Gettysburg later that evening and in 1867 his body was returned to North Carolina when he was re-buried in Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery. Colonel Burgwyn shared a common ancestor with the Tuttle family. William Tuttle came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635 and settled in New Haven, Connecticut in 1638. Andrew Hull Tuttle, Sr., Andrew H. Courtney's grandfather moved from Connecticut to North Carolina in 1810. However, it is doubtful that the Caldwell County Tuttle's knew of the connection with Col. Burgwyn. (8-18-1862, 2-25-1863, No Date # 36)

Bush, Richard (November 8, 1806). A resident of Caldwell County, he was the father of Wyatt Boyd Bush and Matthias Milton Bush, both of Company I, 26th North Carolina. He was married to Nancy Dale Bush and together they were the parents of sixteen children. (Letter 11-27-1863)

Cannon, Wesley W. (September 24, 1830 – March 14, 1911). Son of John and Catherine Cannon, he was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 1, 1861. He transferred to Company H, 58th North Carolina on May 1, 1862. The records for him are sparse but, the family claims that he was court martialed because he refused to burn a lady's barn and corn crib. He managed to escape from his guard and make his way to Cleveland, Tennessee, where he joined Company L, 12th Tennessee Cavalry (U. S.) under the alias Robert Smith. He was discharged from federal service on October 7, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The records show that his wife received a Confederate pension for the death of her first husband, George L. Powell, and a U. S. pension for Robert Smith, alias for W. W. Cannon. He was a brother of Henry Cannon, of Company I, 26th North Carolina. In 1867, he married Jane Elizabeth Corpening Powell, the widow of George L. Powell [Company F, 26th North Carolina.], on April 16, 1867. She was the sister of Lawson and Daniel Corpening. (Letter 10-14-1861, 1-13-1862, 4-19-1862, 10-15-1862)

Carswell, Robert H. Son of Robert and Mary Carswell, he was a resident of Burke County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on January 5, 1863, at the age of thirty-five. He was killed at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He was married and the father of two small children. (Letter 7-14-183)

Clarke, Detroit L. (1837). A resident of Mitchell County, but with family in Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on November 30, 1863. He deserted April 12, 1864 and on October 5, 1864, enlisted [along with two of his brothers, Adolphus and Thaddeaus Clarke] the U. S. Army. He was mustered into Company F, 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U. S.) at Knoxville, Tennessee on October 26, 1864. He deserted from the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry on November 5, 1864 "with one Springfield Rifle and Accoutrements complete." He never returned to duty with the 3rd N. C. Mounted Infantry, although he was owed \$22.59 in back pay. He returned to the 26th North Carolina, but deserted again on January 14, 1865. He was released at Washington, D. C., on January 20, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Interestingly, on March 17, 1896, he applied for removal of the charge of desertion, in order to apply for a pension for his U. S. service. He was married and the father of three children prior to the war. (Letter 9-2-1864)

Coffey, Cleveland. Son of Zacheus and Margaret Coffey and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in

Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at the age of twenty-five. He was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and died two days later. His brothers David Coffey and Jesse P. Coffey also served in Company F, 26th North Carolina. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Coffey, J. Harrison. Son of Calvin and Mary Coffey and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 1, 1861. He was killed at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He had three brothers that served in the war; Alexander B. Coffey [Company A, 22nd North Carolina.], William S. Coffey [Company F, 26th North Carolina], and Patterson Vance Coffey [Company D, 1st North Carolina Cavalry]. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Collett, Orlando Columbus. The son of James H. and Jane Collett, he was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, at the age of twenty-four. This company would become Company F, 26th North Carolina. He mustered in as a sergeant, but transferred to Company E, 58th North Carolina in November 1862 – February 1863. He was wounded at Chickamauga, Georgia, on September 20, 1863, and promoted to Sergeant in November-December 1864. He transferred to Company A of the same regiment and was paroled at Morganton, North Carolina on May 15, 1865. (Letter 10-8-1862)

Cook, Harry H. He resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 14, 1861, at the age of twenty-two. He died of disease in Kinston, North Carolina on May 15, 1862. (Letters 2-9-1862, 5-17-1862)

Corpening, Cassa Setzer (May 20, 1820 – August 3, 1899). Daughter of Daniel and Jane Holloway Setzer and the wife of William Crawford Corpening. They were the parents of Lawson W. and Daniel M. Corpening. Her brother was William Alphonso Setzer, the W. A. Setzer of the letter collection. W. A. Setzer married William Crawford Corpening’s sister Eliza Jane Corpening. (Letter 6-17-1862)

Corpening, Daniel M. (September 24, 1844 – August 30, 1862). Son of William C. and Cassa Setzer Corpening, he was born in Caldwell County but was a fifteen year resident of Burke County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861. This company would become Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was discharged on May 1, 1862, by reason of the Conscription Act. He was a brother of Lawson W. Corpening who served in Company E, 16th North Carolina and a cousin of Eli and Tom Setzer, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina. The September 24, 1862 letter states that Daniel Corpening was killed at the Battle of Second Manassas on August 30, 1862. However there are no records of him re-enlisting in any Burke or Caldwell Company. It is likely that he reenlisted in his brother’s command, Company E, 16th North Carolina, in the summer of 1862, but never appeared on the official muster roll. (Letters 8-25-1861, 1-13-1862, 4-19-1862, 6-17-1862, 9-24-1862)

Corpening, Isaac Newton (ca. 1838). Son of Albert G. and Sophronia Harshaw Corpening, he was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 14, 1861 at the age of twenty-four. He was promoted to 1st Sergeant on April 1, 1862, but was reduced to the ranks by his own request at some point between May – December 1862. He was captured at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and imprisoned at Point Lookout, Maryland. He was received for exchange and returned to duty in January – February 1865, and was promoted to sergeant. He was captured at Hatcher’s Run, Virginia on April 2,

1865, and was released from Harts Island, New York Harbor on June 17, 1865. (Letter 7-27-1862)

Corpening, Joseph (May 22, 1809 – November 23, 1882). A neighbor and relative of the Setzers. He was married to Catherine Elmina Robinson and they had five young children, two [Arabella “Belle” and Elizabeth “Bette”] of whom are mentioned in the June 23, 1864 letter. (5-2-1862)

Corpening, Lawson W. (September 23, 1842 – November 23, 1878). Son of William and Cassa Setzer Corpening and a brother of Daniel M. Corpening (Company F, 26th North Carolina and Company E, 16th North Carolina), Lawson enlisted in the “Burke Tigers” on May 10, 1861 at the age of eighteen. This company would become Company E, 16th North Carolina. He deserted to the enemy on March 30, 1865 and was released on April 4, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. (Letters 6-17-1861, 7-16-1862, 6-9-1863)

Corpening, Martha Hannah Arabelle “Belle” (October 13, 1848 – January 3, 1935). The daughter of Joseph and Elmira Corpening, and a cousin of the Setzers. (Letter 6-23-1864)

Corpening, Mary Elizabeth Ann “Betty” (January 16, 1847 – January 20, 1916). The daughter of Joseph and Elmira Corpening, and a cousin of the Setzers. She would later marry Charles McDowell Suddreth, who served in Company F, 26th North Carolina (Letters 8-4-1861, 6-23-1864)

Corpening, William Crawford (January 25, 1820 – 1897). A resident of Burke County and a father of Lawson W. Corpening who fought with Company E, 16th North Carolina., and Daniel M. Corpening who served with Company F, 26th North Carolina and Company E, 16th North Carolina. He was married to Cassa Setzer, a sister of W. A. Setzer. Another sister, Mary Malinda Corpening married Elias Powell and their son George L. Powell married William Crawford and Cassa Setzer Corpening’s daughter Elizabeth Corpening. (Letters 6-17-1861, 8-25-1861, 4-19-1862, 9-24-1862)

Courtney, Andrew Hull “Dan” (June 13, 1837 – March 17, 1909). The son of James [Company B, 11th North Carolina.] and Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney, married Mary Eveline “Polly” Bowman on November 15, 1860. “Dan” enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on July 7, 1862, and was promoted to corporal on December 1, 1862. He was wounded in the left leg and captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, resulting in the amputation of his left leg below the knee. He was exchanged on September 27, 1863, and retired to the Invalid Corps. He was a brother of Henry Clay Courtney, also in Company F, 26th North Carolina and Robert Gamewell Courtney, who served with Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves. (Letters 9-24-1862, 7-14-1863, 7-18-1863)

Courtney, Henry Clay (November 7, 1842 – May 15, 1864). A resident of Caldwell County and the son of James [Company B, 11th North Carolina] and Margaret Tuttle Courtney and a brother of Andrew Hull Courtney [Company F, 26th North Carolina and Robert Gamewell Courtney [Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves] Clay enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was wounded in the right thigh at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1863. He died at Parker’s Store, Spotsylvania County, Virginia on May 15, 1864, of this wound. (Letters 1-13-1862, 8-18-1862. 10-8-1862)

Cozart, Thomas J. (1842 – July 3, 1863). The son of William and Mary Hayes Cozart, he was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was killed in action at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Crump, Daniel. (1796). He was married to Susan Setzer, who was a sister of William Alphonso Setzer who was the father of Eli and Harriet Setzer. He was a resident of Caldwell County and the father of John and Thomas Crump, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina He was the grandfather of Henry Cornelius “Neal” Crump, also of Company F, 26th North Carolina (Letter 1-13-1862)

Crump, Henry Cornelius “Neal” . The son of John and Margaret Baker Crump, and the grandson of Daniel and Susan Setzer Crump, he along with his father served in Company F, 26th North Carolina “Neal” was seventeen when he enlisted on March 20, 1862. He was wounded at Gettysburg and deserted from the hospital in Danville, Virginia, on or about August 14, 1863. He later enlisted in Company E, 2nd North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U.S.) on April 15, 1865. (Letters 5-2-1862, 5-31-1862, 10-8-1862, 7-14-1863)

Crump, James Madison “Mat” . The son of Lewis and Elizabeth Setzer Crump, who was a sister of William A. Setzer, the father of Eli and Harriett Setzer. He was a brother of John F. Crump, who served in Company A, 22nd North Carolina., and his older sister Rebecca married Cicero Prestwood [Company F, 26th North Carolina] prior to the war. “Matt” enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at age twenty-five. He mustered in as a private and was wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863. He returned to duty on or about May 12, 1864, and was promoted to corporal. He was captured at Burgess Mill, Virginia, on October 27, 1864, and was confined at Point Lookout Prison, Maryland until he took the Oath of Allegiance on June 3, 1865. (Letters 5-2-1862, 5-31-1862, 6-14-1862, 7-16-1862, 8-18-1862, 10-8-1862, 10-17-1864)

Crump, John (January 28, 1823). Son of Daniel and Susan Setzer Crump, he resided in Caldwell County and on January 7, 1863, at age forty, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was mortally wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and died two days later. He was married to Margaret Baker and was the father of Henry Cornelius “Neal” Crump, of Company F, 26th North Carolina and the brother of Thomas J. Crump (Letter 5-21-1863)

Crump, Thomas J. (ca. 1842). The son of Daniel and Susan Setzer Crump, his brother John Crump and nephew Henry Cornelius “Neal” Crump, also served with him in Company F, 26th North Carolina. He enlisted at age twenty on March 20, 1862. He was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and died at Martinsburg, Virginia between July 8-10, 1863. (Letters 5-2-1862, 5-31-1862, 10-8-1862, 7-14-1863)

Curtis, Joshua C. Son of John and Sarah Curtis and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, at the age of twenty-one. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was captured at Williamsport, Maryland during the retreat from Gettysburg on July 14, 1863. He was released from Point Lookout, Maryland on January 26, 1864, when he joined Company C, 1st United States Volunteer Infantry, which performed military duty on the western frontier. His brothers Thomas and William also served in Company F, 26th North Carolina., while another brother, Samuel, served in Company K, 38th North Carolina. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Curtis, Thomas Hall. Son of John and Sarah Curtis and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 10, 1862, at the age of twenty-two. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg and later hospitalized at Davids Island, New York harbor until he was exchanged September 8, 1863. He was reported absent without leave in January – February 1864, and listed as a deserter on July 1, 1864. His brothers Joshua and William also served in Company F, 26th North Carolina while another brother, Samuel, served in Company K, 38th North Carolina (Letter 6-23-1864)

Dickson, William Wallace (December 18, 1824 – May 26, 1884). The son of William and Margaret McDowell Dickson, he resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861. This company became Company A, 22nd North Carolina. He was elected second lieutenant on August 8, 1861, and defeated for re-election on May 1, 1862. He was re-elected second lieutenant on May 20, 1863, and was captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. He was sent to multiple prisons, and was finally paroled and exchanged on February 24, 1865. (Letter 7-18-1863)

Dula, Sidney Patterson. Resided in Caldwell County and enlisted at Camp Vance, Burke County in Company I, 26th North Carolina on November 30, 1861, at age thirty-five. He mustered in as a private, was elected first lieutenant on April 21, 1862, and resigned on August 18, 1862. His reason for resignation was “my health has been declining since the recent engagements before Richmond...by continuing in the service I fear my constitution will be entirely broken, a misfortune I am not willing to undergo, having a wife and eight small children dependent on my exertions for support.” For some reason he was still at camp when letters 6 and 12 were written. He later served as a first lieutenant in Company A, Major A. A. Hill’s Battalion North Carolina Senior Reserves. He also served as Clerk of Court for Caldwell County. (Letter 11-27-1863)

Dula, Thomas Joshua. Son of William H. and Sarah Dula and a resident of Caldwell County where he worked as a lawyer in the town of Lenoir. He was appointed second lieutenant in the 95th Regiment North Carolina Militia on January 20, 1862. He enlisted in Company I, 26th North Carolina on March 15, 1862 and was elected captain of Company H, 58th North Carolina on May 23, 1862. He was appointed major on April 25, 1863 and was wounded at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. He returned to duty on April 6, 1864, and was wounded a second time at Kolb’s Farm on June 22, 1864. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on July 6, 1864, and resigned from service on August 4, 1864, to become the Solicitor of Caldwell County. (Letter 10-15-1862)

Edmisten, Milas. Son of William and Nancy Edmisten and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company E, 58th North Carolina on July 5, 1862, at thirty years old. He became sick and was sent to the hospital on May 17, 1864. His two brothers William and John Edmisten also served in Company E, 58th North Carolina. (Letter 2-9-1862)

Ellington, James. B. A resident of Chatham County, he enlisted as a private in the “Chatham Rifles”, on April 15, 1861 at twenty-five years of age. This company became Company M, 15th North Carolina He transferred to Company D, 61st North Carolina on March 21, 1862, when he was elected second lieutenant of that newly formed company. He was wounded at Charleston, South Carolina on July 31, 1863. He returned to duty and was transferred to serve as commander of the 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves when he was elected as major of the battalion. He transferred back to Company D, 61st North Carolina and was killed on September 30, 1864 at the Battle of Fort Harrison, Virginia. (Letter 6-23-1864)

Estes, Joe (August 24, 1824 – March 10, 1904). A resident of Caldwell County, where he served in the 95th Regiment North Carolina Militia. He was married to Caroline and they were the parents of four children in 1860. (Letter 4-20-1863)

Fleming, James William (ca. 1846). The son of Robert E. [Company F, 26th North Carolina] and Amentia Baker Fleming, he lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862 at age seventeen. He died of disease at Greenville, North Carolina on April 20, 1863. (Letter 10-8-1862, 4-20-1863)

Fleming, Robert E. (ca. 1824). The son of William and Sarah Fleming, and a resident of Caldwell County, he and Amentia Baker were the parents of eight children, one of whom was James W. Fleming, who served in Company F, 26th North Carolina Robert enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on November 30, 1863. He deserted on April 12, 1864, but returned prior to June 30, 1864. He was captured at Harrisonburg, Virginia, on September 25-26, 1864, and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland. He was released on May 12-14, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. (Letters 10-8-1862, 9-2-1864)

Fleming, William. Son of Robert and Susan Holloway Fleming, and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on January 7, 1863 at thirty-five. He was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg between July 1 – 3, 1863. He was cousin of Robert E. Fleming. (Letters 4-13-1863, 4-20-1863, 5-31-1863, 7-14-1863)

Gaither, William “Bill” Wiley. The son of Wylie and Mary Gaither, and a resident of Caldwell County, where he worked as a physician. He enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on August 1, 1861, at the age of twenty-one. He was promoted to Hospital Steward in August – October 1861 and appointed Assistant Surgeon on November 16, 1861. He was promoted to the rank of Surgeon on November 4, 1864, and transferred to the 28th North Carolina (Letters 5-2-1862, 7-16-1862)

Gragg, Jackson. The son of Obadiah Gragg and Elizabeth Webb and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at twenty-two years old. He was killed on July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Griffin, Lafayette “Fate” . The son of J. H. and Susan Griffin and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Burke and Caldwell Reserves” at Camp Davis on September 20, 1864. This company became Company C, 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves. He was reported absent sick on January 3, 1865. (Letter 10-5-1864)

Happeras, Little [other spellings are: Hoppes, Hoppis, and Hopson]. The last name is spelled many different ways and thus makes it almost impossible to positively identify this soldier. Most of this family had by the time of the war, settled in the South Mountain area of Burke County. According to *N.C. Troops, Vol. VII*, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on November 30, 1863. He deserted on April 12, 1864 but was captured and

“shot for desertion.” (Letter 9-2-1864)

Harper’s. This refers to James Harper’s home “Fairfield” which served not only as the family home place, but also a country store located on the outskirts of Lenoir. James Harper (1788-1879), one of Lenoir’s most prominent citizens, was a native of the community of Fairfield in Adams County, Pennsylvania. He migrated to Caldwell in the early nineteenth and subsequently donated land for the establishment of the town of Lenoir. Harper and his nephew, James C. Harper, laid out the town grid of Lenoir based upon that of the county seat of their home county: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. James Harper was the father of Major George W.F. Harper of the 58th North Carolina and Samuel Finley Harper, who served in Company A, 22nd North Carolina. (Letter 9-24-1862)

Harstin, Green Harden (4-6-1837 – ca. 1915) A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He mustered in as a private and was promoted to corporal in September – October 1862. He was wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863, and paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. (Letters 4-12-1863, 4-20-1863)

Hicks, James. A resident of Burke County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on January 5, 1863. He deserted on April 12, 1864 but returned to duty in November – December 1864. He was captured at Hatcher’s Run, Virginia on April 2, 1865 and released from Point Lookout, Maryland on June 27, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. (Letter 9-2-1864)

Holloway, John Burton. The son of Robert and Catherine Hood Holloway and a resident of Caldwell County. He was married to Victoria Bristol when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, at the age of twenty-seven. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was elected second lieutenant on the enlistment date but was defeated for re-election on April 12, 1862. He was elected third lieutenant on November 1, 1862, and was killed in action on July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was a brother of George Washington Holloway and James P. Holloway, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina. His only child, John B. Holloway, Jr. was born on July 8, 1863, seven days after his death at Gettysburg. (Letters 8-25-1861, 7-14-1863)

Holloway, Robert James. A resident of Caldwell County, he was appointed first lieutenant in the 95th Regiment N. C. Militia. He was married to Catherine Hood and the father of three sons in Company F, 26th North Carolina – John B. Holloway, James P. Holloway and George. W. Holloway. His sister Jane Holloway married Daniel Setzer, the grandparents of Eli and Harriet Setzer. (Letter 11-27-1863)

Hood, George Washington. The son of David and Emaline Hood, he lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina, on July 15, 1861, at age twenty. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862 and a year later at Gettysburg. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and died on November 26, 1863. He was a cousin of J. T. C. Hood and Gaston Hood. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Hood, James (October 9, 1804 – October 9, 1894). A Caldwell County resident, he was married to Docia

Hood. He was elected captain in the 95th Regiment North Carolina Militia on September 13, 1861, in Puett's District, of the southwestern portion of Caldwell County. He was the father of John Theodore C. Hood [Company F, 26th North Carolina] and Gaston Hood [Company A, 22nd North Carolina], and the uncle of George Washington Hood. He is buried at Littlejohn Methodist Church. (Letter 11-27-1863)

Houk, Leander. A resident of Caldwell County, he and his wife Catherine were the parents of John Marion Houk [Company I, 26th North Carolina] and Robert Caldwell Houk [Company C, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves.]. (Letter 11-27-1863)

Hudspeth, Abel M. (1841 – October 14, 1863). Son of Meshach and Mary Hudspeth and brother of George W. Hudspeth and Robert Newton Hudspeth, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina. Abel was a resident of Caldwell County when enlisted in the same company on July 15, 1861. He was wounded at Gettysburg, returned to duty, and was killed in action at Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. A fourth brother, John T. Hudspeth, served in Company I, 11th North Carolina. (Letter 10-20-1863)

Hudspeth, Robert Newton. (1837 – November 15, 1864). Son of Meshach and Mary Hudspeth and brother of Abel M. Hudspeth and George W. Hudspeth, both of Company F, 26th North Carolina. Robert, a resident of Caldwell County, enlisted in the same company on July 15, 1861. He was mustered in as a private and was promoted to corporal on November 1, 1862. He was promoted to sergeant on December 1, 1862, and was mentioned in dispatches for "good conduct" in the Battle of Blount's Creek, North Carolina, on April 9, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, but returned to duty two days later to take part in the famous charge on July 3rd. He was appointed third lieutenant to rank from July 1, 1863. He died in a hospital in Richmond, Virginia on November 13-15, 1863. A fourth brother, John T. Hudspeth, served in Company I, 11th North Carolina (Letter 10-20-1863)

Hunter, Julius. (May 1847 – September 21, 1864). Son of Joseph B. and America Hunter, he was a resident of Burke County when he enlisted at Camp Vance in the "Burke and Caldwell Reserves" on June 6, 1864 at seventeen years old. This company became Company C, 8th Battalion N. C. Junior Reserves He was mustered in as a private and was promoted to corporal before August 31, 1864. He was hospitalized at Wilmington, North Carolina on September 11, 1864, and died of typhoid fever ten days later. (Letter 10-5-1864)

Kendall, James S. Born in New Hanover County, he later resided in Anson County, but he returned to his birthplace to enlist in the "Wilmington Rifle Guards" on April 15, 1861 at twenty-two years old. This company became Company I, 18th North Carolina. He was mustered in as a first sergeant, but was appointed first lieutenant of the "Pee Dee Wildcats" from Anson County on July 1, 1861, subsequently Company K, 26th North Carolina. He was elected major on April 21, 1862, but resigned on July 21, 1862. His reason for resigning was "the relations...between myself and others of our field and staff are such that to remain longer in connection with the regiment would be incompatible with my honor as a gentleman and soldier." (Letter 8-18-1862)

Kincaid, Henry C. Son of Archibald and Mirah Kincaid, he resided in Burke County when he enlisted in the "Hibriten Guards" on July 15, 1861, at the age of eighteen. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He died of disease in a hospital at Kinston, North Carolina on either May 17th or 18th, 1862. (Letter 5-17-1862)

Kincaid, John (September 16, 1841 – May 27, 1904). The son of Enoch and Barbara Ann Setzer and a

resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at the age of twenty. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until exchanged on August 1, 1863. He returned but was listed as absent without leave in December 1864. He was later reported as absent sick in January 1865. (Letter 5-2-1862)

Kirby, Avery P. He was the son of Riley and Mary Kirby and a brother of Nelson Kirby [Company F, 26th North Carolina.] and Milas Kirby [Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves]. He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, at the age of twenty-one. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and returned to duty prior to January 1, 1864. He was later wounded at Ream’s Station, Virginia on August 25, 1864, and returned to duty sometime that fall. He deserted to the enemy on March 29, 1865 and was released after taking the oath of allegiance on April 4, 1865. (Letter 8-28-1864)

Kirkland, William Whedbee. (February 13, 1833 – May 12, 1915). He attended the United States Military Academy but did not graduate. He was appointed second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1855. He resigned his Federal commission in August 1860 and was elected colonel of the 21st North Carolina in June 1861. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on August 29, 1863. Following the Gettysburg campaign, he assumed command of Pettigrew’s brigade, which included the 26th North Carolina, and led it until his wounding at Cold Harbor, Virginia on June 2, 1864. He returned to duty and took command of Martin’s brigade, which returned to North Carolina and fought at the battle of Bentonville in March 1865. (Letter 11-13-1863)

Kirksey, Elijah J. A resident of Burke County, he was married and the father of three small children at the start of the war. He enlisted in the “Burke Tigers” at the age of thirty-six. He was elected captain on May 10, 1861. This company became Company E, 16th North Carolina. He resigned his commission on May 31, 1862, but served as a private until he was captured at Hatcher’s Run, Virginia on April 2, 1865. He was released from Point Lookout, Maryland on June 3, 1865. (Letter 6-17-1861)

Lane, John R. A resident of Chatham County when he enlisted in the “Chatham Boys” on June 10, 1861, at the age of twenty-five. This company became Company G, 26th North Carolina. He mustered in as a corporal and elected captain on September 19, 1861. He was appointed lieutenant colonel of the regiment on August 19, 1862 and served in that capacity until he was promoted to colonel to date from July 1, 1863, following the death of Colonel H. K. Burgwyn, Jr. Lane himself was severely wounded and did not return to duty until November 1863. He was wounded again at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 4, 1863, but refused a furlough. Another wound followed at Yellow Tavern in the summer of 1864, and he again refused to leave the field. He was wounded a final time at Ream’s Station on August 25, 1864, and returned to duty in November of that year. He was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on May 2, 1865. (Letter 8-18-1862)

Lewis (Luis), John C. Son of W. G. and Drucilla Lewis and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted at the age of twenty-two in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was killed at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Littlejohn, John B. He lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and died two days later. (Letter 7-14-1863)

MacRae, William (September 9, 1834 – February 11, 1882). Born in Wilmington, North Carolina, and resided as a civil engineer in Monroe, North Carolina when he enlisted in the “Monroe Light Infantry, subsequently Company B, 15th North Carolina. He was elected captain, quickly climbed to the rank of lieutenant colonel and in February 1863 was promoted colonel. Following W. W. Kirkland’s wounding at Cold Harbor in June 1864, MacRae was appointed as brigadier general of Kirkland’s brigade on June 22, 1864. He would maintain command of the brigade until the surrender at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. (Letter 8-28-1864)

Moody, Robert F. (ca. 1820). A resident of Caldwell County prior to 1860, but at the time of the 1860 United States Federal Census he and his family were living in Haywood County, North Carolina. He moved back to Caldwell County at the beginning of the war and was a circuit rider of the Methodist Church. He was married to Bethsheba Chambers. (Letter 7-27-1862)

Moore, Carroll. (born January 25, 1815). He was married to Sarah Mast, and was the father of four children. His son, James Daniel Moore, served in Company F, 26th North Carolina. (Letters 9-24-1862, 10-12-1862)

Palmer, John B. A native of Mitchell County prior to his enlisting as captain of Company A, 58th North Carolina in the summer of 1862. He was appointed lieutenant colonel May 13, 1862 and promoted to colonel on July 29, 1862. He was wounded at Chickamauga, Georgia, on September 20, 1863, and returned to duty only to be detached to Asheville, North Carolina, on November 19, 1863, to help organize the defense of that part of the state. He remained at this position until February 1865, and was captured in Athens, Georgia on May 8, 1865. (Letter 10-15-1862)

Peace [Pice] Institute Hospital (General Hospital No. 8) Raleigh, North Carolina. Peace Institute [better known as Peace College and now William Peace University] was founded in 1857, by the First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N. C. It was named Peace Institute after William Peace, a Raleigh businessman and an elder in the church. He donated the land the school would start on, as well as \$10,000, about one-third of the cost of the Main Building. Building commenced in 1859, but the onset of the Civil War left the Main Building incomplete. However in 1862, Confederate and State of North Carolina officials were scrambling to open General Hospitals in Raleigh. The main building was chosen and would become General Hospital No. 8. Following the war, the United States Freedman’s Bureau Agency occupied the Main Building until 1869, at which time the First Presbyterian Church started repairing the building. The school formally opened in 1872. (Letter 7-29-1863)

Pettigrew, James Johnston (July 4, 1828 – July 17, 1863). Born in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, he graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina in 1847. He later moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where he was elected to the South Carolina Legislature in 1856. During the spring of 1861, Pettigrew served as a colonel of the 1st South Carolina Rifles and was present at the attack on Fort Sumter. After the surrender of Fort Sumter, he enlisted as a private in Hampton’s Legion, but was soon thereafter called back to his home state to assume command of the 22nd North Carolina. He was severely wounded and captured at the battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, on May 31, 1862. After his exchange he was promoted to brigadier general and commanded a brigade comprised of the 11th, 26th, 44th, 47th and 52nd North Carolina Troops. When General Robert E. Lee reorganized his Army of Northern Virginia in May 1863, Pettigrew’s Brigade was ordered to Richmond to become part of Major General Henry Heth’s Division and Lieutenant General A. P. Hill’s Third Corps. (Letter

Phillips, Joseph. Son of Joel and Selina Phillips, and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted with his twin brother Wade E. Phillips in Company F, 26th North Carolina, on March 20, 1862. He and Wade were both killed at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Phillips, Wade E. Son of Joel and Selina Phillips and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted with his twin brother Joseph Phillips in Company F, 26th North Carolina, on March 20, 1862. He was wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862, and was killed, along with his twin brother Joseph, at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. (Letters 7-16-1862, 7-14-1863)

Philyaw, Gideon. Son of John and Catherine Philyaw and a resident of Caldwell County, he and his twin brother Simeon Philyaw, enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was wounded at Gettysburg but deserted from a hospital in Danville, Virginia on August 14, 1863. He was later returned to duty and was present or accounted for until he was listed as a deserter on February 27, 1865. He later enlisted in Company D, 2nd Regiment North Carolina Mounted Infantry (U. S.) on April 15, 1865. [Editor's Note: His brother Simeon was twenty-one when he enlisted. He mustered in as a corporal and was wounded and captured at Gettysburg. He was confined at David's Island, New York Harbor until exchanged on October 28, 1863. He was absent on detail in January – February 1864, through June 1864. He was reported as absent without leave in September 1864, and listed as a deserter on October 1, 1864. Simeon died before the end of the war due to a gun accident at home.] (Letter 8-28-1864)

Powell, George L. Son of Elias R. Powell and Mary Malinda Corpening, he was a resident of Caldwell County. He and with three of his brothers served, and died, during the war. His brothers were Thomas Monroe Powell [Company A, 22nd North Carolina], William Powell [Company A, North Carolina] and Pinkney Powell [Company F, 26th North Carolina] He married Jane E. Corpening, his cousin, on March 27, 1859. They were the parents of two young sons, Joseph M. Powell [April 2, 1860] and George Vance Powell [April 11, 1862]. Both George and his wife were related to the Setzer family. He enlisted in the "Hibriten Guards" on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-four. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He mustered in as a corporal and was present or accounted for until he was wounded at an unspecified battle in early May 1864. [Editor's Note: This is likely the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864.] He died in a Staunton, Virginia, hospital on May 12, 1864. His widow later married Wesley Cannon, who also served in Company F, 26th North Carolina. (Letters 10-14-1861, 1-13-1862, 4-19-1862, 5-17-1862, 7-16-1862, 10-8-1862, 11-15-1862, 5-31-1863, 7-14-1863, 11-13-1863)

Powell, Pinkney (S. T. Powell). Son of Elias R. Powell and Mary Malinda Corpening, he was a resident of Caldwell County. He was related to the Setzer family. He and his three brothers served, and died during the war. His brothers were George L. Powell [Company F, 26th North Carolina], Thomas Monroe Powell [Company A, North Carolina], and William Powell [Company A, 22nd North Carolina]. Pinkney enlisted at nineteen years of age in Company F, 26th North Carolina on February 20, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and was captured at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863. He died at Point Lookout, Maryland on June 25, 1864. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Powell, Thomas Monroe. Son of Elias R. Powell and Mary Malinda Corpening, he was a resident of Caldwell County. He was related to the Setzer family, and he, and his three brothers, served and died during the war. His

brothers were George L. Powell [Company F, 26th North Carolina], William Powell [Company A, 22nd North Carolina], and Pinkney Powell [Company F, 26th North Carolina.] Monroe enlisted at twenty years old in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861. This company became Company A, 22nd North Carolina. He was killed at Seven Pines, Virginia on May 31, 1862. (Letter 6-17-1861)

Prestwood, Cicero. The son of William J. and Cecilia Prestwood, he was married to Rebecca Crump, the daughter of Lewis Crump and Elizabeth Setzer. They were the parents of five children at the time of the war. He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted at forty years old in Company F, 26th North Carolina on August 20, 1863. He was killed at the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. His brother Fabius Prestwood served in Company I, 26th North Carolina. (Letter 10-20-1863)

Puett. Apparently Hosea Bradford owed some money to the members of the Puett family. (Letters 8-21-1864, 9-27-1864)

Rankin, Nathaniel Patterson. Born in Guilford County he moved to Caldwell County to become the headmaster at Finley Academy, a boy’s school in Lenoir. He was elected captain of the “Hibriten Guards” at thirty-two years of age on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He promoted to major on March 25, 1862 and retired from service on April 21, 1862 because of health. He later served as captain of Company I, 5th North Carolina Cavalry. (Letter 8-25-1861)

Ransom, Robert (February 12, 1828 – January 14, 1892). A North Carolina native and a 1850 graduate of the United States Military Academy. He served in the pre-war U. A. Army until he resigned and became the colonel of the 1st North Carolina Cavalry (9th North Carolina State Troops.) He was appointed brigadier general on March 1, 1862, and commanded a brigade that included the 26th North Carolina Ransom was the officer that stated that there “would be no boy colonels in his brigade” when the officers and men of the 26th N. C. voted Henry K. Burgwyn, Jr. as their colonel. He later was promoted to major general on May 26, 1863. He was a brother of Matt Ransom, another Confederate General. (Letter 5-17-1862)

Rhodes, Samuel (1847). He was born in Burke County and enlisted in the “Caldwell and Burke Reserves” on May 17, 1864. He was hospitalized at Raleigh on December 27, 1864, and returned to duty in early 1865. This company became Company C, 3rd Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves, which would later become Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves. He transferred to Company F, 58th North Carolina on February 25, 1865, and was paroled on May 29, 1865. (Letter 6-23-1864)

Setzer, Albert “Bert” G. (December 31, 1852 – February 18, 1931). The son of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, he was a younger brother of William Eli Setzer. (Letter 2-9-1862)

Setzer, Daniel (May 12, 1791 – March 29, 1872). The son of Adam and Elizabeth Arney Setzer, he was married to Jane Holloway. They were the parents of William Alphonso Setzer, Thomas Davenport Setzer, and Cassa Christine Setzer [who married William Crawford Corpening]. He was the grandfather of Eli and Harriett Setzer. (Letters 2-9-1862, 5-2-1862, 10-15-1862)

Setzer, Daniel Columbus “Lum” (June 14, 1847 – June 16, 1935). The son of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, he was a younger brother of William Eli Setzer. He enlisted at Camp Vance in the “Burke and Caldwell Reserves” on May 25, 1864. This company became Company C, 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves. He was mustered in as a private and promoted to sergeant on July 2, 1864. He was captured at Fort Fisher on December 25, 1864 and confined at Fort Monroe and Point Lookout, where he was paroled on January 17, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. (Letters Aug. 1861, 2-9-1862, 10-12-1862, 11-15-1862, 2-25-1863, 3-24-1863, 6-23-1863, 8-16-1864, 8-18-1864, 9-2-1864, 9-5-1864, 10-5-1864)

Setzer, Eliza Jane Corpening “Lizy” (March 29, 1822). The wife of William Alphonso Setzer and mother of eleven children, including William Eli Setzer. She was the daughter of Jacob Corpening and Elizabeth Whitner. (Letters 10-14-1861, 10-12-1862, 5-31-1863)

Setzer, Elizabeth Arney (December 25, 1821). Daughter of George Arney and Catherine Turnmire, she was the wife of Thomas Davenport Setzer. They were the parents of ten children prior to Thomas’ death in the war. (Letters 4-20-1862, 5-2-1862)

Setzer, Harriet R. (October 9, 1843 – July 7, 1904). Daughter of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, she was a older sister of William Eli Setzer. Harriett, or H. R. as she is often mentioned in the letter collection, married Thomas W. Setzer on August 27, 1863. They did not have children and are buried in the Arney Cemetery, also known as the Penelope Baptist Church Cemetery, which is located in eastern Burke County. Thomas was author of several of the letters in the collection and was also her first cousin, once removed.

Setzer, Jane Elizabeth “Betsy” (March 26, 1851 – September 17, 1880). Daughter of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, she was a younger sister of William Eli Setzer. (Letter 2-9-1862, 5-31-1863)

Setzer, Jane Holloway (October 16, 1795 – May 3, 1877). The daughter of George and Mary Holloway, and the wife of Daniel Setzer. She was the mother of William Alphonso Setzer, Thomas Davenport Setzer, and Cassa Christine Setzer [who married William Crawford Corpening]. She was the grandmother of Eli and Harriett Setzer. (Letters 2-9-1862, 10-15-1862)

Setzer, John Kelly (August 23, 1857 – January 30, 1922). The son of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, he was a younger brother of William Eli Setzer. (Letters 8-18-1862, 6-23-1864, 8-16-1864)

Setzer, Joseph L. (1844). Son of Tilmon and Elizabeth Setzer, he lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on October 19, 1862, at age nineteen. He was wounded and captured at the Battle of Gettysburg where he had a leg amputated. He died of his wounds on July 17, 1863, while still at Gettysburg. His brother David Setzer served in Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves. (Letters 10-8-1862, 11-15-1862, 7-18-1863)

Setzer, Laura Ann (June 1, 1861 – January 4, 1939). Daughter of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, she was a younger sister of William Eli Setzer. (Letter 6-23-1864)

Setzer, Romulus “Rom” Monroe (June 1849 – December 24, 1896). The son of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, he was a younger brother of William Eli Setzer. (Letters 2-9-1862, 10-12-1862, 8-16-1864)

Setzer, Thomas Davenport. (May 25, 1818 – May 20, 1862). The son of Daniel Setzer and Jane Holloway, and the brother of William Alphonso Setzer to whom most of the letters are written. He was the husband of Elizabeth Arney and the father of ten children. He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina, on March 20, 1862. He died in a hospital in Kinston, N. C. on May 20, 1862. (Letters 4-20-1862, 5-2-1862, 5-17-1862, 5-31-1862)

Setzer, Thomas “Tom” W. (May 20, 1840 – June 10, 1907). Son of William A. “Billy” and Jane Tipps Setzer and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on August 9, 1861, at age twenty-one. He was wounded in the right thigh at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, and returned to duty. He was promoted to sergeant prior to January 1, 1864, but was reported absent on wounded furlough May-June 1864.

He returned to duty on or about July 1, 1864 and was reduced to the ranks before February 28, 1865. Tom's name appears on a requisition for stationery from December 1864, suggesting he may been in temporary command of Company F. He deserted on or about March 29, 1865 and was released on April 4, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. He was a first cousin, once removed, of William Eli Setzer and Harriet R. Setzer, whom he married August 27, 1863. No children were born to their marriage. He is listed as a farmer and carpenter in both the 1870 and 1880 U. S. Census for Caldwell County, while she is listed as a housekeeper. Both are buried at the Arney Cemetery, also known as the Penelope Baptist Church Cemetery, which is located in eastern Burke County.

Setzer, Tillman (ca. 1820 – after 1900). The son of David and Mary “Polly” Winkler Setzer. He and his wife Elizabeth were the parents of Joseph Setzer [Company F, 26th North Carolina.] and David Setzer [Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves]. (Letter 11-15-1862)

Setzer, William Alphonso “W. A. Setzer” or “Fonso” (June 30, 1816 – January 19, 1899). Son of Daniel and Jane Holloway Setzer and married to Eliza Jane Corpening. They were the parents of several children. Three of them were; William Eli Setzer [Company F, 26th North Carolina], Daniel Columbus Setzer [Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves), and Harriet Setzer, who married her first cousin, once removed, Thomas W. Setzer, also of Company F, 26th North Carolina.

Setzer, William A. “Billy” (March 14, 1795 – April 29, 1869). The son of Adam and Elizabeth Arney Setzer and the husband of Jane Tipps. They were the parents of six children, one of whom was Thomas W. Setzer, the author of many of the letters in this collection. He was an uncle of William Alphonso Setzer. (Letters 1-13-1862, 7-29-1863)

Setzer, William Eli (March 1845 – July 4, 1863). Son of William Alphonso and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, he lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, at the age of seventeen. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was mortally wounded and captured at Gettysburg and died on July 4, 1863. His brother Daniel Columbus Setzer served in Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves, and his sister Harriet married their first cousin, once removed, Thomas W. Setzer, also of Company F, 26th N. C.

Setzer, Zebulon Baird Vance (August 7, 1864 – July 3, 1940). Infant son of William Alphonso Setzer and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer, and the younger brother of William Eli Setzer. (Letter 8-16-1864)

Sherrill, C. Elisha. Son of Caleb and Rebecca Sherrill, and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was captured at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863, and released from Point Lookout on January 25, 1864 after taking the Oath of Allegiance. He joined Company D, 1st United States Volunteer Infantry on that same date. This regiment served on the western frontier during the war. (Letter 5-2-1862)

Steele, John J. C. He resided in Union County, North Carolina, prior to being elected captain of the “Waxhaw Jackson Guards” on June 15, 1861. This company became Company B, 26th North Carolina. He resigned January 9, 1863, by reason of chronic diarrhea. He later served in Company C, 10th N. C. Battalion Heavy Artillery. (Letter 8-18-1862)

Suddreth, Charles McDowell (October 18, 1833 – May 30, 1914). Son of Thomas and Catherine Suddreth,

he had married Margaret E. Spainhour on September 3, 1856. He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He was elected second lieutenant on April 21, 1862, and promoted to first lieutenant on October 16, 1862. He was wounded at Gettysburg and returned to duty prior to January 1, 1864. He resigned on January 1, 1865 and was captured in Lenoir, North Carolina by Stoneman's Raiders on April 15, 1865. He was confined at Camp Chase, Ohio and was released on June 14, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Three of his brothers, William P. Suddreth, James Wilborn Suddreth, and Lloyd J. Suddreth served in Company A, 22nd North Carolina while two others, John Marshall Suddreth and Toliver Suddreth both served in initially in Company E, 58th North Carolina, and then transferred to Company F, 26th North Carolina. (Letter 10-23-1863)

Taylor, A. John. He lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in the "Hibriten Guards" on July 15, 1861, at age eighteen. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He was a brother of James Sylvanus Taylor, who was also in Company F, 26th North Carolina (Letter 7-14-1863)

Thompson (Tomason), W. M. A resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at the age of seventeen. He was killed on July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. (Letter 7-14-1863)

Townsend (Townsell), Eli. He was born in Guilford County, N. C. where he resided when he enlisted on June 17, 1861 in the "Guilford Cavalry Company." This company became Company F, 2nd N. C. Cavalry. He was paroled at Farmville, Virginia between April 11 – April 21, 1865. The local pronunciation of the surname Townsend was "Townsell." (Letter 5-2-1862)

Townsend (Townsell), M. L. A resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the "Hibriten Guard" on July 15, 1861, at twenty years of age. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was killed July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. The local pronunciation of the surname Townsend was "Townsell." (Letter 7-14-1863)

Tuttle, Columbus A. "Lum". (1846 – 1930). Son of Lucius and Sarah Sanders Tuttle and brother of Captain Romulus M. Tuttle of Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was a first cousin of Andrew Hull Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney, and John A. Tuttle, also of the same company. "Lum" was a resident of Caldwell County, and enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina, on December 17, 1861, before his sixteenth birthday. He was discharged by reason of being too young but, re-enlisted on February 1, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and returned to the ranks and was wounded again at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and at the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia in May 1864. He was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. (Letter 5-2-1862)

Tuttle, John Andrew (1844 – October 14, 1863). Son of Robert Gaius and Lucinda Puett Tuttle and a brother of William A. Tuttle [Company A, 22nd North Carolina.] and Marcus Gamewell Tuttle [Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves] He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the "Hibriten Guards" on July 15, 1861, at the age of seventeen. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was promoted to sergeant on April 12, 1862, but was absent sick during the Gettysburg Campaign. He returned to duty, but

was killed by a bayonet as he crossed Union breastworks at the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. (Letters 1-12-1862, 1-13-1862, 5-17-1862, 7-16-1862, 8-8-1862, 10-8-1862, 7-14-1863, and 10-20-1863)

Tuttle, Marcus Gamewell (1846 – 1870). Son of Robert Gaius and Lucinda Puett Tuttle and brother of William A. Tuttle [Company A, 22nd North Carolina.] and John A. Tuttle [Company F, 26th North Carolina]. He enlisted in Company C, 8th Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves [Editor’s Note: This battalion was consolidated with the 4th and 7th Junior Reserve Battalions to become the 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves] on May 25, 1864. He was elected first lieutenant on June 14, 1864 and was hospitalized at Wilmington on July 9, 1864. He was captured at Fort Fisher on December 25, 1864 and sent to Fort Monroe, Virginia, and eventually to Point Lookout, Maryland and Old Capital Prison, where he was released on June 17, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. He returned home and resumed his studies, and became a Methodist minister. He would never recover from the sickness he received while a prisoner of war and died of tuberculosis five years after the war. The Caldwell County town of Gamewell is named for him. (Letter 8-18-1864)

Tuttle, Robert Gaius (May 5, 1817 – July 22, 1884). The husband of Lucinda Puett Tuttle and the father of William A. Tuttle (Company A, 22nd North Carolina), John A. Tuttle (Company F, 26th North Carolina), and Marcus Gamewell Tuttle (Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves) and an uncle of Andrew H. Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney, Robert G. Courtney, Romulus M. Tuttle, and Columbus A. Tuttle. He was appointed the first deputy sheriff when Caldwell County was formed in 1841. He was elected sheriff in 1852 and served until 1865 when he was barred from office by the federal Reconstruction Law. However, he did serve during the Reconstruction period as a county commissioner. When Reconstruction was over he again was elected sheriff and served in that capacity until his death in 1884. (Letters 7-14-1863, 9-27-1864)

Tuttle, Romulus Morrison “Rom” (December 1, 1842 – February 20, 1904). The son of Lucius and Sarah Sanders Tuttle and a brother of Columbus A. Tuttle, of Company F, 26th North Carolina “Rom” was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861, at the age of eighteen. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He mustered in as first sergeant of the company and was elected first lieutenant on April 1, 1862. He was promoted to captain on October 16, 1862. He was wounded at the battles of Gettysburg [July 1, 1863], Wilderness [May 5, 1864], Globe Tavern [August 21, 1864] and Jones Farm [September 30, 1864]. He was transferred to the Invalid Corps on March 31, 1865. He became a Presbyterian minister after the war and published a book of poetry with several poems included about the 26th North Carolina and the Civil War. (Letters 3-21-1862, 8-28-1864)

Tuttle, William “Bill” Anson (January 5, 1842 – September 27, 1879). Son of Robert G. and Lucinda Puett Tuttle and a brother of John A. Tuttle [Company F, 26th North Carolina] and Marcus G. Tuttle [Company G, 3rd North Carolina Junior Reserves]. “Bill” lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys” on April 30, 1861. This company became Company A, 22nd North Carolina. He was wounded at the Battle of Second Manassas, Virginia, on August 28-30, 1862, and returned to duty. He was elected second lieutenant on April 25, 1863, and fought at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2-3, 1863. He was present or accounted for until he was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. (Letters 6-17-1861, 7-18-1863)

Upchurch, Richard. Son of Silas and Guilly Upchurch, and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in the “Hibriten Guards” on July 15, 1861 at thirty-one years of age. This company became Company F, 26th North Carolina. He was captured at New Bern on March 14, 1862. He was paroled and exchanged on January

1, 1863 and returned to duty prior to being wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He returned to duty again, and was captured at Petersburg on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Harts Island, New York Harbor until he took the oath of allegiance and was released on June 17, 1865. He had three brothers that served in the war; Will H. Upchurch [Company F, 26th North Carolina.], Ansel Upchurch [Company H, 58th North Carolina.] and W. S. Upchurch [Company H, 58th North Carolina] (Letter 3-21-1862)

Vance, Zebulon Baird (May 13, 1830 – April 14, 1894). A native of Buncombe County, he would become one of the most important and well liked North Carolinians of all time. Prior to the Civil War he served in the North Carolina House of Commons and in the United States Senate. At the outbreak of the war, he was elected the Captain of the “Rough and Ready Guards,” the first company raised in Buncombe County, which became Company F, 14th North Carolina He was elected colonel of the 26th North Carolina on August 27, 1861, and led the regiment through the summer of 1862, when he was elected governor. Following the war, he was again elected governor and later United States Senator. (Letters 1-13-1862, 5-17-1862, 6-28-1862, 7-16-1862, 8-18-1862, 10-8-1862, 9-27-1864.)

Winkler, William Joseph (June 8, 1816 – May 5, 1894). A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26th North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at age forty-five. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and was reported absent wounded in January-February 1864. He was detailed as a hospital guard at Lynchburg, Virginia through June 1864. He re-joined the company in July-October 1864, and retired to Invalid Corps on November 17, 1864. (Letter 5-2-1862)

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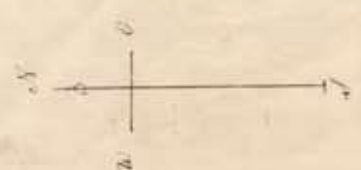


Milledgeville County

Wilkes County

Macon County

Mitchell County



Map scaled 2 miles per inch