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Document: *Letter from Thomas Welsh to Alice Welsh (daughter), dated May 12, 1862*

Transcript:

No 11

Otter Island, S.C.

May 12th 1862

My Dear- Daughter-;

I wrote to mama last evening just after receiving her letter No. 2 and your letter. I afterwards received her letter No 3, it had came in the same mail box, but had been overlooked in selecting. Of course I was much pleased to hear from home and to get so many letters was decidedly fine.

Oh! but I would love to be at home with you, and I sincerely hope that this rebellion will soon be subdued, so that we can return to our peaceful and happy homes. I cannot find words to tell you how much I would rejoice to receive orders to march for home, and I know my boys would all be delighted. Yet all of them are anxious to go and help take Charleston

over

[Page 2]

before going home. I suppose it would surprise Columbia people very much to wake up some fine morning, and to the tune of Yankee Doodle see the 45th marching through the streets, yet that might be the case before many months as I feel pretty well satisfied that the war is very near at an end.

I suppose the vegetables in the garden are growing very nicely – Mama says that blossoms are on the trees; with all that, I guess the old house looks pleasant, then to see all those nice little chickens – and Blanton, Lillie, & Effie romping in the lot under the old apple tree would be pleasant indeed.

I am very well, and having every thing nice and comfortable here, one would think that I would be satisfied to stay, but I can tell you that all South Carolina could not induce me to

[Page 3]

stay away from home any longer than is actually necessary to finish up the war. Howard is very well, so are all the boys. they complain about the fleas biting them, but otherwise they all are contented and lively.



I send an Envelope with this and I would like if Mama would send it to [Wm. Wright?] and have two or three dollars worth of them printed and send a few of them to the friends of the boys so that they could use them. Some people are so careless in directing letters that very many are never received.

If Mr. Green is still in the Stationary business, he might get a lot printed and sell them in Columbia, Marietta, Maytown and Wrightsville. I would like it to be done without delay. Give my love to all your friends – to [Ann ?] Jim – Mazie – Effie – Lillie Blanton and all of them – a great deal to mama

Your affectionate papa
Thomas Welsh

[Page 4]

Andrew Hostetter was very glad to hear that his mother had been at our house. I wish Mama would go out and see them some day – also go to Mrs. Hinkle's – I like those boys very much they are very good soldiers and good boys.

If you see Mrs. Stape tell her that George is a corporal and very good one too. The Columbia boys are such good soldiers and good boys that I hardly know how to mention the name of one without mentioning all of them. I hope soon to take all of them home and let the people of Columbia see that their sons & friends can serve their Country as soldiers without becoming disorderly rowdies.

Write soon again – tell Ellie, Lill, Blant and all the rest to write soon. I will write to Effie very soon.

Kiss all of them for your

Papa

Scope and Content:

Handwritten letter from Thomas Welsh to his daughter, Alice and "No.11." From Otter Island, South Carolina. Letter describes his "hope that this rebellion will soon be subdued," but "anxious to go and help take Charleston." Mentions several men in his command who are doing well and that the command as a whole would make Columbia proud.

