1861
Georgia Camp
Yorktown Nov 21
Dear Ma
Your letter of the 8th came to me last night, and I tell you I was glad to get it. Surely if you write very much we don’t get all your letters, for I think this makes the second letter I have received from you in four or five weeks. I have not had one from Pa in a month. Does he write? I received a letter from Porcia a week ago and have answered it. There is nothing new in and around Yorktown. Fred and two more of our company have gone to Richmond to carry a prisoner and will return perhaps today. We have two Yankee prisoners here now. They are nice intelligent looking fellows, but they would fight against the South and they are now reaping the fruits of it, and I hope all their comrades will come to the same end, but I would not wish them any harm if they would just go home and behave themselves.
They are making preparations now for our winter quarters, but they like to have been too late, for a great many of our men are doing like the French soldiers did in the Crimean war, viz, digging out holes in the ground, just the shape and size of their tents, and then stretching their tents over the holes and building chimneys to them. If they can get plank they wall and floor these places, and they are very comfortable to stay in during cold weather. They are now dividing [scantling] for us to build with. WE have not had a great deal of cold weather here yet. Yorktown is a great place for wind as it is on a large river near the mouth of the bay, and the wind makes it colder than it would otherwise be. We don’t drill now but once a day. That is in the evening. Kitt is still a Provost guard. We have elected Dr. Roberts for 3rd Lieut. Gen Raines has now command of Yorktown. He is one of the most clever and unassuming officers I ever saw. Jud was greatly taken with him for the kind way in which he spoke to him once while inspecting our arms. Yesterday we could see the Yankee vessels very plainly on the York, but can’t see them this morning. I do wish they would attack Yorktown, and give us a chance to fight some. I am sorry to hear of the Yankee’s victory on our Southern coast, and I wish our regiment could be sent back. We have never taken a march since our tramp to Hampton. When you send that box please send a good deal of butter and some lard if you have a plenty, for butter is extremely costly, it sells at the wharf for 50 cts and 60 cts per pound and sometimes for 75. Lard sells for 40, 50 cts, but we don’t buy butter at that rate and very little Lard. I have now no good coat except my overcoat, and but one real good pair of pants. When you send the suit of clothes you said you were making, we will have enough for winter. I expect you have butter send us one more blanket a piece if you have two old coverlets or comforters. I had rather have them, but any will do and I expect blankets or butter. WE have five blankets a piece now, and one more will will suffice. Has Mr. Bell and Taylor returned to Cave Spring,? Where is Billy Gibson. Does Mr. Bass think of coming to the war? I wish the Mill Rifles were ordered to Yorktown. Is Dr. Boyd still in the army. Do you hear from Jack West and Lieut Vintery? How are they? We get Beef to eat now altogether and seldom ever eat any bacon or pork. We have coffee yet, but I don’t expect we will have it long. Whiskey is divided out now about once a week. I generally draw my share but don’t drink it, give it away. Last night I saved mine and Jud and I and several others had an eggnog. A good many of the men were tight last night on their whiskey.
Nov 23rd

Last night while I was lying on my bed about 12 o'clock I heard about fifty very heavy guns fire down towards Bethel. I guess they were somewhere in the neighborhood of Fortress Monroe. I have not yet learned the cause of their firing. I hope the Yankees are advancing. Our men are burning for a fight, and I think they could put up a very good one too. Fred has not returned from Richmond yet. Any of us are mighty glad to get a chance of going to Richmond with prisoners. Perhaps you have heard that 4000 Yankees had landed on the other side of the York from us, in a county that projects into the sea and run off a Virginia Regt that was stationed there. I saw some of the men that were in the regiment, and they said that the regiment was scattered and they cam up the river on a schooner and landed at Yorktown not knowing what became of the rest of the regt. But the Yankees can’t do much harm there, if they don’t come up for them it seems that the bad shooting done by our men at Port Royal has made our artillerymen “wide awake” for they are practicing now much more than they did before. They shoot cannon over at Gloucester points now nearly everyday. What are potatoes worth now at home. They sometimes sell here for $1.00 p’r bu. I purchased some (3 bushels) a few days ago for 50 cts per bushel. We keep potatoes (our mess does) nearly all the time now, buy them from men who come over from the opposite side of the river to bring such things as oysters, potatoes, chickens and eggs, &c. We can get oysters everyday now, but have to pay 75 per Gall. I recon we will be paid up again about Christmas, but don’t know yet. I think I will have a plenty of money from now on. If I don’t happen to some bad luck. Is not my gun very rusty and is it ever used? I recon when I get home, I will know how to keep a gun in good order. I have had it to do here so long. Tell Charlie to take care of my horse, and to learn to shoot and use my gun. Does he ever fish now? There is a pond near Yorktown that is full of fish. I have known some of the boys to go there and stay only a short time and catch 50 or 60 fish, but I have never fished any in it. Be sure to send some butter and lard in the box when you send it, if you do. Judson is as healthy as ever. Kitt don’t look well, but is not sick now. Fred looks thinner than he did a moth ago. I am as well as ever. Respects to Mr. Peek’s family, and tell him I would like very much to be back to see them all in the winter, but I don’t think I can get a furlough soon. Give my respects also to Dr. Richardson’s family and Mr. Sparks’s. Ask James Sparks if he loved drilling as well when he left Va. As he did when we used to drill together at Cedar Town. Tell him as for my part, I would like mighty will if we could dispense with all drilling. Love to Pa and children and negroes. Tell Pa and the little girls and Charlie to write to me. Let your prayers go up often on our behalf.

Write soon

Your affectionate son

Henry Bunn

Yorktown

Virginia