Camp Georgia at Yorktown Oct 11th [probably 1861]

Dear Ma,

I received your last letter the day before yesterday while Aunt Sarah was here and she read it too. When I wrote to you last (which was Sunday) Aunt Sara and cousin Isie were here in camps, and they left yesterday having stayed 5 or 6 days. They were going off several days ago, but were detained on account of rain, for it has been raining several days. The children were delighted to stay in camps. Today is cloudy but not rainy. It is rather disagreeable to stay in camps during rainy weather but we will have houses before long. At dress parade an evening or two ago a long list of orders were read out concerning our positions during the winter. All the regiments were formed into brigades and to each brigade was assigned a part of the peninsula to occupy. Our regiment and Howel Cobb’s from Georgia are to form a brigade and garrison Yorktown. They ordered us first to Harwood’s mills, but afterward appointed us to guard Yorktown, so we will stay at Yorktown during the winter I guess if the Yankees don’t run us out. I am glad we are going to stay here, for if we had been carried down to Harwood’s mills, we would not have been allowed to carry anything except what we could carry on our backs. So we would have lost everything we had almost. But as it is, we won’t loose anything while we remain here. We will start to building houses to stay in shortly. Certain men will be detailed from each company to do the building. I recon it will be several weeks before we can have our houses finished. Don’t you think we are lucky not to be sent down for we would have lost a great deal by it. We will move into Yorktown pretty soon now. During the winter we can have fish and oysters a plenty to eat. I believe Col. Colquitt has spoken to a man to furnish our regiment in oysters. A Florida regiment left here this morning going down to Young’s mill, where they will stay in the winter I recon. I went over and enquired to see if Wash [Bameriman] was in that regiment but he was not. I found a man name Wooton who was a little kin to us. He was from Randolf county. Uncle Dave Roach was his uncle. He was kin to Cousin Counsel, Sep Perkins, and Bob Anderson and many others of our relations. Edgar Allen deserted his post a short time ago, and was arrested and put into the guard house and will be court marshaled I recon. He was known all over the regiment as one of the biggest sort of liars. He was brought up before the regiment and publicly reprimanded for telling a lie on some men. Fred and Jud went up the river with the ladies yesterday. Fred has Rheumatism but it is not very bad yet. He is up all the time, but suffers sometimes. Anyone who has ever had Rheumatism will be very apt to have it again in camps. Johnny Wimberly is now sick with it. Fred (Joshua) Wimberly has been appointed orderly sergeant in our company. Lieut Nelson makes a very good officer. I recon we will have have another election for third Lieut before long. John Davis a private in our company is now very low with Typhoid fever. We have very little hope of his recovery. He is the only one we have sick much now, a good many of our men have chills and fevers.