

Dallas, Texas, April 30, 1862

Dear Mary,

I drop you a line to let you know that I am well and I have been unusually well since I left home. I do not know when I can come home. Perhaps I will come in a few days, but I cannot promise certain as I have a great deal to do. I have to drill 4 hours every day and we have to move every day or two to get grain for our horses. I want you to tell Hugh if he sees that he must go under this new law I want him to come to my company if he can get here I will reserve a place untill we can tell about it. Also I want Duncan to come if he has to go. All the men between 18 and 35 years old are now soldiers as I understand the law, but perhaps there may be some exceptions that I know nothing of now. I can never get home out of my mind. You must trust to the Lord and do the best you can. Whether I live or die if I get to the Battlefield I will leave a name for my children to live under. My name shall still live if I die.

Your husband,

A. S. Anderson

Paris, Texas, June 25, 1862

Dear Mary,

It is with pleasure and great thanks that I can again write to you that I am well and also state that I have been well since I left. I have been sick less than anyone in the company, and I now feel as well as I ever did in my life. John and Locklin are also well though John has had a very hard spell of sickness, and I fear he will not be able to stand Camp life. There is some sickness in our Regiment at this time, but no dangerous sickness. There has been one death in Walter's (?) company.

We are still moving on towards Little Rock, Arkansas, but we move very slow in consequence of having horses to shoe and supply provisions for the trip. I have written to you from Bonham, and I will write to you again from Clarksville if I can get the chance. I have seen a good deal of trouble with the men in the Regiment. They are at times inclined to be mutinous, but I am proud to say there has been but few cases in my Company. We still stand prominent in the Regiment as the best Company in it, but there is a great responsibility resting upon a Captain. It matters not what troubles spring up in Camps--all the complaint is made to me. I also have trouble with the sick and have to see to them all the time for fear they do not get the attention necessary. But I know that I am fully equal to the task as long as I have my health. I wish Duncan and Aquilla were in my Company. I see so many sick that do not get the proper attention. I think of them often for fear they are in the same situation. Men get to be very careless for the

welfare of each other in camps after a while and a soldier's life is valued very low. I can see nor hear nothing that is going on except what is in Camp and sometimes for a week I do not leave my Company at all. I can hear nothing more of the fate of Argus and James. I have seen several that were with them; they all think their fate uncertain. They done some desperate fighting before they were taken.

I can make no promise about coming home only I will come as soon as I can. I received your letter of June the 9th yesterday by Edward Locklin--told me the children both had the measles, but you did not write about it. I suppose they were not sick when you wrote. I think a great deal about home, but I do not permit myself to be uneasy often, as you well know my doctrine that the same God Rules and he governs according to his own will. I could not save life or any other misfortune if I were there. I know I will live just the same length of time here that I was destined to live. That is all I, you, or any other human can live. When the allotted time has come, it matters not how healthy, how free from danger, there is no death until that time rolls round. I do not believe this--I know it to be true. God is God and there is no power besides his. If there is any other power, he is not Supreme. He also knows all things from beginning to the end. He never changes; he knew my birth and death, and every thought as well, ten thousand eternities before this world was created as he knows it now, and he will never change. I do not fear when I know these things. I am unable to protect myself, but he will do it for me until my appointed time.

I will write to you as often as I can and let you hear from me, and I want you to write. For even though I could hear without you writing, there is no letter that will be like yours. I may never see you any more, and it should not surprise us if it was so for life is uncertain--death is sure. There is one thing certain, I am going to do my duty while I live, let that be long or short, and you will never hear of my being disgraced while a soldier. I had rather die ten times (than) shrink from my duty under any circumstances. A kiss goodbye.

Your Husband,

A. S. Anderson

Give my best regards to your father and mother as I will ever be under many obligations to them, and I will try and write to your Father the first chance I have. No more time to write. Yours,
A.S.A.

Direct your letters to Clarksville and they will be forwarded to me. Back your letters thus:

Capt. A. S. Anderson
Hawkes Regiment
Texas Cavalry
Clarksville, Texas

Camp McDonald County, Missouri,
September 18, 1862

Dear Mary,

I have at last received a letter from you dated August 15th, and I am glad to hear that you are all well. I am still in good health together with the rest of the company. We have had some lively times since I wrote to you last. I and Capt. Livingston with 100 men have been all round and through the enemy. We ran them off from Mt. Vernon, Neosho and Baxter Springs and I understand they have since left Carthage. We ran their Pickets into town and they were not willing to fight us with 2,500 men, and we were ordered not to attack any of the towns. We therefore did not go in. I was (with)in 4 miles of where Angus and James were taken and so brutishly murdered, and I think I have left my mark around that place at least you would think so if I were to tell you all I did. They heard of me before I arrived in this country and they now know how to dread me. We concluded we would bring 4 good union men in Camps just for a show. The rest we found which was not a few are doing well. I have saluted several of the men that murdered the boys and will meet them now and then, though I will have to buy a new rope. The one I have is pretty well worn now and if I live will never be contented until I hang 1000 more besides those that I will be compelled to shoot. I hear they were very much mortified as they had us surrounded all the time and we would get out with(out) their seeing or hearing us until they could follow our trail by the Buzzards. I saw women that the Feds had been trailing in the woods for weeks. If you only knew how they were treating our women it would make your heart tremble within you. We caught a man who had killed his neighbor and was shooting at his wife and children every night. How I could laugh at his entreaties.

Letter dated September 18, 1862
page 2

I don't think we will have any big fight until we get to the Missouri River. The enemy are now falling back and we slowly advancing. I will start on another scout as soon as I can get off. You must content yourself the best you can. Write every chance. Yours,
Allan

Missouri, October 3, 1862

Dear Mary,

I drop you a line or two today as I find I can send it to Dallas, Texas, by hand. I wrote you last from Elk Mill about 40 miles from here. I am well and have been well since I wrote. I have been preserved through another fight unhurt. We commenced fighting here on the 30th of September about sunrise and fought pretty well all day with very little loss on our side. I believe it amounts to about 6 or 8 on ours and I do not know how many on the side of the enemy. We took about 140 prisoners and I suppose we killed 2 to 300. The most of the fighting was by artillery. Our Regiment made one charge on their infantry and drove them back from their position. Their Cannon pouring in the grapeshot all the while, but I did not lose a man out of my company. Why it was I could not tell. There was several wounded but all slightly. I was not touched by lead or iron all the day altho there was for minutes at a time I could not see for the dirt that was thrown into my face. There was dodging and running round all the day, but I don't think it did any good for I never turned my course all day and they all say I was in the worst of the Battle. My company was left behind in the retreat and I had to leave them in a good position and pick a good retreat when I returned and fall back to the Regiment in good order. The enemy are now encamped in 4 miles of us and there is no telling at what hour we will be in action again. The Captain that had James and Angus killed was killed. Don't be uneasy--everything will turn out for the best. There is something sublime about a battle where the cannons are roaring like continual thunder, but there is nothing to fighting for any one that is a man. My time is out and I must close. Adieu, Your Husband, A. S. Anderson