

W. CLAUDE HERNDON
Collection

In Possession of: Mrs. E.D. Bedenbaugh
(Hepsibah Cambell Bedenbaugh)
513 W. Howard Avenue
Orlando, Florida

Claude Herndon was born in Anderson County, Anderson, South Carolina; served in Company C., P.S.S., South Carolina Volunteers; and was killed at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

1. Original letter dated 12/10/(18)61, Camp Near Centreville, to My Dear Sister, from Your Loving Brother Claude. Mentions death of John Millner, apparently of his Company. He mentions Palmetto Company. 4 pages and typescript of same.
2. Original letter dated 10/18/1862, Camp Near Winchester, Va. to Dear Father from Your Loving Son, W.C. Herndon. He asked that his mail be directed to W.C. Herndon, Winchester, Va. Company C, P.S.S. S.C.V. 4 pages and typescript of same.
3. Original letter dated 10/23/1862, Camp Near Winchester, Va. to Dear Sister (Fannie) from (no signature). 2 pages and typescript of same.
4. Original letter dated 7/7/1863, Camp Near Richmond, Va. to Dear Father and Mother from W.C. Herndon. 4 pages and typescript.
5. Portion of original letter, not dated, from Clude concerning whether or not to re-enlist. 2 pages and typescript.
6. Portion of original letter, not dated, from Loving Brother Cluade (to Sister Fannie). 4 pages and typescript.

[illegible]

the letter find enclosed
every other week Give John Bulman
You may expect a letter about

Camp near Centreville, Dec. 10, 61

My Dear Sister

Your letter of the
2nd inst came duly to hand on
last evening, for which _____ Nancy
thanks you may rest assured
_____ your _____

than anything that has happen with
me since my arival here. It was
the first word I had herd from
home since I left, I almost had come
to the conclusion that you had
forgotten me as I could not here
from you in such a long time. I
had been waiting patiently for the
last two weeks to receive a line
from you, but Alas, it was all in vain.
I would be glad if you would write
to me at least once a month for my

I have been on the sick list for
several days. I have not done any
duty for three weeks but expect to
report for duty to day as I feel will
enough to do something. The health
of the Palmetto Company is pretty
good. there is a few in the company
like myself have been poking
about for sometime not fit for
anything. The Regiment is out on
picket duty. this is fifth day they
have been gone. I look for them
back this evening. Dillard is out
with them. I wish you could see
him. I know you would laugh
for he looks so much like a bull
dog. he is as fat as ever I saw him
he now weighs one hundred and
sixty odd pounds & still a fatning;
I suppose you have heard of the death
of John Millner before this time
I am glad to hear that Crafford

Gilmore has been the lucky man
I hope he will have a nice time
with his lady. I was really surprised
when I heard of it, for I did not think
it would ever happen; I am very
sorry to hear of Father suffering
so with his side. I hope it is not
serious and he will soon be well
again; I have no news to write
to you about the camp that would
interest you. everything seems
to be perfectly quiet here in
camp. It was reported here
yesterday that the enemy had
driven back our pickets for
some distance. the enemy is now
supposed to be at Fairfax Court
which is about eight or nine
miles from this place. they are
expected to advance about this
time, as it has been such favor-
able weather for the business

If they don't advance within
a few days they will hardly
come atall this winter for the
roads will soon be in such a
fix that they cannot get there
artilery along. our pickets
bring in a few of the Yankee
boys occasionally. I believe the
last they brought in which
was last week numbered 26;
they look stout & healthy.
And also look as if they were
very well pleased with there new
homes, which they were no doubt.
Fannee, you need not send me
anything that I wrote for except
the coat and that I would be
glad to have. I will close for
the presant. Give my Love to my
dear old Father & Mother, Sisters
Brother; & accept a portion of it to your
self. Your Loving Brother Claude

Camp near Winchester, Va.

Oct 18, 1862

Dear Father

Again I seat myself to write
you a line _____

they may find you all enjoying the same

_____ been writing, but the
letters have failed to get through. The
_____ have been geting very few letters
for the last two months. The last two
mails have been pretty flush(?) hope we
will have no more difficulty in geting
_____ from home

Since my last to you there has hardly any
thing ocured in camp worth telling. Night
as before last we were ordered to cook
up three days_____ & to be redy to
march at a moment warning. We done
so But still remain on the same old
camping ground. But are still under
marching orders. it is ^{the} report through
camp that enemy are advancing on
us in heavy columns. If this be true
there will be apt to be another fight
before cold weather. The enemy is
said to be _____ & advancing at B—
-kers Hill & Shanadoah River -
which is about ten or twelve miles
to either of the places from camp.
I am afraid the first thing we know
they will be between us and home (?)
again. But I guess old Lee is wide
awake and will be fast enough for them.

I want this war to come to a close for
I want to^{go} home and see how you all do
in that country. I imagine that I can
enjoy the comfort of home If I only had
the Chance; I think if I am spared to see
winters. I will be able to get a furlough
they have already commence furlough-
ing the sick. I understand that Uncle
John Glenn has got a discharge. I hope it is
so. Tom ought to have one for I dont bel-
ive that he will ever be fit for service.
The health of our Army is improving. there
has been thousands come to us since (?)
we come to this camp. And I happy to say
that thousands have been clothed &
shoed, our General has made a rekqu-
isition for Blankets which I hope we will
get soon for frost is upon, I wrote to
you to send me some clothing & shoes
by Maning or by the first one that you

Comp. C. P.S.S. S.C.V.

Winchester, Va.

W. C. Herndon

Direct you letters

though(t) would bring them through

Safe. I still ask the same of you as

I stand in the of them very much. Tom

Campbell, Newton, Jim Barett, Levi & Jim

Winters & Wm Lee are all well. Lieut

Strange told me to day that he had

not herd of Tom Skelton yet. John

Daulin died a few days ago at

Winchester. Father, I do not want you

to for get to write to me occasionally. It

affords me more real pleasure to get

a letter from Home then any -

thing that ever comes my way - you

will please excuss the shortness of

this letter as I have no paper nor

Envelops, Such artickles are very scarce

with us Your Loving Son. W.C. Herndon

Dare Sister - Fannie, do not think you

self slighted. I will ^{write} to you soon.

You have my love & best wishes - Claude

Camp near Winchester, Va. Oct 23rd 1862.

I have just been made
a present of the first of letters on which I will attempt to stop
your. But though so usual, nothing of interest to write for
get to have our men many things in camp every day and it
would not do to write them, as none of them are considerable
matters. I wish to write generally about from nothing, but
English have been killing these fellows with the help
of getting off to the coast of Charleston for the last two or
three weeks, but I am afraid many of the Carolina boys
will be disappointed as for myself I will not be sent
disappointed. For I just about as the day in our region
with my time is out, as any other war. I have called
get in to mind's quarters and had much better stay here
the winter and winter there that go to the coast the winter
we have a good deal of fighting here during the winter
Cavalry, as well as we did that in the summer, I have
and long with fighting will be given in this part of
the country, we may have some full heavy fighting
during the winter, but will not be off to the coast
general engagements, as either party can not move
their artillery to much advantage, all that would
he had to go to the coast for would be for the shells
I have to get a quantity to go home. Everything is so
he goes along our line at this time. I have of no prospect
of a fight. But there ought to be a fight, coming off in a few
days. And we would be nothing of it, it is not as we would be
called off for action, what a private. I have some concerning
this war and I am not to write. But I am sure looking
forward to the Battle of Chancellorsville, but I am sure
in direction of the Potomac, but I am sure looking
at that business at this time. They are some signs of
them no. They are more than enough. And I have that
there is a considerable force of the army near them on.

on the 23rd of October

Since my note to you and father the other day, we have moved
our camping ground ~~some~~ ^{two} miles. our camp is somewhat rough
it is on a south east hill side. The cold Pennsylvania winds has a
fair sweep at us. Our camping ground reminds me here much of the
hill & rocks from Father's house to old Providence (Co. by Bowyer)
You might see the boys huddling around a merry log heap of fire
this cold windy weather. fire is about half of our living. As we have
not yet ^{been} furnished with blankets. I do not see what ^{we} are to do, if they are not
supplied with blankets & clothing & shoes very soon. I see no other chance
only for them to freeze to death. There has already been two men ^{dead}
in our Regiment within the last week weather. They froze to death
or died from some other cause. I do not know. My friend dead
by their fire. I had the pleasure of seeing old Gen. Lee, & his Staff at
a review on last evening. He looks as though he could stand the
war for ^{while} yet. Since I have saw his head, he is a much older
man, than I was. His head of hair & beard is as white as old
Grandfather's. I have had three Generals to review us
within the last two weeks. Gen. Walker, Gen. Longstreet, Gen. Lee
& now Major. Leff, will be around next to see the boys.
I reckon will have to quit writing for this time. As the boys
have got dinner ready. And will not for me to miss dinner to
day. As they have a nice pot of dumplings, which is our foremost
dish in camp. You might laugh if you were to see our
cooking. But it would not be surprize if we cant beat you.
You ought to see me make biscuits. I can almost beat mother.
If I had a few milk. Lord & dada I dont know but what I could
beat her. But you need not tell her. of fears she should be after
me to do her cooking when I get back. I wish it had been year
liking three days, since I saw your loving face. & not only yours
but my dear old Mother & Mother. Brothers & Sisters. Some might think
that the faces of such companions, might be forgotten in a long a
time. But not so with myself. I can well remember the faces of each
one of you. And often imagine that I see you all, enjoying your
lives to gather and myself with you. But soon I remember
that we are a great distance from each other. And it is all
but imagination indeed.)

Camp near Winchester, Va. Oct. 23rd 1862,

Dear Sister,

I have just been made
a present of this sheet of paper on which I will attempt to adress
you. But though as useal nothing of interest to write you.
It is true we hear many things in camp every day but it
would not do to write them as none of them are considered
reliable. Such reports generally starts from nothing. Our
Brigade have been flatering there selves, with the hopes
of geting off to the coast at Charlston for the last two or
three weeks. But I am afraid many of the Carolina boys
will be disappointed, as for myself I will not be much
disappointed for I just about as live (?) stay in old Virginia
until my time is out. As any other way. If we could
get into winter quarters I had much rather stay here
this winter I believe those that go to the coast this winter
will have a good deal of fighting to do during the winter
campaign, as well as we did here in the summer. It will
not be long until fighting will be over in this part of
the country, we may have some pretty heavey skrimishing
during the winters. But will not be apt to have a
general engagement as either party can not use
there arttilerry to much advantage. All that I would
be glad to go to the coast for would be perhaps abetter

reliable. Such reports generally starts from nothing. Our
Brigade have been flatering there selves, with the hopes
of geting off to the coast at Charlston for the last two or
three weeks. But I am afraid many of the Carolina boys
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there arttilerry to much advantage. All that I would
be glad to go to the coast for would be perhaps abetter
chane to get a furlough to go home. Everything seems to
be quiet along our line at this time. I heare of no prospect
of a fight, But there might be a big fight coming off in a few
days. And we would no nothing of it until we would be
called off for action. What a private knows concerning
this war dont amount to much. Part of our army has been
tarrying up the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, from Winchester
in direction of the Potomac. Col. Orr's old Regt. is engaged
at that business at this time. They are some eighteen mile
from us. They are near Martinsburgh. and I learn that
there is a considerable force of the enemy near them on

side of the
on this Potomac

Since my note to you and Father the other day, We have moved

our
camping ground some two miles. Our camp is somewhat rough

It is on a Northeast hill side The cold Pensylaeny winds has a

fair sweep at us. Our camping ground reminds me very much of the

hills & rocks from Father haus to add Providence (in by Bowies)

you ought to see the boys huseling around our hickery log fire
heaps of

this cold windy weather & fire is about half of our living. As we have

not yet been furnish with blankets. I do not see what ^{we} are to do if they are not

supplied with Blankets clothing & shoes very soon, I see no other chance

only for them to freece to death, there has already been two men foun-
dead

d in our Regiment within the last week weather they froze to death

or died from some other cause. I do not know they found dead
were

by there fires I had the pleasure of seeing old Gen. Lee & his staff at

a review on last evening. He looks if though he could stand the

war for a ^{while} yet. Since I have saw his head, he is a much older

man than I ^{think} he was. His head of hair & beard is as white as old

Grand Father Glenn's. We have had three Generals to review us

within the east two weeks Gen. Walker, Gen. Longstreet, Gen. Lee,

I recon Map(?) _____ will be around next to see the boys,

I recon I will have to quit writing for this time. As the boys

have got dinners ready and will not ^{do} for me to miss dinner to
day. As they have a nice pot of dumplings, which is our formost

dish in camp. You might laugh if you were to see our

cooking. But I would not be surprize if we cant beat you.

You ought to see me make biscuit I can almost beat mother.

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If I had a few milk, lard & soda, I dont know but what I could
beat her. But you need not tell her of fears she should be after
me to do her cooking when I get back. Fannie it has been ^{as} years
liking three days, Since I saw your loving face it not only yours
but my Dear old Father & Mother, Brothers & Sisters. Some might think
that the faces of such companions, might be forgotten in so long a
time. But not so with myself. I can well remember the faces of each
one of you. Could(?) often imagine that I see you all enjoying your

Camp near Richmond, Va.

July 7th 1863

My Dear Father & Mother

As I did not quite finish my last
letter to you on account of our Brigade
being / from Camp
about twenty miles that day we came
in contact with the enemy on the other
side of Chickahomlney (?) on the
Road leading to the White House. After
Gen. Jenkins got his men in position and
then his batteries in position. He then
ordered upon
his Batteries of ten pieces to open the
which was done
enemy did
only long enough to throw four shells
when they left leaving nearly^{all} they had
behind we followed them about four
miles when night came upon us we then
left them & crossed back over the river
and rested during the night. Next morning
we left Chickahominey (?) & returned
to our camp near Richmond

I have not herd if the enemy making any
other effort to come to Richmond
we presume that ^{they found that} all the old rebels
hadent left Richmond yet. All is
quiet about Richmond again. The

respective homes. The citizens are resting
much easier than when we came here

have hearing (?) news from all forts at
our army. We lern that Gen. Lee has
had a big fight with the Yankees at
Gettsburg, Pennsylvania which has
proved to be another great Victory for
the South - Gen. Jenkins told us this mor-
an that he thought we would start to
Gen. Lees assistance before three days.

This does not set well with some of us
I for one had much rather stay on our
own soil. My trip through Maryland
last summer satisfied me of Yankee-
land. I had been hoping all the time
that we would not have to go but

I am satesfied now that we will go.
had we been the lucky ones to have stayed
we would no doubt got out of a heap of land
fighting. but as it tis we may expect to
witness mⁿay hard battles and many
of us never will return to our soil
again. I greatly fear that I will not be
spared to get through this campaign safe
I can but trust the Providence as I have
done her tofore. I hope you and mother
will not be uneasy about me should
I be one of the unlucky ones to fall a
victim on the Battle field - be assured
that I am prepared to meet the fate. It
is with my Maker weather(?) my life shall(?)
yet be spared from ^{the enemy} or not. This will
be perhaps the last letter that you will
receive from me in ^{some} time as there will
be no chance to send letters from the
enemies country. It is supposed that
we will have to march about two
hundred miels to get to Gen. Lees command

I received the things sent by J. T. Keown

I am well pleased with my shirts. they suit

me exactly. the little bunch of sewing thread

comes in pretty well. The scrap like Father's

suit I will keep in my Pocket book. I

imagine that a suit like this would

be beautiful. I cant describe to you

how well the onions & potatoes come

in. I was almost a fit subject for

the Hospital before geting thes nice

things - but I am now feeling as well

as I ever did. The fruit also comes in at

the right time. The Aples that was sent was

all spoilt. I feel very greatful to you all

for all thes nice things. I feel so much

indebted to you all. I feel that it would

take a life time to repay the debbs.

Mother wants to know if ^I need anything

els. nothing more. I am well supplied

with everything. I now bid you adieu

with all the Love that a child could

offer to his Parents - W. C. Herndon.

Portion of letter -

learn from this note that I have

Sent some money to you for

Safe keeping until my return.

I sent by Mr. Samuel Brown,

who lives near Anderson on

Broadaway River. The amount

sent was (Sixty five) dollars

Will you be so kind as to go to

Anderson and ask Mr. Gorge

Fant the Post Master for the

money. As I directed the letter

to him and told him to keep

it until you called for it.

On reverse side -

you a stamp so that you will not

be at any trouble to make the--

chance for Postage The excitement is

now on the question of revolenteer

ing. I understand this morning that

we will be call on this Evening to

see what the old 4th will do in

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we will be call on this Evening to

see what the old 4th will do in

the way of revolenteering from

what I can learn, I think they will

be but for that will revolenteer

I have made up my mind not

not to Volenteer any more until

I return home. I hope you will

(First page missing)

500

After a drill of a hour

I will attempt to finish; _____

Col. John V. Moore's Regiment

has transfer(r)ed to this Brigade

and will join us tomorrow.

they will then be right along

by the side of our Regt. and

I understand they are proud of

the move, I have not saw any

of the boys belonging to his Regt

for several day's, But saw him

this evening. He said they were

all geting along very well, But
grumbling

A good deal about the hard times

they were seeing; June 15th _____

After a good night rest, I will

try and finish; I feel like if I was

at home this morning and take

a good drink of old peack - and

then set down to quit Breakfast
table and partake of a good old
fashable Breakfast cook by my
good old mothers would do me
more good than anything els(e) that
could happen. I do hope the day
is not far ahead when such priv-
iliges will be granted; Fannie
it seems to be the opinion of some
that you are to be married soon
I hope you will tell me all about
it in your next note: If there
is anything of it I was informed
by an old gentleman who has
late payed us a visit. that
a cirtiate(?) young man be thought(?)
was making every necessary
preperation to take care of a
wife that could be is it so-
Fannie be careful and know
what you are doing anew

not do ces(?) others have -

done, marry just any

lady because they think - it

proable that it will be the last

chance they will ever get.

I do not say that is the case

with yourself. You are old

enough and been about enou-

gh over the world to mak(e) your
own

choice; I would not say a word

againt(?) any man that you

would marry because I think

you would know what

you were doing. I have nothing

against the young man that

is paying his respects to you

he is perfect gentleman as far

as I know. I have herd that

Fannie Simpson was married,

and again here that she aint

Can you tell me weather it

is the case or not. I do not
believe it) everything seems
to be _____ along the picket
line this morning occasionally
I can hear a gun fired
there may be a storm before
night no one can tell
John Sullivan sends his
best respects to father. I send
my love to him and the rest
of the family please tell father
to hold his self in readiness
to come to Virginia. In case
that I should get severely wounded,
But I do pray to my God
that I may go through with
out a scratch Dillard _____
Skelton Maning & Campbell
are old well and look fine
and fat, I am well enough
to be at my post, I must now
bid you Adieu for the present
hoping to hear from you soon.

Your Loving Brother - Claude