

Camp, 25th Va. Regiment
Orange County, Va. April 1st 1864

Dear Brother,

It is with pleasure that I embrace the present opportunity to drop you a few lines in reply to your kind letter which came to hand last night bearing date 23rd of March from which letter I was glad to learn that you and a part of your family was in the enjoyment of good health but sorry to hear of some being afflicted, but I hope ere this time they are well.

This leaves me well and the boys generally are well and in pretty good spirits but are expecting to be called to meet the enemy in battle before long. General Grant is now in command of the Yankee forces north of the Rapidan it is reported that he has been reviewing & reorganizing his forces and preparing for an advance but I do not know whether these reports are correct or not.

We have no news of interest now in camp though there is some firing of artillery in the direction of Madison Court House though it is yet unknown (in camp) what it means whether it is ours or the enemies. For some time past we have had a great deal of bad weather. Last week our Brigade was on picket at Mortons ford (on the Rapidan) and we had a very rough time. It both snowed and rained while we was out the snow fell to the depth of fifteen inches but did not lay long. Since that we have had a great deal of Rain and the mud has been pretty deep.

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Since I have been writing it has began to Rain and looks as though it might rain pretty hard and for some time.

There is some talk of our Regiment going to the mountains again this spring but I fear that we will not get to go the majority of the men and officers are very anxious to go.

You wanted to know what you should do with my money. I owe Buck and Sheets a little you can pay that and do that just as you think best with the balance. As for my own part I don't know what would be best as every thing is so very uncertain these days.

If my mare is not shod I want you to get shoes on her as A. J. McCoy expects to get a furlough in a short time and he will take her home. I think it would be best to take her home before she has her colt.

You said that you had not received a letter from me since Irvine Wooddell was down here since that I wrote to you and was waiting for an answer before I would write again.

I hope that you may not have to come in to the field. I want some men to get to stay at home. I think there is few enough there now. I got a letter from Ann last night and one from [Morrison?] a few days ago. I will answer them in a few days. You spoke of joining this company but my advice to you [?] is to join cavalry if you can as Infantry is much harder than cavalry, though I would like very much for you and I to be together. I will close for this time. Give my love to all enquiring friends and accept a good portion to your self and family. Nothing more.

I remain your brother,
John J. Rusmiser

To Geo Rusmiser Write soon.