

1861

Camp on Shoal Creek (Mo. Sept 22)
My Dear Milwa

Your long looked
for & three excellent letter was received
a few days ago and nothing could have
gave me more pleasure at the time. it
brought many things to my mind that
I had entirely forgotten and before I
had closed reading it I was bathing it
in tears. Could you and all our friends at
home know how much pleasure it was
for us to hear from you I am sure
you would write oftener than you do
I was sorry to hear that you had been
sick and I was not able to wait
upon you and to kiss your parched lips
Julia I love you better than I ever did
in my life and would give any thing
or rather for a few moments conversation
with you to tell you of my troubles &
hardships I have endured since I
left you again but it is impossible at this
time. you spoke of coming to see me if it
was possible. I know you cannot come
now if there was any possible chance

you may depend that I would leave
no means untid to accomplish it.

I do not know when we will leave this
Camp but when we do I suppose we will
go on down to the Arkansas river, we have
stopped here for what purpose I cannot tell
unless it is to wait for the Sect to come
up which is behind them is some ten
or twelve behind that is not able to
travel. Capt Gamble from Washington
died a few days ago & one of our Company
also died about the same time, William
Knight a Son of Uncle Arnes Knight of
Sevier County I wrote to you that White
was killed on the battle field at the river
I wrote we had heard that it was the
Case but found out it was a mistake
though shot through the base of the head
with a musket ball he is recovering,
you wrote you had not seen anything
larger than a deer since I left I am
very sorry that I cannot send you some
money, we have not drawn our pay yet
and do not believe there is ten dollars in
the Company our Capt tells us that as
soon as we get to head quarters which
is near the Ark river we will draw

all that is due us. and you may rest
assured that I will send you all that
I can which will be fifty or seventy
five Dollars. and more if I can
we have no war news only what you
have already heard we hardly ever get
a newspaper and when we do it is as
old as the Hills; I wish I could get
the S. W. Democrat any week but then it
would take so long to get it here the
news would not be interesting or get out
concerning home

you speak of having my
ambly to look at and shedding tears
over it oh that I had you & my sweet
little Fannie to look at I know that
I would bath them in tears for the
thought almost makes me cry I want
you to send you & Little Fannie when
Brown comes back

Tell Miss Fannie that I am very much
obliged to her for the few lines she dropped
in your letter I will write to her in a
few days & give her a description of
the ladies of this country. there was
a Ball given in town last night I did
not go myself for I could not

enjoy my self and think of you at
home. you wanted me to tell you
who it was that ran off from the
battle field. I cannot say for their
brinds would think hard of me
it is Sunday and we are all going
to preaching.

Maj Brown starts in the morning
for Sevier County. for our clothing
I want you to make about two Suits
of heavy clothing, and two lousy
Shirts, one Suit will do if you have
not time to make more. though
I hope I will be at home before I
have much use for them
write a long letter to me by him when
he returns tell all my friends to write
I must close may god help you
and be with you til I return good by
Remember me I believe as ever your
affectionate husband forever

Chas H. Atkins

Little Rock Ark
April 8th 1862

My Dear Julia
My Dear Julia

No doubt you will

be surprised to receive a letter from me at this place but such is our camp and night at one place and in all probability

start at day breaks to some unknown part of the world that you had never dreamt of going to before. We arrived at this city

about 3 o'clock this evening, the boys in front started there about four thousand

troops in all there they will take up the line of march in the morning for Sural's

Bluff on White River our Regiment will not start before the day after tomorrow being as

our train mules and all very new broke down from hard marching. So we left

Van Buren

I have very little news to give you, even our Colonel has not the remotest idea of the object of this grand move of all the Army, unless it is to reinforce Gen. Beauregard

who is now at Island No 10 on the Mississippi River fighting the Federals every day. Gen. Price is also moving in

the direction of White River on a advance of
ser. them is no forces left on the border
of this state unless it is Gen. Pike's command
The supposition of a great many men is that
we are going to the Mississippi River, and there
the decisive battle will be fought.

Some I have seen writing news that
brought in to camp, that the Federals
have been in Van Buren & St. Louis
since our life. I cannot hardly believe it
though it may be possible. I have also
just learned that a desperate war was
here this evening. Starting that there was
fighting going on at Bull's Bluff
above Memphis, and that our men was
repulsing the enemy.

Dear Lucia at home
as if our prospects was very dark at
this time and that our country was to be
over run with northern devils. but I think
the families in the South (I mean the extreme
South) may rest contented for before
Southern men will permit their soil to be
disgraced by Federal troops. Southern streams
will flow with blood. Ruggton (McAtee
who was wounded at the battle of Sargar
Creek, died a few days ago. his leg was
amputated just below the knee. he only

Had a few days after the operations was
performed two of our Company who
as as taken prisoner at the battle made
their escape and got into Camps this evening
Mr Reed says he has not time to write
now but will the first chance he has
write. James & myself have all been sick
they have not been past traveling. I was
hauled thru days in an ambulance
I have been improving for several days
and at this time feel very well but consi-
derable medication. So we are all three on
what I would call good health at this
time.
Do not send any more letters to me
directed to Ft Smith as it will be impossible
for me to get them and for what I know
may fall into the hands of the Dutch
for them to laugh over as soon as I
can hear. When we will stop I will let
you know. I will also write every chance
I have and give you all the news I can
write to me every chance you have of sending
me a letter. I would be glad to hear from
you every week if I could - I must close
for I have already written more than
I expected when I commenced and
and your Pa and James are both

a sleep in the tent and morning worse
a sleep in the tent and morning worse
than a forty horse engine
Give my love to Miss Fannie and all the
family. Kiss little Fannie & Emma... and
for you the best wishes of an absent
but devoted husband - pleasant dreams
to you to night - my dear I must go
to bed, good by,

C. H. Atkins

Camp near Loudon Tenn
Nov-16th 1863

Dear Julia

I write you a
second letter. The other ^{has been written} several days and I have added
to it until it would be hard
to send it - would be hard
for you to understand the last part
of it when I first wrote it I thought
I could send it by Filanagon
and about that time James Ridd
obtained a Furlough on Surgeon's
certificate of disability it was sent
up to Anderson. He would not
sign it. By this time Filanagon was
gone. So I had not sent my letter
So yesterday there was an order
to send one from every company
to take letters and money home
and Harry Penny was the one
sent from this company. The money
I send you can use it as you see fit
but advantage by what ever you

You think you will need There is
Gore think you will need. There is
get money due US from the govern
ment - and I guess we will draw
again. Between this and Christmas and
again between this and Christmas and
send it to you if I have an opportunity
Send it to you

We will leave here in a few days
No will leave here in a few days
for Mobile Ala or Mobile Bay Ala
One of the Lieutenants of this Regiment
heard the boys (McNair) say that
as soon as we went into winter
quarters we would be sent home
for our homes. I hope it may be
true but I don't believe it.

There is no news of importance here
There is no news of importance here
every body wants to get home
and get home if they could honorable
It is a matter for you to say at what
time I will come. You may depend
that I will make use of that first
chance I could make use of the great
opportunity I have for getting on earth
would give me more pleasure than to
see you and to press you and my
see you and to press you and my

Sweet little children to my beloved
Saul & children to my beloved
If I have written any thing in
my previous letters that has offended
you let me ask your forgiveness for
sometimes I will seal my self
to write to you and in 10 minutes
to write to you and in 10 minutes
two minutes then will be nearly half
a dozen around me that is
almost impossible to write but I hope
I have not been guilty of writing
any thing that has been disagreeable to you
James has got another feverish for
30 days I do not know whether he will
get to come home or not.
Give my money you receive. So the
give my money you receive for the
money though I believe I mentioned
that in my other letters. I hope
you my love to all my friends
and for your self the best wishes
of your affectionate husband
A. C. Atkins
and Mrs. A. C. Atkins

Dec. 12th 1862

Dear Julia

I have an opportunity of sending a letter to you or that is of sending it to Polk County Ark and it can be sent by mail from there. I have no news to write that would interest you. War war with all its horrid attendants is all that glooms up as far as our short visions may penetrate. A gloomy prospect indeed but I live in hopes that it will in some way or other work for our own good. The man body of our army is now encamped at this place and Manchester about 12 miles from here. The Yankees are at and near Nashville a distance of 35 miles from this place. Strongly fortified so said. There is skirmishing every day down about Nashville and our army has within the last few days captured several thousand prisoners. There is no telling how the two armies will be brought together. If we have them to fight I hope we may be able to give them a sound thrashing. We have no news from the Army in Virginia nor from Gen Parke's forces but I should suppose they were doing the best they can. It was reported here some time ago that Gen Holmes + his command was crossing the Mississippi River. I hope this is not true. I think they ought to stay and guard our own State and Texas. I wish our Division could have the pleasure of attending to the Yankees over there in Ark and Missouri. I think we could set them back beyond the limits of our own State at least if not through Missouri.

there is three or four absent sick I do not know
them so this is four absent. Sick I do not know
whether they have got well or not
what has they have got well or not
company have died: recently Sol Reno & Romf. Sanders
you are not acquainted with either though Capt
Nord knows them. I do not know what was
the disease they died with, as I was not with them
My health was never better than at this time. Last night
has got about well again Jas & Nord both in good health.
I have not had a letter from you since Hill came last week.

I cannot promise you when I will get to come home. The prospect for it looks very gloomy at this time, but I hope it may brighten soon. Some how or other it seems to me, or I have gotten up the idea that all is not going on well with you. I hope that all is not going on well with you, but I hope my imaginations are grounded. I hope you will not let an opportunity pass without writing to me.

The money I sent you by Henry Perry, you can buy meat & flour with and as soon as I have another chance I will try to send you more. I will not attempt to give you a description of our travels since we left. We have been traveling for the last three weeks through snow & mud, and over frozen ground and a great many of the men were badly
faded & some entirely so, but yet they seldom
faded & some entirely so, but yet they seldom
I will bring my letter to a close. May the god of Heaven protect you & our little children.

I remain as ever your affectionate husband
Charlie Atkins

Charlie Atkins