

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers
Campbell Family Papers
James Campbell

Campbell to his brother, Alexander Campbell, New York City:

Charleston, S.C. Sept. 28th, 1860

You ask me who our State will go for in the presidential Allelection the Legislature votes for the president in this state but the people send the candidates there who will vote for there party Breckinbrige will get this state and he will have a magority in all the southern States except Mireland and perhaps Missouri but unless there will be a understanding between the Douglas & Breckinbrige parties in your state Pensylvina and New Jersia and run a combined ticket Linkin will be our next president if he is defeted & NY & Pa it will go to the house and some of the others may have a chance if I had a Million votes at my command Breckinbrige wold have them all for Douglass is getting up some ew scame about Squatter Soveranity that dos not give every State the same chance the southe payes her revinew to support the general govermant as well as the North and why not the South have the same privilages & protection in the Territories as the north has as for Black Republicans they are below scruleny for there platform has not got a single constitunal claus in its whole forse and my belief goes further for my humble opinion is that Douglas is a mear towel in the hands of the republicans for to plunge our happy country into a sivil war for ther is nothing more certain then that the South will never submit to Abolishism prinsables but as I have no vote and dont both bother with poletics I will say

Your Brothers respects

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Campbell Family Papers

Sergeant Alexander Campbell

Company F, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army
of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

the line of the center division
of the grand army of the Potomac near
chain bidge virginia Sept 6st 1861

I wrote you a letter on the 3d I had not time to get it posted for we left in such heast none of us knew anything about it untill we were on the road we marched up and croast the chain Bridge and have bivoced here it has been wet and dissegreable weather our reighment worked in the trenches yesterday making a fort the woods is getting cut down all arround since I commenced writing we have got orders to goa on a scouting expidion for twenty four hours things is conducted in a differant way on this expidison its reported that the enemy is on the advance we are going out to see any how . . . I have not had time to write Brother Peter since I came out I hope he will not be angry about it for reighments is moved about so often that when we halt and fix a place for ourselves we have to mouve Sunday Sept 8th I have got back from the scouting expidision Last night I am writing this on my catridge Box beside a corn field with our muskets is stalked in line before us we are expecting to mak a foreward movement every movement . . . we have all got 48 hours rashions with us god knows where we are going no one knows any thing about movements

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Campbell Family Papers

Sergeant Alexander Campbell

Company F, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F.Smith/Army
of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance Virginia
Sept 9th 1861

I wrote you a Letter and sent it of the other day it was wrote with pincel I not having and ink. I know you wont feel satisfied with it I could not do any better) we have to worke in the trenches so many hourse in the day they are making this place verry strong it comands the chain bridge theres one fort made and another on the way there was a soldier going to be shot here to Day there was 5 of our reighment Detailed to do it but he got pardoned it was for sleeping on his post that is when on sentry I have just returned from Dress prade I cannot get time to finish a Letter . . . [engraving cut off first page of patriotic stationery with motto "God save the Union"; ends of several sentences lost] we are ready all the [time to] march we have crackers and salt horse that is the soldiers name for beef for 48 hours this place is about 4 miles from Georgetown on the potomack there was a number of recruits came in here to night the reighment is getting up verry well I have got to be a sergant again you know I always told you they could not get along without me I dont meen that you know as I am writing this Matthew is singing Roys Wife a val the vallach he is a pet in the company he keeps them all Laughing speekin broad Scotch I am glad you got the money from the union defence commitee I dont know now how about our pay on account of being sent out here I here its treasury noats they pay with so the brokers will have a discount on them its reported here to night that Jonston is crost in to mariland with 50,000 men and they seem to think here that is just what they want they have to keep there men moving to keep them from getting disheartened Mcllelland is allways around inspecting everry thing with his own eye and setting everry to right I will have to come to a close this time the candle is getting dun

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Campbell Family Papers

Sergeant Alexander Campbell

Company F, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army
of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance Sept 13th 1861

we have just got in from the trenches after being in them from 8 o clock we worked our regular Days work but had to got to work with the moon on account of the enemy advancing the country folks having come in to our camps to get out of the way things is in a great state here to night all the reighment was called out on account of some cannonading that was heard in the direction of the enemys Lines we expect a fight tomorrow and I think if they attack us we feel confident that they will be driven back never to rally again there was great fires seen all along the enemys Lines tonight I think its a signal for there advance you will have seen by the news[papers] that we had a but brush with the [enemy] the other day I have not time to go [into] thepirticulars about it but it was [a sh]arp brush there was one of our compan[y woun]ded its verry slight it was a shell that burst right over our heads one of the other that was wounded died since our Company was detailed to go a scouting there was a man with us Leading us all through the places that there was a susispision of them being I have not time to say any more about it but the 79th has to go every where there is no rest for them the other reighments think the highlanders is great fellows I wrote you a letter stating that I was a sergant . . . we had a great time here one night since we came over here we were revuied by General Mclelland and the presidant sectuary of war and a great many prominent men McLelland spoke verry good of us and told us we would have our colours back and said we never disgraced them [several officers and men of the 79th New York had mutinied in August and had the regimental colors confiscated] and Cameron said his house would be a home for any of the 79th Jane you will have to excuse me to night for this scribling I worked to hard with the pike and showvel . . . we dont know the moment we [will be] called out we have to sleep with our catrich box on and 40 rounds in it I can assure you time is verry precious with us at present there is other reighments working in the trenches and will be all night there was a balloon on the other side of the river asending and desending all day to day watching the enemys movements . . . mat told me to tell you that we were to give them blases tomorrow so good night if god spares us I expect we will soon have the ware all over and peace and happyness in the country soon again so once more good night again they are all mostly asleep around me

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Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance Virginia Sept 21st 1861

the Last time I wrote you there was great excitement here we were expecting to be attacked every day and we had to be always on the alert but now its Quite different all the expecting of an attack has died away because we are ready for them now we have got this place well nigh finished and if they show there nose in this direction it will be verry apt to get it smashed you ask if I have got a blanket I have and we have all got nise over coats so that we are well clade, and we have got our tents now we were without the first week you will have seen by the newspapers that we have got our Colours back I am appointed to carry one of them yesterday afternoon general Mclelland & staff accomp[anied] with the Prince De Joinvell came [engraving on patriotic stationery with motto "Union" cut out] of corse stevens and his Highlanders had to turn out we were the only reighment that was called on we were drawn up in Line awating his arrival which we were to know by a salvo of artirallie he revured us he came along our Line till he came to the center where the colnel was I was right behind him the other colour bearer to he halted and shook hands with our Colnel & said he was glad to see us with our colours back and he seemd to think a great deal of us he think the world of our Colnel he interduced him to the Prince . . . you say your mother wants to know if I am in the tent with Mat James & Mat is together and Brown to I am not in the same tent I dont belong to no company now since I got to carry the colours I am staying in the 6th companys tent yet till we get one for ourselvs you said in one of your Letters it was getting Cold nigts now its getting Cold here to night I think if Mclelland lets the Southerners along a Little Longer the cold will chase them away the reighment has to work in the trenches from 1 P M until 5 1/2 P M every day except sunday I have just received newspers from Peter and they come in verry good I get one mostly every day

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Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance Sept 26th 1861

our reighment was out yesterday from erly morning till after dark there was other reighments two 5000 men besides a great amount of arterily it was to get hay and corn that was at Luinsville and se and find out the enemys posihon if corse the 79th had to go first and scour all the woods that Lay in the direction of the enemy they drove in there pickets all along and captured one he was one of Stewarts Calvery he didnt [watermark cut off on reverse of first page] idea of being taken sit there [words lost] detailed to take him to general smiths head Quarters, I asked one of them if he said anything about the south they told me he was Quite stiff, and he said the northe never would subdue the south there was some exchanges of shells but it did not amount to much one of our men was struck on the shoulder with a shell it was slightly they would not come out of the woods so as they would be seen one of the sergants of the 6th company escaped from richmond williams paccet he was ten days on the road he is in camp now he sayes there men are in a sad state for shoues and clothing and food and they have verry few tents which accoints for having such sickness among them. I dont know what they are to do in winter it if does not be setteled before that they cannot stand it nohow I dont know in fact what we are to doo ourselves for its getting cold enuph now nights I hope it will soon be over and Let us to our homes in winter . . . Pearson is back and nothing said to him you said you would ahve sent some gin James and mat was expecting some he said only for Daniel McGlachlan he would hav taken it he told him he would be searched and it taken from him a Little would go verry good here now there is plenty men feels worse for the want of it than me there is no getting Lignour of any kind here

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance 79th NY Line
October 1st 1861

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I send you \$20 by adams express this morning by one going to washington on pass I got payed last night only privets pay its to bad it was all Mcnies falt he is such a selfish being he does not care about any one but himself I out to got \$34 but only got \$23 . . . there is a great change in things here now the rebels has retired back and we have got 3 days rashions in our haversacks ready to march to any point that they may try to cross the Potomac its only in case they try its best to be ready I have not got time to write you much on account of the post man going away soon only I am in good helth James & Mat is well . . . our colnel is made a Brigadear General 79th is in his Brigade his son is our Adjutant the Father will look after us on that account Cameron was up seeing us on sunday and made a speech & called us his Country men and his children and as long, as he was head of the war department he would see to us I am verry comfortable now in the tent I am in there is only 3 of us and we have our place fixt nice I have a nise bed fixt up for myself and we have a nice table which I am writing on now and shelfs and racks to hang our things on we draw our own rashions and cook for ourselves you would like to see our shantie if they would only let us stay but we dont know the moment we will be called away a soldier cannot call a moment his own

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance Va
October 4th 1861

our Camp is shifted back, a little more in the shelter and things looks as if we were going to stay here sumetime its late to night and the Bugle has sounded sumetime ago to put out Lights but I must finish this Letter to be ready to send with the post man in the moorning and if it should not be a long one you know the reason . . . Jammey was over seeing me to night I told him what you told me to tell him you dont [know] that I am farr away from the rest because I say he was over seeing me only the camp is laid out on a large scale, and the tents is spread over a considerable pice of ground, and the tent I am in is away back a good ways from the companys tents there is no word about the enemy here now, at all since they fell back every one seems to think they have retired Back on Manasses only a few left in the vicinity of farfax . . . I see by the news papers that a great many of our Reigements that was prisoners is sent to South Carolina, and that there was a frindly feeling among the Irish of Charleston towards Colnel Corchran of the 69th there is a great many Irish there, and the Cathloc Church is verry strong so that if they rise to free him Charleston would be in a bad fix I would like to pass the winter there I would rather be home of corse

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp Advance Va Octr 10th 1861

since I wrote you Last we have had a forward movement and it came so sudden that no one even dreamt of it. orders came to our tent to be ready to start at 4 oclock in the moorning with 24 hours rashions, and mind you that was between 12 & one oclock so I got up and got a fire lighted another went for the meat and I got it cooked and got sum coffie and tooke it we had to pack up our knapsacks and leave them so as they could be took, after us we got together the best way we could in the dark our rigement had to hurry most for as is always the case we have always to take the Lead we advanced casiously untill we came to a place I dont know the name of it any how we were twice there before I need not mention all the minouvers only there was skirmishers thrown out to se if there was any sesshers lurking in the woods there happened to be non then the rest of the regiment advanced on to Luinsville then they were all thrown out about 2 miles beyond that as a picket so we were ordered back to head Quarters with the colors thats one advantage I have got now not having to be on picket our tents is to be shifted to morrow its not farr from where we were before I am writing this in our old Camp I came back to get paper and ink the regiment is all Lying where we are to camp our pickets is advanced 4 miles and connect with them from falls church and all this was dun without a shot being fired Jammie and Mat was out on picket I was asking if they say [saw] the enemy they saw sume of there Calvery we only avance slolely but I think surely I wish it was over which I hope will be before the cold weather or us in good Quarters. I had a letter from Peter he told me he saw ann that she was Living out in Christopher St and about her having wourd from Brother James and that he was in the army

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp of the 79th, Va. Octr 13th 1861

I take the oppertunity of writing you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along as I mentioned to you in my last letter that we were moving a lettell further ahead well we have got all fixed again in a verry nise little field, about 2 miles farther ahead we had verry wet weather the time of moving, and of corse, we were out in the wet without tents but now thank god we have our tents and the weather clear and dry its a butiful moonlight night as I am writing and the air is could but the wind ha calmed it being verry windy all day the regiment is out on picket to day again the went out at 3 oclock this morning Jane its verry cold here nights now espessally getting up in the moarning and I woul like if you would send me a little brandy or gin or sume of both you can send it by adams express and if your mother wanted to send anything to the boys it could all be sent together if you had seen Jammy to night you would been sorry for him his company in on gaurd at head Quarters and when I went there he came to me, and asked if I knew where he could get a smell, as he calls it theres no such a thing to be got his face was blue with the could I never hear him complain of being sick or sore now at all mat is standing it like a brick, always joking a merry seems Quite content I am Quite well myself only at present I have a slight cold, and sume nights cofh a good deal but it dont amount to much you must not think I send this for the Likour alon, and if it puts you to a little trouble, as I have no dowl it will do you know its for a poor soger that has no other way of getting it I would give sumthing for a good drink of gin & molasses at present to stop the cofh it always commences at this time of night . . . I think there wont be much fighting in Virginia the rebels is all clearing away from here which meens that they are afraid to meet us, on an open fight they are falling back on bull run, again, so as they can get behind there fortifications but they wont lead us into no trap this time and I begin to think that they are getting tierd of it now I hope so they cannot be to soon tierd of it for me

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp of the big chesnut Va

October 16th 1861

theres a great change taken place in the 79th this afternoon you know Steavens was made a Brigdeer General sumetime ago but he still acted as our Colnel and he kept us allways beside him in his bregade, and he made his son our Augutant, and in fact the men had such confidence in him that they would go anny where with him well he was called away by the war department this afternoon and of corse his son went with him he knew nothing about it until a dispatch came for him to report in washington right away the regiment turnd out so as he would take farewell of the 79th he mad a Speach his country called him and he must obey he seemd to feel sorry for leaving the men cried out for to take us with him it has cased Quite a gloom amongst the men so the 79th is left without a colnel, or I may say officer at all it seems verry unfortunate for officers there was, an alarm last night the regiment thats on picket commenced firing, all along there Line well the Long roll beat, and all the regiments got under arms thinking it was the enemy, and sume 2 companyes of the 79th went out to se what was up, and to there astonishment it happend to be a bull that was wa[l]king about in the woods so the regiment that raised the fals alarm has to stay 24 hours Longer for it thats the way they punish them for rasing fals alarms

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/W.F. Smith/Army of the
Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp of the big chesnut Va
October 18th 1861

[Written on a blank company muster roll]

I have Just received your Letter this moment, and I send you a few Lines to tell you not to send anything for the regiment is going away to anaplis right away Stevens you know left us 3 days ago he was called away very suddenly so we are called out to Join him so we have to Leave at eight oclock to night, and its now 6 1/2 so you see I have not got much time to write I have all my things to pack up yet you dont write any more till I write for I dont know where we will be I will rite you as soon as we get to our new place the regiment has just come in from picket this has come so suddenly that every one is in a regular flurry they are all Quite proud about going with Steavens so the next I write it wont be from virginia

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman ("Sherman's
South Carolina Expeditionary Corps")

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

on Board the Steamship Vanderbilt
at fortress monroe October 23d 1861

I have just arrived at the above named place, you would know by the letter I wrote that night we left virginia that we were of for annapolis well we got there sunday, and embarked without delay and started nixt morning that was monday we arrived here this morning tusday and are lying at ankor right in front of fort monroe its verry wet and nasty weather so I dont enjoy it verry much and there is another regiment on Board and its verry crowded on board I dont know where we are going nixt there is a great number of vessels loaded with soilders at this place they are going on sum secret expidiesion down south I have no idea what part but you will hear of it in the news papers when we land where ever it is I am shure I wish it was over for I think this will be the finish of it at Lest I hope so and I am shure you do I am afraid I cannot write to you so often that is there wont be mail communication so often but Jane let us hope it will only be for a short time for mind you I am still of the opinion that I will be with you in new York on new years yet I dont know how this letter is to go but I see the rest writing so I write too and as soon as I get the nixt chance I write again Jane you must excuse the pincle for I cannot get any ink there is no accomidation on board at all so I dont care how soon we get on Land again theres a good manny sick on board they say its the measels I think its a verry rong thing to ship sick men south there is non of the 79th sick them that was sick was left in georgetown there was only a few this regiment that is on board along with us is only a short time out there from michigan and they fetched the measels along with them I had them when I was young so I am not a subsitute for them now James & Matthew is well Matthew was here once before that time in the great Eastern theres a great Quantity of soilders in the ships here you would think that the ships and men thats here would carry every thing before them, and then -- they ant all arrived here yet this is the head Quarters for them all to meet before Leaving for there destination -- and where that is remains a secret I believe the rebels is getting greatly alarmd about it they dont know where its going you see General Steavens is on board this ship he has taken command of us again I believe he had hard work getting us along with him he telegraphd to General Mclelland and he would not let us go and Cameron sectary of warr I believe did not want to let us goo then Stevens telegraphd to the President and he let

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane, 23 October 1861, Page 2:

us goo he told them that there was no use of him going without his Highlanders he said there was only five hundered of them but they were worth a hole Brigade what do you think of that I am afraid he thinks to much and he might get deceived there is to many Irish in the regiment and they are regular skeamers I must come to a close this time and I will write you, again the first oppertunity

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Port Royal entrance Bay Point SC November
13th 1861

You will I have no doubt think I ought to have wrote you before this time I certainly would only I could not see any chance of sending it away I heard to day that a steamer leaves tomorrow and that ship is to take the mails I hope you will take the above as an excuse well Jane I have had both good & bad times since I wrote you last when on board the vanderbilt it was very crowded and there was no regularity at all, and we was long enough on board to have went to California we left fortress monroe october 29th and arrived in sight of this place Nov 2d and ankerd out of range of there guns 3 days, gave them plenty time to prepare for us it was a grand sight to see the bombardment the ships that carried the soldiers were all kept out of the way so that we could see better than if we had been engaged never shall I forget that moorning when the ships of war & gun boats heaved anker and got in position the wabash taking the lead & the rest all following they had 6 or 8 rebels s[t]eamers lying close in shore under cover of there battries and you ought to see them cleare when the wabash came in front of there battries they fierd at her from this fort that we have now but she never payed any head to them and every eye was on her for she was to open fire first it was evident that she wanted to get a shot at there steamers but they were making traks, as fast as ever they did for the creeks that lead away from here every one was saying why dont the wabash open fire on that steamer that she is chasing it seemd that they were within shot of each other to us well we was gratified at last for there goes smoke from the wabash both at the rebel steamer and fort all follow suit and it became general all over all the ships steamd around in a circle it was on of the grandest sights that one can see in a Lifetime each ship vomiting shuch smoke there was sumetimes they could not be seen with smok the enemy returned the fire with eequal vigour for sume time but it was impossibal for them to stand under such afire the shells that burst among them was fearful and when the ships got the right rang of the enemy you could see the dust rising all around the fort the bombardment Lasted 4 hours there was one gun from there fort that kept firing away for sumetime but it was soon silenced then there was no reply a boat was sent ashore from the fleet, and the stares & stripes runn up on the fort, and then came the chearing from every ship on the expedition and soldiers were landed as fast as possible we were not Landed that night

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane, 13 November 1861, Page 2:

this was only on one side that the troops Landed -- on the other side it was not knowing if the enemy had Left or not till nixt morning when a small boat was sent ashore to see they found it entirely diserted we thought that we would go ashore along with the rest of the troops but it seemd not Steavens and his Highlanders took possession of bay point island themselves so that if we were not the first Landed on the one side we were first on the other they Left all behind them there is 24 cannon mounted on this island & and there is over 300 tents and any Quantity of provisions the soilders that has been here Lived high I can tell you they Left clothing of every kind I have got one pair of pants & a shirt & socks, and a great many other things Matthew & Jammey has got any Quantity of sessesh trophes, anything thas sessesh goes high they must have been awfully scared you cannot form any idea of what they have Left sume Left there watches pocket books & sume even there sweet hearts Lickeness what dou you think of that I was out on another island on a scouting expidision and everyy house is diserted nothing but negroes, all white has runn & Left there houses & everyy thing thats in them they told the negroes to runn for we would Kill them they are comming in to the fort every day we will soon have a rigement of them I think that South Carolinans would rather have peace now its getting to near there owne door its all verry good to doo all the fiting in Virginia but if they dont come to terms soon this state will have to suffer I think Charleston will soon be in our hands -- I would like to see a news paper about this you must send or tell Peter to send me sum . . . we live high here at present turkies & chickens is all the goo it wont Last Long this is a sea bathing place in summer and they have been building new houses for the soldiers and it comes in verry good for us I have got a coat to sleep on and a matress & pillow filld with cotten and it feels nise and soft this paper that I write on is sessesh and ink to I will send an envelope that I got in a house here stampt I only wish I could send you something better the regiment has got payed for the Last 2 months I have not got mine yet but as soon as I get it I will send it to you Jane I think the ware will soon come to an end now and then we shall be home . . . I am in as good helth as ever I was in my Life Mat & Jammie is first rate, and in fact the whole 79th is well the weather is fien and warm here and theres a fine beach to bath on the water is non of the best its so close on the sea theres holes dug about 4 feet deep and a barrel with both ends out put down and that is what they call a well

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Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Bay Point S.C. December 4th
1861

I wanted to get my pay so as I could send it to you by this Letter but I have not got it yet but I expect to get it soon its all the falt of the smart officers that we have [not] gotten theres only a few of us that has not got payed and the paymaster stays on the other side and he wont come over here to pay so few and them that has the power to get it for us does not seem to care whether we get it or not you must be in want of it now the times in new york must be hard this harder but its nothing to compare with the south I was out on Port royal Island a few days ago and the negroes told me that the white people stripted the negroes . . . I have not much Knews to tell you about what is going on here I heard Last night that the fleet was going to bombard Savanah to day but I dont se any sign of it to day you have no idear how Lies gets up here theres one thing certain the goverment must goahead and get through before summer or the men cannot stand the summer sickness in south carolina we could get along here first rate in summer for this is a summer sea bathing place for the people of buefort its a fine beach I nomore news of any importance and when ever I get money I will send it right off. . . . the compnies that was sent on the other islands to see if the enemy was many of them has returned they got 3 two ritch planters that had come in to take of the negroes but they got caughted the enemy has retreated away back on the main Land about 25 or 30 miles from here theres 3 compnies of our regiment on the big guns James & Matthew is drilling on them everyy day they are getting along first rate. the weather is a Little cold here, at present there was a Little ise on a pail of water that went to take a drink out of this morning but sun is out and it is plesent now. . . . P.S. You must write when you get this I have a little bottle to send to you that I got on an island above hear but I dont see how I am to send it and I have got a bible to and a good many other things I have them in my knapsack and I hope I will bring them hom on my owne back

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Port Royal Ferry, S.C.

December 16th 1861

as you see by the above we have Left bay point we got on board the steamer Delaware which took us to Buefort, and reported to general Steavens then wend to a suitable place and pitched tents and before dark all was pitched I had a fine room in one of the houses that was to be Head Quarters you know the colors is alway kept there and them that carries them has to be as convienent to them as possible so we had a room up stairs there was a fine Large bedstead in the room and a chist of drawers and o wasnt there a hansome Cradle it was one of that kind that swings clear of the floor the same as them that winds up Like a clock only it went by hand I thought of Little Alexander how nice he would go to sleep in it, and I wished I could send it home, but we did not get Long to enjoy our nice room I went to bed expecting a good nights sleep I had no more than got asleep when I woke up with one calling out my name and shaking me. I asked what was the matter (it was the othe color beare) he said we had orders to proceed at once to port royal ferry in Light marching order so up I had to get and get ready the bugle sounded the regiment got in Line of we started for the ferry its a splendid road all along on each side is Large trees, and it has a verry anchient Look it was a butiful moon Light night and we marched verry Quick only resting for a few minuts on the way -- the distance is 10 miles between buefort & port royal ferry we got there or here I should say before morning and turned in of the road where there some neagro shanties in one of them which I am writing this we have now been 5 days here and we expect to be releived soon, and goo back to buefort there is 5 companies of another regiment here, along with us & 2 guns of shearmans battry. the first morning I went to see the ferry which is a Little over a mile farther our men is on picket in a Log house on this side of the ferry its Quite narrow and there was a house on the other side but our men swam over and destroyed it, and took away there flat boats that was used for crossing I dont mean the 79th when I say our men for all was don before we came the 2 guns commenced shelling them for they are making breastworks and planting guns to keep us from crossing they work always at night our pickets on the ferry can hear them working Quite plain the fools if they only knew it we dont want to cross we are to keep them from crossing or sinking any thing in the ferry if they could get over on this island again they would burn up everry thing so we are nearly here to prevent them if possible from doing that as I was up taking a

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane, 16 December 1861, Page 2:

Look over at them they a party of them got up on the breastwork, and waved there flag, and cheared but our 2 cannon sent a few well directed shots which mead them dissepear verry soon. buefort is a hansom town its inhabitants has mostly all been rch planters and they had to Leave every thing and the negroes when ever the whites Left plundered every house, and broke all the firnature the people has Lived Like princes but everyy house has been ransacked before the soldiers came the weather here is Quite warm its always cool at night but but when the sun gets up it gets warm we are verry Lucky thats out of Virginia for I know it must be verry cold theres more troop I here comming out here they ought to send plenty and march right through south carolina for she deserves it more than any of the rest I fully beleive they think we are to show no Quarters but they are mistaken. . . . the way things is Looking I think it wont be verry Long for I can't see how the South can keep it up much Longer there was a family of negroes escaped from the main Land and came in here the night before Last they say that the white folks is fighting among themselves in Charleston and that on the other side of the ferry they are ready to runn when ever we commence to cross and the negroes Laughs hertly and says that there officers cannot keep them from running theres one thing certain that the officers could not keep them at that for the firing from the fleet was terrable: there was a flag of truce came in at the ferry 2 days before we came up here they wanted to know how many such foolish Questains he was told to tell his comanding officer that we were going to hold this place for the present and the future would tell for its self and further that we were going to make good citizens of them so that they would behave themselves for the future

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Port Royal Ferry S.C. December 21st
1861

I would have sent the money in a Letter only I was afraid it would go astray the vanderbilt was gone before I got payed or I would sent it along with the rest I am going to beaufort tomorrow and if adams express is started I will send with it \$35 thirty five dollars its more than I got I only get \$17 per month which makes 34 in two months I made 5 dollars at bay point which I am going to send to you for I know you have use for it I only wish I could send you twice as much you speak of feeling Lowly you must not beleive what Peter sayes about it being three years before I be back you know I wont stay so long as that but theres no use thinking such a thing as that I am of opinion that its dying of its self so Jane you must keep up your spirits I know how you must feel when any of them comes to see you

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Port Royal Ferry S.C.

December 31st 1861

I wrote you a letter sume time ago I guss you have got it before thise I sent \$35 by adams express the same day which I mentioned in the Letter. I hope you have got it all right. I went to buefort myself with it, adams express was shut on account of it being sunday so I gave it to our clerk whou has charge of such things and he sent it, and has got the receipt which I will get the first time I see him I thought you drew the mouney out the bank Long ago before I Left virginia you must draw it, and get what things you want I am shure you must want a good many things for the winter, and when you get the money I sent you must send me somthing for my new years in the first place I want some under clothing for I have got nothing but what is on my back I gave all the rest out to be washed down in buefort and I got word Last night its all been stolen so I would Like you to make me 2 gray flanel shurts with colars, and sume sort of a neck tye thats all the cloathing but you must not forget sumething to drink James & Mat wants sum sent in the same box you can send it by adams express for it has an office in buefort now I met with an accident the day I went to buefort to send the money I was on horse back, and comming back to camp I was going along pretty fast when, all at wonce the horse turned off the road, and it was so sudden that I was throwen clean of, and fell on a stump of a tree which I struck right on the small of my back it took the wind from me for sume time I neither could sit nor Lay the only way I could ease it was standing but its almost well again its got better faster than I thought it would the weather is plesent here theres a slight frost at night but when the sun rises it feels Like may in the north this is the Last day of 61, and many is the change that will take place before the Last of 62. Since I sat down to write this theres a regiment came up from buefort and by what I cane hear, we are going over, on the man. the enemy is throwing up breastworks on the other side of of the ferry so as to keep us from Landing but our gun boats can shell them out and I hear that theres some of them comming up to day they mean to keep us from getting a foot hold on the main if possible the negroes is stealing away from the other side, and coming over to us every chance they can get. I was talking to three that came over 2 nights ago, one of them was a woman she had a young Child in her arms the poor thing had got its arm broken sumetime ago, and never got it fixed they said that all the white people except the soilders was going away back in the country, and that they were carrying the cotton with them.

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Buefort, S.C. Sunday January 5th 1862

the Last Letter I wrote you dated December 31st I said we were going to march that afternoon I scarley got finished writing when the bugle sounded to get ready we thought there was going to be a fight we marched that afternoon about five miles it was dark before we halted we Lay down and slept until three oclock nixt morning when general Steavens came and roused us up then we embarked on board the flat boats that was sent up to take us on the main Land it was day Light before all was ready to start it was a grand sight to see three regiments all in small boats the order was given to start and of corse the 79th took the Lead I have not got enough of paper to give you the full acount of the our days work (you can see it in the papers.) we Landed on the main Land under cover of a gunboat an four Launches with one gun on each the boat I was in was the first to Land except general Steavens hou was first on shore you know we was bound to have the 79th colors first on the main, and so we did for when ever our boat touched the shore, general Steavens asked for one of the flags and I handed mine to him which he stuck in the ground, and Looked his watch, and it was exactly 8 oclock there was not a rebel to be seen it was a flank movement we were making we was not Long on shore till the gun boats commenced shelling them at the ferry where they had a fort we advanced towards the ferry, and when near to it they opened on our skirmishers shelling them, and as is always the case with them they kept in the woods we payed no heed to there shells you have no Idea how cool all hands kept they expected to through us into confusion but we marched along as if nothing had happened the 8th Mishigan was most behind us and they got orders to send skirmishers into the wood where the firing came from, and to find if there was a Large forse of them there we got orders to halt and we Lay down to hear what would be the result we had not Long to wait till bang bang goes to cannon then a volly of mosktry I was Laying thinking many a one was killed with that volly but it turned out otherwise on our side there was only one killed an four wounded the skirmishers came in and reported the enemy having 4 cannon and a Large body of infintry and our 79th skirmishers reported the fort at the ferry in our possission so G Steavens gave us orders to occupy it they had Left it with firing a shot and Left one Large cannon they sent in a flag of truce that night before dark to ask permission to take of there dead they got an hour nixt morning we took away the gun they Left and destroyed the fort and set fire to two houses that they stayed in that was what we went over to

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane, 5 January 1862, Page 2:

do and when it was done we was to come back I dont think they will come back to make a fort there again the gunboats gave them a tremendes shelling over our heads that morning before we came back there must have been a number of them killed the 79th came of verry safe non of us got touched and mow we are all back in buefort and I am well in helth hopping this will find you and the children enjoying the same James & Mat is first rate

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Buefort, S.C. March 10th/62

I received your Letter that you sent in the box that James got and was glad to hear you and the boys was getting along so well I also received te other things that was in the box and I drunk your helth with all the honours and that the war would be soon be over and us all home and I think it will come to pass one of these days if they only keep on as they have been doing in the west thats been a gloryies number of victories for the union if they only were driven out of Virginia now it would be all over with them the nixt news from the north I expect to hear of Mclellan giving them what they got at fort Donalson we expect Savannah will soon be taken our forses has got forts built on both sides of the river between the city and fort pulaskie & cut of all communication between the city and the fort so that it must surrender before verry Long so you see the work goes gloriesly on. there was an expedition went from hilton head a few days ago to the cost of florida and one of the steamers came back to day with the news that they had taken farnindeniah (its in florida) with all the guns and everything holes. the weather took a change and snowed a Little the other day but it was so Little it melted as it fell and to day it was so warm that the white wimen that has come here to teach the darky children was useing umbreallow to sheal the sun of them.

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/Stevens/T.W. Sherman

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Buefort, S.C. Aprile 2d 1862

I hope you are better by this tim you worry yourself to much you must keep up your spirits a Little while Longer for I think it wont bee great while till we be home the rebels is getting beat in every fight that takes place, and if Mclellan captuers all them thats in Viriginia and I think he intends to then its all over with them we cant doo anything out here for we havent got enuph of forces I hear that theres to be a Large army sent out here so that we can go right on to Charleston theres another general come to take command of this department and all we want is more troops and march right through South Carolina for as I have always said it deserves punishment more than all the rest. I hope the war will be over before the very warm weather come I think the goverment is Looking to that and hurring it up its getting Quite warm here now its our regiments turn to go up to the ferry on picket monday first and we will be there two weeks theres not many of the enemy to be seen on the other side now its supposed they have went towards savannah for our forces is building battrys in other words beseaging that city we can hear firing in that direction occasionally theres a great time here about the abolutionsts thats come down here to teach the neagroes there finding it rather a hard job the female part of them is rather a hard Looking croud our men calls them the skirmishers it will take a Long time to make negroes doe anything unless som one stands watching them the small pox is very bad among them at present and theres gards stationed to keep them by themselves so that the soldiers wont take them it would a bad thing if it was to break out among the soldiers this place is considered verry healthy theres Quites a number of stores opened here now and theres a Likeness establishment started here now to I would have mine taken and send it to you only there to dear and not good at that I would Like you would get yours taken and Jonnies and send them out to me dont get them taken verry Large and you can send them by mail the same as a Letter

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Buefort, S.C. May 12th 1862

I only wish I was at home so that I could feel happy. I know you would but I am mostly shure it wont be a great while now thats the general opinion here and I trust in god that it will be so -- Jane its 12 mounths tomorrow since we were swore in to go to the war if I had thought that it would Last the one half of that time there would have been no swearing in of me you may bet your Life) it will be the Last war that I will go to its not because I am afraid but its because I have to good a wife to Leave and two nise Little boys also I got the Letter you sent in the box to day Jammey brought it over it was sent to him and his is over on Ladyes island with his company they are over there on picket so him and mat was over in beuafort to day he says that all the writing paper and invelops was spoiled with the mustard the bottles had got broke the envelope of my Letter was all covered with it James said it Looked (well I wont say) you can guss what he would say it Looked Like I only wish you had sent your Likeness, but I will only Look the more anxious for it nixt time . . . you say that Peter seen Mcnie that ust to board with me in Charleston I would Like verry much to see him he knows Brother John & James verry well he says James is in the 15th infantry of S.C. I think I heard something of that regiment being over on the main but they are all gon from there now to strenthin some other place. I think he must be wishing he was out of it now I wonder if he knowes that I am here I would Like to hear from Mcnie Please tell Peter the nixt time he sees him to write to me and Let me know how things is in Charleston and about my old aquanteces it is my opinion our forces are preparing to attack Charleston so our regiment might have a chance to go there there was a flag of truse sent to savannah the other day asking them to surrender the city so I hear they are willing to do so on conditions I dont know what the conditions are) the southern people ought to see by this time that there case is hopeless and they s[h]ould surrender all and become good citizens of there united states, and Let us get home to our wives and families, we expect the nixt mail to hear of Mclellan being in Richmond if he only could get hold of Jeff Davis, and some more of the ring Leaders they told the flag of truse that went to Savannah that there was a fight going on at corinth for three days and it was still going on when the flag of truse Left there all this might be false for there is all sorts of false reports out here) its one of the greatest victories yet the taking of new orleans I hope they will follow it up

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd
Division [Benham]/Department of the South

Campbell to his brother [probably Peter]:

Beaufort S.C. May 22d 1862

I received your Letter of the 12th in dew time I was serry when I heard of the Death of your boy Jane sent word about it shortly after it happened, and I saw it in the Scottich american you sent me I got the three papers you sent along with the Letter and I see by them that Mclellan is going ahead in the east and the army and navy of the west is performing wondiers the south must give up and the sooner the better for themselves the only militry Department thats Laying idle is this of ours but it wont be so Long we are on the eave of some important movement we have been practising in camp movement this two days to see how Quick we could be ready for to move when the order comes which we expect every day I think Charleston is the place of our destination I hope so I want to be at the taking of that city for its got to be taken and that verry soon I wonder how Brother James feels now, about the south you know when he wrote to me the time of the Charleston convention he said he was going to fight for his Little state McNie took the best plan to get out of the south altogether the rigement Brother is in is a Militia rigement and the compny I was in belonged to the same I suppose it is bursted up Long ago theres no rebel troops on the main, oppisite here now they have all been taken away to some other point) you have heard by this time of a party of negroes running out of charleston with a steamer and 6 guns and surrendering to our blockade it came down this way and Lay in beaufort here for a few days I was aboard and had a talk with the hands and one of them said he recollects of seeing me in Charleston he told me the boat belonged to a Scotchman named ferguson I know him verry well the state had hired it from him for taking amonition and such from the city to the battries along the creeks the negroes says that things such as provisions is verry dear, and that a great many of the wemen had Left and went up the country and they expect we will attack charleston soon) we have got L[ieutenant]. C[olonel]. Morrison back again theres been some trouble in the regiment Latly, about a Major you know the one morgan sent us was no use, and he had to resign, and the officers I mean the majority of them wanted Capn Manson to be major, and they had a meeting and elected him subject to the approval of governer Morgan and sent word to that effect to manson the General wanted Cap Elliot son of L[ieutenant]. C[olonel]. Elliot that commanded

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Department of the South

Campbell to his brother [probably Peter], 22 May 1862, Page 2:

us when we Left new york so that there was Quite a muss about
it and the result was that five of our gallant officers resigned,
and Morrie is one of them and they are going home the first
steamer the general Steavens is getting verry unpopilar in the
79th we all subcribed to give him a sword and there a general
opinion that he wont get it now

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Beaufort S.C. May 31st 1862.

I take this opportunity to write you a few Lines to Let you know that we are going away from here tomorrow morning we are going on board a steamer we think its Charleston we are going to or as near to it as we can get theres two more regiments going from here we dont know whether we will be back here again or not we have been under orders there sometime and we were beginning to think we were not going at all) but I think its shure now for the steam boats came up from Hilton Head to night thats to take us I only wish it was to take us to New York I hope that that time will soon come . . . I hope the nixt Letter I write will be from Charleston Brother James is there for they have all Left from oppisite here except a few calvery when the boat that the negroes stole away from Char[l]eston came here I was asking one of them if there was many troops around the city they said there was verry few but that they were expecting more soon just to wish when we were in Virginia how I would Like to be at the taking of Charleston I have every chance to be gratified altho I have no expectations of it then Jane I have not much time to write more tonights its Late and and everyy thing has to be packt to start early in the morning the weather is getting verry warm here now our regiment is verry healthy at present Jammie & Matthew is Quite well & I am Quite well myself . . . [P.S.] I sent a map with Captain Mcnie he is going hom I told him to give it to Peter and he wood take it up to you its a verry Large one and tell Peter to Look after it for you

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Jameses island near Charleston S.C.

June 10th 1862

The Last time I wrote you I mentioned that we were under orders to Leave Beaufort I had an idea it was Charleston we were going to we landed on this island a week ago yeasterday and are campt on a small knoll of Land, all surrounded with swamps there a breastwork on the creek but they abandoned it sometime ago our regiment was the first to land and a part was sent out to feel for the enemy they drove in there pickets and nixt morning our men went still farther out and met the enemy in considerable forse and the result was a brisk skirmish our men stood like bricks. there was part of another regiment out with our men and they were taken prisoners all our regiment was ordered out and the enemy fell back and there was parties sent out from different regiments and took three of there cannon we have one in our camp there was one of our regiment wounded and he died that night after he was taken into camp there was 2 killed of another regt & 3 or 4 wounded the 79th took one of the rebels he was shot in the leg a slight flesh wound he was a Luetenant and belonged to the same company that Brother James is in I had a long talk with him he said he would have known me by my Brother he says James was made a Luetenant about a week ago he says he is thought a great deal of in the company theres six companies of them and its called the Charleston Battalion so you see we are not farr from each other now this man that was telling me about him said that James talked often about me he heard that I was wounded and taken prisoner at manassas and he wrote to Richmont to find out if it was true and it was a long time before he got any word and at last he found out it was not me and he did not know whither I was in the northern army or not he told me that uncle James Died last January and he told me about a great many of my aquantence and they are all in the southren army this is a warr that there never was the like of before Brother against Brother Jane all I wish is that it wont last much longer and that god will spare us all to return to our homes in saefty, the rebels has got this island strongly fortified and as I am writing they are shelling our advance our gun boats isnt taking the least notice of them we have got a strong force here and when we make the grand advance on Charleston the fire from our gunn Boats and field Battries will teach them a Lesson that they wont be apt to forget in sometime

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd
Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane, 10 June 1862, Page 2:

the weather has bee verry hot since we came here raining everry
day this is the first dry day we have had since we landed here

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd
Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Jameses Island near Charleston S.C.
June 13th, 1862

I am going to write you a few more Lines because I know you will be anxious to hear from me thinking that we have had a fight well we havent had one yet, and things Looks at present as we was not going to have one for sometime unless the enemy attacks us which I hardly think they will they got enough of that the other night. there was two regiments of georgia troops came from Savannah and they were going to drive us all of the island but they got ratherly taken down they attacked general Wrights Brigade at night thinking to take them by surprise but they were taken by surprise themselves one of our battries opened up on them with grape and canister and cut them up terreibly and they had to bet a heasty retreat Leaving a great part of there killed and wounded in the woods which our men went out nixt day and Burried I hear our men Burried over one hundered of them they were just newly arrived on the island, some of the wounded said so, we are getting Large guns here and are making Battries to place them in to shell them out of there Breast works I think we are going to have a Large fleet sent here to attack them in front so that they will have to much to attend to all at once, and I would not be a bit surprised if I was to hear of them surrendering or avaquating Charleston and all I hope is that they will see to either in time, and save anymore bloodshed we had a mail Latly with papers of the 7th inst and I see that Mclelland has had a verry severe fight near Richmond which drove his advance back I heard Last night that Mclelland had taken Richmond and ten thousand prisoners but theres so many Lies got up in camp that I dont believe any of the roumers untill I see it in the news papers but I hope its true about Richmond and I see Corinth is avaquated and there army demorilised, O, Jane, shurely it cant Last Long now why dont they give up Like any other civilised people for its visible to all the world that they are out generaled and out fought at every point. . . . Just as I am writing this the rebels is throwing shells which bursts high in the air they havent hurt any of our men with them yet they want to prevent our forces from building earthworke but they cant I heard tonight that our guns was to be placed in position tonight so that they would open on them by daylight in the moarning our guns of of farr Larger rang than theres so that we have the advantage now

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th NY ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

James Island S.C. June 16th

1862

we have had a fight I am all right James & Matthew is all safe it was a verry severe fight and we have Lost a good many we had to fall back to our former position we charged there fort and would have held it if we had been properly supported theres only two wounded in the sixth company one was left on the field and its thought hes dead and the other is Daniel Lorrance him that served his time with McMester you have seen him in our house in 33d St he has got Badly wounded in the right arm the ball went through the bone he acted bravely he was into the fort when the order was given to retreat and it was then he got wounded I cant see how Jammie Matthew & me got of without a scratch Some of the 79th pulled two or three of the rebels out of the fort by the hair of the head our regiment behaved well the enemy is strongly fortified on this island Brother James was in the fort I asked one of the rebels that was wounded and taken prisoner and he told me so perhaps he is killed for our guns shelled them terreibly Jane I only write to let you know that I am all safe and James & Mat is all safe James is writing beside me we are verry tired we left camp about one oclock this morning and we commenced the fight at daybreak and now we are back in camp and its getting late so I will come to a close hopping to hear from you soon.
good night

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina Battalion
(Charleston Battalion)/2nd Military District of South Carolina/
Department of South Carolina & Georgia

Campbell to his brother, Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell,
79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd
Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South:

James Island June 18 1862

I was astonished to hear from the prisoners that you was colour
Bearer of the Regmt that assalted the Battrey at this point the
other day when I first heard it I looked over the field for you
where I met one of the wounded of your Regt and he told me that
he believed you was safe, I was in the Brest work during the
whole engagement doing my Best to Beat you but I hope that You
and I will never again meet face to face Bitter enemies in the
Battle field but if such should be the case You have but to
discharge your deauty to Your caus for I can assure you I will
strive to discharge my deauty to my country & My cause -- In the
late Battle the killed on your side was verry heavy in proportion
to the wounded and for the forses engaged the slaughter terrable
Most of your wounded is doing well Col Morrison I know nothing
of he must be killed When you write north you will please let
Sister Ann know that I am still alive and in good health I am
verry anxious to see her but sircimstances do not afford a chance
-- I will send this (open) by a flag of truce, give Leut Walker
my compliments. I Am Your Brother

James Campbell

Brother John left here about two
years ago I have not herd from him since

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

James Island S.C. June 25th 1862

we got payed the other day and I will send my money to you the first opportunity I know you must be in want of money if we would get payed regular it would not be so bad in a few days there will be other two months dew us but we wont get it I wish this war was over for I am sick of it the weather here is getting very warm but we are all verry healthy so farr our wounded has been all sent to Hilton Head and from there they will be sent home as soon as possable it was an unfortunate affair and I believe General Benham is under arreast for it I hope he will be sent home General Steavens the night after the battle cryed like a child about the Loss of so many brave men. Jane you will be surprised to hear about me getting a Letter from Brother James it came by a flag of truce there has been a flag of truce sent for to see about our wounded and get there names and took toward three days before they could get all our mens names, and James had got word about me being in the 79th from our men that was taken prisoners, and he wrote me a Letter I will send you a copy of it and you will see better what he says I cant send him one for there wont be any more flaggs of truce going over at present its rather to bad to think that we should be fighting him on the one side and me on the other for he says he was in the fort during the whole engagement I hope to god that he and I will get safe through it all and he will have his story to tell about his side and I will have my story to tell about my side. . . . theres something striks me that this warr will be over verry soon and I am shure it wont be to soon for me theres a report that our regiment is going away from here comming farther north but theres so many Lies going all the time one cant believe anything

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade [Stevens]/2nd

Division [Benham]/Northern District/Department of the South

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

On Board the Steam Ship
Missippia July 15th 1862

you will be surprised to hear that we are Left South Carolina we have been greatly moved about of Late you will see by the papers that James Island was avacquatted it was a bad move ever going there atall we came back to Hilton head and remained there for two or three days and then went up near Beuafort and was putting up our tents when orders came to stop that we were going to Virginia so nixt morning we got on board the steamer for hilton head and from that got on this steamer for fortress monroe and we are almost in sight of it now there is another Regt on Board with us and it makes it verry crowded its so crowded that I cant see wheather I am writing on the Line or not and every minute some one comes thump against my arm so you must excuse this writing Jane wouldent it be glorious if we were on our way home I am weareing for this trouble to be over we heard before we Left S.C. that Mclellan had been defeted I hope it is not true, and if its the case it will prolong the ware a long time, I sent you a copy of the Letter that I got from James I hope you got it the night before we Left James Island or rather on the afternoon he came over to our Lines to enquire about me he thought I had been wounded and he was anxious to know the first thing he asked was if it was the 79th that was on picket I wish it had then I would have seen him he wanted to see me bad and asked if they would send for me but the officer was afraid to doe it if it had not been so near dark when I heard it I would have asked Leave from the general and nixt morning we Left the island it was on the forth of July

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

New Port news Va. July 20th 1862

we are encamped on the James river banks its a nice place, and we get plenty of good water, a thing we havent had since we went to South Carolina we have joined what is called the Burnside expidision, it will be some time before it will be ready so that we are Likely to stay here for sometime we are in a good place to get our mail regular, if you send a Letter to day I will get it tomorrow so you can write often now and I will do the same . . . Jane I have not got much news to write this time only that we are all well and wish that our Regt would be sent to go garrison duty till we get recruited up again there is a rumer to that effect but we have not got influnce enuph to get a sight Like that our Regt can only turn out 400 men for duty and its a shame that full Regts gets doing garrison duty but such is the case now Jane I will come to a close this time for its getting near dress parade time its Sunday and I have felt verry Lonely all day

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders"/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

New Port News Va. July 25, 1862

you want me to come home for a while I am shure nothing would give me greater pleasure than to get hom to see you all but theres no such a thing as getting a fourlough they wont Listen to it I tried if I could get home on recruting service there was only one sent the sergant is in new york he was one of the wounded I would have got home only for that I wish I could only get home for two weeks to see you and the two boys once more but they only give fourloughs to them that has been wounded wont be fit for duty for sometime, we are Likely to stay here for a mounth or six weeks yet till all the reinforcements arrives I think we are to have a verry Large army fitted out here, and the nixt fight at Richmond will decide it either one way or the other I hope we will get a chance to be on the reserve this time I think we deserve it now New York must be verry stirring again with recruiting for more men its my opinion they will have to resort to drafting them in my opinion its the Quickest way to finish the war, and it will make a good many come out to fight for what they helped to bring on. the weather is verry plesant here, and good water but our regiment feels verry much disitisfied about not getting a chance to garrison some place so that they could get fourloughs to see there families, a great part of them is married men, and we are verry near the oldest regiment of Vols in the service, but such is not our Luck, we will be Highlanders and fight we must . . . you never told me what kind of a place you have got in your new house I hope you are comfortable Jane when I come home I wont know how to behave in a house I wont know how to Lay in a bed or sit in a chare or eat at a table or in fact anything Like a civilised being you will have a har time of if to brake me in again, but I suppose you would not care now soon you had the job to commence to

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

New Port News Va. July 29th 1862

I received your welcom Letter of the 23d inst in dew time and was most happy to hear that you was well, and that the two Boys was getting along so well I would Like verry much to see them now there must be a great difference since I saw them Last it will soon bee a year now, its two bad that the Likenesses went to port royal for its a chance if ever we get the box at all. I think it would be a good idea to send us the receipt you got from the express company, and it will be Less trouble for us to get it so being that it is sent back here, or to goo to the express offic and ask them, to send it back to you for if its not Looked after they wont care how Long it Lays in there hands down there, for I know how it is with them, and they have got to send it back to you or pay for it, and its right that it should be Looked after. Jane theres no news of what we are going to be at here every thing Looks to us as we were wating for more reinforcements, and that is the only way to finish this war is to send such an overwhelming force against them so that there will be no sight for them no how, it could been finished Long ago if that had been done you speeke of me comming home if ever I get the chance I bet I will and if I had got my rights I would have been able to resign but things dont goo by rights in this regiment but I expect I will have the chance before Long at Lest I got the promise of a Luetenancy but it will Likely be Like the promise I got before in beaufort when I ought to have got it if I dont get it the nixt promotions I will throw there Colors at them and goo back to my company I wont make a target of myself much Longer its called an honorable posizition but its a verry dangerous one and I can assure you I can call myself verry fortunate escaping so Long, and if I am passed over the nixt promotions they will have to get some one else to carry them.

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

New Port News, Va. July 31st 1862

well Jane we are under orders to march again where to that we are not supposed to know but its verry Likely up the river the order was read on dress parade Last night to have every thing in reideness to go on board a transport at a moments notice and there was verry strick orders about taking as Little in our Knapsacks as we could, and there was to be no company chests or boxes taken at all so you see we are to be shift again, they wont Let us Lay Long in one place, well Jane they say changes is Lightsome but the Lightsomest change they could give us would be to take us to New York for a change, that will come some time Jane and may god spare us all to see it. Jammey thinks it strange why he dont get a Letter, and he say he has wrote 4 since we came here. theres not much news here only that we are all expecting to get the order any moment to strike tents but we might not go soo soon we have been for weeks under the same orders before, but I think we will be of soon this time its my opinion that we are only going up the river and Land at the places where the rebels fires at our transports going up & down the river and to prevent them from making battries but you know I am only supposing that myself. you will be surprised to to hear that william mitchell and 4 more deserted from here sometime ago and there was word came to the colnel Last night that they were taken, they were in a small boat and a ravenue cutter captured them, and fetched them back to fort monroe its to bad for it will go verry hard with them. . . . please Let Peter & Ann [know] that Brother John is well I heard through the young man thats fathers place is near his he got a Letter from his father and he menthions that Brother came over to show him the Letter that I got from James in the Scottich American you know I wrote to him when I was in beaufort but I dont know whether he got it or not he never answered it any how but this man sent word to his father to ask Brother if he got my Letter or not

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

On Board the Steam Ship Atlantic
Potomac river August 5th 1862

I am going to write you a few Lines to Let you know that we ar on the move againg we are going to reinforce general pope thats what we hear and we expect to Land at alexandria Va. a Little below washington all Burnsidess army is going) they are afraid stonewall Jaxson will make a dash on washington. I wish they may Let us stay to garrison some of the forts there, but that would be to good a thing for the 79th to get we will verry Likely be sent to the front as it has always been -- Jane this is a beautiful river with rising ground for its banks we expect to get to our destination to day and I will try to get this posted the first thing there is two regiments and four companies of a third on this ship, but theres good accomidation for its a verry Large vessel. we Left fort monroe yeasterday afternoon there was no chance to get ashore at the fort or I would have sent you a few Lines from there all the flags was at half mast at the fort as we went past and a gun was fired every half hour we could not find out who it was for I suppose some big egg ha[s] croked. (as Jammie would say) you must excuse this dirty paper its the best I can get its all grease from being in my haversack amngst my salt horse and its so close below decks that the sweat is dropping of me on the paper as I am writing I havent got much news worth menthionion only that James & Mat is in good helth and spirits thats one way we console our selves when we Leave one place, we think we are going where we will be better its best to Live in good hopes, our hopes that the war would soon be over, has been greatly blighted since Mclellan could not take Richmond and if the north dont draft men god only knows when it will be finished the goverment at washington ought to take a Lesson from the one at Richmond if it dont they may give it up

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Letter No. 2, On Board the Steamship Atlantic
August 6th, 1862

we are Laying at ancor of aqua creek and we are getting ready to goo on shore there is a railroad comes in here it goes to fredrigsburg so that we are going to be sent to that place and from there where ever they want us worst theres been roumers on board here that richmond has been avacuted on account of a pestlence having brock out I hardly think its true altho it Looks reasonable anough I am going to send this Letter with Lut Col Morrison he will post it at fort mo[n]roe he is going of to day to new york on recruting service I think he has got his share of getting home but that the way it is if you hold a Large office in a regiment you can get home as often as you want and the poor soldier cant get home for a short time to see his family)

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/2nd Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Fredericksburgh Va. August
10th 1862

we Left new port news a week ago to day and we are under orders to march again we are going in Light marching order we are Likely to have Long marching to doe we are getting our knapsacks all stowed away, we thought we were going to get staying awhile here for General Steavens is appointed militry governoer of this place but we are going to joine Pope and there is Likely to bee hard fighting [engraving of horseman cut off first page of patriotic stationery; portions of several sentences lost] . . . we are incamped on the west side on high ground and can Look right down on the city it seemed much Like home when we hear the town clock striking the time of day and this being Sunday the church bells was rung but we are not going to get Long to enjoy these things. I wish they would send out more troops and not get out numbered as it was at Richmond. I received your Letter of the 2d inst in dew time, and was glad to hear you was all in good helth and I got the receipt for the box, and if we could get staying here for a few days I think it would be sent on here I would only care for the Likenesses for to see you and Jonney & Alxander once more Jane as I am writing this the wagons is taking away all our knapsacks and I suppose we will soon be going to. I have not much to write about James says he will write in a day or two him & Mat is first rate tell Peter I fell in with an old scotch man here from innerfefry he has a farm not a hundered yards from our camp I had a Long talk with him Last night his name is Brice and he has been in this country this thirty years he thinks the south will gain its independence yet

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Emory Hospital Washington DC
Sept 4th 1862

My Dear Wife you will not be surprised to hear that I am wounded after such severe fighting as we were in. I am only slightly wounded in the calf of the Leg the ball went through, it wont amount to much I got it on monday evening in the fight that general Steavens was killed in I got wounded, and was coming of the field the same time his son was Jammie & Matthew is I think all safe James brown said he seen them and they were all safe then there was five companies sent out skirmishing and theres was one of them so that they fell back when they found out where the enemy was, and they Lost the five companys Lost the regiment so James brown says when he saw them and he was with them they were all right I got wounded early in the fight, and I managed to get of in time to get in to a baggage waggen that was going to farfax so I got on to Alexandria nixt morning, and from there in a steamer to washington I think that we will be sent to New York soon to make room for more here they are sending them all farther north so I hope they will send us north soon Jane I could not begin to tell you what we have came through since Leaving fredricksburgh we have been marching night and day and I am shure we cant have marched Less than two hundered miles Jane I have done my Last soldiring I am tired of it any how it cant Last much Longer the one or the other has got to be beat before another mounth the rebels is bound to try to get into maryland and if they get there its all up with the north the south is desprate, and are driving our troops before them all over. I dont care how it goes now, our generals dont seem to care and its not Likely the men will the south is fighting desperatly I am shure they must be drugged or they never could stand it, and the killed and wounded thats Left on the field in there canteens theres whisky and gunpowder in them I have nothing more to say only that I am well in helth and my Leg is getting on first rate and if I could only get home to my own house I would feel much better but I expect to get sent to new york as soon as the nixt batch goes, and I think that will be soon now Jane I will come to a close this time hopping this will find you all well you must write as soon as you get this for I might be sent north soon

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

Color Sergeant Alexander Campbell

79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st Division/9th Army
Corps/Army of the Potomac

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

[Transcription, evidently with spelling corrected]

Emory Hospital

September 9th 1862

I received your welcome letter of the 8th just now and am happy to hear that you are all in such good health. I received two letters from you and one from Peter the other day. Yours were dated the 8th & 13th and Peters the 19th of August. You know we got no mail since we left Fredericksburg untill we came here. Matt. came with my letters. He told me the regiment was at the old camp where we were last year the time of the mutiny [in August 1861]. But he expected they would move soon they were going to Harpers Ferry. I have since heard that they have gone. The 79th has a poor show now the Col was wounded in Saturdays fight, and the Major on Monday. Lt Col Morrison is the only field officer left. Peter tells me in his letter that he has a notion of joining the 79th. You tell him from me not to do anything of the kind. They cant draft no man that the only support of his family. I wish I was only clear of it. What man that had any idea of how the war should be conducted, has heart any longer to fight under such generals as we have the[y] seem to want to get men slaughtered, and all to no purpose whatever. I some times think that this war will last as long as our general can get men to fight with them. And that the men on both side will get [illegible] and it will dwindle down till it stops altogether, for the Southeran Soldiers are just as sick of it as the Northern ones. I expect we are to be sent away from here perhaps to-morrow. We expected to go to-day for they took the names of all fit to be removed and I was one of them we dont know where they are going to send us but I think, somehow it is to N.Y. I hope it may. I am getting along first rate my leg dont require much doctoring only I would rather be home in my own hous than in a hospital

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp near newport news Va.

February 19th 1863

we arrived here on the 16th I would have wrote you sooner but had no chance it has been raining this two days back, and we have been fixing our tents for to make them as comfortable as possible, so that I have had no opportunity sooner we are camped near the old place that we were before the whole ninth army corps is incamped in a line along the banks of the James River the left resting at newport news, and we are the extreme right which makes us about 3 miles farther up the River. I think we are here for to reorganise, and prepare for another expedition. I hope they will let us stay here till May but I am afraid not. the men are hard at work getting logs to raise their tents. they have got new ones. this is much more comfortable a place than where we left there is not so much mud here. there is going to be a great deal of drilling here 4 times a day. there going to grant furloughs to the men two to each company there will be some of them that won't come back and if the Regiment don't get home in May the most of the old hands will leave anyhow. . . . P.S. tell Peter to send me some weekly papers I have not got any from him yet I can't think why he has not sent me some before. I would like if I could get the rest of these thistle buttons all that's on the jacket to I will let you know when there's any chance to send them please let me know how many there's of them in your next letter

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp near newport news Va.
Febuary 28th 1863

I am almost out of pations wating to hear from you I wrote you since I came here, and its time that I should have an answer to it now I am verry anxious to know how you ar all in helth. I am on duty now I feel Quite well my Leg is getting on well its almost all skined over. we have had two men died since we came here one with typhoid feaver, and another with taking the rong midisine he was one of the Hospital attendants and it happened when we were all out on revue so there was no docter present to attend to him or he might have been saved it was rather a melincolly affair he took the poison himself, instead of something else we have had some verry stormy weather since we came here heavy snow but it dont Lay Long and when the sun comes out its quite warm this is a verry good place but I am afraid we wont be long here to enjoy it its to good to Last Long I dont know what to think about the war now its beyond my comprehnsion. I hear we are going to get payed soon again they owe us four mounths now they will only pay two I want to get some things when I get payed but I will Let you know what when I do get payed. James and Matthew is in good helth. there is not much to write you about hear you must excuse me if I dont write a Long Letter this time. I hope you and Jonney and Alexander is well and that you Like your place that you moved to and I hope to be at home the nixt time you move I hope the midisine you took wont do you any harm. . . . P.S. if you could send the bottons with Colnel Morrison when he comes back he is home at present send (13) you can call at his house yourself, and he will bring them when he comes remember (13) thistle), and if you would make me another vest Like the one I have I would like.

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp near newport news Va.
March 4 1863

I wrote a Letter to Brother James and sent it I went to general Wilcox and gave it to him he said he would sent it to general Dix to be forwarded its got to be Left open I think it will be all right theres Letters sent south that way our chaplan sent one to his father in tenessee and sent him a Letter from here I wont know whether he got it or not for some time I expect to get an answer to it through time . . . I mentioned in my Last Letter for you to make me another vest I would Like to get pants made to but I will have to wait till nixt pay you can make the vest as soon as you can and send it out the first chance this is a verry good place to get anything that way. My Leg is getting on verry well its not altogethder heald up yet

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th N.Y. Vols.
near newport news March 8th 1863

this being Sunday and no Drilling to doe I thought I would write you a few Lines to Let you know I was well. I was out on picket the night before Last its the first picket I have been on in some time its Quite plesant on picket here no danger of the enemy surprising you, and the weather is verry plesant here now. James was on with me its Quite dull in camp to day I have been thinking about home, all day, all wise when I feel wearied (and thats often), I think of home I hope the boys is well again since I commenced writing this I received to parcles of papers from Peter he sends a great many and I am shure theres non of the them goes astray I get them every day Jane I scarcely no whut to say theres nothing but camp Life to talk about and thats not interesting to you I know but so Long as they keep us here we are all right. I hear that Morrison is verry Sick theres all sorts of roumers going round in the regiment that he wont come back but its hard to tell I guss he is about tierd of souldering. you will I hope not think of trying to put away any thing its a verry dangerous operation to tryphle with I was just reading of an instance where a young girl got a Dr to take a baby away and it resulted in her Death but you have read enough about such things yourself and ought to know better) you will just have to take better care the nixt time you I suppose will put all the blame on me you said you would Like a Little girl you know you must not show this Letter to any one I need not tell you for I know you wont this is a beuteful day and as [I] am sitting in my tent I hear the chaplan of the nixt Regt to us preashing to his regiment under the canopy of heaven winter is all over here now at Least one would think so its so warm to night I have a stove in the tent but dont require any fire in it now except sometimes in the morning

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th N.Y. Vols.

newport news Va. March 13th 1863

I write you a few Lines to Let you know that I sent my
commishion home you will please Let me know when you receive
it I sent it away yeasterday you must take good care of it but
I know you will I am anxious to hear from you you must write
oftener I have nothing to write about only I am well James &
Mat also . . . I will have to close this time for we have to
go on Drill I have just come in of target practise this morning
we are to have it every morning instead of company Drill its
much better

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th Highlanders
newport newes March 18th, 1863

we have just received orders to bee ready to march tomorrow morning at 8 oclock its Late tonight and I have [to] get ready so I wont have time to write much its not nowing where we are going sume thinks its across the river to norfolk or sufolk, and it might be farther south I will write as soon as soon as I know where we are going and Let you know. you seem to bee down hearted by your Letters you must keep up, and not Let your spirits down I will be home soon if I can get away honorable you know what I menthioned in a Letter before that they would not give an honorable Discharge to officers without a Drs cirtificate we I think wont be in any fight for sume time yet so you need not feel bad about us moving this time I dont want to see any more fighting we might get some fort to garrison or some such job as that, and it would be to bad if I did not stay and get my pay for a few mounths more. [P.S.] that was a verry narrow escape you had from being burned out I hope you will have no more till I am home at any rate. A.C.

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Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp oppisite Fredricksburg Va.
January 15th 1863

you will think it rather neglectful of me not writing sooner the fact of it is I have not been much of my feet since I arrieved here there is not much accomidation here for any more officeres there was just room made for them that was here at the time I have got a short of plac made out at Last. we was delayed a good on the way comming out the only recruit I had Skedadalled from me in Philadelphia, he was an old hand at the business. I stayed two nights in John Sewart's in washington they are verry kind I left the box for Billey there so that he can get it when he comes over) Jane I was verry Lucky this time in getting here at the time I did for the Pay master came down from washington in the same boat that I came in and we have all got payed now, only for four mounths if we had got six mounths I could have sent you home a good deal of mounney, as it is I only got 15 days Lieuts pay my appointment as Lieut dates from the 16th day of october, and we are only payed to the end of october well it cant be helpet there will be more to draw nixt time. the money I got this time amounted to \$112, to one hundred and twelve dollars so that I will send as much as I can send home soon I dont know how it will be with me yet in regard to me being marked absant without Collnel Morrison wrote on to washington his statement along with my one and I wont know how it will be till he received word back I dont care much how it will be they cant Discharde me without paying me anyhow my Leg is getting on verry well I get it dressed every morning I cant ware my boot now it blistered all my heel comming out that it made Quite Lame the Dr told Col Morrison that it would be two or three weeks before I would be able to do duty and its my opinion that it will be a great deal more than that Jammey & Matthew Looks first rate, and fells well Jammey would Like verry well to get home for a few days but its verry hard to get that Colnel Farnsworth came out yeasterday I have not seen him yet I beleive he is walking on a crutch yet I think he wont stay Long there is some talk of a mouve to be made here soon they are getting the poontoon bridges ready again but it may not signify anything. . . . I heard since I came out that our Regts time us up in may that we came out before the three years act was past, and they cant keep us Longer than two years and that would make our time up on the 13th day of may no more this time only tell Little Jonney & Alexander that pappas will soon be home again

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp oppisite Fredricksburg Va.
January 26th 1863.

I suppose you would think that fiting had been going on here the army was in motion all Franklins grand Division moved and that night it came on rain and continued for three days and they had to come back and the artilrey stuck in the mud and it took the duble Quantity of horses to pull them and the men when they were comming back they were the most Disorganised Looking army I beleive ever was seen the fact of it is this army is demoralisied and the men wont fight they are deserting all the time there is Quite a number Leafte our regiment since we got payed. I think we are to stay here for the winter, the best thing that can be done to give this army confidence is to reinstate Mclellan again they all have confidence in him. the rebels on the other side is getting tierd of the ware they tell our men so they send our men richmond papers, and want to get the herald verry bad, and they tell our men that there officers cant stop them from speaking to us, and say to our men that it is a shame that one nation should be fighting amongst themselves. . . . Jane I have no news to write about only that I am in good helth my Leg is getting on verry well I wont be fit for duty for sometime yet. James & Mat is well. you want to know if I had plenty in my haversack I had plenty I was not verry hungry comming out and I was surprised when I was Looking for a cloth for my Leg when I saw the Little flask and of corse I new there was something in it I have not drank it yet . . . I have bought a Likeness of General Steavens. I will send it hom in this Letter George Gillie must have been blowing when he was down I said nothing of the kind about being bad about if they would not take me back I dont know how it will be yet Col Morrison has not received any answer to the Letter he sent to washington but I dont care how it will be if I am discharged they will have to give me a phention, but I am not the Least afraid of getting discharged. . . . [P.S.] we are going to celebrate the anaversary of Burnses birth day to night. A.C.

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2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th Highlanders
Camp Opposite Fredricksburg
January 31st 1863

I received your Letter of the 25 in dew time you must have been in verry bad spirits when you wrote it you must not think I can get home so easy because I am an officer they wont except of an officers resignation at all without a Dr cirtificate and I dont beleive I could get that there was a chaplan tendered his resignation belongin to a regiment in this division, and he got a disonorable discharge for resigning in front of the enemy. you would not have me do that I am shure, any how we are comming home in may as a regiment we had a meeting the other day and all the officers sygned a pition and sent it to the govener of the state to call us home on or befor the 13 day of may, and there is some of the men received Letters from there friends that Simeon Draper told them the 79th was comming home either in april or may so I am shure Jane you would rather see me comming home with the regiment and it comming home so soon, and I will promise that if it dont come home then (I will) I hear that we are going back to washington that this army is to be broken up and part sent out west there is one thing certain they cant march through Virginia in winter they tryed it and had to give it up) . . . when I wrote you before I told you we were going to celebrate Burns birthday well we had a great time you will see about it in the Scottish American theres been a verry severe snow storm here Lately its verry near all gon now but the ground is in a horable condition James & Mat is well they have just come in of picket my Leg in [is] getting better fast I am not on duty yet I have to go before a Bord of officers to inquire what reasons I had for being absent without Leave, it nearly a form thats got to be gon through

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Camp near Fredricksburg Virginia
Febuary 11th 1863.

I would wrote sooner but we were expecting to move and I was not going to wait till after we had moved but we have not moved yet and I thought I would write you a few Lines we are all packed up wating) every moment expecting to get the order to fall in we ar ordered to fort monroe to report to general Dix what comes after we cant tell but its verry Likely we are going on some other expidition again its only the ninth army corps that going I ame not sorry to get out of virginia its a horrrable place in winter time nothing but mud. I received your Letter two days ago and your Likeness in it its a great Looking Likeness one of the sides of your face is Quite Black no mater I have a better one here I dont Let any one see the Last one for its not good Looking as you I will send you mine the first chance I am not on duty yet my Leg is getting better but I wont be able to march as far as I ust to. I wrote to Peter that time I wrote you he has not sent me any papers yet I would Like verry much to get some weekly papers we get the herald every day we pay 10 cts for it

February 13th

Jane I stoped writing on accoint of the Divison head Quarters having moved there was no place to post the Letters, and on the same accoint we have not got any mail this Last tow nights and we have been all packed up for sometime expecting every order that came that we would go the nixt one shure, and since I commenced writing this part theres word that we are going to morrow morning at 5 1/2 oclock so I will post this at aquia creek tomorrow or when I get there I heard since I commenced the first of this Letter that we are going with Burnside and he is to superseed general Dix at fort monroe we might be sent to norflok or sume of these places around there any how I will Let you know where as soon as we get to our detination

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th Regt N.Y. Vols.
Lebanon Ky March 31st 1863

you will think it strange of me not writing you sooner but if you beleive me this is the first chance I have had since I sent you these few Lines from parkersburg Va and you could not call that a chance we have had hard time of it since we Left newport news, and I am perfectly sick of soldering we have been kicked about rather too much Jane I am comming home as soon as I can get squared up I have not got my pay yet on accoint of not being mustered into the service as a Lieut there is a good many more of them in the same fix there getting to pirticular all at once and I am afraid its too Late and as soon as I get mustered, and get payed I am going to resign and I hope they will except of it we are away out here guarding the railroad tis only a branch and it dont go any further than this we are about 75 miles from Louisville Ky thats where we Landed of the boat and the most of the regiment stayed there that is they have Deserted, and they intend not to be brought back either James is behind to I dont know if he intends to Leave or not for he neaver said anything about it to me Matthew is here he thinks James wont come back them thats behind is mostly all the oldest hands in the regiment the regiment got on one of the greatest sprees ever they were on before when they were payed there was men drunk that I beleive never was so in there Lives before they are so mad to think they cant get home in may it makes t[h]em regardless of what they doe. this town we are camped at is read hot sessesh, and they will help all our men to get away that wants to Jane I cant write to day its verry cold in this tent, and I have got a verry severe cold I never had such a sore throat before I can scarsely speak but I think its a Little easier to day the weather has been verry cold since we came here

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th Regiment N.Y.
Lebanon Kintucky April 10th 1863

I write this few Lines to Let you know how I am. I am getting a Little better of my cold but I dont Like this part of the country at all and as I said in my Last Letter I wrote you from here that I was comming home as soon as I was mustered and payed I still adhear to it, and every day seems as Long as two now that I have made up my mind to goo and I hope that my resignation will be excepted of I am verry anxious to hear from you we have got no mail since we have come here I would Like verry much to get a Letter from you now but I hope you and the boys is well tell them there papa will soon be home at Least expects to there is a good many of the officers going to resign. Jane two years is Long enough to be away from home James came back from Louisville him and Matthew is well I have nothing further to write only I earnestly hope this will find you all well and that I will soon be home for good it will be a strange war that will get me to Leave home again.

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th Highlanders
Lebanon Ky April 13th 1863

I send you this few Lines with Capt Gilmore he that came to see me with Charles Anderson one night he resigned and it has been excepted there is another been excepted and the rest came back to be reconsidered they wont except so many all at once I have not been mustered yet I have to be discharged as an in Listed man first and it will take a Little time before I can send my resignation in I will send it as soon as I can after getting mustered. I wish I had some money to send you, but it cant be healped its all good when the time comes . . . Matthew & James is well if the old members of the regiment dont get home on the 13th of May the most of them will goo anyhow there will be a grand burst up nixt mounth or I am cheated

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Campbell

Company G, 79th New York ("Highlanders")/1st Brigade/1st
Division/9th Army Corps

Campbell to his wife, Jane:

Head Quarters 79th N.Y. Vols
Green river Ky April 29th/63

I have sent my resignation in and I am almost shure it will be excepted for I gave good reasons for it it has got to goo to Lexington in this state to be excepted off, and as soon as it comes back I Leave for home that is if it is approved of and I am almost shure it will. I dont expect to get payed till then, then I will [get] it all in a Lump so you must doe the best you can till then. we Left Lebanon one monday 27th and arrieved here on the 28th yeasterday its 28 miles from Lebanon its away far into the state we marched all the way there is no ralway near here I kept up all they way but I would not be able to continue [if] they march any farther my Leg is to weak. we are not Likely to stay Long here. there must have been a great time abou[t] that Lie that was got up one me I would Like to know whou sent such Lies to New York I will find out yet you must not expect me home to soon you know it might be some time before I get word back they sometimes dont hurry themselves I nearly menthion this so as you wont expect me home to soon and start thinking the time too Long. Sometimes they take Longer to go through than other I will Lose no time in getting home after I get it except of than I can help . . . I expect to be with you soon and not to goo for a soldier again and I Remain Your Long Absent but soon to be Present Husband Alexander Campbell

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Johnsons Island
Sandusky O
Nov 9th 1863

My Dear Brother

I wrote to Brother John immediately on my arrival here, and Brother Peter about ten days ago. Strange to say I have not heard from either of them in answer to my Letters. I cannot think that John got my Letter or I think he would of answered it under the circumstances it may be that I have the wrong address. I hope you will write me as soon as you get this and ask Mr. Jones to write me. I don't know his address or I would write him first. Let me know how Peter got along with the Express Co. in regard to the money he sent me which I never got, when you answer this I will give you a long account of our situation here and the [?] of the prison.

Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain Your Brother

James Campbell

CAMPBELL FAMILY PAPERS, 1860-1886

This collection, donated to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in 1961 by Mrs. Mary Turner of Tryon, North Carolina, contains seventy letters of Alexander and James Campbell, brothers who were natives of Scotland, who emigrated to the United States in the 1850s and eventually settled in New York City and Charleston respectively, and who served on opposite sides during the Civil War. Alexander Campbell served as a color bearer and a lieutenant in the 79th New York Infantry ("The Highlanders"), in the United States Army, while James Campbell served as a sergeant and a lieutenant in the 1st South Carolina Battalion ("The Charleston Battalion"), later redesignated the 27th South Carolina Infantry, in the Confederate States Army. Of the seventy letters, 66 date from the war years, with 51 of them written by Alexander Campbell (most of them to his wife Jane) and 15 written by James Campbell; these letters paint a remarkable portrait of just what it means to call the Civil War "a brother's war." Other items in this collection include two photographs of James Campbell; the first is a full-length view of Campbell in the uniform of a Confederate lieutenant, taken in Charleston between 1861 and 1863, while the other is an early postwar portrait.

The letters were transcribed in 1992 by J. Tracy Power, a Civil War military historian who was at that time Staff Historian of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office at the Department of Archives and History; for more on the Campbells, see Power's "'Brother Against Brother': Alexander and James Campbell's Civil War," published in the South Carolina Historical Magazine, 95:2 (April 1994); for the Battle of Secessionville, see his "'An Affair of Outposts': The Battle of Secessionville, June 16, 1862," published in Civil War History 38:2 (June 1992).

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

U.S. Prison Johnson Island

January 17th 1864

Dear Brother

Your Letter to the commanding officer of this Post has just been received. I was surprised that you did not answer my Letters. I now see that you have not received all the Letters I sent you, the last one I wrote was to Peter asking him to send me a newspaper occasionally. I received two papers but no reply. I wish you would give me his residence so that I can open a correspondance with his wife, as I have come to the conclusion that he is either too loving a husband to waste his time writing me or too indelant and cant waste his hours of ease. I am sorry to inform you that Capt Macbeth has been confined to the Hospital for the last two mounths suffering from dropsey I think he is getting better I have no news to give you the the monoteny of Prison Life is getting burdensom and still there is no prospects of exchange there was a rumer here some days ago that we was all to be sent to Point Look Out but that seems to have died out this post has been reignforced by a Brigade from Meeds Army as several of the prisoners had broken out of here some mead their escape others was recaptured I dont think I ever suffered as much from cold as I did the first week of January I liked to of frozed and so did most of the prisoners here. Do if you please send me some news papers if Peter has been sending them I never got but two you can guide yourself by what he says whether to send me any more or not Please write me soon as you get this give my compliments to Ann and Your Wife

Your Brother

James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Point Lookout Md
June 18th 1864

Dear Brother

I have not heard from you in such a long time, that I am almost persuaded to think that you have forgotten me. I have sent you several Letters since I heard from you. I hope you got them. I get Letters regularly from Peters wife. I can hear of you and your family through her, but would like to hear from you personally at times. By the way, I saw in some paper the arrival home and reception of the 79 Regt how many of the original Regt came home with them, from the hard service they have seen, I would not think many of them was left. I have finally come to the conclusion, that that there will not be a general exchange of Prisoners while the war lasts, if I do get off before that time it will be mere chance. I have been eleven months Prisoner to day, and the probability is that I will be such for eleven months to come. I have been very sick for some time back but have rallied wonderfully in the last few days. I am gathering my strength faster than I thought it was possible for a man to do, in a few days under present aspects, I will have quite recovered. I have heard from my Regt [now designated the 27th South Carolina Infantry] it is with Lee [Hagood/Hoke/Beauregard]. Please write me soon and let me know the result of your mission to Washington.

Your Brother James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware July 10th, 1864

Dear Brother

Your Letter of the 28 came to hand on the 18 ulto. I am sorry I did not get the Letter you wrote me, you do not mention having received two Letter of mine still unanswered, there is at times a great amount of irregularity in the mails of Prisoners it can be accounted for in no other way. Capt Macbeth has not been exchanged, he is still on Johnsons Island only two of the officers who came from Hiltent Head with me has been exchanged. I can appreciate your meaning when you say that I am safer where I am, then if I was with Lee, that my Regiment will tell me that they never saw Fighting untill they got with him, you dont know what I have indured in the last twelve months, or in other words, if I had my choice, I would take my chance in twenty Battles rather then stay another twelve months in Prison. Prudence commands halt. I wish I had a chance to talk with you, I could tell you lots. I wrote Peters wife yesterday and beg her to send me a small Box of Eatables. If she sends it, ask her to poot a coarse towel, a Pocket handkerchied, a Piece of soap, some Letter Paper & Envelopes, in the Box. I dont wish any clothing, as I expect some from another quarter, if you know any thing about Mr Paul or his friends (the man who took you for me on Broadway) tell them that Geo Gailling from the Isle of man was killed in the one of the late Battles near Petersburg. I think they stay at McDonald & Co. drygoods store. hoping to hear from you as soon as convenant, my space my space being limited I can go no farther.

Your Brother
James Campbell

By the By, if you see any of the 79
that I know, please give them my regards

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Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Johnsons Island
Feby. 6th 1864

Dear Brother

I wrote you a Letter about two weeks ago, in answer to yours enquiring of the commanding officer of this post if I was still here if not here to inform you of my whereabouts, I hope you received it, since that time I have received several newspapers, the last one a herald, it was Post Marked Cleveland Ohio, I am not familiar with the handwriting that directed them, and am at quite a loss to know, to whom I am indebted for these kind favours perhaps you can give me some light on the subject I am going to ask you a special favour if you will but grant it I assure you I will feel ever grateful one of my men if a prisoner at Point Lookout Md. I had a Letter from him two days ago in which he informs me that he has been sick for two months and is suffering for want of some little necessities that had he means to procure them, would aid greatly of his comfort, what I want is that you will send him Five Dollars by what every way you think safest when you write him ask him to acknowledge the receipt of the money, had I any money of my own I would not tax generosity to assist one you never heard of before I intend recompensing you for for any thing you may do to assist me in making the days of my protracted captivity as lightsom as possible

When you send the money direct to

M OBrian

Co K 4 Division

Prison camp

Point Lookout

Md.

Rummers is rife that we are to leave here soon for some other Prison for myself I dont care how soon. I never hear a word from Peter he must be mad with me for some cause or other with respects to all

I Remain Your Brother

James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Point Lookout Md

Feby 29 1864

Dear Brother

Tomorrow, Two Hundred officers leaves here to be offered on Exchange I am included in that number, wer are uncertain whether our comissioner will except of us unless the terms of a general exchange is agreed on, should I have to come back I will write you immediately on my return. I wrote you a Letter a few days after my arrive here in which I begged you to send Five Dollars to one of my men who is a prisoner here I have not heard from you and am fearful that you did not receive it if you have not sent it you will do me a great faviour to do so as early as possable his address is M OBrian Co. K 4 Division Point Lookout Md. I have been very anxious to know whether Peter got the money he sent me to Hilten Head, but he never wrote on line on the subject, should I be exchanged which you will know by me not writing you in two weeks you can send me a Letter by flag of truce the limit for you will be one Page with 10c enclosed directed to me the out side envelope directed to the commanding officer at Fort Monroe for flag of truce, so for a while I bid you all farwell yes it may be for ever.

Your Brother

James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware

July 26th, 1864

Dear Brother

Your faviour is to hand. I have not heard from Peters wife since I wrote her about the Box, should you fiend Mr Pauls friends ask them to write me as I have got more news for them. I have written John since I got your last Letter and begged him to send for Ann, and as you desired mead no mention of the other matter. I should like to get an out line of his cortship, of corse you can know nothing about it. should you hear from him, do let me know how he is satisfied and how he likes a farmers life. I had a Letter from home lately, the first from that quarter since my capture. I think I told you, that I owned stock in some steam ship companies, they have been verry successful, and I have mead a heap of money. You could not of got the Letter I sent you from Johnson Island in answer to one I got from you containing a slip from the Herald with an account of the capture of the Margrett & Jessy. I owned stock in her, but dont think I lost much as she mead several succesful trips before her capture. I have nothing of Interest to write about there is daily wild rummers aflot in the prison, faviourable and unfaviourable, as we dont get the papers, parties get up all kinds of scandles sensation rummers for their own amusement.

Your Brother Jas Campbell

My compliments to your wife

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

U.S. Prison

Fort Delaware 18th Aug 64

Dear Brother

Your favaiour of the 14th Inst has been received. I was fearful that you had not received my last Letter, and enquired of Annie a feaw days ago whether or not you received it. I am anxious to know who it was that told Peter of Capt Macbeth if you fiend out who he was pleas inform me in your next. I am not aware that we are to be sent their. Six Hundred Officers leaves here in a few days for Hilten Head S.C. I am not of that number. The Box Peter sent me arrived all right. I am pleased that you did [not] send the Bitters, for I would not be allowed to receive them. Liquers of all kiends is strickelly prohibited. I have nothing of interest to write about, nor have I any way of hearing news, when you hear from John please inform me. I wrote him but like yourself have not got an answer. I have come to the conclusion that, unless we strike him in an extroordinary good humor he will not pay any attention to our Letters.

With regards to all I am your Brother

James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware Sept 17th 1864

Dear Brother

Yours to hand. I have not heard from John yet. You know he never was a great hand at writing. I am limited to Ten Lines, and that only to Sister or Brother. the Capt of the 79th whom you saw misinformed you about my Regt 3 officers was captured are here all the news he told you, is news to them, for they never heard it before, he told them among other things that I had taken the oath and was living with you, so he has misrepresented matters all round, let us drop him. I have heard from my Regt as late as the middle of August, my promotion had not been published up to that time. I hate to beg, but my situation is such, that it will excuse me, will you be kind enough to send me (\$10-) Ten Dollars, if you will oblige me so much send a check or draft on some house in Philadelphia, so that no one can draw it without my signature, and oblige

Your Brother

James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware Oct 5th 1864

Your faviour of the 28th Ulto came safe to hand, with the money you enclosed if you will send me such amounts from time to time it will relieve me greatly, there can be no chance of bribing any one with money, we dont get the money sent us. Checks on the Suttler is issued in the lue of our money these checks is valueless to any one other then a prisoner as the suttler receives them from no one but us, watches and all other valuables was taken from us, and we are only allowed to have one sute of clothes, with a change of Under Clothing. I have not heard from Brother John yet, and dispare of hearing from him, at this late hour I did not think when we last parted, that he would treat me so unkiend, perhaps the widow you mentioned occuapies all his spare time. I am much pleased with the news of his intentions as a good wife, will be a great comfort to him, especially now as he has settled down in life. I hope you will persue a regular correspondance with him, when you write give him my kiend regards. there is a rummer here that a general exchange will soon commence God grant that it may be so. I hardly credit the report, I have been so often dissapointed by such rummers. With many thanks for your last faviour and kiend love to all

I Remain Your Brother
James Campbell

(the 10 Line reduction has been removed)

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2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware Oct 18th 1864

Dear Brother

Your faviour of the 14th Inst is to hand. You all thinking me exchanged accounts for Annies long silance. I wrote her a few days ago and blew her Sky high for her neglect. there is none being exchanged except crippels and such as are unfit for service. I have settled down to the conviction that there will be no general exchange during the war, your Gov refusing to exchange the prisoners whoes term of service have expired during their captivity. that is a chearing view to take of the question after 16 months imprisonment. we are not allowed any clothing from the Gov but I will be better provided for then I was last winter. I have been a long time without a coat, a friend of mine died recently and I fell aire to his it is to light for winter but better then none. I am pretty well satisfied with under clothing so upon the whole I am not so bad off in that line at present one of my comrads have sent to N.Y. for clothes for himself and me should they come I will be O.K. in that line. I have heard nothing from John yet, and at this late hour dont expect to hear. I am anxious to know how he is getting along with the widow, perhaps she has killed him, if so that accounts for him not writing us, such a lick would scatter his senses as well as his calcelations, and make a divel of a Stink

Your Brother

James Campbell

postage stamps is hard to get here
please enclose a few in your next

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware Nov 4/64

Dear Brother

I have got such a treacherious memory that I am at a loss to know whether or not I answered your Letter of the 27th Ulto, in which you was so kiend as to enclose me two Dollars, if I have this will be to you another proof of my weakness as sons of Gods unworthy images, which he is sparing from day to day, to fulfil some tradgy of his own creation, thanks to his kiendness for leaving me ignorant on that score. I have not got a thing to write about, every thing is dull all around me. be good enough to kiendly remember me to your wife and family tho I never saw her nor heard from her directly. I carry her in my pocket every day. By the way talking about family matters how is my name son you told me when I last saw you, that you named your youngest Boy after me, let me know how he is progressing when you write me again

Your Brother
James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina

Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/

Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware Del Jany 9th 1865

Dear Brother

Not hearing from you in some time, I fear that you did not get my last Letter. Peters Wife informes me that Mr. Livingston took my Picture about which I wrote him I am glad that it is gon, for I promised sister some years ago that I would send it to her I am anxious to know whether or not Mr. Livingston got the Letter I wrote him, please inform me. Should you heare from Scotland I would be glad to heare the news; as it is more than Likely they will write you on recpt of the word you sent by your friend. I have no news to write that would interest you we are getting along in the usual way, without any thing occuring to better our position. When you write again please send me a few stamps

Your Brother

Jas Campbell

P.S. By the By do you ever hear from John if so what is he doing, and how is he getting alone, and what progress is he making with the Widow

J.C.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers

Campbell Family Papers

2nd Lieutenant James Campbell

Company F ("Union Light Infantry"), 1st South Carolina
Battalion (Charleston Battalion)/First Military District/
Department of South Carolina, Georgia, & Florida

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Fort Delaware Del

May 5 1865

Dear Brother

Not hearing from you in some time, I fear that you have not been getting my Letters. Since the surrender of Lee & Johnsons armies, we see no hope for the Confedersy her downfall is but the question of days most of us here has signified our intention of taking the Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. Govt. there is no other way by which we can be relieced. I want to get some of your influencial friends to apply to the authorities at Washington, for my immediate release, and have the Papers sent on here as early as possable, write me at once and let me know what is my prospect of getting out of here. I am moer than tierd of this life. I hope you will go about this matter at once and let me know what I am to expect. Peter or yourself ought to know some one whoes influence can assist you with the authorities

Your Brother

Jas Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers
Campbell Family Papers
James Campbell

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Charleston Nov 1st 1865

I hope you will not think I have entirely forgotten you owing to my not writing you Persionally your many acts of kiendness to me in the last Two years I will ever remember, apart from any other tie that might biend us. I have not been able to see the surgen who had charge of the Mar[ke]t Hospital in which McMillan of your Regt Died in order that I might designate his grave, but will persavear in the matter there is verry Little business doing here at present the entire community is completely Bankrupt, and still there is a great many goods comming into the market I expect to see a regular smash up of a number of stores here, who has got large stock of goods, but no sales. Roy is still here after the surrender of Johnsons Army he went to Union Dist in this State and lived with Mr Grant. Give my regards to Jane & Ann Peter and Annie hoping to hear from you occasionally I am your Brother
James Campbell

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers
Campbell Family Papers
James Campbell

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Oak Plantation
March 5 1866

Dear Brother

Your Letter of December reached me last Week. I can sympathize with you in your loss of your 3 nice Boys. Johnney I was particularly struck with he had the sagacity of matured age, and a cool manly bearing which is rarely found in one of his years. I am planting on the Cumbhee River, on shares of the crop, the owner pays all the expenses of supplying the Plantation, and I get a 5th of the crop for managing it is a large cotton and Rice Plantation and I think I will do well. I have been here since January organising labour the negroes stuck out and would not contract under the impression that the Lands belonged to them starvation compelled them to contract. I give them \$100 per year and Rations, Houses and fuel with 2 acres of land to each man. I cannot write you fully at present, there being no P.O. in the country. I send this to the city by a Gentleman who goes tomorrow but will write you when I get time I am hard pushed at present, preparing my lands for a crop. I have had a late start all the lands have been abandoned for three years, and is almost a wilderness. I would write Ann but don't know her address, please send it to me. I beg to be kindly remembered to all our family, write me if you have heard anything from John and what news Mr. Livingston brought from Scotland.

Your Brother
James Campbell
Care C T Lowndes & Co.
Charleston
S.C.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers
Campbell Family Papers
James Campbell

Campbell to his brother, Alexander:

Charleston Oct 20th 1886

Dear Sandy

I got your Letter tother day, & was glad to hear from you. The Quakes are not over this morning at 4 ock a sevear convuliton took place at Summerville, & I am told today by several parties that it was fe[l]t in this city. My Plantation is in the Belt where the shock are oftenest felt. I spend about 1/2 my time there the Negroes daly report fealing quakes which I dont feal, when in the country I am all the time in the saddle & in motion, that a/cs I think for my not fealing those Slight convultations I would discredit their reports, were it not that they live at such distanses apart, about 1/2 a mile, before they see each other in the morning, where they come to work all reports agree as to the time their time is the crowing of the chickens for Instants, they report what transpired at the first fowl crow, or the second or third as the case may be. On the 21 [31] August when the most violant convulsion took place, the Negroes lost their time keeper, because the chickens left their rost, cattle became frantick, brock lose from their biendings & bellowed in tones unusual & never heard before. Horses was not so much excited, but pawed their stalles and gave a sound between a nicker & a cry, a sound unusual to horses. A friend of mine a Dr. told me of what he heard, a colored man who lives in the adjoining lot to him, owns a selebrated race Stallion. Several minutes before an earth quake shake took place, this horse would blate, & try to brake lose from his fasingnes. I mention those things to you because I know they are facts. Scentists sent here by the US Government look and talk of them as foleys. The City is being rappidly built up, a thing unusal with our people every man woman & chield has is exerting themselves, & working like trogns to make their homes habitable, the [?] is fast disapearing, & with the excpn of the debre left in front of buildings racked by the Earthquake, strangers cant see the damage I sent you today a number of photographes of Injured buildings, but it dos not tell 1/2 the storey, those views dont show cracks in buildings which reaches the foundation, and will have to be pulled down In answer to your enquiry about stone cutting, there is none of it done here, except 2 or 3 marbel yards who make monuments. Mr Grant the old forman of the Custom house, lives in the up country I have not seen him for for a long time, but I am told, he is well off. Willie Nickle the vigetaren who worked with you on the Custom house, is a man of fortune, he was on the steamer that was missing but got into St Loues, with a broken shaft tother day.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Personal Papers
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James Campbell

Campbell to his brother, Alexander, 20 October 1886, Page 2:

Geddis lives in in Spartenburg, & has done well one of his sons is the largest merchant in the place. I saw him last summer he has a Marbel yard, & one of his Daughters cuts the Letters on the Monuments he sells, but they are crude. I had a Letter from Ann tother day, she is in trouble. I sent her \$50 Dollars, but she is allways in trouble her tounge is too loss, & she says things she ought not to say about her neighbours. I promised to give her a home when I was out there, & saw a plac a high roling small grass farm most of in in scrub okes, that I thought would would keep 5 or 6 cows & the pararie give work for one horse but she had higher Ideas, and rote me for \$3000 to pay the first instalment on a nine thousand farm. I took no notice of it, hence her humbrage at me, her husband is a wortheles fellow. When in Joliett I met several parties who knew him well & the hottell keaper whare she used to work told me, that helping him would be throwing away money. How about the monument you proposed puting over our Mothers grave. I wish you would see to it & have it don. I dont write to John because he dont answer my Letters. Should you get up a monument, I beg that you send me a plan of it, before ordering it. I am prepared to pay any reasonable amount of money to have it don & I believe John will assist us, should he not, dont let that stop you, I am in a position if necessary to pay the whole bill but would prefare that it be don jointly between us, of corse Peters widow cant assist she being to poor. Now Sandy I beg you you being in that line of Busines, knows better then I do, how to get up a thing of that kiend, it mu[s]t not be a slip shod slab, but a monument that will give credit to her children. I wish all the family to poot in something, if it is only 50c this will make it a joint consern the bulk of the burden I am prepared to bear. I also wish that our Fathers name be poot on it. You propose coming here this winter. I would be glad to see you, but if you come expecting stonecutting, I fear you will be disapointed

Your Brother

James Campbell