

1-1864

Letter from Marshall Blair Clason to his father

Marshall Blair Clason

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capacity about 2 weeks. I feel it quite a compliment that I have been twice designated for this position, and I have no doubt I could obtain a staff appointment as Judge Advocate, if I sought it. But I prefer to serve with the fighting part of the army. x x x The experience I have had as Judge Advocate will be beneficial to me when I resume the practice of the law. I feel that I will be successful in that profession. My mind is adapted to it. If I am not successful as a jury lawyer, I feel sure that I will be as a counsel. For I have never yet found a Court which decided a case different from my views of the law.

I sent your letter to my wife, so that she could see the contents. You can rest assured that she will never ^{request} me to resign. She thinks as I do, that ~~she~~ a young ^{man} who stays at home now pleads guilty to the charge of want of spirit and patriotism.

I received your picture, and was glad to get it. You look perfectly natural. I can not see that you are growing any older looking. Those to whom I have ^{shown} it all say "he is a fine looking man, better looking than you." I run up. I tell them when I am 52 I expect to look better than I do at 26.

You hear all the public news from here through the newspapers. The opening of the R.R. to this place helps matters amazingly. Supplies are coming forward rapidly. We were for a while very short of food and clothing. Now they accumulate. It makes the boys feel glad. They have been hungry and half-naked for a month past. My express package has not come.

The work is being pushed rapidly, to repair the road to Knoxville. Everything is being made ready for the Spring Campaign.

I think where we start, we will sweep everything before us. -
The enemy in front of us, are losing daily from desertion -
I think fully 100 deserters came to us from the enemy this
week. Recruits are coming in quite briskly. I suppose
our Brigade will be stronger by a ~~1000~~ 1000 men ~~than~~ by
1st April, than it was 1st January. 2 recruits have come to
my company, and more are on the way. My company
numbers 66 men on the rolls - I expect to increase it to a
minimum company.

My health is good. I weigh 153 lbs. I am free of all
aches and pains. I never was healthier in my life.
I have never lost a day or duty from sickness since
I have been in the army.

I am glad mother's health is improving. I hope she may
be a good old age. You must tell her that when I come
home she must give me a military reception. She should
not give way to anxiety concerning me. Certainly, if she loves
me she should not wish me to stay at home among the sneaks,
while this war is going on. I do not admire Mr. Lincoln's
policy, but I admire Jeff. Davis' less.

Our camp is 7 miles in front of Chattanooga on the Piggold
road. We are in comfortable winter quarters. The weather is
almost as pleasant as May is in Milwaukee. I am living
in a good comfortable cabin almost as good as home.
No enemy molest us or makes us afraid.

My love to all. I hope George fully recovered from the effects
of his exposure. Your letter enclosed stamps. Write immediately.
I have set the ball in motion.
Your son
M. B. Blason

[Addressee and date unknown. Likely written to father between January and March 1864.]

capacity about 2 weeks. I feel it quite a compliment that I have been twice designated for this position, and I have no doubt I could obtain a staff appointment as Judge Advocate, if I sought it. But I prefer to serve with the fighting part of the army. xxx The experience I have had as Judge Advocate will be beneficial to me when I resume the practice of law. I feel that I will be successful in that profession. My mind is adapted to it. If I am not successful as a Jury lawyer, I feel sure that I will be as counsel, for I have never yet found a Court which decided a case different from my views of the law.

I sent your letter to my wife, so that she could see the contents. You can rest assured that she will never request me to resign. She thinks, as I do, that a young man who stays at home now pleads guilty to the charge of want of spirit and patriotism.

I received your picture, and was glad to get it. You look perfectly natural. I cannot see that you are growing any older looking. Those to whom I have shown it all say, "He is a fine looking man, better looking than you." I own up. I tell them when I am 52, I expect to look better than I do at 26.

You hear all the public news from here through the newspapers. The opening of the R. R. to this place helps matters amazingly. Supplies are coming forward rapidly. We were for a while very short of food and clothing. Now they accumulate. It makes the boys feel glad. They have been hungry and half naked for a month past. My express package has not come. The work is being pushed rapidly to repair the road to Knoxville. Everything is being made ready for the Spring campaign. I think when we start, we will sweep everything before us.— The enemy in front of us are losing daily from desertion.— I think fully 100 deserters came to us from the enemy this week. Recruits are coming in quite briskly. I suppose our Brigade will be stronger by a 1000 men by 1st April, than it was 1st January. 2 recruits have come to my company, and more are on the way. My company numbers 66 men on the rolls.— I expect to increase it to a minimum company.—

My health is good. I weigh 155 lbs. I am free of all aches and pains. I never was healthier in my life. I have never lost a day on duty from sickness since I have been in the army.

I am glad mother's health is improving. I hope she may live to a good old age. You must tell her that when I come home she must give me a military reception. She should not give way to anxiety concerning me. Certainly if she loves me she should not wish me to stay at home among the sneaks, while this war is going on. I do not admire Mr. Lincoln's policy, but I admire Jeff Davis' less.

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My love to all. I hope George is fully recovered from the effects of his exposure. Your letter enclosed stamps. Write immediately. I have set the ball in motion in that business arrangement.

Your son
M. B. Clason