

10-11-1861

## Letter from William H. Turner to Thomas S. Armstrong

William H. Turner

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Camp Beach  
Oct. 11. 1861.

Friend F. S.

I am seated to  
address you a few sentences but  
I can scarce hope that they will  
ever reach you as our postal  
arrangements are of the worst kind

First you would like to know  
something of the fights that it has  
been my fortune to share

Our first engagement was a  
smart skirmish on the Ranauka  
Valley 12 miles below Charleston

This was not a victory because  
we ran out of ammunition and we <sup>were</sup>  
compelled to retire for the night. The  
rebels fled the next day I was also  
in the late battle fought by Rosecrance  
& Floyd I was by the side of Col  
Lowes when he fell. For 3 terrible  
hrs I was beneath an awful fire  
and for my conduct in that engagement



I have been promised a ~~Letter~~ <sup>Letter</sup>  
Two days after the fight.

Our company with 2 others were  
sent to guard a ferry on Gauley  
River here for 3 days we were  
annoyed by "Bush Whackers," who  
fired from the rocks trees and thickets  
every time they got a sight of one of  
~~us~~ the consequence was some of our  
brave boys were made to bite the dust.

At the burial of one of these a scene  
was enacted which will never ~~with~~  
be forgotten by those who saw it.

The poor fellow had been shot by  
the murder through the neck & had  
died instantly. That night at  
precisely 12 O'clock in a deep mountain  
gorge surrounded by a dense wood his  
comrades were made by his Captain  
to bend their knees on his grave &  
swear revenge & well have they  
kept their oath and more than one  
traitor has been made to give  
up the ghost.

I have seen much of this part  
of the state & have seen much scenery  
that was wild & romantic in the  
extreme but the place where we are  
now encamped surpasses any thing  
that it has been my lot to witness.  
We are at what is called Lovers Leap.

There is a perpendicular ledge of  
rocks 1000 ft high ~~at~~ the foot  
of this the muddy waters of New river  
comes roaring thundering & dashing  
as if it would carry the mountain  
along with it. Casting your eye  
to the southward and it seems  
that mountain is piled on mountain  
as far as the eye can reach. The  
sprig of cedars which you will find  
enclosed grew on the verge of this mighty  
cliff and on the spot where it is said  
that there was an indian <sup>girl</sup> leaped into  
the river. Yours truly

W H Turner

P.S. Write soon direct to Gauley Bridge  
in care of Capt. Legg Give me tidings  
Comd E 12 Res. Co. Va.



addres I heard that he is  
in the Navy how is it

W. H. T

My best wishes to the family  
& my compliments to the Miss  
Lippetts

October 11, 1861

Camp Beach

Oct 11 1861

Friend T.S.

I am seated to address you a few sentences but I can scarce hope that they will ever reach you as our postal arrangements are of the worst kind.

First, you would like to know something of the fights that it has been my fortune to share. Our first engagement was a smart skirmish on the Panawha Valley, 12 miles below Charleston.

This was not a victory because we ran out of ammunition and we were compelled to retire for the night. The rebels fled the next day. I was also in the late battle fought by Rosecrans & Floyd & was at the side of Col. Lowe when he fell. For 3 terrible hrs I was beneath an awful fire and for my conduct in that engagement, I have been promised a Lieutenancy.

Two days after the fight, our company with 2 others were sent to guard a ferry on Ganley River. Here for 3 days we were annoyed by Bush Whackers who fired from the rocks and thickets every time they got a sight of one of us. The consequence was some of our brave boys were made to bite the dust. At the burial of one of these, a scene was enacted which will never be forgotten by those who saw it.

The poor fellow had been shot by the murderers through the neck & had died instantly. That night, at precisely 12 o'clock, in a deep mountain gorge surrounded by a dense wood, his comrades were made by his captain to bend their knees on his grave & swear revenge & well they have kept their oath and more than one traitor has been made to give up the ghost.

I have seen much of this part of the state & have seen much scenery that was wild & romantic in the extreme but the place where we are now encamped surpasses anything it has been my lot to witness. We are what is called Lovers Leap. There is a perpendicular ledge of rocks 1060 feet high at the foot of this. The \_\_\_\_\_ waters of New river come roaring, thundering, & dashing as if it would carry the mountain along with it. Casting your eye southward, and it seems that the mountain is piled on mountain as far as they eye can reach. The sprig of cedars(?) which you will find enclosed grew on the verge of this mighty cliff and on the spot where it is said that there was an Indian girl who leaped into the river.

Yours truly,

W.H. Turner

P.S. Write soon. Direct to Ganley Bridge in care of Capt Legg

Comp E 12 Reg O.V.M.

Give me Wilbur's address. I heard he was in the navy. How is it?

W.H.T.

My best wishes to the family & my compliments to Miss Spissetts(?)