

Salem Roanoke County Va. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

1861

My dear Parents,

Although I wrote you a long letter yesterday evening, still I know you will feel a good deal of anxiety, and eagerness to know more about my future movements. The cars west last night brought up Lieut [Lieutenant] Cabell of our Regiment who has been in Richmond on furlough. He brought with him a letter from Gen'l [General] Donaldson, containing a copy of an order countermanding the previous order for this regiment and his brigade to go to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and ordering both commands to report to Gen'l [General] Lee in Charleston, South Carolina. Col [Colonel] Starke telegraphed to the War Department immediately on his arrival yesterday morning, inquiring what he should do. He has been anxiously looking for an answer all day but has not yet rec'd [received] one. Col [Colonel] Fuller's regiment (Donaldson's brigade formerly under Loring, afterwards under Floyd) passed here last night on the way South. This morning Col [Colonel] Savage's Tennessee reg't [regiment] passed going the same way. Col [Colonel] Starke said that Gen'l [General] Floyd had been ordered to Kentucky, but whether this order has been countermanded, as our's [sic, ours], or not we cannot say. I am in hopes that as we go South I can pass through Richmond & there receive my pay, \$170, and also urge my appointment as "Cadet". I have but \$10 left. I had to give out the gold 5 pieces though much against my wishes. I am much pleased with the idea of going to S. Ca. I have been wishing for it a longtime. I have never been South, and it will afford me an opportunity of becoming more familiar with the country, extending my knowledge, and acquaintance and of spending a pleasant mild winter probably in a Fort, instead of in these rough mountain half the time cov'd [covered] with snow and ice, and probably, we tramping over them, most of the time backwards and forwards. The new Confederate Flag, the Col. [Colonel] brought with him will probably be presented to the reg't [regiment] this evening at Dress Parade, when we may expect some speeches. A Court Martial has been going on this morning over a deserter. As Col. [Colonel] Starke issued a notice in regard to the treatment of deserters a short time ago, this fellow was very much scared. I think though they inflicted only a severe manual and physical punishment and that was all, though the result has not yet been made public. Salem is situated about ½ mile north of the railroad. It is a beautiful quiet little village of about 1200 people with clean white houses, good pavements and apparently very hospitable and patriotic inhabitants. The ladies have been very kind to our sick. A good many have been taken in at private houses. They have been furnished with bedding and any quantity of good things. The Ladies held a meeting last night in regard to the sick. Mr. Nat Burwell lives near the railroad. He is a wealthy, Grey headed old gentleman. I expect he is related to the Nat Burnell in Clarke. I am very much in want of a good military suit. My coat (E.H.S. [Episcopal High School]) is worn out at the sleeves, the lining torn out and most of the buttons broke off. I have 2 jackets, but they are not fit to wear except on marches, or behind the curtain. Our reg't [regiment] has been entirely furnished with percussion lock muskets, grey caps and overcoats. Several deserted on our march. The mail goes off early tomorrow morning. If anything occurs in the mean time [sic, meantime] I will write.

Your aff. [affectionate] Son

Eugene F. Cordell