Civil War Letters to the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL

The following seven letters were written during the Civil War by various members of the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL, and their kinfolks. These letters are instrumental in confirming the identity of several siblings, nephews and nieces of Greenberry and of his wife, Martha, as well as providing insights into the lives of a close-knit extended family during this turbulent era.

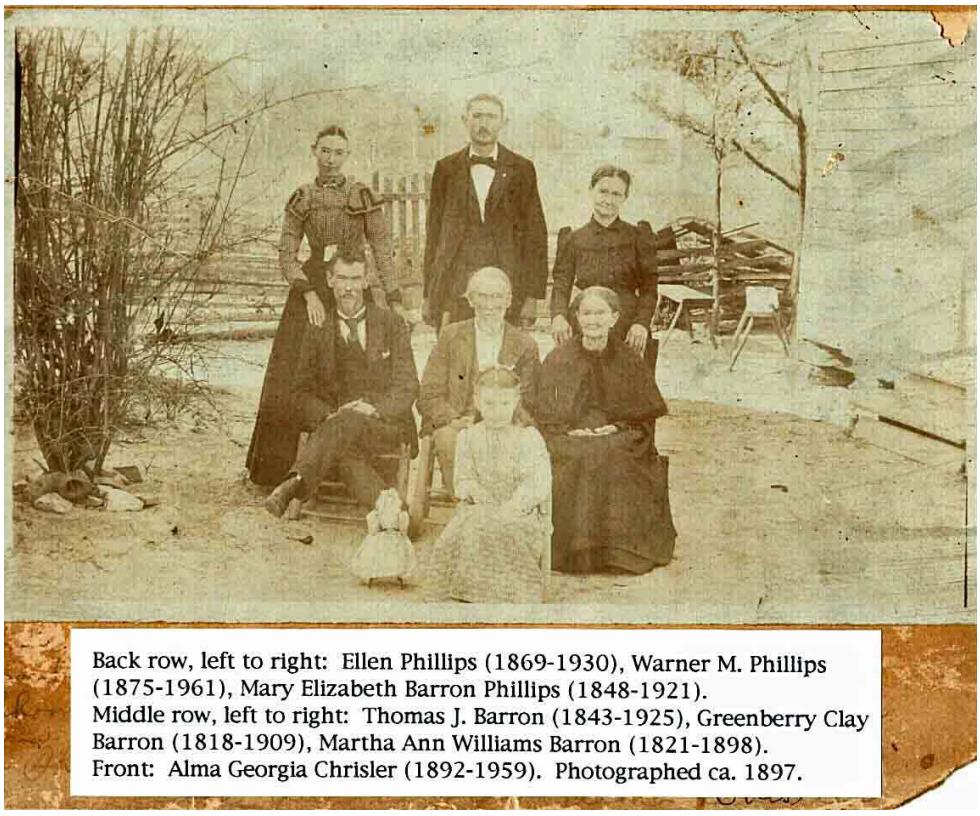
Greenberry Clay Barron was the son of Thomas Barron and wife Sarah 'Sally' Clay, who married in Greene County, GA, in 1805. Soon after their marriage, Thomas and Sarah moved to newly-formed Baldwin County, GA. A portion of Baldwin County was placed into another new county, Morgan, in 1807, where the family resided until after 1820. Greenberry was born in Buckhead, Morgan County, on 22 September 1818, and was named for one of Sally's brothers, Greenberry Clay.

By the 1830s, the family may have lived for a time in the vicinity of Troup County, GA, where Greenberry's sister, Pharaba, married Patrick Moore in 1834. By the 1840 census, Thomas Barron was enumerated just across the Chattahoochee River in Chambers County, AL. The family maintained ties with Troup County, GA, over the years. Greenberry and his brother Robert both returned to marry there: 'Greenbury C. Barron' married Martha Ann Williams 11 December 1842. And one of the letters in this collection documented that Greenberry traveled to Troup in 1863 to visit Martha's relatives. Greenberry and Martha Barron had three children: Thomas Jefferson (b. 1843), Georgiann Ada (b. 1845) and Mary Elizabeth (b. 1848).

Greenberry remained in Chambers County, AL, until his death 11 August 1909 and was buried in Milltown Cemetery. Several of his known siblings (Robert, Pharaba, Thomas) lived in adjacent Tallapoosa County, AL. (Another probable brother, Samuel B. Barron, moved to Texas in the 1850s). A Nathan Barron also lived in Tallapoosa County, but his family was not mentioned in the letters to Greenberry's family. It is known that Nathan Barron's father was Robert Barron, probably Greenberry's uncle, making Greenberry and Nathan likely first cousins.

Sources:

This collection of letters from the Greenberry Barron family
Civil War pension application of Greenberry Clay Barron
GA tax records
GA marriage records
GA and AL census records



Back row, left to right: Ellen Phillips (1869-1930), Warner M. Phillips (1875-1961), Mary Elizabeth Barron Phillips (1848-1921).
Middle row, left to right: Thomas J. Barron (1843-1925), Greenberry Clay Barron (1818-1909), Martha Ann Williams Barron (1821-1898).
Front: Alma Georgia Chrisler (1892-1959). Photographed ca. 1897.

Letters and pictures shared by Don L. Clark from the collection of Cenus and Gladys Phillips of Chambers County, AL. Background data by Vicki Barron Kruschwitz (vkruschwitz@gmail.com).

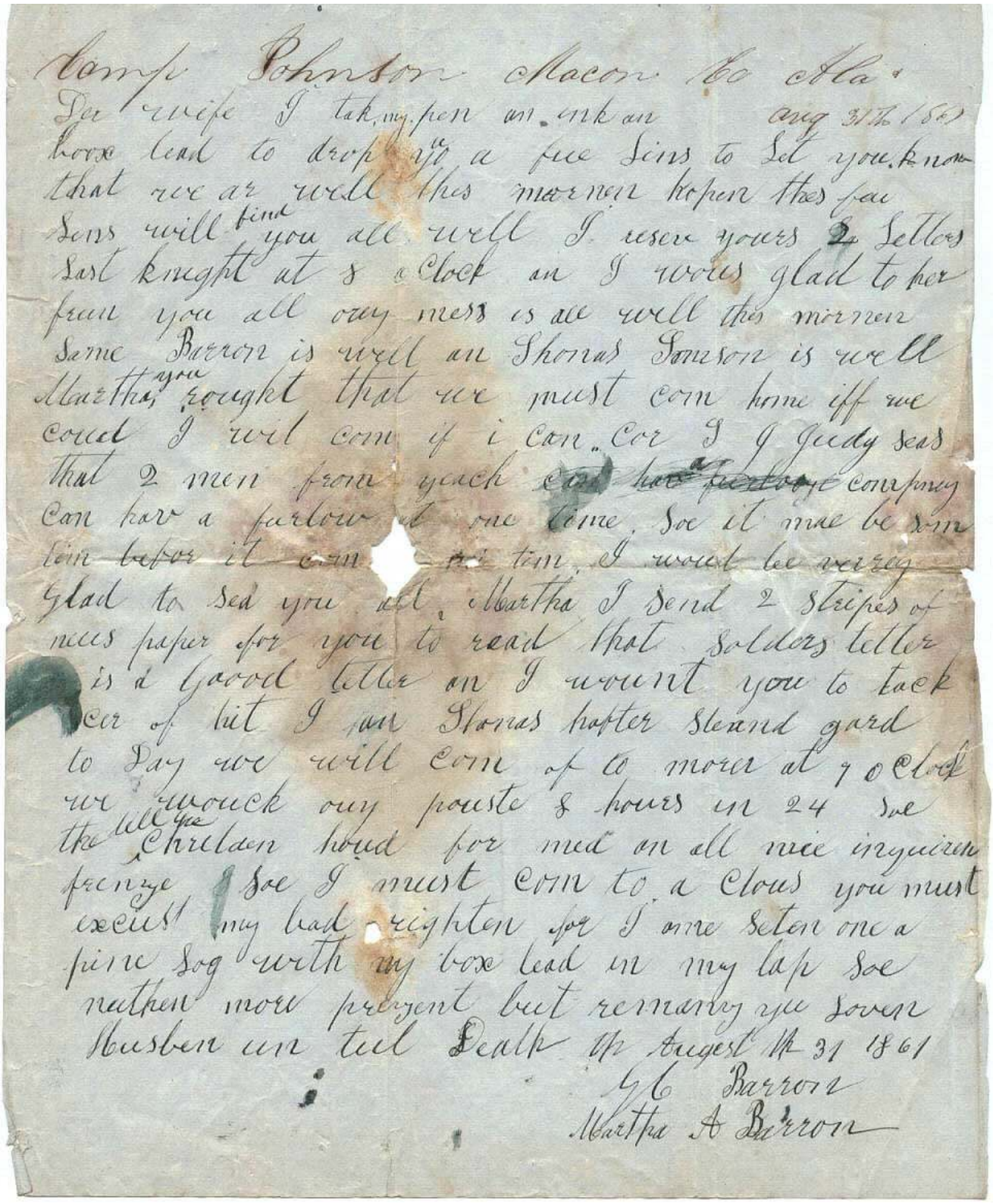
Civil War Letters to the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL

The first letter in the collection was written in August 1861 by Greenberry Barron from Camp Johnson, Macon County, AL, where he and his son Tom were stationed while serving with the 14th Alabama Regiment in the Civil War. The letter was addressed to Greenberry's wife, Martha.

Greenberry Clay Barron in his Civil War uniform.

Note: Mentioned in the letter was "Same Barron", probably Samuel Barron, son of Greenberry Barron's brother, Robert. Sam Barron served in the same regiment as Greenberry and his son, Thomas Jefferson Barron. Samuel Barron died later in the war at Richmond, VA.

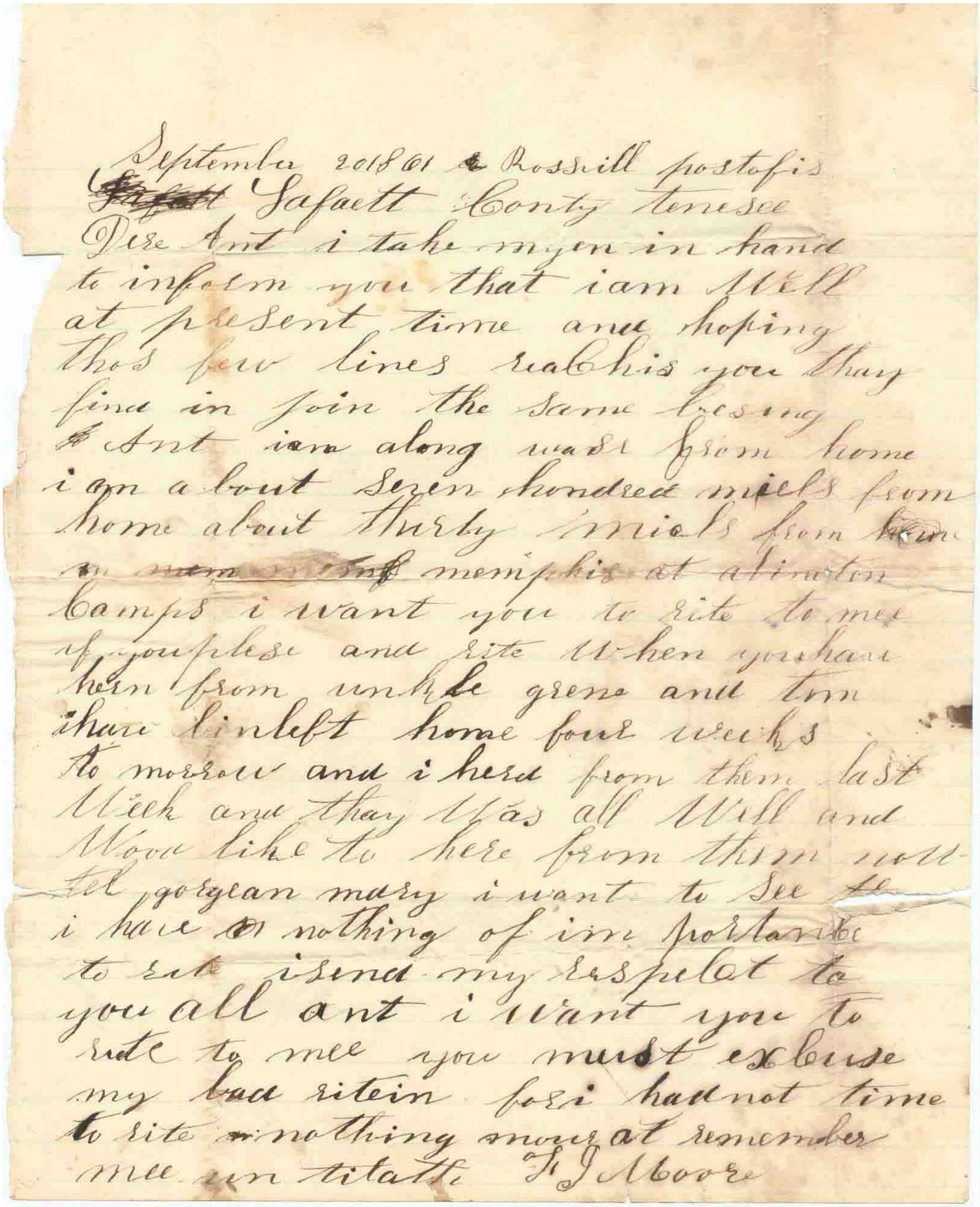
Greenberry Barron to his wife Martha, August 31, 1861



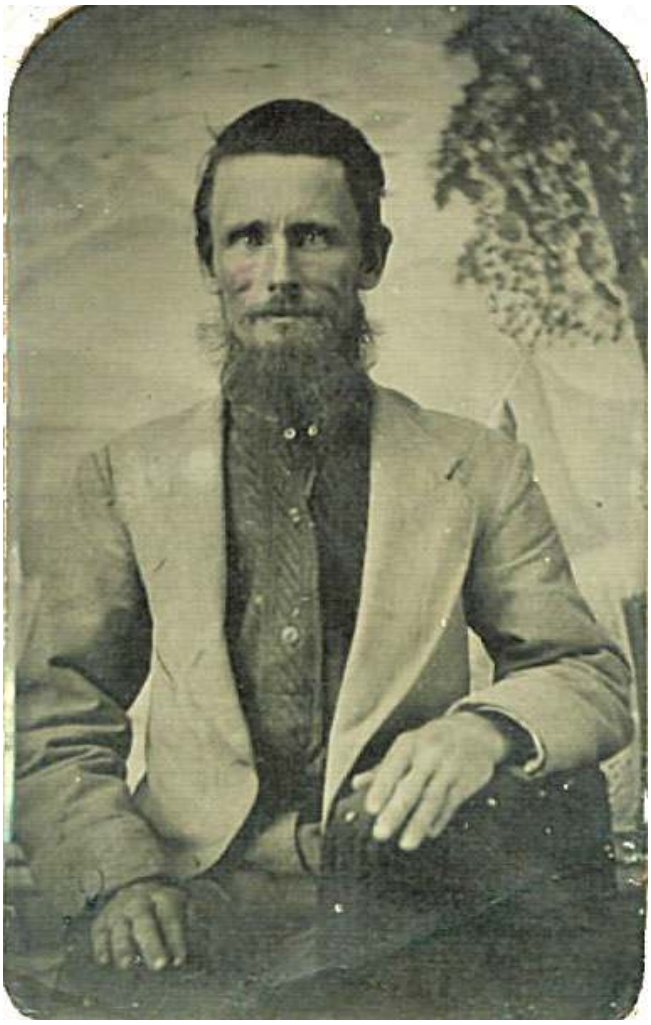
Camp Johnson Macon Co Ala.
Der wife I tak my pen an ink an aug 31th 1861
boox lead to drop you a few Sins to Set you know
that we ar well thes mornen hopen thes few
Sins will find you all well I resev yours 2 Letters
Sast knight at 8 o Clock an I wous glad to her
frun you all ouy mess is all well thes mornen
Same Barron is well an Thomas Samson is well
Martha you rought that we must com home iff we
coud I wil com if i can Cor I J Judy seas
that 2 men from yeach ~~can hav a furlowe~~ compney
Can hav a furlow at one time, Soe it mae be som
~~tim befor it com~~ [illegible] tim, I woud be verrey
Glad to Sea you all, Martha I Send 2 Stripes of
news paper for you to read that Solders letter
is a Goood letter an I wount you to tack
cer of hit I an Thomas hafter Steand gard
to Day we will com of to morer at 7 o Clock
we wouck ouy pouste 8 hours in 24 Soe
the lill you Chrilden houd for med an all nice inquiren
frenze Soe I must com to a Clous you must
excust my bad righten for I ame Seten one a
pine Sog with my box lead in my lap Soe
neithen more preyent but remany yu Soven
Husben un tul Dealt th August th 31 1861
G C Barron
Martha A Barron

Civil War Letters to the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL

T. J. Moore to his aunt, Martha Barron, September 20, 1861


September 20 1861 Rossvill postofis
Fayett Conty tenesee
Dere Ant i take myen in hand
to inform you that iam Well
at present time and hoping
thos few lines reachis you thay
find in Join the same blesing
Ant iam along wase from home
i am a bout sezen hondred miels from
home about thirty miels from home
memphis at atinton
Camps i want you to rite to mee
if youplese and rite when youhave
hern from unkle grene and tom
thare binleft home four weeks
to morrow and i herd from them last
Week and thay Was all Well and
Wood like to here from them noll
tel gorgean mary i want to See the
i have nothing of importance
to rite isend my Respelet to
you all ant i want you to
rite to mee you must exkuse
my bad ritein fori hadnot time
to rite nothing mour at remember
mee untitatti T J Moore

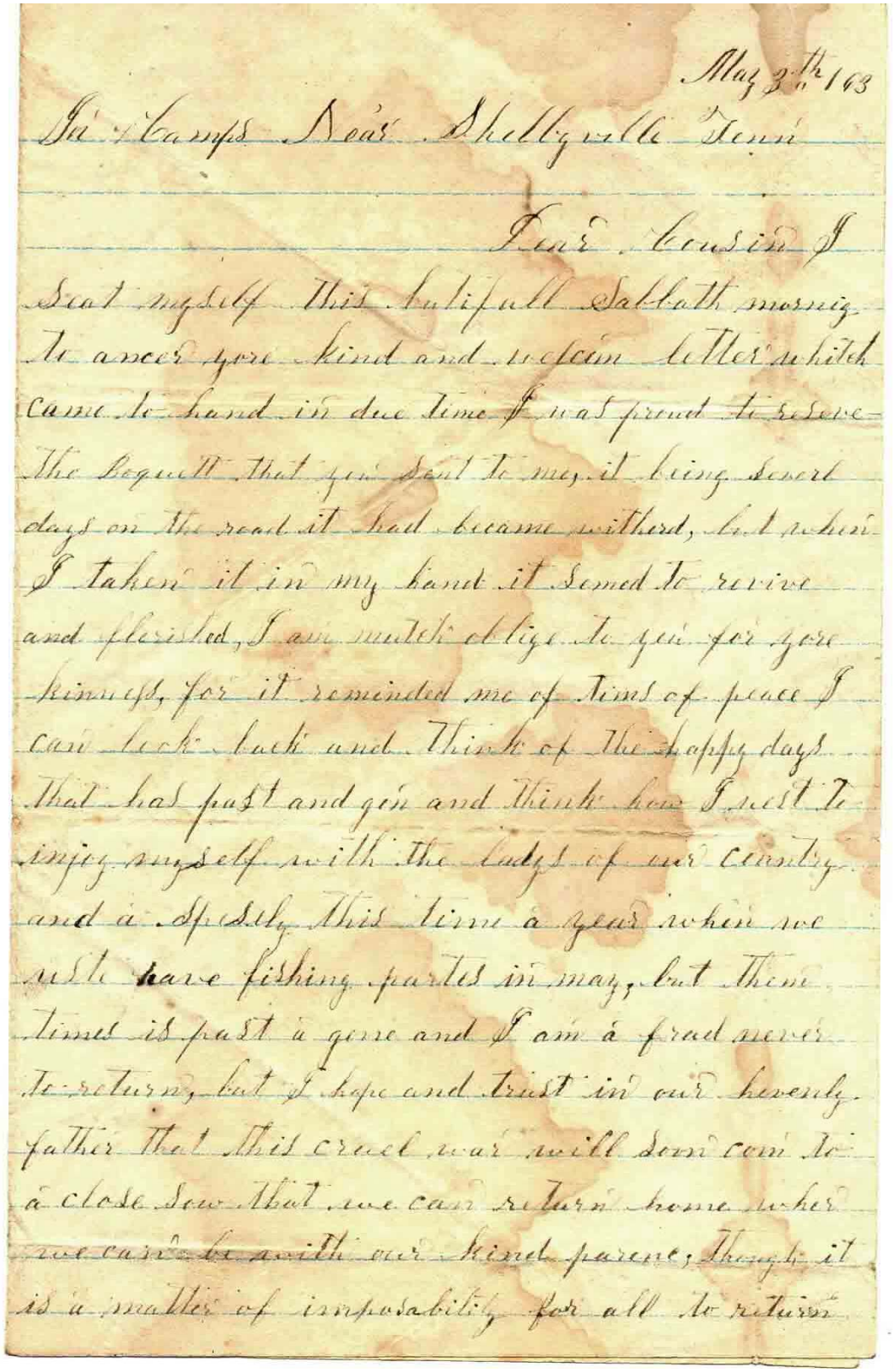
Note: The author of the letter was Thomas Josephus Moore, the son of Patrick and Pharaba Barron Moore. Pharaba was the sister of Greenberry Barron ("unkle grene"). T. J. Moore and his cousin Thomas Barron (son of Robert Barron, Greenberry's brother) both served in the 38th Regiment, Tennessee Infantry. Other names in the letter were Tom, Georgiann ("gorgean") and Mary, children of Greenberry and Martha Barron.



Thomas Barron, pictured above, was the son of Robert Barron. He wrote the following letter to his first cousin, Georgiann Ada Barron. Georgiann, also shown above, was the daughter of Greenberry Barron, brother to Thomas's father, Robert.

Note: Other relatives mentioned in the letter were "Cousin Tom", Greenberry's son, and "Cousin Josephers Moore", son of Pharaba Barron Moore, sister to Robert and Greenberry Barron.

Thomas Barron to cousin Georgiann Barron, May 3, 1863



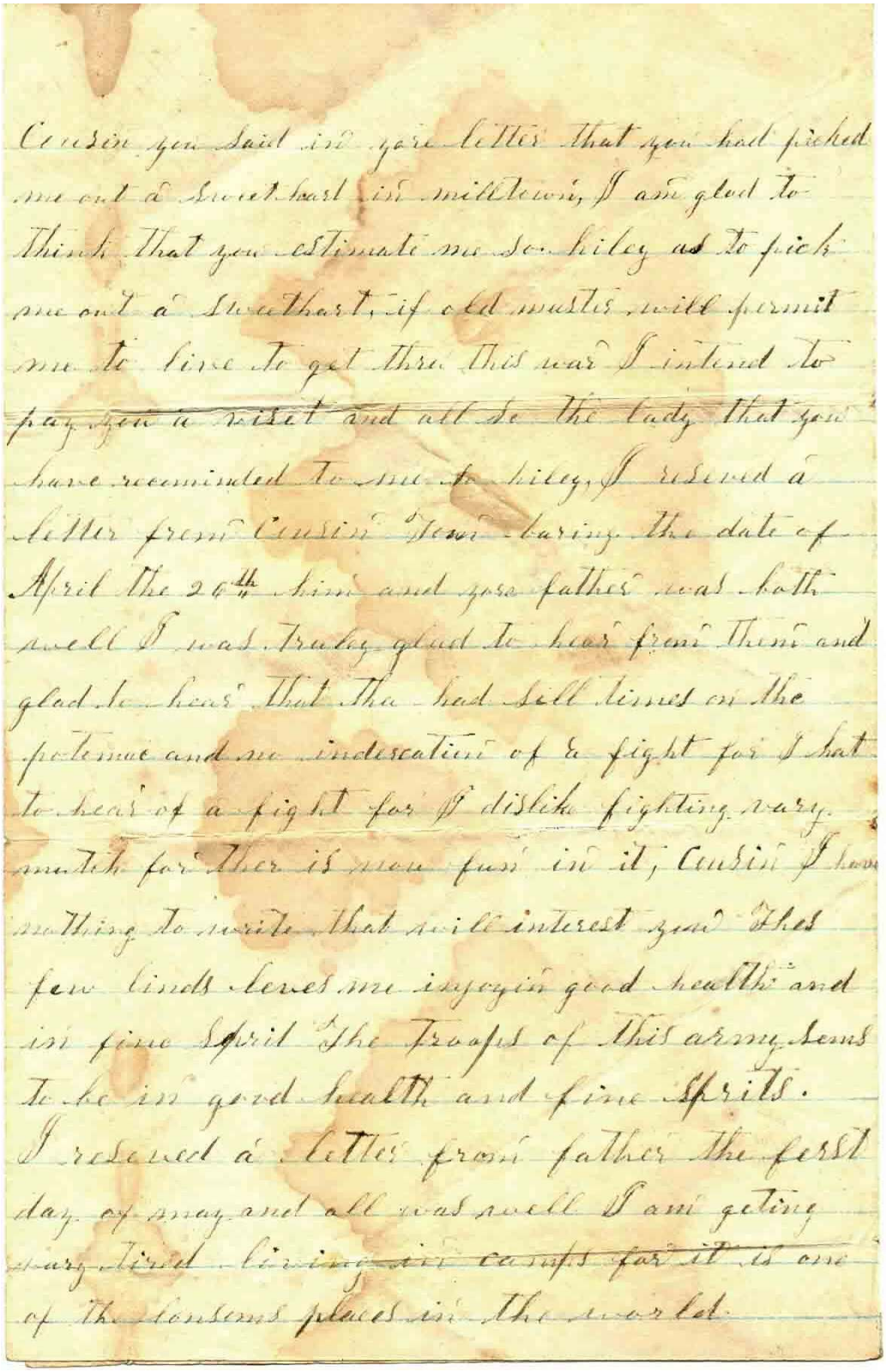
May 3th 63

In Camps Near Shelbyville Tenn

Dear Cousin I

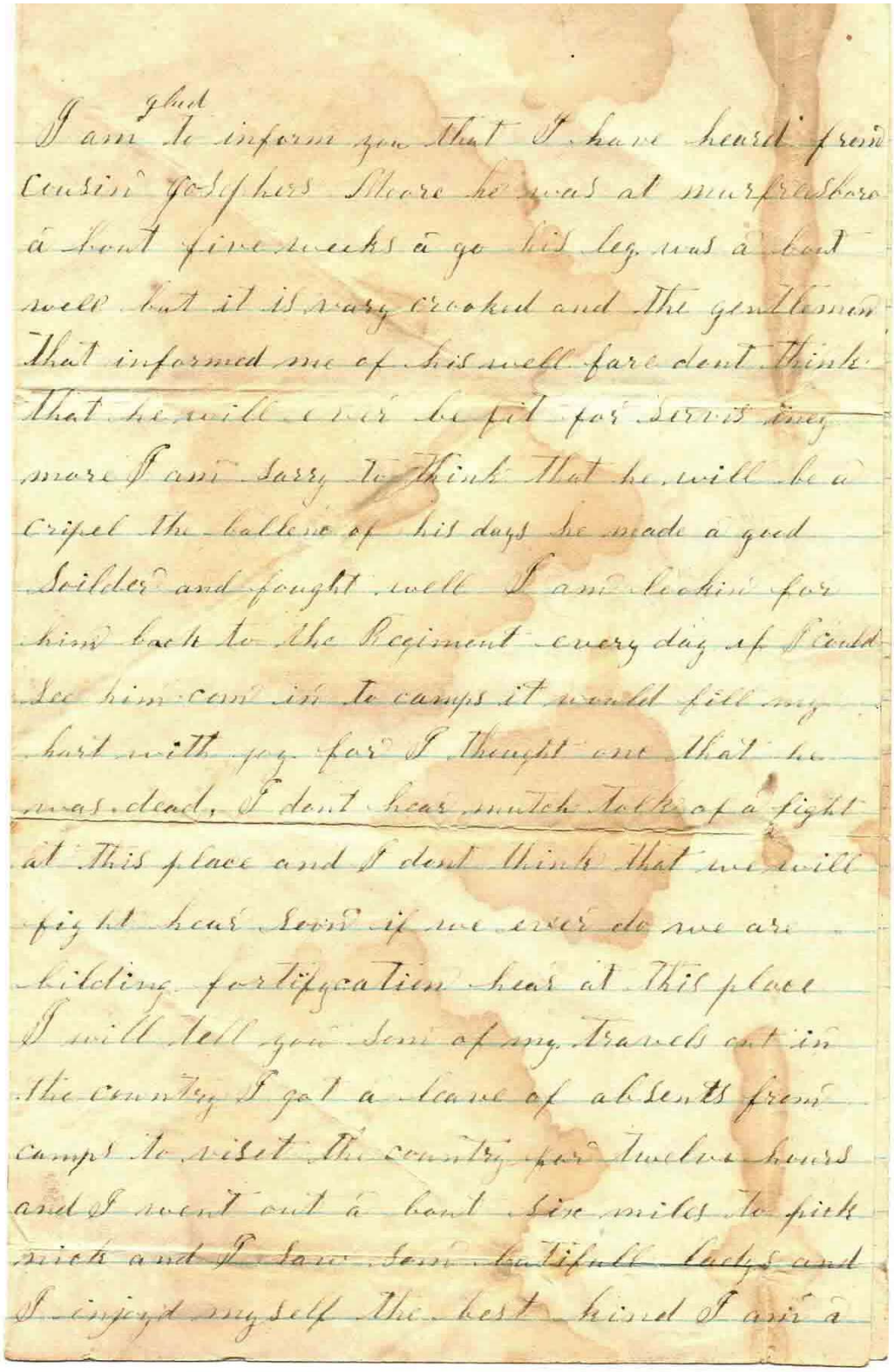
Seat myself this beautifull Sabbath morning
To answer your kind and welcom letter which
came to hand in due time I was proud to receive
The present that you sent to me, it being several
days on the road it had became withered, but when
I taken it in my hand it seemed to revive
and flerished, I am much obliged to you for your
kindness, for it reminded me of Times of peace I
can look back and think of the happy days
that has past and gon and think how I used to
enjoy myself with the ladys of our country
and a Speedy this time a year when we
will have fishing parties in may, but them
times is past & gone and I am afraid never
to return, but I hope and trust in our heavenly
father that this cruel war will soon com to
a close soo that we can return home where
we can be with our kind parens, though it
is a matter of impossibility for all to return

Thomas Barron to cousin Georgiann Barron, May 3, 1863, page 2



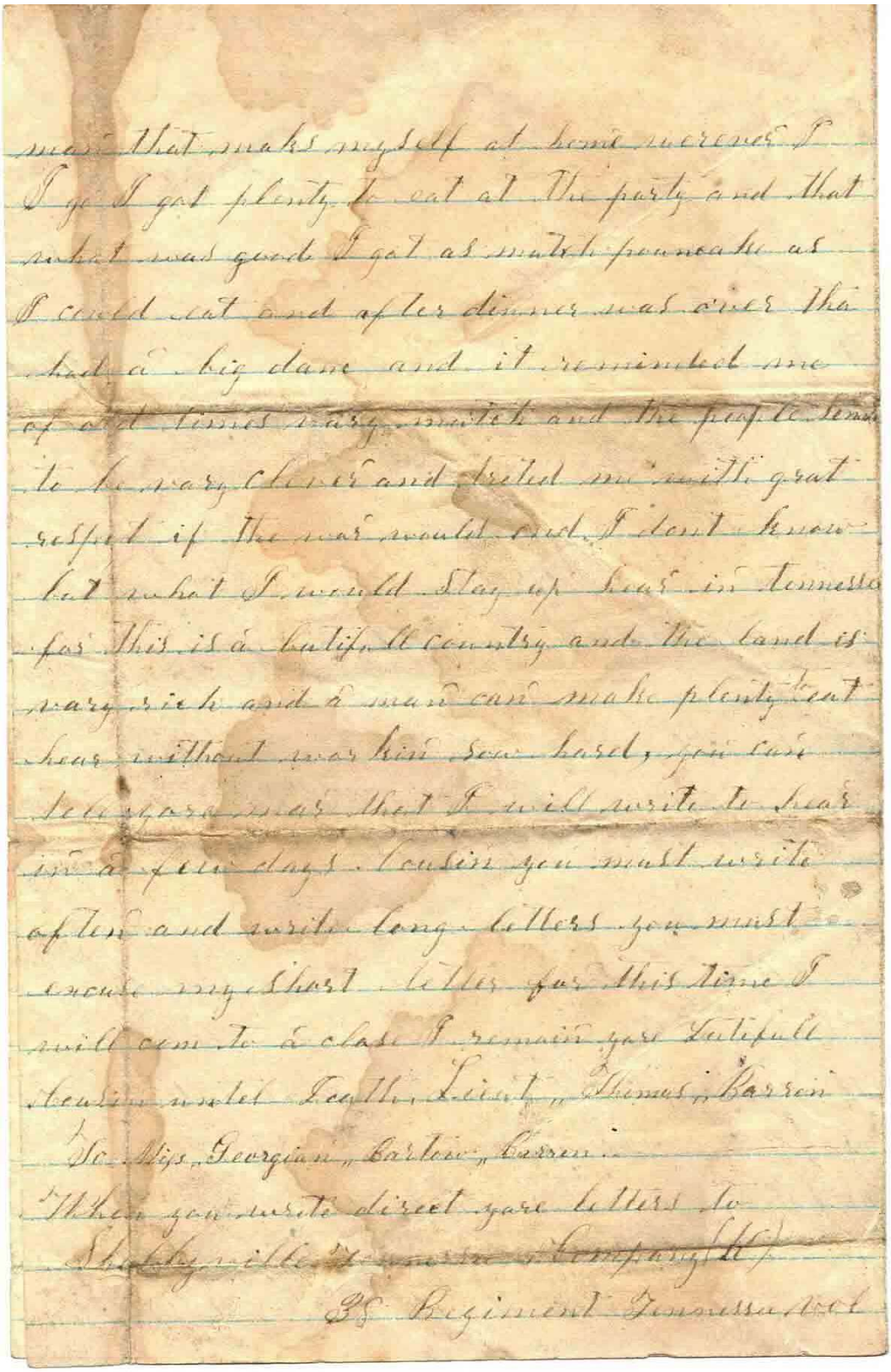
Cousin you said in your letter that you had picked
me out a sweetheart in milltown, I am glad to
think that you estimate me so hiley as to pick
me out a sweethart, if old master will permit
me to live to get thru this war I intend to
pay you a viset and all so the lady that you
have recominded to me so hiley, I reseved a
letter from Cousin Tom baring the date of
April the 26th him and your father was both
well I was truly glad to hear from them and
glad to hear that tha had sell times on the
potomac and no indescation of a fight for I hat
to hear of a fight for I dislike fighting very
much for ther is now fun in it, Cousin I have
nothing to write that will interest you Thes
few linds leves me injoyin good health and
in fine Sprit The troops of this army sems
to be in good health and fine Sprits.
I reseved a letter from father the ferst
day of may and all was well I am geting
very tired living in camps for it is one
of the lonsems places in the world.

Thomas Barron to cousin Georgiann Barron, May 3, 1863, page 3



I am glad to inform you that I have heard from cousin Josephus Moore he was at murfreesboro a bout five weeks a go his leg was a bout well but it is very crooked and the gentleman that informed me of his well fare dont think that he will ever be fit for servis any more I am sorry to think that he will be a cripel the ballence of his days he made a good Soilder and fought well I am looking for him back to the Regiment every day if I could see him com in to camps it would fill my hart with joy for I thought one that he was dead, I dont hear much talk of a fight at this place and I dont think that we will fight hear soon if we ever do we are bilding fortifycation hear at this place I will tell you som of my Travels out in the country I got a leave of absents from camps to visit the country for twelve hours and I went out a bout six miles to pick nuts and I saw som beutifull ladys and I injoyd myself the best kind I am a

Thomas Barron to cousin Georgiann Barron, May 3, 1863, page 4



man that maks myself at home wherever I
I go I got plenty to eat at the party and that
what was good I got as mutch pouncake as
I could eat and after dinner was over tha
had a big dance and it reminded me
of old times very mutch and the people seem
to be very clever and treted me with grat
respect if the war would end I dont know
but what I would stay up hear in tennessee
for this is a butifull country and the land is
very rich and a man can make plenty to eat
hear without workin sow hard, you can
tele yore mar that I will write to hear
in a few days. Cousin you must write
often and write long letters you must
excuse my short letter for this time I
will com to a close I remain yore Dutifull
Cousin untel Death, Lieut, Thomas, Barron
To Miss Georgian, Bartow, Barron.
When you write direct yore letters to
Shelbyville Tennessee Company (K)
38 Regiment Tennessee Vol

Civil War Letters to the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL

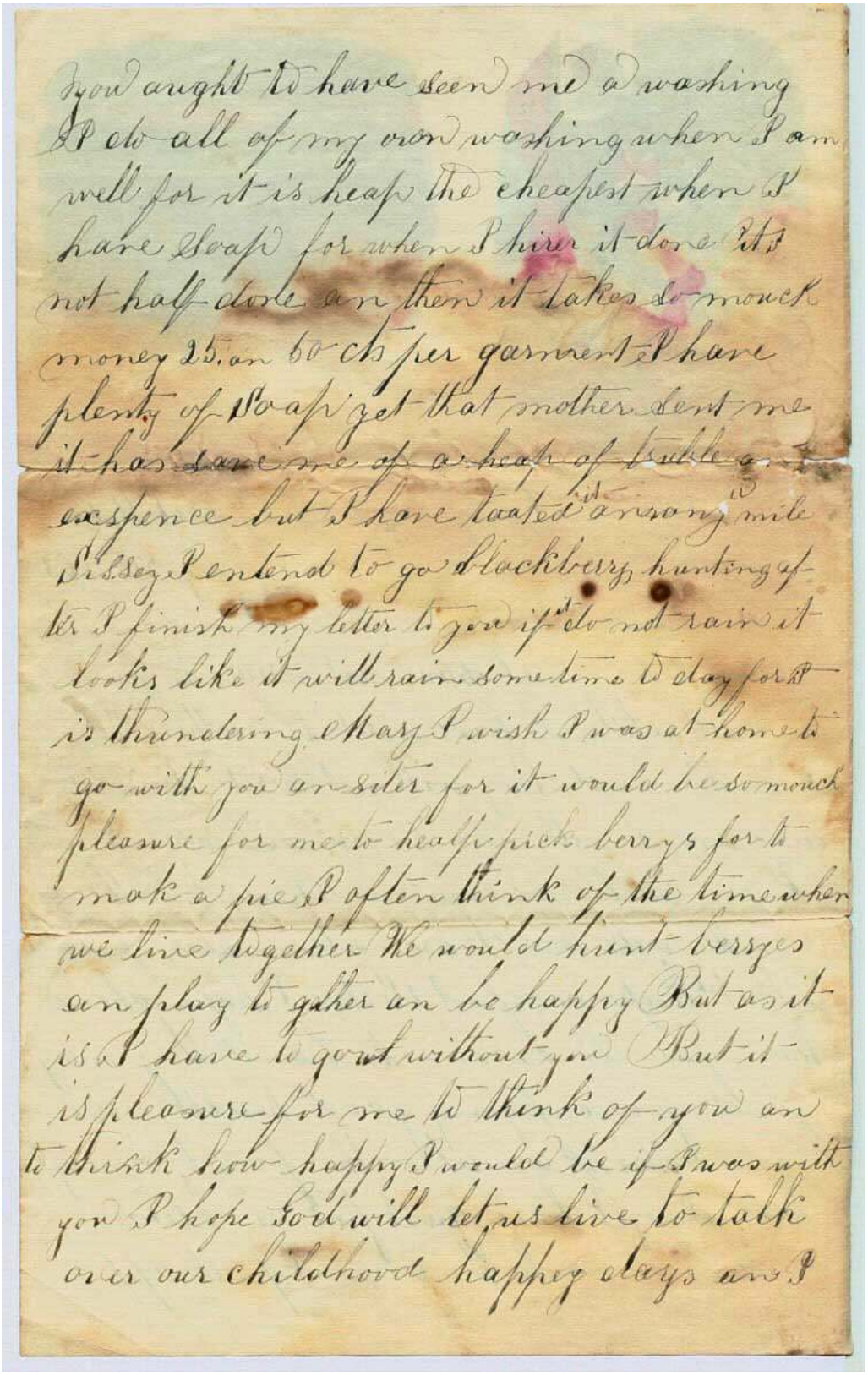
Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron to his sister, Mary (Elizabeth) Barron, July 27, 1863

In Camp near Culpeper C.H. Va
July 27th 1863.

Dear Sister

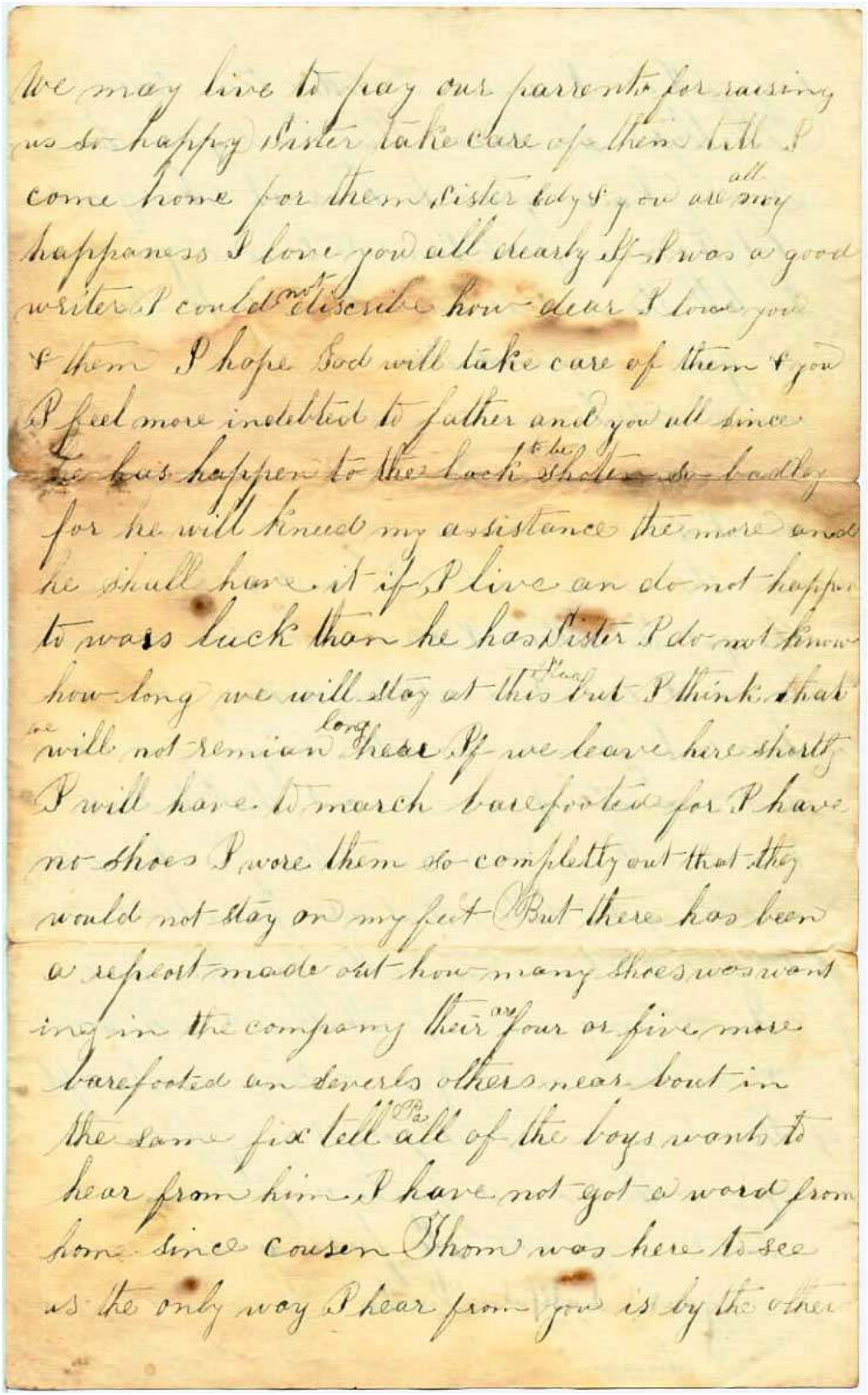
I have not writen to you in a good while I have wrote to mother Sa & sister and they will not write back to me an I will see if you will write to me I am well as common I am Bothered a little with the Rheumatism here of late But keep on foot Sister I hope when these few lines come to hand they may find you enjoying good health an in fine spirits an also the family & neighbors Sisey I have just put on clean cloths an took the ones I pull off

Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron to his sister, Mary (Elizabeth) Barron, July 27, 1863, page 2



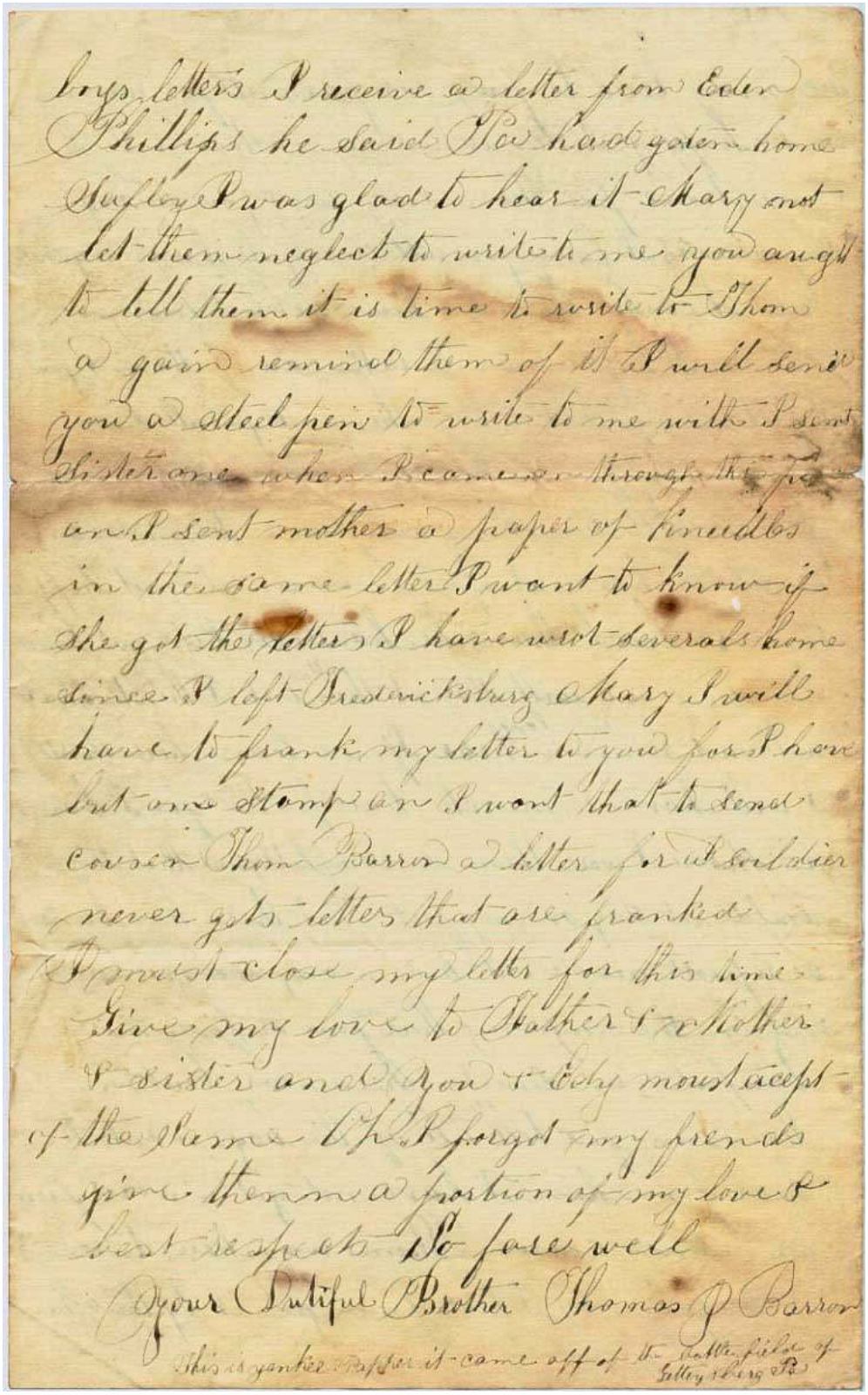
you aught to have seen me a washing
I do all of my own washing when I am
well for it is heap the cheapest when I
have Soap for when I hirer it done its
not half done an then it takes so mouch
money 25. an 60 cts per garment I have
plenty of Soap yet that mother sent me
it has save me of a heap of truble an
exspence but I have toated it an rany mile
Sissey I entend to go blackberry hunting af-
ter I finish my letter to you if it do not rain it
looks like it will rain some time to day for it
is thundering Mary I wish I was at home to
go with you an siter for it would be so mouch
pleasure for me to healp pick berrys for to
mak a pie I often think of the time when
we live together We would hunt berryes
an play to gether an be happy But as it
is I have to go out without you But it
is pleasure for me to think of you an
to think how happy I would be if I was with
you I hope God will let us live to talk
over our childhood happey days an I

Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron to his sister, Mary (Elizabeth) Barron, July 27, 1863, page 3



We may live to pay our parrents for raising
us so happy Sister take care of them till I
come home for them Sister Edy & you are all my
happaness I love you all dearly If I was a good
writer I could not discribe how dear I love you
& them I hope God will take care of them & you
I feel more indebted to father and you all since
he has happen to the luck to be shoten so badley
for he will kneed my assistance the more and
he shall have it if I live an do not happen
to wars luck than he has Sister I do not know
how long we will stay at this Place but I think that
we will not remian long here If we leave here shortly
I will have to march barefooted for I have
no shoes I wore them so completly out that they
would not stay on my feet But there has been
a repeort made out how many shoes was want
ing in the company their are four or five more
barefooted an severls others near bout in
the same fix tell Pa all of the boys wants to
hear from him I have not got a word from
home since cousen Thom was here to see
us the only way I hear from you is by the other

Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron to his sister, Mary (Elizabeth) Barron, July 27, 1863, page 4



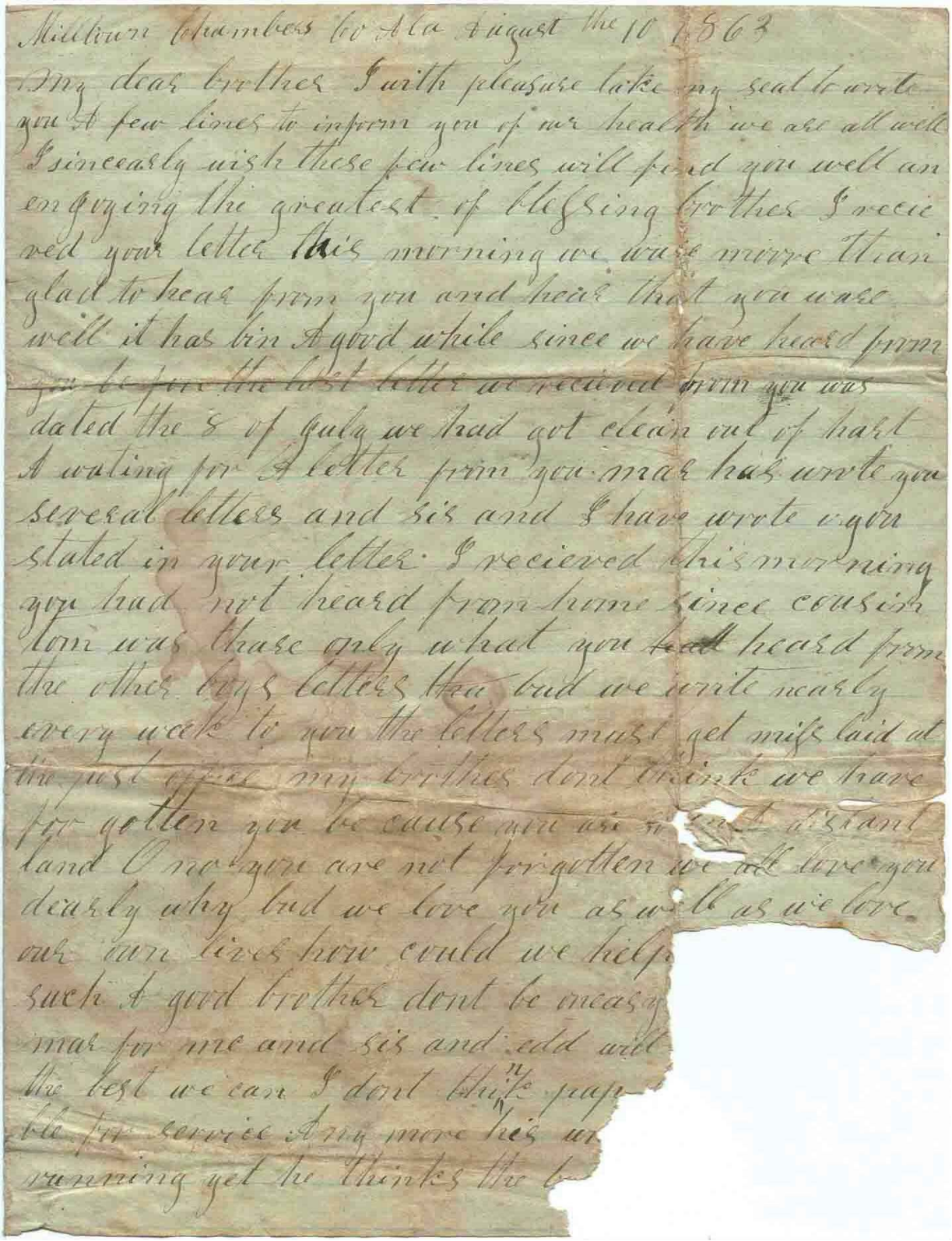
boys letters I receive a letter from Eden Phillips he said Pa had gotten home safely I was glad to hear it Mary and let them neglect to write to me you ought to tell them it is time to write to Thom a gain remind them of it I will send you a steel pen to write to me with I sent Sister one when I came through this pla- ce I sent mother a paper of needles in the same letter I want to know if she got the letter I have not heard from home since I left Fredericksburg Mary I will have to frank my letter to you for I have but one stamp on I want that to send cousin Thom Barron a letter for a soldier never gets letters that are franked I must close my letter for this time Give my love to Father & Mother & sister and you & Eby must accept of the same & I shall forget my friends give them a portion of my love & best respects So fare well

Your Dutiful Brother Thomas J Barron

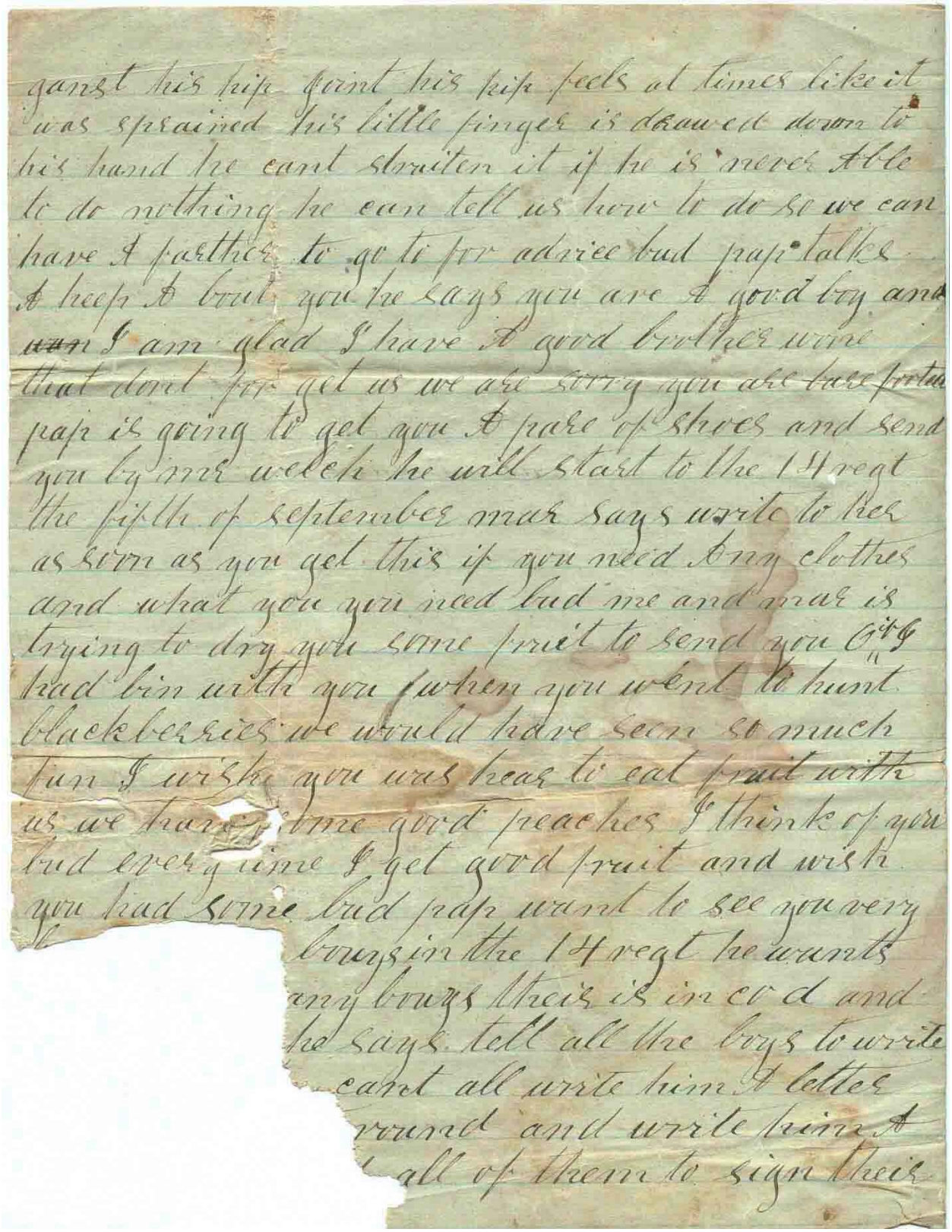
This is yankee paper it came off of the battle field of Gettysburg Pa

Note: Thomas J., the writer, and Mary, the recipient of this letter, were both children of Greenberry Barron. "Cousin Thom Barron" was the son of Robert Barron, Greenberry Barron's brother.

Mary E. (Mary Elizabeth) Barron to brother, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron, August 10, 1863

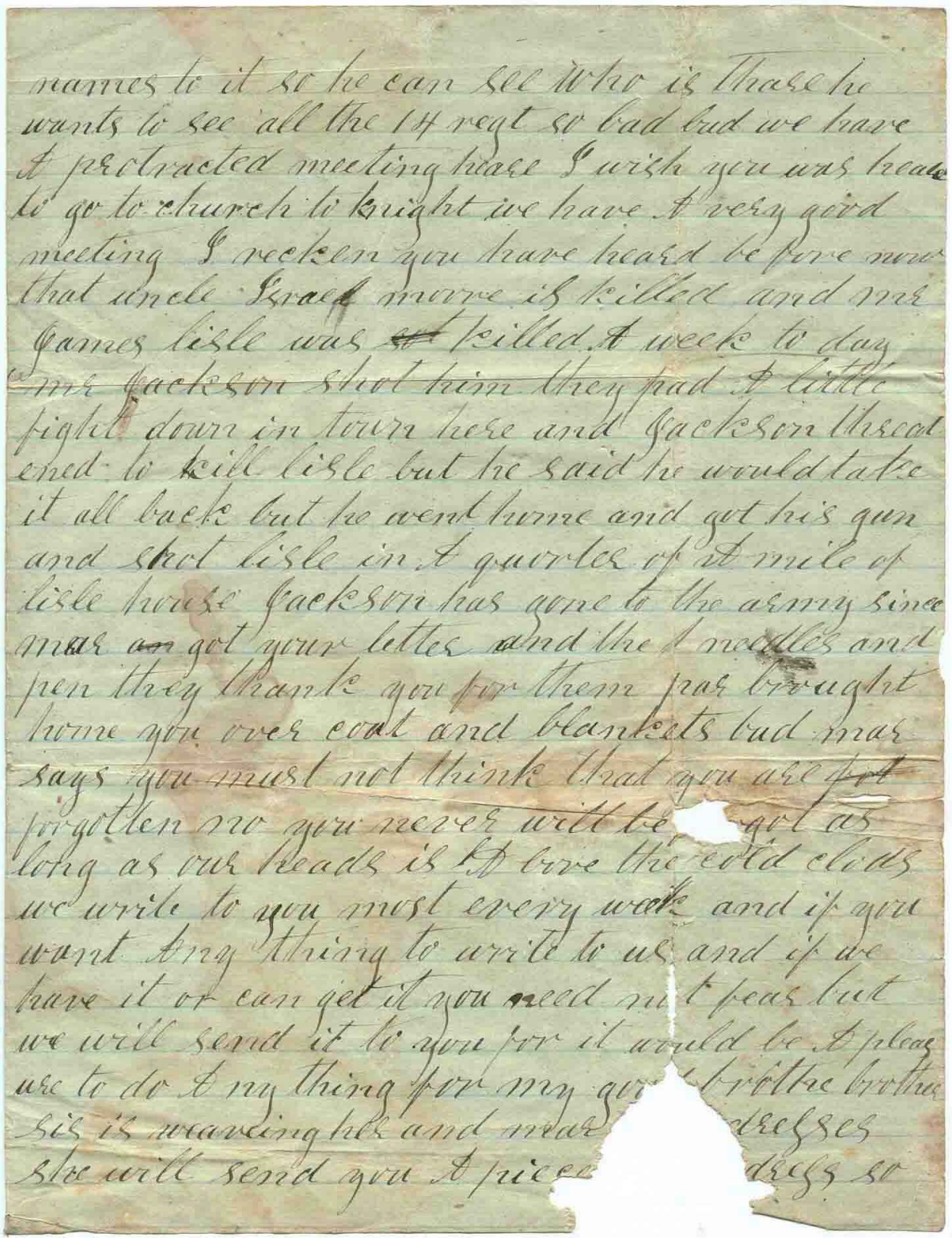


Milltown Chambers Co Ala August the 10 1863
My dear brother I with pleasure take my seat to write
you A few lines to inform you of our health we are all well
I sincearly wish these few lines will find you well an
engoying the greatest of blessing brother I recie
ved your letter this morning we ware moore than
glad to hear from you and hear that you ware
well it has bin A good while since we have heard from
you before the last letter we recieved from you was
dated the 8 of July we had got clean out of hart
A wating for A letter from you mar has wrote you
several letters and sis and I have wrote o you
stated in your letter I recieved this morning
you had not heard from home since cousin
tom was thare only what you had heard from
the other boys letters thu bud we write nearly
every week to you the letters must get miss laid at
the post office my brother dont think we have
for gotten you be cause you are so [illegible] distant
land O no you are not forgotten we all love you
dearly why bud we love you as well as we love
our own lives how could we help
such A good brother dont be oneasy
mar for me and sis and edd will
the best we can I dont think pap
ble for service Any more his w
running yet he thinks the b



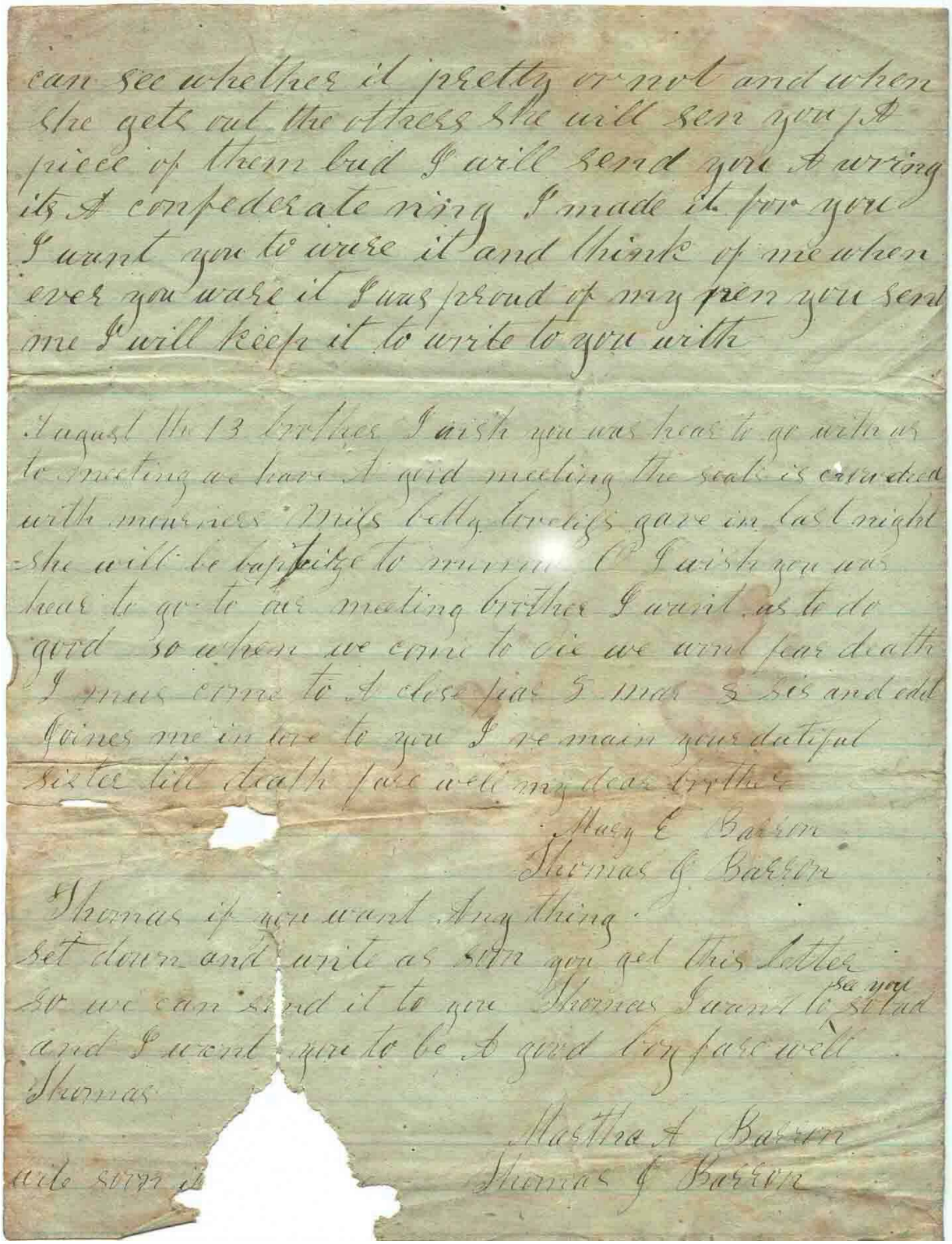
gainst his hip joint his hip feels at times like it was sprained his little finger is drawed down to his hand he cant shorten it if he is never able to do nothing he can tell us how to do so we can have a parther to go to for advice but pap talks & keeps it but you he says you are a good boy and ~~was~~ I am glad I have a good brother write that dont for get us we are sorry you are here for pap is going to get you a pare of shoes and send you by mr welch he will start to the 1st regt the fifth of september mar says write to her as soon as you get this if you need any clothes and what you you need but me and mar is trying to dry you some fruit to send you & had bin with you when you went to hunt blackberries we would have seen so much fun I wish you was hear to eat fruit with us we have some good peaches I think of you but every time I get good fruit and wish you had some but pap want to see you very bad boys in the 1st regt he wants any boys that is in co d and he says tell all the boys to write cant all write him a letter round and write him a all of them to sign their

Mary E. (Mary Elizabeth) Barron to brother, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron, August 10, 1863, page 3



names to it so he can see who is thare he
wants to see all the 14 regt so bad bud we have
A protracted meeting heare I wish you was heare
to go to church to knight we have A very good
meeting I recken you have heard be fore now
that uncle Israel moore is killed and mr
James lisle was ~~so~~ killed A week to day
mr Jackson shot him they had A little
fight down in town here and Jackson threat
ened to kill lisle but he said he would take
it all back but he went home and got his gun
and shot lisle in A quorter of A mile of
lisle house Jackson has gone to the army since
mar ~~an~~ got your letter and the A needles and
pen they thank you for them par brought
home you over coat and blankets bud mar
says you must not think that you are ~~fot~~
forgotten no you never will be [illegible] got as
long as our heads is A bove the cold clods
we write to you most every week and if you
want Any thing to write to us and if we
have it or can get it you need not fear but
we will send it to you for it would be A pleas
ure to do Any thing for my go[illegible] brothe brother
sis is weaveing her and mar [illegible] dresses
she will send you A piece [illegible] dress so

Mary E. (Mary Elizabeth) Barron to brother, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron, August 10, 1863, page 4



can see whether it pretty or not and when
she gets out the others she will sen you A
piece of them bud I will send you A wring
its A confederate ring I made it for you
I want you to ware it and think of me when
ever you ware it I was proud of my pen you sent
me I will keep it to write to you with

August the 13 brother I wish you was hear to go with us
to meeting we have A good meeting the seats is crowded
with mourners Miss betty lovelis gave in last night
she will be baptize to morrow O I wish you was
hear to go to our meeting brother I want us to do
good so when we come to die we wont fear death
I mus come to A close fear S mar S sis and edd
Joines me in love to you I re main your dutiful
sister till death fare well my dear brother

Mary E Barron
Thomas J Barron

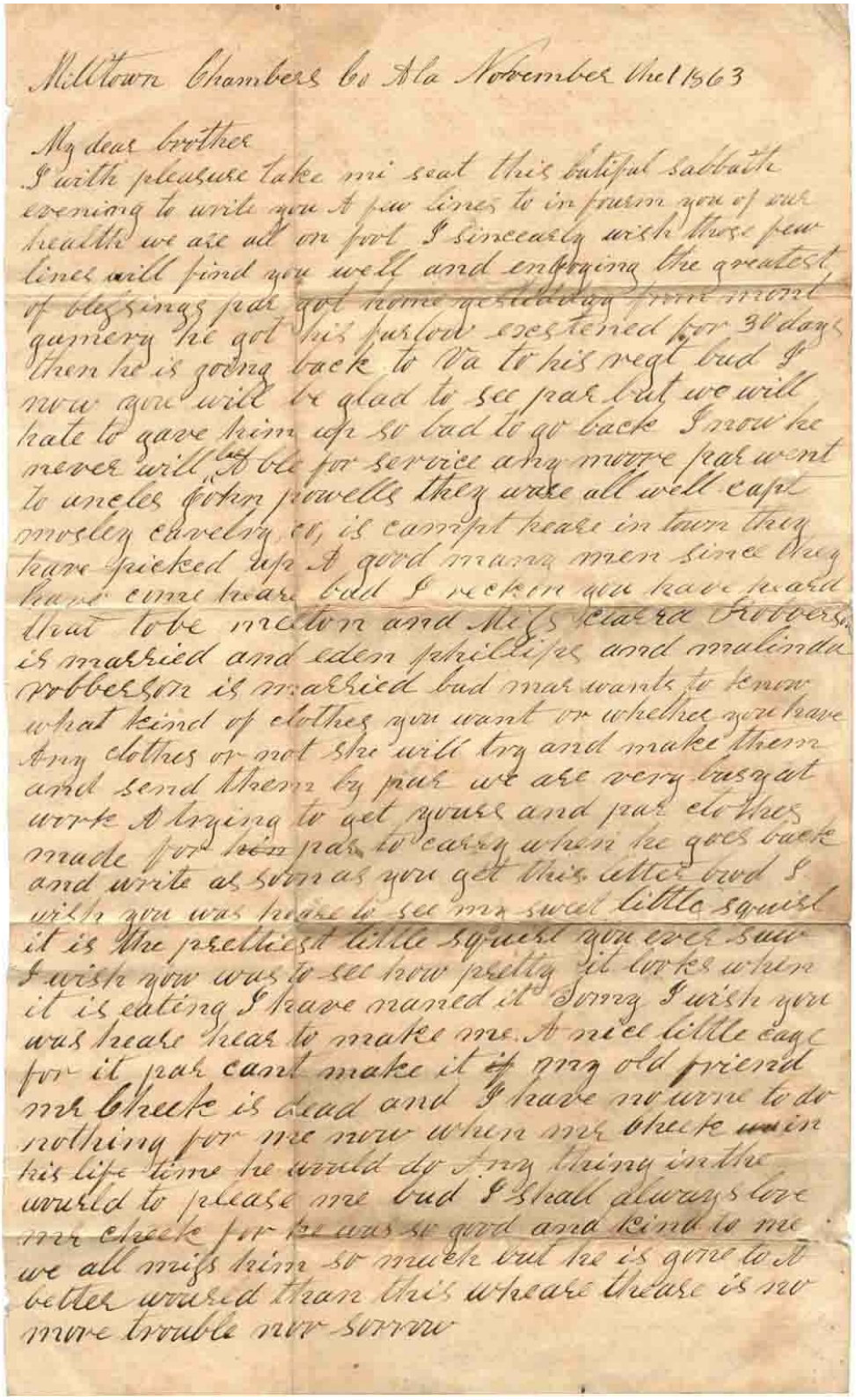
Thomas if you want Any thing
set down and write as soon you get this letter
so we can send it to you Thomas I want to see you so bad
and I want you to be A good boy fare well
Thomas

Martha A Barron
Thomas J Barron

write soon i

Note: Mary E. Barron, the writer, and Thomas J. Barron, the recipient of this letter, were both children of Greenberry Barron. "Cousin Thom Barron" was the son of Robert Barron, Greenberry Barron's brother.

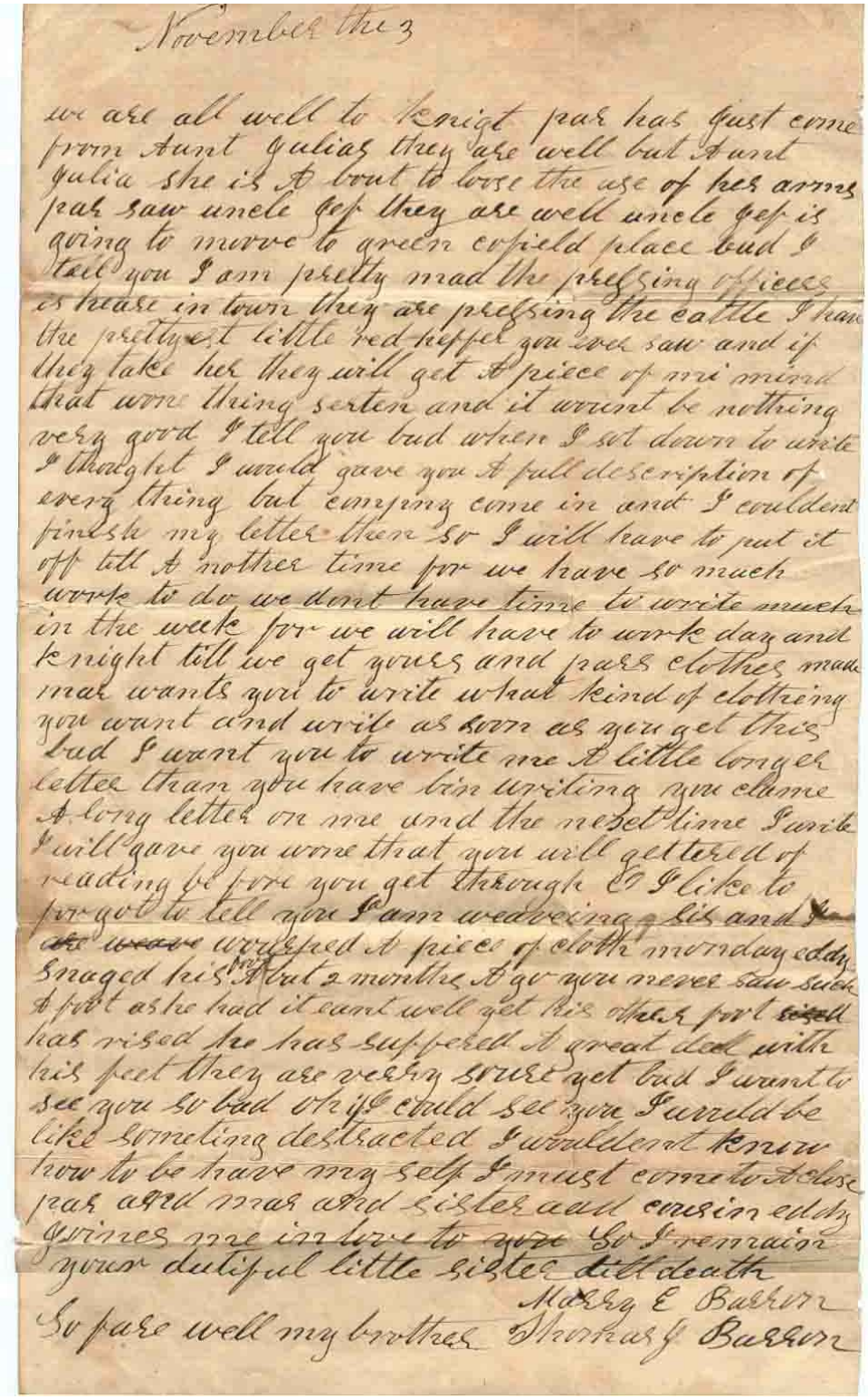
"Marry E." (Mary Elizabeth) Barron to brother, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron, November 1, 1863



Milltown Chambers Co Ala November the 1st 1863

My dear brother
I with pleasure take mi seat this butiful sabbath evening to write you A few lines to inform you of our health we are all on pot I sincearly wish these few lines will find you well and enjoying the greatest of blessings pap got home yesterday from montgomery he got his furlow exestened for 30 days then he is going back to Va to his regt bud I now you will be glad to see pap but we will hate to have him up so bad to go back I now he never will be fit for service any more pap went to uncles John powells they were all well capt moseley cavelry co, is camped heare in town they have picked up A good many men since they have come hear bud I reckon you have heard that tobe melton and Miss Laura Robbers is married and eden phillipes and malinda robberson is married bud mar wants to know what kind of clothes you want or whether you have any clothes or not she will try and make them and send them by pap we are very busy at work A trying to get yours and pap clothes made for him pap to carry when he goes back and write as soon as you get this letter bud I wish you was here to see mi sweet little squirl it is the prettiest little squirl you ever saw I wish you was to see how pretty it looks when it is eating I have named it Sonny I wish you was heare heare to make me A nice little cage for it pap cant make it if my old friend mr Cheek is dead and I have no worse to do nothing for me now when mr cheek was in his life time he would do any thing in the world to please me bud I shall always love mr cheek for he was so good and kind to me we all miss him so much but he is gone to a better world than this where there is no more trouble nor sorrow

"Marry E." (Mary Elizabeth) Barron to brother, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson) Barron, November 1, 1863, p. 2



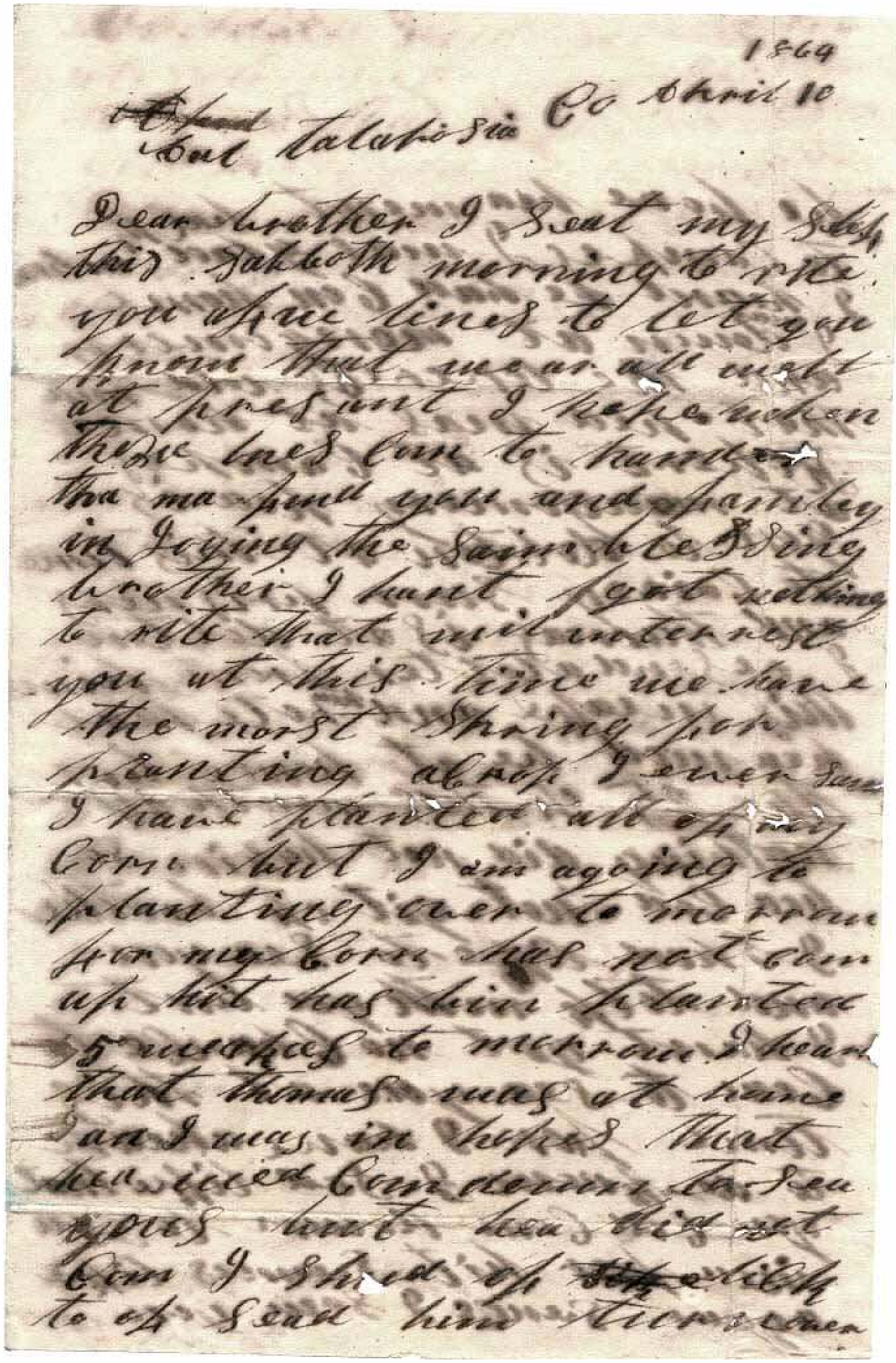
November the 3

we are all well to knigt par has just come
from Aunt Julias they are well but Aunt
Julia she is A bout to loose the use of her arms
par saw uncle Jef they are well uncle Jef is
going to moove to green cofield place bud I
tell you I am pretty mad the pressing officers
is heare in town they are pressing the cattle I have
the prettyest little red heffer you ever saw and if
they take her they will get A piece of mi mind
that wone thing serten and it wount be nothing
very good I tell you bud when I sot down to write
I thought I would gave you A full description of
every thing but compny come in and I couldent
finish my letter then so I will have to put it
off till A nother time for we have so much
work to do we dont have time to write much
in the week for we will have to work day and
knight till we get yours and pars clothes made
mar wants you to write what kind of clothing
you want and write as soon as you get this
bud I want you to write me A little longer
letter than you have bin writing you clame
A long letter on me and the next time I write
I will gave you wone that you will gettered of
reading be fore you get through & I like to
forgot to tell you I am weaveing sis and ~~I~~
~~are weave~~ wourped A piece of cloth monday eddy
snaged his foot A but 2 months A go you never saw such
A foot as he had it eant well yet his other foot ~~rised~~
has rised he has suffered A great deal with
his feet they are verry soure yet bud I want to
see you so bad oh if I could see you I would be
like someting destracted I wouldent know
how to be have my self I must come to A close
par and mar and sister and cousin eddy
joines me in love to you So I remain
your dutiful little sister till death
Marry E Barron
So fare well my brother Thomas J Barron

Note: "Marry E." Barron, the writer, and Thomas J. Barron, the recipient of this letter were both children of Greenberry Barron. The "Aunt Julia" and "Uncle Jeff" mentioned in the letter were apparently siblings of Martha Williams Barron, Greenberry's wife. Julia Frances Williams Whitaker and William Jefferson Williams both lived in Troup County, GA. Several of Jeff Williams' children married children of Green Cofield, also named in the letter.

Civil War Letters to the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL

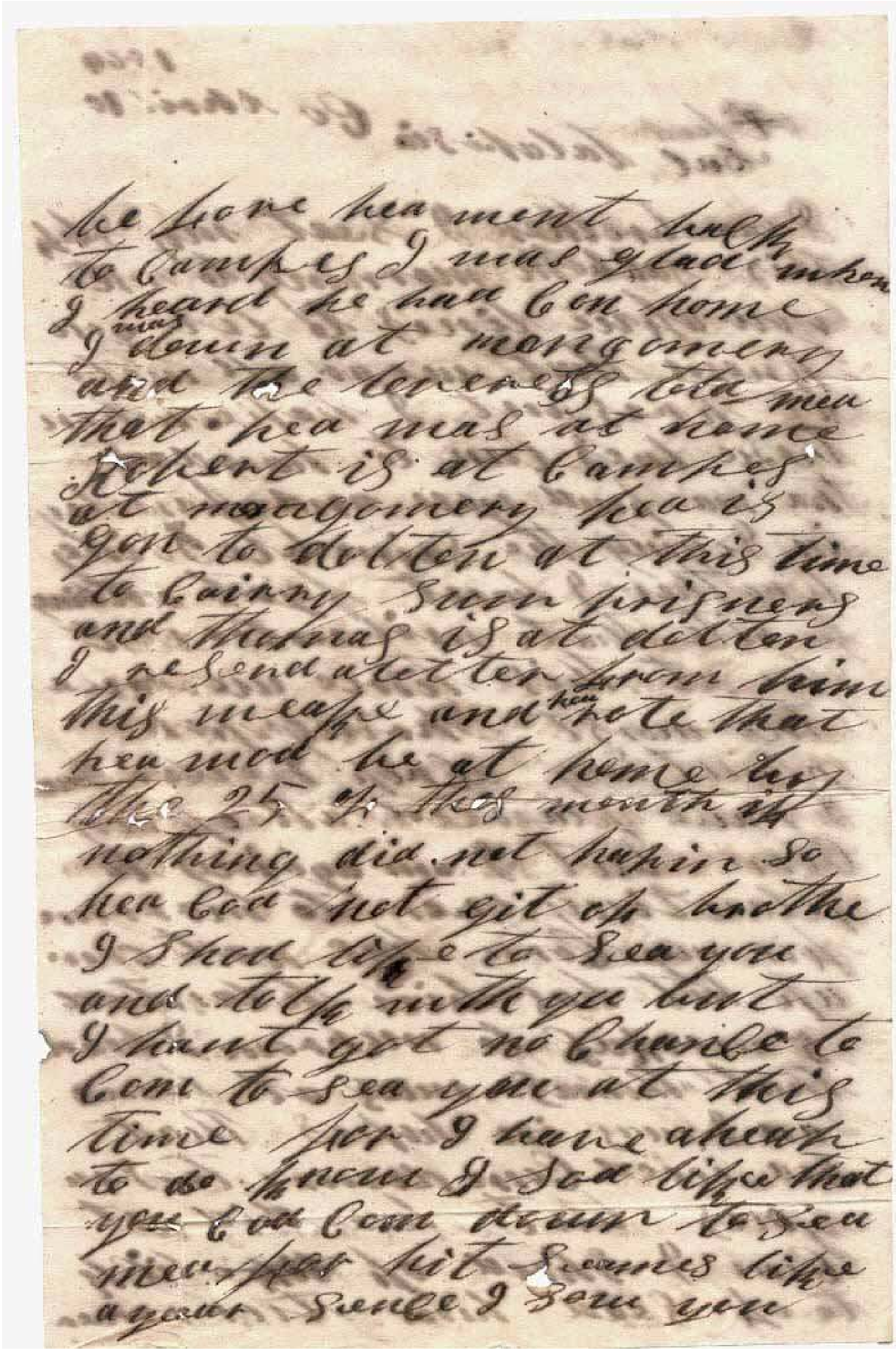
R. Barron (Robert Barron) to G. C. Barron (his brother, Greenberry Clay Barron), April 10, 1864



1864
~~Tal~~ Tal Talapoosa Co April 10

Dear brother I seat my self
this Sabboth morning to rite
you a few lines to let you
know that we ar all well
at present I hope when
these lines com to hand
tha ma find you and famley
in Joying the Same blessing
brother I hant got nothing
to rite that will interrest
you at this time we have
the worst Spring for
planting a crop I ever saw
I have planted all of my
Corn but I am agoing to
planting over to morrow
for my Corn has not com
up hit has bin planted
5 weekes to morrow I heard
that thomas was at home
and I was in hopes that
he would Com down to See
us but he did not
Com I Shud of ~~[illegible]~~ like
to of Seen him tomorrow

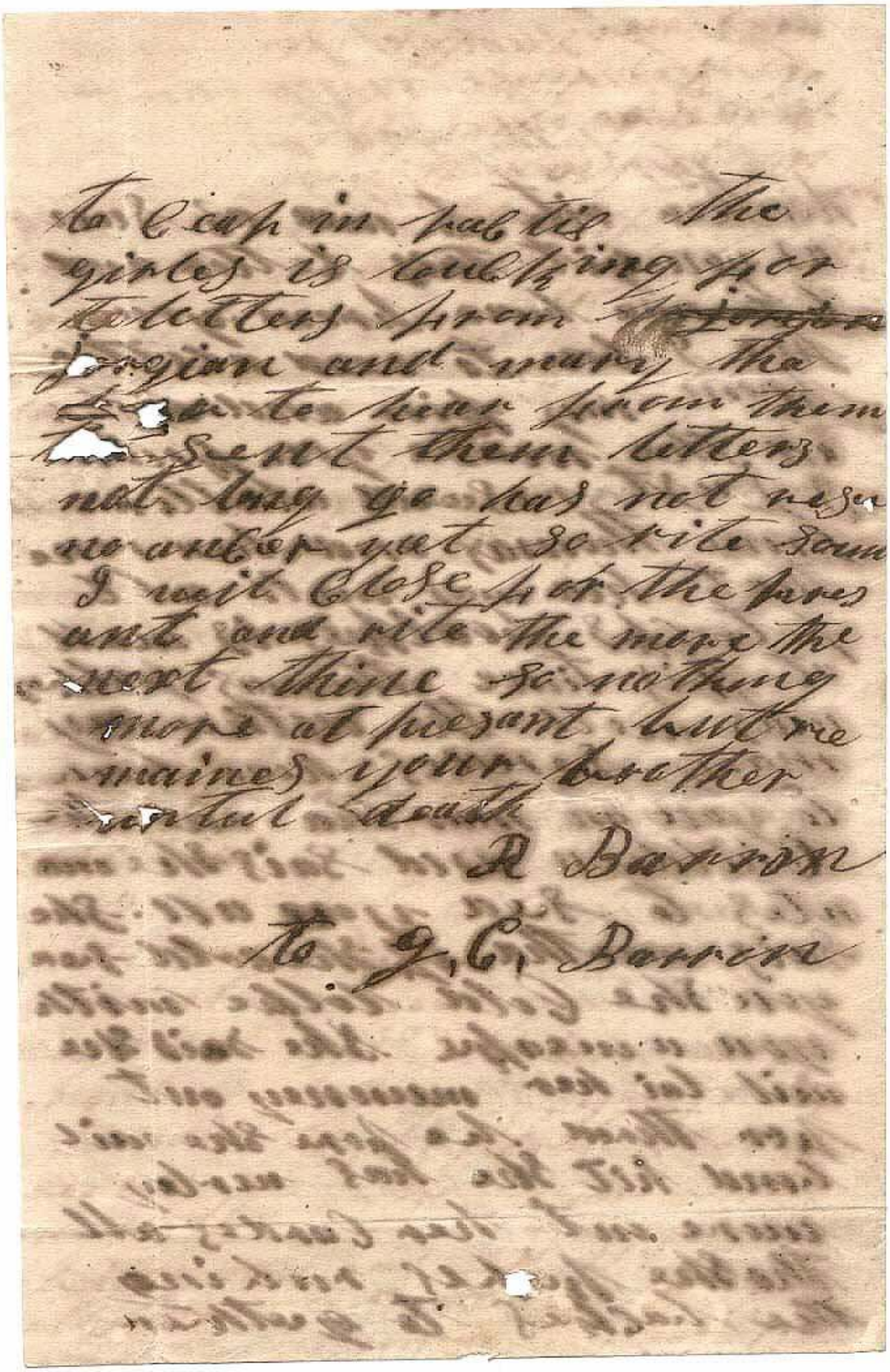
R. Barron (Robert Barron) to G. C. Barron (his brother, Greenberry Clay Barron), April 10, 1864, page 2



he have ben ment back
to campes I was glad when
I heard he had ben home
I was down at mongomery
and the tenenetts told mea
that hea was at home
Robert is at campes
at mongomery hea is
gon to dotten at this time
to cairry sum prisners
and Thomas is at dotten
I resend a letter from him
this weak and hea rote that
hea wod be at home by
the 25 of this month if
nothing did not hapin so
hea cod not git of brothe
I shod like to sea you
and tolk with you but
I hant got no chance to
com to sea you at this
time for I have a heap
to do know I sod like that
you cod com down to sea
mea for hit seames like
a year sence I sow you

R. Barron (Robert Barron) to G. C. Barron (his brother, Greenberry Clay Barron), April 10, 1864, page 3

brother rite to mea as Sun
as you git this letter and
let mea hear from you
for I love to read aletter
from my kin and
all the reade you from
I Just resceived aletter
from Thomas and hea rone
that hea was well all
patricks family is well
at this time thomas family
was well the other day
mary Sends her love
to you an martha and the
Children and Sais She wa
ntes to Sea you all. She
Sais martha if She cold Sea
you She Cold talke with
you a weake She Sais She
will lai her munney out
for them he hope She will
send hit She has nerley
wore out her Cortes all
tho She spent rutting
the hakes to gether



Letters and pictures shared by Don L. Clark from the collection of Cenus and Gladys Phillips of Chambers County, AL. Background data by Vicki Barron Kruschwitz (vkruschwitz@gmail.com).

Civil War Letters to the Greenberry Barron family of Chambers County, AL

Notes: The author of this letter, Robert Barron, b. 1807, of Tallapoosa County, AL, was writing to his younger brother, Greenberry, b. 1818, living in adjacent Chambers County, AL.

Thomas mentioned on page one was Greenberry's son, Thomas Jefferson Barron.
Robert and Thomas named on page two were Robert Barron's sons.
On page three, "patricks foalkes" referred to the family of Patrick Moore, whose wife, Pharaba, was sister to Robert and Greenberry Barron.
Also mentioned were "thomas foalkes", a reference to the family of Robert and Greenberry's brother, Thomas Barron.
Robert's wife, Mary (Moore), sent her love to Greenberry, his wife, Martha, and children.
Robert's girls asked for letters from Greenberry's daughters, "jorgian and mary" on page four.