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Margaret Anderson Uhler



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CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF MAJOR GENERAL JAMES PATTON ANDERSON

edited by MARGARET ANDERSON UHLER *

IN A TIME WHEN patriotism was among the greatest of American virtues, few men pursued it more passionately than General James Patton Anderson of the Confederate army. Born in Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee, February 16, 1822, he was the son of Margaret Adair and Colonel William Preston Anderson, a veteran of the War of 1812. His maternal grandfather was General John Adair, a hero in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812, and the eighth governor of Kentucky.¹

Young Anderson graduated from Jefferson College in Cannersburg, Pennsylvania, in October 1840, and afterward studied law in Desoto County, Mississippi. He was admitted to the bar there in 1843. He continued his studies during the summers of 1844 and 1845 at the Montrose Law School in Frankfort, Kentucky, which was conducted by his uncle, Judge Thomas Bell Monroe.

When the Mexican War began, Anderson organized a company of Mississippi volunteers and later was elected lieutenant colonel and placed in command of the battalion. At the close of the war, he returned to his legal practice in Hernando. He was elected to the Mississippi legislature from Desoto County in 1851. During his service in Mexico, Anderson's health was seriously impaired by malaria, and he was advised to move to a colder, drier climate. Jefferson Davis, secretary of war in Franklin Pierce's cabinet, secured for Anderson in 1853 the position of marshal of the new Territory of Washington.²

He accepted the appointment, and on April 30, 1853, he

* Ms. Uhler is a graduate of Georgia College in Milledgeville and a part-time English instructor at Georgia Military College and Georgia College.

1. James Barnett Adair, comp. and ed., *Adair History and Genealogy* (Los Angeles, 1924), 66.
2. General Anderson's autobiography in the James Patton Anderson Papers, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville.

married his first cousin, Henrietta Buford Adair of Morganfield, Kentucky, in Memphis, Tennessee. Within an hour after the wedding, the young couple embarked by steamer on their long journey to the west coast. Patton's enthusiastic acceptance of the adventurous life ahead, as well as his vigorous philosophy, is apparent in the lines he composed to his bride on the day of their marriage:

The wise and active conquer dangers
By daring to attempt them; sloth and folly
Shiver and shrink at sights of toil and hazard,
And make the impossibility they fear.³

The Andersons's first stop was New Orleans where they boarded a steamer to Nicaragua. From there they traveled by a small river boat up the San Juan River to Virgin Bay; another vessel took them to San Francisco, where they transferred to still another which carried them to Astoria, Oregon. The voyage took nearly two months.

The Andersons found the wilderness territory filled with challenge, and their life there one of great happiness. The invigorating climate restored Patton to robust health, and he thoroughly enjoyed his strenuous duties. His success as a public official is attested by the fact that he was elected territorial representative to Congress in 1855. He and Etta left for Washington in October, arriving for the convening of the twenty-fourth Congress.⁴

Before the end of his term, Patton was appointed by President James Buchanan in 1857 to the office of territorial governor of Washington and as superintendent of Indian affairs. He resigned this position, however, when he became convinced that war between the North and the South was imminent; he wanted to be able to serve the South. After some consultation, the Andersons accepted the invitation of their aunt, Ellen Adair White Beatty, to manage her plantation, Casa Bianca, near Monticello in north Florida.⁵ Within two years of his moving to Florida,

3. Mrs. Anderson's Album, in possession of the author.

4. Anderson autobiography.

5. Mrs. Beatty was aunt both to General and Mrs. Anderson, who were first cousins. Mrs. Beatty's first husband, Colonel Joseph M. White, was a prominent Florida lawyer and territorial representative to Congress from 1825 to 1837. *Monticello News*, February 28, 1969. Casa Bianca,

Patton purchased Casa Bianca and devoted himself to planting cotton and sugar.

In December 1860, Governor Madison Starke Perry of Florida appointed Anderson a delegate to the secession convention in Montgomery. His distinguished political background, as well as his secessionist views, made him a logical choice for this position. Later, he was elected to represent Florida in the Confederate Congress, but resigned his seat in April 1861 in order to raise a company of infantry. He was promptly elected colonel of the First Florida Regiment. His promotion to brigadier general came in February 1862, and two years later he was appointed major general.⁶

General Anderson won distinction on many battlefields—Corinth, Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge. In March 1864, he assumed command of the District of Florida, where he remained until July 1864, when he was ordered to report to Lieutenant General John Bell Hood in Atlanta. On the evening of August 31, he was severely wounded in the jaw during the Battle of Jonesboro. The wound was thought to be fatal, but he recovered sufficiently to return to Monticello. Although he never completely overcame the effects of his wound, he rejoined the army in March 1865 against the advice of his physicians. In a few weeks he surrendered after the Battle of Bentonville and was paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina, on May 2, 1865.⁷

After the war the condition of his health forced Anderson again to seek a more congenial climate. With his wife and five children, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he engaged in the insurance business and edited an agricultural magazine. Because of his refusal to sign the presidential pardon issued by President Andrew Johnson, he was unable to resume the practice of law or to hold public office. When friends attempted to have his legal disabilities removed in order that he might run for the office of mayor of Memphis, he adamantly refused. Signing the pardon, he felt, would have been dishonorable; it would have

built in 1828, was one of the largest plantations in antebellum Florida. It consisted of 6,000 acres of land and was worked by 250 slaves.

6. Anderson's commissions, February 10, 1862, and February 19, 1864, in possession of the author.
7. Mrs. Anderson to Mr. Earle, April 11, 1889, Palatka, Florida; Anderson's parole, in possession of the author.

implied a regret for what he had done, and he had no such regrets. "And if his life was to go over, he would do just as he had unless, *if possible*, he would be more devoted to the cause."⁸

He died on the ninth anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga, a day he always remembered with pride. "How we whipped them that day!" he delighted in recalling. He remained unreconstructed to the end. His obituary in the *Frankfort Yeoman* stated: "For cool courage and promptness in action he had no superior and was idolized by his men and officers. Of striking personal mien, tall and muscular, with very dark hair and eyes, he was at all times a singularly handsome man, but in battle presented a figure on horseback which seemed the very impersonation of manly valor."⁹

After the general's death, his family lived for ten years with Mrs. Anderson's brother, Cromwell Adair, in Morganfield, Kentucky. In 1883 they moved to Palatka, Florida, where Mrs. Anderson and four of her five children lived for the rest of their lives. There Mrs. Anderson organized the Patton Anderson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and served as its president until her death in 1917.¹⁰

The following letters written by General Anderson to his wife between January 8, 1862, and May 19, 1864, provide a rare insight into the general's domestic life. They also contribute new commentary on the campaigns in eastern Tennessee and northern Georgia, about which most of his correspondence was concerned. The letters are reproduced here in the same form which appears; in the James Patton Anderson collection in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida, Gainesville. No changes have been made in either the spelling or punctuation.

Mrs. Anderson was at Casa Bianca when the first letter of this series describing the Battle of Murfreesboro (December 31, 1862-January 3, 1863) was written. Several weeks later, she joined her husband in Tennessee. The account of General Breckinridge's retreat mentioned in this letter is discussed more fully in General Anderson's autobiography: "We reached the scene of conflict

8. Mrs. Anderson to Earle, April 11, 1889.

9. Quoted in *ibid.*

10. Conversations with General and Mrs. Anderson's youngest daughter, Margaret Bybee Anderson, of Palatka, between 1940 and 1960. She was born at Casa Bianca, May 12, 1866, and died in Palatka, May 6, 1965.

about sundown and after the heaviest fighting was over-in time, however, to have several officers and men of our skirmish line severely wounded, and by interposing a fresh line between the victorious enemy and Breckinridge's shattered columns, gave time for the latter to rally and resume a line they had held in the morning. This affair gave rise to much bitter feeling between General Bragg and Major General Breckinridge; Bragg in his official report having animadversed very severely upon Breckinridge's conduct and having attributed more (I think) to my brigade than it was entitled to. On the other hand, Breckinridge hardly did us justice, or rather his friends who discussed the matter in public print, did not give me due credit for our conduct or operations on that occasion. They rather contended that I had reached the ground after the fight was over and although we came with good intentions, and doubtless would have rendered efficient service if it had been necessary, yet there was nothing to be done after our arrival. The facts are, however, as I have stated them here, and as I stated them in my official report on that occasion, a copy of which I sent to General Breckinridge, whereupon he wrote me a very complimentary note characterizing the report as one 'that was truthful and manly.' " ¹¹

Mrs. Anderson shed additional light on this incident by inserting a note of her own at this point in her handwritten copy of her husband's autobiography: "I was up at the army when this discussion was going on. You heard it *everywhere* by friends and enemies. *All* gave the brigade and Genl. Anderson credit for all that Genl. Bragg and Genl. Robertson claimed for them. . . . " ¹² The note Genl. A. refers to - I was in the room when Genl. Breckinridge returned my husband's report, with this *note*. Genl. A. threw it into my lap saying, 'You will value that'-and I did. But it was burned two years after the war-with most of

11. Major General John Cabell Breckinridge was vice-president of the United States from 1856 to 1859. Before the expiration of his term, he was elected to the United States Senate by the Kentucky legislature. Major General Braxton Bragg's unpopularity was caused in part by his mismanagement of victories. After the battles of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga, he failed to follow through his advantages, and later yielded up his fields to the Federals. His corps commanders expressed lack of confidence in him, an opinion shared by officers and soldiers. He was considered to have had patriotism and integrity, but to have been lacking in emotional stability. See Bell Irvin Wiley, *Embattled Confederates* (New York, 1964), 54.

12. Brigadier General Felix Huston Robertson was chief of artillery.

his official correspondence in his private desk-at St. Marks, Fla. in a warehouse. . . . Genl. Breckinridge would not send in his report until he had seen Genl. A.'s. They were intimate friends and distant relations. There is no use talking-Genl. Breckinridge was drunk at that *battle* & had his men cut all to pieces. Genl. Bragg would not stand drinking in any of his officers."

Bragg's official report stated that Anderson's brigade encountered the enemy's light troops close upon the Confederate artillery which had been left without support. "This noble brigade, under its cool and gallant chief," wrote Bragg, "drove the enemy back, and saved all the guns not captured before its arrival." He further stated that Anderson deserved special mention "for the coolness, judgement, and courage with which he interposed his brigade between our retreating forces and the enemy, largely superior to him, on Friday evening, and saved our artillery."¹³

Breckinridge's biographer takes issue with both Bragg and General Robertson on this matter. He suggests that their official reports were highly inaccurate, particularly Robertson's, which gave Anderson sole credit for saving Breckinridge's division and preventing a rout, "a remark which Anderson himself later regarded as much more than he was entitled to."¹⁴ Davis is apparently citing Anderson's autobiography, though the meaning is not entirely clear when taken out of context. Davis also denies that Breckinridge had a drinking problem, but Mrs. Anderson's account of at least one occasion of inebriation was taken from eyewitness reports.¹⁵

Winchester, Tenn. Jan'y 8th 1862

I telegraphed you from Shelbyville two days ago that I was well. It was the first opportunity that I had after the battle of the 31st Dec. Again, I have had much to be thankful for. While so many were killed and wounded, I escaped without a scratch. You will wonder why I am here, after such a victory at Murfreesboro. Well, I do not know that I can give any satisfactory reply

13. Bragg's report in John Fitch, *Annals of the Army of the Cumberland* (Philadelphia, 1863), 666, 670.

14. William C. Davis, *Breckinridge, Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* (Baton Rouge, 1974), 353.

15. *Ibid.*, 394.

to the inquiry. On Sunday night (the 3rd) after lying in the trenches in the rain and mud for nine days and fighting more or less all the time with but little opportunity to cook and eat, the men were in such an exhausted condition that it was thought best by our Generals to fall back to where our baggage and provisions had been previously sent, to wit, to this place. We arrived here last night and will return to Shelbyville this evening or tomorrow. The troops are resting and cooking rations. I am commanding Walthall's Brigade in Withers' Div. of Polk's Corps.¹⁶ It is composed of the 24th, 27th, 29th, 30th, & 37th Miss. & the 45th Alabama. All except the 29th you will observe, are my old troops. When my Division was broken up, a portion assigned to Hardee¹⁷ and the rest to Polk, I fell to the latter. At the same time Col. Walthall of Miss. was promoted to a Brigadier and was given the Miss. Regiments to command. I was assigned to a brigade composed of three Ala. and two So. Ca. Regiments. The day before the battle Genl. Walthall was taken quite sick. The Mississippians petitioned for me to command them in the fight. Their petition was granted. So I commanded them in the fight and will continue to do so, till Genl. Walthall's recovery. They behaved most gallantly as Mississippians have always done in this war. They took *nine* pieces of artillery but lost many of their best officers and men. One Regiment alone (the 30th) had 62 men killed and 132 wounded on one acre of ground, just in front of the enemy battery. This is, I believe, the heaviest loss of any one Regt in any one fight of the war. The others lost many, but not so many as the 30th. The total loss of killed and wounded in the Brigade (none missing) was 732. About 216 more than any other Brigade in the fight. The victory was a great one, though I am afraid its whole moral effect will be lost by our falling back. We took altogether about five thousand prisoners, 31 pieces of artillery and any number of colors, wagons, mules, horses. etc. I see by the papers that the Tennesseans did *all* the fighting!! That they took the batteries etc. the very ones which the Mississippians charged. Well, they may have *taken* them, but it was after my Brigade had driven

16. Brigadier General Edward Cary Walthall, Twenty-ninth Mississippi Infantry; Major General Jones Mitchell Withers, Third Alabama Infantry; Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk.

17. Lieutenant General William Joseph Hardee.

the enemy from his guns and were *pursuing him two hundred yards in advance* of the Tennessee troops! Who will ever be able to write a *truthful* history of this war?

The Floridians were not in the main fight of the 31st. They are in Gen. Wm. Preston's (of Ky) Brigade.¹⁸ They were in the fight of the evening of the 2nd Jany when Breckinridge on the right attacked the enemy's left, and was *repulsed* with heavy loss. My Brigade was ordered over to his support late in the evening, but not in time to prevent the rout which had begun *before* I got there. I formed a line between them and the enemy, which enabled our officers to rally their men while night put a stop to pursuit by the enemy. Of this however you need not speak. The Floridians lost but few. I cannot hear of any casualties among our acquaintances except Lt. John Bailey who was wounded; how severely I could not learn.¹⁹ My informant could only tell me that it was not a dangerous wound.

I recd a letter from Aunt Ellen [Beatty] a day or two before the battle dated 17th Dec. in which she said you were writing at that time. Yours has not yet been received. . . . I fear my letter to her and yours to me had a collision somewhere between Murfreesboro and this place while everything there was being sent back here so rapidly. Perhaps they will turn up here after a while.

I dont know now when I can get home. The campaign here proposes to be an active one: Genl Bragg is more unpopular with the army than ever since he fell back from a victorious field. The victory was a much more decisive one than that at Perryville [Kentucky, October 7-8, 1862], but I doubt if we reap any of its fruits beyond the artillery and other captured property which we brought away. But all that and much more would not repay us for the loss of four or five thousand gallant men.

I do want to see you and the boys so badly. Kiss them all a thousand times for me. Willie and The and Pat, bless their souls: and they must each kiss you for me also.²⁰ Love to Aunt.

18. Brigadier General William Preston of Kentucky. The First, Third, and Fourth Florida regiments were part of his brigade in the Battle of Murfreesboro.

19. Second Lieutenant John T. Bailey of Jefferson County, First Florida Regiment, was mortally wounded at the Battle of Murfreesboro.

20. Anderson's three sons were all born at Casa Bianca; William Preston Anderson, July 14, 1856; Theophilus Beatty Anderson, July 27, 1858; and James Patton Anderson, Jr., October 2, 1860.

I believe I wrote to you that Uncle Tom Monroe was dead.²¹ He died at Mr. Hardin's about a month ago, so Genl. Breckinridge tells me.²² Love to Mol and her Gals.²³ Remember me to all the servants especially Charles and Aunt Ann, Rebecca and Alice. The boys are all well and send *howdys*.²⁴

Tell Harry I saw Willie on the day of the fight.²⁵ He had two horses killed under him but was not hurt himself. I never saw him looking so well.

Here's a thousand kisses from

Your
Patton

Shelbyville Tenn. Jan'y 11 1862

I wrote you a few days ago from Winchester and remarked that I expected to return to this place. A few hours after I wrote, I was placed in command of Withers' Division in Polk's Corps, and ordered to return to Shelbyville. Genl Withers has gone home sick on thirty days leave of absence.

I have little to add to what I wrote before: Am quite well, comfortably fixed in a house, and the citizens appear anxious to do all they can to contribute to our comforts. Genl Cheatham is in command of the Corps.²⁶ I can give no further particulars of the battles near Murfreesboro, having been on the march and counter march nearly all the time. To day, however, the sun shines brightly, looking more like spring than midwinter.

We do not expect another battle in this region this winter. We take Duck River as a line of defense, and feel confident that Rosecrans, in his badly shattered condition, will not-nay

21. Judge Thomas Bell Monroe, uncle of both General and Mrs. Anderson, conducted the Montrose Law School in Frankfort, Kentucky, where General Anderson received part of his legal education. Adair, *History and Genealogy*, 88.

22. Mark Hardin, a lawyer of Frankfort, was a brother-in-law of Judge Monroe. *Ibid.*, 104.

23. "Mollie" was Mary Adair (Mrs. Robert) Scott, younger sister of Mrs. Anderson, who lived in Monticello. Her "gals" were Margaret Elizabeth (Lizzie), born December 1859; Annetta (Netta), born July 12, 1861; and Adair, born February 3, 1864. *Ibid.*, 136.

24. "The boys" were the slaves Anderson had taken with him and were probably the sons of Charles and Aunt Ann. Rebecca was Mrs. Beatty's personal maid and Alice was the children's nurse.

25. "Willie" was possibly William Murray, a bugler in Company C, 5th Battalion, Cavalry of Florida.

26. Major General Benjamin Franklin Cheatham.

cannot-advance upon us.²⁷ Indeed I think it more probable that our Cavalry under Morgan, Forrest, Wheeler, and Wharton will so harrass him, in his position about Murfreesboro, that he will find it necessary to fall back to Nashville before the first of March.²⁸

In assigning me to command of Withers' Division, Genl Bragg intimated that it was to be a permanent thing, though I do not desire it or expect it really. I would prefer the *Brigade* of Mississippians, which I had in the Murfreesboro fight to any Division in the Army. It is true, it composes a part of the Division, but the other Brigades are not all like it. Their conduct on the field has reflected additional lustre upon the arms of their state, and has won for me the position now assigned me. Alone and unassisted, they took nine pieces of artillery and brought them off the field. I do not calculate on a Major Generalship for the reason that there are already as many as there are Divisions for them to command.

Love to Aunt Ellen, I wish I could spend a month at least with you all, about this time. I think the *peace plot* thickens at the North: God grant it may come speedily and honorably to us. Kiss Willie & The & Pat for me. Remember me to the servants. A bushel of kisses for yourself from

Your
Patton

Eight months passed between the last letter of January 11, 1862, and the next one of September 7, 1862. Mrs. Anderson had joined her husband in Tennessee the previous March with her three boys, and their nurse, Alice. They lived in tents and apparently were accepted as a normal addition to the army. When General Anderson left the region to go on the Kentucky campaign (August-October, 1862), Mrs. Anderson returned to Casa Bianca where she received this letter.

27. Major General William S. Rosecrans, commander of the Army of the Cumberland.

28. Brigadier General John Tyler Morgan of Alabama. Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest of Tennessee was a close personal friend of General Anderson and was a pallbearer at his funeral. Obituary of General Anderson, ca. September 22, 1872, in Mrs. Anderson's scrapbook, Anderson Papers. Major General Joseph Wheeler; and Major General John Austin Wharton.

Sparta Tenn. Sept 7th 1862

To day being Sunday and the men and animals tired from the toilsome march across the mountains-we rest. But will proceed to morrow in the work of redeeming Tenn. and Ky. Thus far everything has worked well. Kirby Smith's²⁹ and Lee's³⁰ successes with our advance movement has caused Buell to "change his base."³¹ I believe he will fall back into Ohio or Indiana.

I am quite well - suffered some with my ear for two or three days after I left you but for the last forty eight hours, have not felt it at all. Indeed, my general health has improved. We have had no rain yet, consequently the dust is very suffocating on the march; but we have reached a region of cornfields, clover patches -running water, all of which rejoices the heart of both man and beast.

I believe all of our Monticello boys are well. I saw D. Williams yesterday; he has stood the march finely.³² I write in great haste at Col Beard's board in the open air and have no time to elaborate.³³

Kiss the dear boys Willie, The, & Pat. Much love to Aunt. I wish you and she were here in this region somewhere. We meet no Union people this side of the mountains.

Your
Patton

Mrs. Anderson remained at Casa Bianca during the autumn of 1862-1863. With the arrival of spring, she again made plans to join her husband who was back in Tennessee. Custom dictated that before summer, the women and children made their annual exodus from Florida's miasmatic climate, considered to be "all right for men and mules, but hell on women and horses." One cannot fail to marvel at the implication that families were be-

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29. General Edmund Kirby Smith was born in St. Augustine, May 16, 1824. In September 1862, his successful invasion of Kentucky was expected to be "the beginning of the expulsion of all Yankees from Southern soil." Joseph Howard Parks, *General Edmund Kirby Smith, C.S.A.* (Baton Rouge, 1954), 220.
 30. General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.
 31. Major General Don Carlos Buell.
 32. Darius Williams, Co. I, First Florida Infantry. Florida Board of State Institutions, *Soldiers of Florida in the Seminole Indian-Civil, and Spanish-American Wars* (Tallahassee, 1903), 75.
 33. Lieutenant Colonel William K. Beard of Tallahassee, First Florida Regiment.

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lied safer within shooting distance of the enemy's army than they were at home where smallpox and yellow fever posed even graver threats. An outbreak of smallpox in Monticello a few months before could have prompted General Anderson's concern mentioned in the following letter.³⁴

Shelbyville Tenn. March 19, 1863

Yours of the 10th has just been received. It is the first line I have had from you since the 2nd. Before this, you will have received two or three more of mine written since the one of Feb. 21st by Lt. Davidson.³⁵ I don't know why the mails take such freaks. At one time I received a letter from you in *five* days after it was written. And began to hope that I would hear more frequently than before, especially while I was stationary at Shelbyville. I perceive that you have limited yourself to one letter a week now. I suppose on account of the scarcity of paper, or because you are so busily employed about your domestic concerns. I shall feel anxious and uneasy until I hear how Pat is. I don't know why the children have been so subject to these fevers of late, unless it may be attributed to your occupying a ground floor. (By the way, you wrote me last fall that you had moved downstairs and I have enquired once or twice since, and you forget in your letters to answer whether you are still there or not?)-I don't know what is detaining Col. Beard and Harry. If they started as you supposed they would on last Thursday (13th) they should have been here two days ago. I suspect they did not start. If you have made up your mind to come on here, I am sorry you didnt come with them, instead of waiting for Capt. Strain.³⁶ His health is not good and withal is, I expect, not so well up to all the tricks of travel as Col. Beard. You seem determined though, and say that you would rather have my approval or disapproval of the move. I am so anxious to see you that it *cannot* meet with my disapproval. I do fear the fatiguing effects of the trip upon you and the children, as well as the exposure to smallpox etc. (That's another question you have not answered-has the vaccination taken properly on all three of them?) By all means do not let

34. Jerrell H. Shofner, *History of Jefferson County* (Tallahassee, 1976), 260.

35. Lieutenant William Davidson of Quincy, Florida, was General Anderson's aide-de-camp.

36. Captain M. H. Strain commanded Co. H, Third Florida Infantry.

them stir from home till they have been vaccinated and it has properly taken. You do not believe the stories about smallpox being in Monticello. It may not be there, but it is best to act as if it were there. If you come, you must telegraph me from Savannah to Shelbyville, so that I can have a place for you to go to. Every nook and corner is full to overflowing. And I think it probable you will have to stop at Winchester. If you should get there and not hear from me, enquire for Mr. Frank Estill. He will provide lodgings at his own house or somewhere else-or for Mrs. Hutchins, and old friend of Mother's. Or for Mrs. Frizell whose son married Miss Scruggs in the neighborhood of Casa Bianca. Capt. Foster, my quartermaster is also there now, as Post Quartermaster.³⁷ He will take it as a favor if you will call upon him for anything you want. I have mentioned all these names, so that there may be no mistake about it. I feel sure that some of them would be able, and all of them would be willing to furnish you temporary accommodations. And I mention Winchester as a stopping place for you, in case you should come up that far and find the military condition of things at Tullahoma and Shelbyville such as to make it inadvisable for you to venture further. Winchester is two miles from Decherd station on the road whence an omnibus would take you to Winchester. On arriving at Decherd (in case you conclude not to come on to Shelbyville) you had better stop there where there is a pretty good tavern, and write Capt. Foster a note to procure a place in Winchester.-But I have written as though you were coming *sure enough!* The very *thought* of seeing you so soon makes me wild with delight. I have been so fortunate during this war, and have so much to be thankful for that I can hardly hope for this crowning act of good fortune, but I *will* hope.

Davidson did not get his leave extended, so I look for him on the 22nd and I do not much expect to see Col. Beard before that time.

Since I commenced writing this letter Genl. Withers has re-

37. Captain Thaddeus Foster of Gainesville, brigade quartermaster, did meet Mrs. Anderson upon her arrival in Winchester. She had traveled all day, probably by train and stage, with her children, their nurse, and her mother-in-law. Mrs. Anderson found Captain Foster's presence welcome and reassuring: "It was a great comfort to know you had a real soldier to advise you." Mrs. Anderson to an unidentified "Friend," undated letter, Anderson Papers.

turned from Mobile, so I suppose I will go back to my Brigade tomorrow. I have not seen the General yet but will go and see him in the morning. His Division is in most excellent condition now-better than it was before, and by far the best in Genl. Bragg's Army. If it does not make its mark in the next great battle, it will not be the fault of the subordinate officers and men. I received today a letter from Judge McGehee which I will answer soon.³⁸ I suppose your visit has brought me this favor.

You rather ridicule my letter of the 19th ulto. speaking of it in a former letter as a "lecture," and now in this you call it my "letter on propriety." I certainly did not intend it to be either the one or the other; but as you had, in former times, when we were more together than we have been permitted to be of late, frequently asked me to counsel with you freely about such things, I venture to *advise*, not *lecture*. I still think it was not a *prudent* thing for you to do, although you took the precaution to have the children and Miss Sylvester with you.³⁹ I think it was not less imprudent in Miss Sylvester herself. I think the manner in which she is living at Mr. Hamilton's is very imprudent, and I would rather you had gone alone than to have taken her with you.⁴⁰ Mark this prediction, she will be extremely fortunate if her name does not become common on the tongue of scandal before another year rolls around. Not that there will be the slightest foundation for it-for *that* I do not believe-but merely because in her daily walk, she affords the opportunity for it. *That* is all that scandal ever wants - *opportunity*.

I had intended to answer your inquiries as to what are my ideas of "prudishness" but have already "lectured" long enough. I know these are not agreeable topics to you. I will *tell* you, when I see you, if you will remind me of it.

March 20th

Genl Withers returned last evening and resumes command of his Division today. I take command of Chalmer's Brigade

38. John C. McGehee of Madison County, Florida, was president of the Florida secession convention, and an important political figure in the state.

39. The "letter of the 19th ulto." is not in this collection, and one cannot know the nature of Mrs. Anderson's "indiscretion." It can be inferred that she subscribed to more liberal views than did her husband.

40. Thomas Hamilton and W. E. Hamilton are both listed in the 1860 census of Jefferson County.

(Chalmers having been transferred, himself, to the Army of Mississippi).⁴¹ It contains many of my old Miss. acquaintances and friends-and at their solicitation Chalmers made a parting request of Genl. Wihers that I should command them. It is a good Brigade, but I don't think it is *quite* as good as the one I commanded at Murfreesboro. (Walthall's).⁴²

I have just heard that Col. Beard came on without stopping at Monticello, or rather that he took the nearest route from Tallahassee up through Albany. He stopped at Ringold, to see D. Gamble, and had not reached Tullahoma on yesterday.⁴³ I suppose Harry will come on with Capt Strain or by himself.

I have just seen a Louisville Journal of the 12th March. It contains nothing specially interesting. The Fed. Congress has created a new Territory somewhere east of the Cascades, called *Idahoe* (at first they called it Montana) of which Lincoln has appointed Col. Wallace the Governor, Wallace's term as Delegate from Washington having expired on 4th Mch.⁴⁴ B. F. Kendall (you remember him) was killed in his office by a young man whose father Kendall had maltreated in some way.

Today I received a letter from Mary at Camden Arkansas, dated 24th Feb. in which she laments her own fate rather more than that of her husband. She is evidently deranged in my opinion. She is there in the swamps of Arkansas, water and mud bound, with a carriage and two horses and three servants, boarding at \$150 per month. Mother had written her to come to Memphis and she (Mary) writes to me to advise her what to do.⁴⁵ I shall certainly not advise her to go to Memphis, for besides its being in the hands of the Yankees-where I don't want to see any of my friends-she would have Mother in two days as crazy as she is. I wouldn't live on the same plantation with such a woman for all the plantations on old Caney!!! So you must know that I am not sorry that *you* are my wife, instead of other women I have seen!!

Kiss the boys all around-Willie, The, and Pat-for me. I

41. Brigadier General James Ronald Chalmers.

42. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray: Lives of the Confederate Commanders* (Baton Rouge, 1959), 325, 326.

43. Dr. D. B. Gamble of Monticello, Florida, was brigade medical director.

44. Colonel William H. Wallace.

45. Mother was Margaret Adair Anderson Bybee, the daughter of Governor John Adair of Kentucky.

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shall feel very anxious till I hear from you again how Pat is. Much love to Aunt. Where does she expect to spend the summer? Love to Mollie too and her *gals* (How many has she?!!) And here's a long, long kiss for Et from

Your
Patton

After the last letter, Mrs. Anderson, the children, and Alice joined General Anderson in Winchester. They traveled by train from Monticello to Savannah and probably made the rest of the trip by buggy. The family remained with the general, living in tents, for several months. Just before the Battle of Chickamauga began on September 19, they were evacuated by ambulance to Marietta, Georgia, where they stayed with relatives until their return to Monticello. This letter was directed to Marietta.

Missionary Ridge, near Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct 30th, 1863

Dr. DuBose has gotten impatient to go home, and I avail myself of his kindness to write and say that I am quite well. I can never be too thankful for all God's mercies to me and mine. I do hope by this time our dear The has exhibited signs of complete recovery.⁴⁶ The doctors here insist that from his symptoms, there is but little of danger to apprehend—that he will gradually recover as he gains strength.

I send you inclosed \$250 which is borrowed from my present month's pay. You must manage to make that take you home, somehow or other. I have no idea how much it will take to defray your expenses from Marietta to Monticello, but I suppose it will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$150 to \$200. I have, to some extent gotten over my impatience for you to be at home, and am entirely content for you to remain where you are till the wounded (Willie & Capt. May) can be taken along with you.⁴⁷ By the way, how in the world does Willie expect me to get the *fine mare* without an order from him for her!! You only say "she is at the wagon yard of the Texas Rangers, near Rome, Ga!"⁴⁸ If

46. The illness was lengthy and serious, but not identified. Physical symptoms in later years suggest that he might have been suffering from rheumatic fever.

47. William Murray, Captain Lambert May, acting assistant inspector general, was wounded in the face at the Battle of Chickamauga.

48. Texas Rangers-Colonel B. F. Terry's Eighth Texas Cavalry. Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 331.

he will send me a *written order* for her, or whoever has her in possession-so that I can get her, I will send any distance for her. But if I were to send to the "wagon camp" of the Texas Rangers, with a verbal message for her, the person having her in possession would most likely-& not very improperly, would give me a short answer for my pains.

You continue to worry yourself about Hindman, etc. ⁴⁹ Well, the fact is Hindman was ordered by Genl. Bragg to attack the enemy in McLemore's Cove at *daylight* on the morning of the 12th Sept. He did not do it-but for some reason or other (perhaps good reason) delayed till about 3 p.m., and then it was too late-the bird had flown. It now turns out that if he had come up to time & made the attack *at daylight* as ordered, he would have captured the whole of Negley's Division ⁵⁰ (6,000 men) with a large train of wagons-and there is no telling how much more of Rosecrans' army would have fallen an easy prey to our Army-& most likely the whole of it would have been captured, killed, or scattered saving the bloodshed & battle of Chickamauga, etc. and preventing any possibility of a concentration of the enemy's forces, etc. Genl. Bragg has suspended Hindman from his command & preferred charges against him. Whether or not Hindman will be able to make a good excuse I do not know-and it is not for anyone to determine *beforehand* - So I am content to await the developments of the trial-On the morning of the 20th at Chickamauga, Genl. Polk was ordered to attack *at daylight*, and did not do it till about 11:00, losing [*sic*] four or five hours of daylight, which if we had had, nothing could have saved Rosecrans' whole army from complete rout and capture. For that failure Genl. Polk is also suspended & charges preferred against him. In his case too, we must wait for the *proof*. I like Genl. P. personally very much-and am inclined to think that Lt. Genl. Hill ⁵¹ is the true party to blame for the delay, but as he was *under* Genl. Polk on that occasion, of course Genl. Bragg could only look to Genl. Polk as *he* was the man to whom Genl. Bragg gave the order. Genl. Wood of Ala. has been compelled by his Brigade to resign on account of his bad conduct on the field of battle ⁵² - Forrest too is said to be in arrest for disobedience of

49. Major General Thomas Carmichael Hindman.

50. Major General James S. Negley.

51. Lieutenant General Daniel Harvey Hill.

52. Brigadier General Sterling Alexander Wood's brigade was in General

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orders - I do not know certainly whether this is so or not-think it very likely, as he is given to *that* a little. I think it likely that all of this will create a greater sensation at home than in the army. The troops were never in better fighting trim-spirits excellent and confident of their ability to cope successfully with Rosecrans on any field. I *do not* think there will be a fight *here*. We will not attack the enemy in his entrenched position at Chattanooga -the game is not worth the sacrifice it would cost. We will either flank him or he (if he should be heavily reinforced) *may* attempt to flank us-when Chickamauga will be repeated.

I have said that I was willing for you to remain at Marietta a short while longer-to tell you the truth, my dear Et, without knowing how it may occur, yet I have a lingering hope that by some chance or other, I may get to see you again before you go back to Florida. I sometimes, when thinking about you, almost make up my mind to ask Genl. Bragg to let me run down on one train and come back on the next. I would do it for a certainty if it were not that we are *in the face of the enemy*. We will shell him occasionally just to annoy him-not with any hope of making him leave Chattanooga by that means. Wheeler has gone to his rear, & we are in hourly expectation of hearing that some of his communications have been cut. In this way, he may be induced to fall back towards Murfreesboro, where forage and provisions are easier of access & his lines shorter and more easily defended.

Give my love to Mother & all the Monroes, McLearys, etc. Kiss Willie & The & Pat for me.⁵³ A bushel of kisses for yourself. The fact is, Et, I believe every day of my life makes it more essential for me to be *with you* - I can't stand this thing of being separated from you half as well as I could five years ago. Another kiss from

Your
Patton

Patrick Cleburne's division at Chickamauga. It appears that this incident was one of the war's better kept secrets: "For some reason not readily apparent in the records, Cleburne . . . omitted mention of Wood while praising his other brigade commanders. . . . Wood resigned his commission on October 17, 1863, and was not again in service during the war." Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 345.

53. The Monroes were cousins of General and Mrs. Anderson. She and the children took refuge with this family in Marietta.

Davidson sends five dollars to Alice for washing.

Mrs. Anderson's advanced pregnancy made her return to Monticello imperative. The following letter is the last one she received before leaving Marietta. As Casa Bianca had been sold, she lived for several months with her sister and brother-in-law, Mollie and Dr. Robert Scott.⁵⁴

Missionary Ridge. Nov. 9th 1863

Yours of the 6th was rec'd on the 7th. Mine to you was sent by Capt Barth who went down to Atlanta on 6 days leave of absence.⁵⁵ His family is now domiciled there with his brother-in-law. He will return through Marietta on tomorrow or next day. Dr. Kinchloe leaves today too, on six days leave.⁵⁶ He goes to Columbus Ga. to see his family before they return to North Miss., which they expect to do in a few days. He takes this letter and promises to stop over one train as he returns, to see Willie Murray. I told Capt Barth to get my things out of my trunk at Atlanta, provided you hadn't sent for it. I want my overcoat as much as any other one thing. Be sure and send it by first chance. I send you a hundred dollars which I hope will enable you to get home with Capt Foster. Mr. Hamilton has been here for a day or two and talks of returning this week, but it seems to me his movements are very uncertain. He proposes to accompany you if he can be of any service. I think tho that Foster will be more useful as a traveler, if only he gets off in time.

Write to me as soon as you get this. I will be anxious to hear that you have rec'd the money-these times of theft and robbery.

Like yourself, I do not like a place "over the lake" on account of health, but if Dr. Scott could rent a place anywhere in the county for the hands to work and get you houseroom in town, it would suit me. I have written to him to let me know what available funds I will have-if any-with which to purchase a place. I do not suppose there will be much on hand after paying taxes and other expenses.

I have a bottle of brandy which Cyrus Johnson's father

54. Dr. Robert Scott, husband of Mollie and brother-in-law of General Anderson, managed his business affairs during his absence from Monticello.

55. Captain William G. Barth of Jefferson County was assistant adjutant general in General Anderson's division.

56. Dr. D. A. Kinchloe was chief surgeon of General Anderson's division.

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brought out of Memphis and gave me, which I wish you had for The. ⁵⁷ Dr. Kinchloe thinks a small toddy frequently during the day-only a teaspoonful at a time would benefit him. He also feels confident that the prescription of iron and vinegar which he gave you will cure him. I hope you will give it a fair trial.

I will endeavor to buy Alice's Thomas whenever his master will sell him. ⁵⁸ Or exchange some other one for him. I will not separate them if it can be avoided. I shall have to have another boy with me. I find that our mess will have to rely upon Peyton as a permanent cook; and I must have a boy to wait on me. ⁵⁹ But I will write particularly on that subject when you get home.

Kiss the dear boys Willie, The, and Pat for me. How I do want to see them! They must learn their lessons well and show Aunt Mollie when they get home that they have not been idle in the army. I hope you have put shoes on them during this cold snap. A bushel of kisses for yourself from

Your
Patton

The afternoon before the family left for Florida, they went to Missionary Ridge and stayed for one night. General Anderson took them for a ride and pointed out the two lines of battle and the Yankee army in Chattanooga. He found a secluded spot and showed the boys where they could play behind the trees. The next morning, after they had slept on the ground, firing began as they were starting for the railroad station. The general, realizing that he was needed at headquarters, bid his family goodbye in the woods. When Mrs. Anderson reached the station, Captain Thaddeus Foster joined her saying that he would escort her to Monticello. He was going home on his first furlough since the beginning of the war. Mrs. Anderson and Captain Foster had already

57. Private Cyrus Johnson, Co. C, Seventh Mississippi Regiment, was later killed at the Battle of Atlanta.

58. Mrs. Beatty had sold almost all of her slaves in 1860. General Anderson, appalled at the cruelty of breaking up the slave families, tried to buy back as many of them as he could. Mrs. Anderson stated that he "worked himself sick nearly trying to keep mothers from being separated from young children, etc." From an undated letter in possession of the author. It is not known whether General Anderson was successful in restoring Thomas to his mother.

59. Peyton was one of the "boys" General Anderson took with him from Casa Bianca to the army.

arrived at their homes before they learned of the defeat at Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863.⁶⁰

Dalton Ga. Decr 18, 1863

Yesterday I received yours of the 10th and today I have just rec'd another of the 14th. That is doing pretty well, is it not? for Confederate mails? I feel like I was so *near* to you, that I believe it makes me more impatient to see you than when I was farther off. In your letter of the 10th you say you had only rec'd one letter from me (of the 2nd) since our defeat. I can't account for this, for I have written *five* and hope you will have received them before this reaches you.

I am not quite so despondent as you suppose. True, I am mortified at the conduct of some of our troops, but have not lost confidence in their courage and patriotism. We have just heard today, *certainly*, that Genl. Johnston is ordered here to take command of the army.⁶¹ This will inspire the troops with new confidence, and if the people *at home*, men, women, children and servants will only set their faces against deserters, absentees, skulkers, etc. not permitting them to eat, sleep or speak with them, our army may be made strong enough to cope with that of the enemy. I can tell the people at home, that they had better not require *too much* of the few who are in the army and who have up to this time borne the brunt of the war.

I am quite well, growing a little *older*, that's all! Hope you are as young as ever! Genl Hardee is to be married soon to Miss Lewis of Demopolis Ala. Very rich! I hope Mother is well again. I will write her in a day or two. My love to her always. Also to Aunt & Mollie. Kiss the dear boys for me. I am proud to hear of their progress with their books. Willie is such a man that he will have to be your overseer when you get to keeping house again. The & Pat will be his assistants. A fond embrace & bushels of kisses from

Your
Patton

60. Mrs. Anderson to "Friend."

61. General Joseph Eggleston Johnston was assigned to command the Army of Tennessee, November 1863.

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Mr. Puleston & Lewis have not arrived.⁶²

In March 1864, General Anderson was ordered by President Jefferson Davis to take command of the District of Florida. He arrived there ten days after the Battle of Olustee and assumed his command with headquarters near Jacksonville. With a small army of no more than 12,000 men, he succeeded in confining the largely superior enemy to his entrenchments around Jacksonville.⁶³

Financial difficulties had forced Anderson to sell Casa Bianca. This letter suggests that he hoped to be able to buy another place, possibly smaller and more within his means. Concern for the unsettled condition of his growing family and anxiety for the desperate situation of the Confederacy are discernible in the tone of discouragement of these final three letters.

In Camp April 21, 1864

Your letter of the 18th and 19th by the hand of Dr. Gamble was received last night. Also the money.

I am sorry to hear that you are all on the sick list. I have lectured you so often of late about taking care of yourself, that I refrain for once saying anything about it.

I think you might ask Aunt for the forks explaining to her what you want with them. I will also write to her. The gloves fit very well, but as she wishes to be exact, I can only give the following directions etc. The pair just sent are a *little* too large around the hand just behind the thumb, and the little finger is about 1/4 of an inch too long. Otherwise, they fit *first rate*.

I am proud that the boys are learning so well. You write me that Pat says he can spell-among other words "Yancy" but you don't spell it properly.⁶⁴ You have it "Yantsy"!! By the way I think you are becoming a little careless about spelling. I suppose it is because you are always hurried and tired when you write. But I won't "lecture" you on *that* just now.

As to the establishment of the hospital at Monticello, I know

62. Samuel Puleston of Monticello acted as agent for the state of Florida and delivered packages to soldiers on the various fronts. Benjamin Lewis and James Lewis are both listed in the 1860 census of Jefferson County.

63. Anderson obituary, *Memphis Appeal*, in scrapbook.

64. "W. L. Yancy" was General Anderson's war charger. His obituary is in Mrs. Anderson's scrapbook.

nothing about it and have nothing in the world to do with it. It is a matter purely belonging to the Medical Department over which I have no control except those *in the field*. Those connected with hospitals are entirely independent of me, and are not only jealous of their rights but sometimes become very *defiant*. I have as little to do with the surgeons as possible.⁶⁵

I hear that Mr. Tucker has *not* moved to Casa Bianca.⁶⁶ I wonder if I couldn't rent it from him. I would like very much to do so, and would write to him on the subject but do not know where to address him. Please ask Dr. Scott to write to him, or find out in some way whether I could not occupy it. The house will fall down if someone is not in it. Or it may be if it is left vacant that the Doctors will make a *hospital* of it! I am rejoiced on Mother's account that Cara has returned. But I confess I have little hope that Mother will not soon find some new trouble, for it seems to be the study of Cara's life to keep Mother constantly under some high state of mental anxiety or trouble. A new sensation will very soon appear, in all probability.⁶⁷

I took up the notion that Dr. Scott thought I was "interfering too much" with his management of the place from what you wrote me. You said that Lewis had several times of late received orders which the Dr. knew nothing about—among these he had been hauling bark to somebody in town, and then you went on to say that I ought not to allow it, etc.⁶⁸ I merely wrote to you explaining how I came to order him to take the buggy to Station 17 and denied any knowledge of the bark hauling business, etc.⁶⁹ By the way, I have never had that matter explained yet. You have written to me that you didn't believe he hauled my bark but you

65. A small hospital was established in Monticello in the home of Dr. Thomas M. Palmer to care for the sick and wounded soldiers after the Battle of Olustee. Letter from Judge Charles C. Anderson, Monticello, Florida, July 25, 1976, to author.

66. J. T. Tucker and H. Tucker are listed in the 1860 census of Jefferson County. Possibly one of these was the current owner of Casa Bianca, though the records show that it was sold to Robert W. Williams in 1860. Shofner, *History of Jefferson County*, 214.

67. Caroline Bybee Bulkley (Cara) was General Anderson's half-sister. Her temperamental behavior might be attributed to her being the indulged youngest child of a large family. She was accused of being a southern spy and was imprisoned for six weeks before she was exonerated. Adair, *History and Genealogy*, 116.

68. Lewis was probably the overseer of Casa Bianca.

69. Station 17 was located on the Savannah Railroad a few miles from Monticello.

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had written so positively before that he had hauled it and that too without authority that I am puzzled to understand. Certainly Lewis can tell whether he hauled it or not and settle the question. If he were to deny it, and there should be no proof that he *did*, I would believe him.

I see you don't take to the "Suwanee Springs" project very readily.⁷⁰ Well, if we can get the Casa house I would prefer the latter, but I do think you ought to quit Dr. Scott's little crowded establishment. I can readily see why you should wish to be with Mollie, but I don't think you ought to wish to do so at the sacrifice of your own health and that of all your children. Do you remember how you used to abuse the Monticello people about always wanting to live with their kin? Particularly the Scotts who insisted on Mollie's living in the house with old Mrs. Scott. I fear you have imbibed the same spirit. You ought to reflect about this. I know when you do, you will come to a correct conclusion, and whatever you may determine on, I will abide by it. You have my ideas about it. I wish I could *see* you and *talk* to you about our affairs. If we go on the way we are doing, next year will be a sad one, I fear. We will have nothing to live on and nothing to buy it with!! But above all, I think we should look to the *health* of ourselves and our children. I want to see you worse than ever. Here's a bushel of kisses for yourself and a peck apiece for Willie, The, Pat, and "Crom."⁷¹ Love to Mollie and kisses for her girls.

Your
Patton

In Camp May 3rd 1864

Yours of the 29th only reached me last night. I *think* you wrote on the 30th-the anniversary of marriage, and that I will get it tonight, but not in time to reply by return train.

I am truly rejoiced to hear that you are all *up* once more. I

70. When the final payment from the sale of Casa Bianca was received, it became necessary for the Andersons to find a new home. The "Suwanee Springs project" might have been the consideration of another plantation to buy. This move did not come about, however, as they were able to rent Casa Bianca from the new owner. The family remained there until they moved to Memphis in 1867.

71. Elizabeth Cromwell Anderson, General Anderson's fourth child and first daughter, was born January 20, 1864, in Monticello, about two months after Mrs. Anderson left Tennessee. The new baby began life with the nickname "Crom."

devoutly pray that you may continue so. I have nothing to write, more than what I said in my letter of yesterday. If I were to write every day and a quire at a time, I would fail to tell you how much I love you.

Col Beard was very unpleasantly situated in the Army of Tenn. Genl Bragg had placed his *junior* over him and Genl Johnston mere[ly] continued him in that position because he did not know what else to do with him. He is a true patriot and a man of excellent qualities in many respects, with some foibles. Under the circumstances I wrote to him and told him if he would apply for and obtain a transfer to my command it would be agreeable to me. He has applied and writes to me that it will be granted, so I look for him soon. I have never applied to be sent away from Florida. I am surprised that you would believe such a story. You know my doctrine is *not to apply for anything*.⁷²

Many kisses for the boys Willie, The, and Pat and also for Bessie.⁷³ I am glad to hear that they are all well and hope they will not be sick again. Love to Mollie and her sweet girls. Also to Aunt. Remembrances to the servants.

A bushel of kisses and worlds of love for yourself from

Your
Patton

Camp Milton, May 19th 1864⁷⁴

I write a short note to inform you that I go up to Lake City today, where we will make Hd. qtrs. for a short time, and will then go to Middle Fla. unless something happens to prevent it.

Everything in the way of troops has been sent off except the Cavalry. I feel utterly powerless but I think it is right. The great struggle is to be in Va. We should have every man capable of bearing arms in the Confederacy at that place. If we succeed there, Florida is safe: if not, then it will hardly be worse off then it is now. I have every confidence in the result. God will give us the victory.

Now that I feel powerless to accomplish anything here, the separation from my dear Et seems more insupportable than ever.

72. Anderson did, however, apply to Richmond only a few weeks after this statement, to solicit command of his old division. In June, he was ordered to report to General Hood in Atlanta. Anderson autobiography.

73. Crom's nickname has been changed to Bessie.

74. Camp Milton was in Duval County near Jacksonville.

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As long as I could feel that my presence in the army was of any use at all to the cause, it was consoling to reflect that duty was being performed-but when I feel that I am of no use whatever where I am, I feel like it was *impossible* for me to stay away from you any longer.

I shall remain in Lake City but a short time and will then proceed to Middle Florida where my Headquarters will have to be established for the purpose of organizing the *Reserves* - for *they* are our dependence now.

I am so much disappointed about not getting to see you *tomorrow* that I am almost in the *blues*. But I hope to see you soon *any how*. In the meantime you must be cheerful. Do not repine. The very *anticipation* of the pleasure it will afford me to be with you is *some* comfort-the reality will be earthly happiness in perfection.

Kiss Willie & The & Pat & Lily for me. ⁷⁵ Bless their hearts! How I do want to see *them* too! Remember me to the servants.

Love to Aunt & Mol and Lizzie, Annetta, and Adair.

A bushel of kisses for yourself from

Your
Patton

75. Bessie has now become Lily, the name she was called the rest of her life.