

# E.W. Smith Letter and transcription

ago he was your's mother I think I  
 and visit the Army of the Potomac this  
 summer if I can get away - George  
 and Margaret are getting along well I had  
 a letter from them a short time ago - what  
 would you think of your brother's system of  
 Commission in a Colonel Regt. how all the  
 folks at home a general thing like Colonel before  
 a part with you could see a Regt of their  
 size if they had their skills would be improved  
 but know that what they were when - subtraction  
 my will - they are very ignorant - they was at  
 the time about 100 colored troops has paid out  
 of that it doesn't appear there were ten men  
 that could read or write - most of the colored  
 men lives and they are all caused for by the  
 South their masters must hire them and  
 of course the darker will not work for their  
 then are not a great many here now at home  
 exhibited and so on you will see a great  
 report of them when they must be able  
 you should hear them all about their trials  
 while in bondage - it is sorrowful and will  
 convince any one of the baseness of the institution  
 but there has a bright day dawned for them and  
 we are in our land all out is coming with great  
 strength like Egypt - that is what has done  
 at all here I would like to see you and have  
 a good time my mother is well now and there and  
 to a my change of health - but we hope  
 to meet some day and then have a nice time  
 Remember me kindly to Maggie Garrison and  
 all my friends - I read out say how and I could  
 have enjoyed your party - it must have been grand  
 coming by friends are here and they ought - highest  
 do thank & God and his blessing of this the way to  
 open it that the colored and all about America  
 have way others - for we think there is a way to  
 share for freedom but not in - with some few the matter  
 E. W. Smith

Talks of home and  
 without home

Drummond Wood Vol  
 March 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Brother Willie

I received your  
 very kind letter some time ago but had  
 been so busy that I did not have  
 any time for writing till now  
 as at the close of the month we  
 make out all reports we could in  
 a place like this it requires a  
 great many - but we are through  
 now and will have some rest - however  
 we will likely not remain here  
 a great while our Regt. has been  
 released and is now at Fort Mifflin  
 but as the Q. M. has charge of all  
 the Q. M. stores in this place cannot  
 go until some one takes his place  
 that may be soon and may not be for  
 some time - we have been having a  
 fine time here and if we could



remain for six months I don't think  
we would be easily taken away. This  
is certainly a delightful place. The  
country is level and the soil well adapted  
for raising Potatoes Corn &c. and some  
Cotton and I would venture to say if  
I had a Factory here could make cotton  
in a short time but the inhabitants have  
waited so long in their Slaves for clothing  
and now they are gone and the owners  
don't know how to work some of them  
offer very good chances to rent and if  
I was a married man don't know  
but that I would accept I have been  
thinking seriously about it. It is a  
lot to do a general thing on my side  
a great many of them are doctors and  
even among themselves seem jealous of  
each other. a great deal of the property  
is owned by such as the Sons of  
Bellingham &c. who govern are the  
F. F. W. although they seem distant when  
you visit them they are extremely hospitable

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and by the way I have formed the  
acquaintance of the sons of the fair  
daughters of the South and must say  
there are some of them perfect ladies  
and one of them told me last evening  
that she was not afraid of a Yankee  
but she was at one time she thought  
there are some fine fellows among  
them. never mind we will make them  
Girls out of them you had better let  
Mr. Alder look out for the C. W.  
give him warning to keep his heart  
locked up against the fair ones of the South  
if he knew I was writing this he would  
give me justice. Well I am  
very sorry I cannot do anything for  
the ladies of your country but by all means  
give them my address you know it has  
to get letters and I may get some post  
out of it I do I will let you know when  
you see any of the Brothers give them  
my best wishes and kind regards  
I had a letter from Charles a few days

Drummondtown Va

March 7th, 1864

I received your very kind letter some time ago but have been so busy that I did not have any time for writing letters. You see at the close of the month we make out all reports & in a place like this it requires a great many. But we are through now and will have some rest. However we will be likely not remain here a great while our Regt. has been releaved and is not at Fort Monroe but as the [Quartermaster] has charge of all the Q.M. stores on this shore cannot go until someone takes his place that may soon and may not be for some time. We have been having a fine time here and if we would remain for six months I don't think we would be [easily] taken away. This is certainly a delightful place the country is level and the soil well adapted for raising Potatoes Corn Oats—and even Cotton and I would venture to say if I had a farm here could make a fortune in a short time. But in the inhabitants have trusted to long in their slaves for a living and now they are gone and the owners dont know how to work some of them offer very good chances to rent and if I was a married man dont know but that I would accept I have been thinking serious about it. The inhabitants [as] a general thing are very selfish a great many of them aristocrats and even among themselves seem jealous of each other. A great deal of the property is owned by such as the Wisers Winders Nottinghams &c, who you know are the FFVs [First Families of Virginia] although they seem distant when you meet them they are extremely hospitable.

Any by the way I have formed the acquaintance of some of the fair Daughters of the South and must say there are some of them perfect Ladies and one of them told me last evening that she was not afraid of a Yankee but she was at one time she thinks there are some fine fellows among them. Never mind we will make Union Girls out of them. You had better tell Mrs Elder to look out for the Q.M. give him warning to keep his heart locked up against the fair ones of the South if he know I was writing this he would give me a jossen [“joshin”]. Well [Nannie?] I am very sorry I cannot do something for the Ladies of your country but by all means give them my address you know I love to get letters and I may get some good ones if I do I will let you know. When you see any of the Brookvilles, give them my best wishes and kind regards. I had a letter from Charles a few days ago he was quite well. I think I will visit the Army of the Potomac this summer if I can get away. George and Margaret are getting along well I had a letter from them a short time ago. What would you think of your Brother getting a commission in a Colored Regt. How do they folks at home a general thing like Colored Troops I just wish you could see a Regt. of them drill if they had their backs turned you would not know but what they were white. I like them very well. They are very ignorant. There was at one time about 800 Colored Troops here and out of that [number] I don't suppose they were ten men that could read or write. Most of the soldiers have wives and they are call cared for by the Govt. their masters will not hire them and of course the darkies will not work for them. There are not a great many here now all have enlisted and I'm sure you will hear a good report of them when they meet the Rebels. You should hear them talk about their trials while in Bondage it is sorrowful and will convinve anyone of the sinfulness of the institution but there has a brighter day dawned for them ere long our land will not be cursed with foul slavery. Well Maggie Charlie + [Eddie?] how do you all do how I would like to see you all and have a good time my mouth is well and there wood not be any danger of hurting me. But we hope to meet some day and there have a nice time.

Remember me kindly to Maggie [Garner?] and all my friends. I had not say how much I would have enjoyed your party. It must have been grand. Among my friends are Alex and May [Moffat?]. Miss and Dr. Barber and Lady miss Rubison if that's the way to spell it. Mr & Mrs Elders and almost innumerable [number] of others. You will think there is a very little share for yourselves but not so. Write soon. Your Loving Brother.

E.W. Smith