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LETTERS OF HENRY G. COMPTON & WILLIAM J. JETER, 1861-62

The collection includes two letters from Henry G. Compton to William ("Billie") J. Jeter of Stewartsville, Bedford Co., VA written from Camp McCulloch, in Highland Co. on 16 Nov. 1861 and 27 Dec. 1861. They are about his recent illness and life in winter camp. At that time, "Billie" Jeter is at home, in Bedford, on furlough. The additional letter is from Jeter to "Dear Wife & Brother," written from New Market, 3 June 1862, anticipating an attack. On the back is a note to "Nannie," Jeter's wife. The "Brother" referred to was Thomas ("Pomp") A. Jeter.

WILLIAM JACOB JETER (1837-1862)

William Jacob Jeter, son of Fielden and Virginia Ann White Jeter, was born on 27 October 1837, in Bedford County, Virginia. He married Nancy (Nannie) Jane Compton on 28 December 1859, in Bedford County, VA. They had one child who died in infancy.

Jeter joined the 58th VA Infantry on 23 July 1861 and served as 2nd Lieutenant in Co. K. He was killed in action on 9 August 1862 at the Battle of Cedar Run, in Culpeper County, VA.

SOURCES: Ackerly, Mary D. & Lula E.J. Parker. *Our Kin*. Harrisonburg, VA: C.J. Carrier Co., 1976. Driver, Robert J., Jr. *58th Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1990. "Marriage of William J. Jeter to Nancy Jane Compton", 28 December 1859, Bedford Co., Va Marriage Register #1, p. 69, Jones Memorial Library microfilm, Lynchburg, VA

HENRY GILBERT COMPTON (c.1841-1862)

Henry Gilbert Compton was born c. 1841. He enlisted in Co. K of the 58th VA Infantry and served as 5th Sergeant. He was killed in action at the 2nd Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) on 29 August 1862.

SOURCE: Driver, Robert J., Jr. *58TH VIRGINIA INFANTRY*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1990.

Camp McCulloch, Straitcreek PO Highland Cty, Va.

Nov 26th 61

Dear Brother,

I received your highly appreciated favor ~~a few days since~~ on last night, and I now hasten to reply to yours of most recent date. Proud was I to hear that you had got to your peaceful home which affords pleasure to the poor soldier. God grant that you may soon be bestowed to perfect health. Glad am I to learn that you are mending so fast many unhappy hours have I spent about you not knowing whether you were dead or alive. You stated in your letter that you thought hard of me for not writing to you. I hope when you receive this you will excuse me. I can assure you it was my heart's desire to write to you and also to hear from you, but when I got home I was broken down and sick, and didn't feel like writing or anything else so I kept putting it off until I could get rested, by that time they told me that you had gotten a furlow to go home so I commenced writing home about you and could never receive an answer. I have written 4 or 5 letters home to find out whether you had reached home or not, but they were never answered. I don't know whether they received them or not or whether they just didn't care about answering them. I written several letters to old Bedford that I know didn't go and that might have been the way with them. Some seem to think that the post master put the money in their pockets and the letter in the fire so I will not pay on this letter and make it will go. I have been very sick myself and staid at Monterey several days but have got back to camp again. The day after I returned to camp they put me on duty and I was up all night and it was raining all the time as hard as it could pour down and I was in every bit of it for there is so many living creakers in the guard tent that nobody will go in it so I had to take all the rain, so it came very near laying me up again. Billie I would advise you to stay at home as long as you can for I tell you this is a hard place out here though I would like to see you here if you was well for I would like to have you with me. Our Company is at this time 13 strong all the balance sick. I can't undertake to tell who all is sick and who ain't for it would take all the paper I have. You must write me word when you expect to return to Camp, and give me all the news of the neighborhood and home you didn't write whether they were all well or dead. Tell Pomp that I think very hard of him

MS1462

for not writing to me tell him that I have writing him several letters and received no answer. I reckon we are stationed here for the winter for we have commenced putting up winter quarters. There is 4 regiments at Monterey our General is also there he is falling back here to winter. We got news yesterday that the enemy is advancing on us very fast I wouldnt be surprised if we dont have to do some hard fighting before many days. Billie we are just getting into hard times it snows and rains out here all the time and I tell you it is cold in our tents of a night. Sometimes I almost freeze of a night it keeps me with such a cold that I can hardly live the fact of the business is it killing all of us as fast as sheep dying with the rats they is no end to my coughing. I will have to close as it is so cold and I cough so much that I can hardly write at all. Tell Nannie to send me a pair of socks the first chance and I will make it all right. Give my love to all of the family, and tell them to write to me.

Direct your letter to
H. G. Compton
Straitcreek PO
Highland Co. Va
Company B 58 Va Vol

From your affectionate Brother H. G. Compton

Camp Cullock Highland Co Dec 27th 61

Dear Brother,

I avail myself of an oppitunity to drop you a few lines to inform you of my health &c I am once more restored to usual health & hope when these few lines may come to hand they may find you likewise. I was very sick for a while with high fevers attended with a very severe headache. Well it is Christmas times I reckon where you are but no Christmas hear. I was on guard duty on Christmas day. I was mad all day because I couldnt be in Bedford with my duxey. This leaves me as usual destertute of news it is very dull times here. You ought to make hast back and get your money for they say we are to be paid off to morrow. The old Quartermaster got back from Staunton on yesterday with the money so I reckon we will get it to morrow if it be true. We are all getting along here very well the longer I stay the better I like. I would be very glad to visit you all if it was so that I could but there is no chance. I have been looking for a letter from you for some time but have been disapointed as yet. You must excuse this note as I am in about out of paper. I wish when you come through Lynchburg you would get me some nice paper & fancy envalopse if you please. Give my love to Nannie & Pomp Gran pa & Aunt Millie and receive a due potion for your self.

Henry G. Compton

We expected to leave here untill a few days back. I think now we will have to stay here all the winter.

William J. Jeter Esq.
Stewartsville
Bedford
Virginia

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