Richmond Cole Barr Collection

Barr, Richmond Cole. Letter, 1864. 1 item.
Soldier. A single handwritten letter by Richmond Cole Barr, a Confederate soldier, to his parents (Allen E. Barr and Jane Palace Campbell Barr) regarding his recent experiences in Virginia, and current U.S. Civil War news, April 28, 1864. Richmond Cole Barr died in the battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse the following month.
Picket Post on Rapidan
River, Va, April the 28th / 64

Dear Parents
Far Beyond my anticipation when I last written and when Mr. John Parker left we have been permitted to remain in our former position perfectly quiet Not a single move has changed the established line of our forces along the Bank of Rapidan I can assure you it have been a very solemn time every man and creature appears to be in breathless suspense impatiently awaiting the Boasted advance of the Grand Army of the Potomac I believe it was the day after Mr. Parker left that the amount of camps on the opposite side of the River greatly diminished All eyes and ears was then turned to see where they would next make their appearance But time and the sagacity of our generals soon discovered that it was only their Cavalry and their heavy and unnecessary tents and Baggage that was sent off that caused this vacuum in their vast encampment Day before yesterday it appeared from our position and our own observation that the enemy had Received Reinforcements and moved up their Rear to the front of our position on the R. R. as quite a number of new tents made their appearance there It is stated in the Papers that Genl Burnsides is now supposed to be Reinforcing Grant from E. Tenn Let him come we have his old and most dreaded Rival here to oppose him Longstreet Our men all maintain the utmost confidence in themselves and their skillful and deserving generals also the troops are in better health than I ever saw them And are well equipped and accoutered

Suffice then to Say so long as we can keep such an army as Genl Lee now has it will be a matter of impossibility to Subdue us I positively do not believe all the Combined hosts of Yankeedom could storm and take this place they may flank us but they never will find Clo[yd’s] Mountain as Soft a case as Lookout mountain was to storm [I do] not wish to see men Slaughtered I am in hopes if they intend to fight us any more that they will have confidence enough in themselves and a Genl to assault this place it would Ruin them and their We hear cheering news occasionally from the south & South west did you hear if the victory Genl Hoke in N.C. at Plymouth It was quite a sanginary affar but nevertheless we Captured the fort 5 or 600 prisoners and a large quantity of government stores The enemys loss was 150 killed ours about 250 or 300

We have glorious news from General Dick Taylor in La. heard he Defeated Banks, capturing killing and wounding 4,000 of his men Good if it be true Three cheers for Genl Forrest he is another morgan we trust in him for the protection of our homes May God ever Crown his efforts to keep the enemy at Bay
Cannons have ceased to Roar at Charleston Mobile is not dangerously threatened Savannah is safe And one glorious victory after another crown our arms -----not this cheering does not it speak comfort to us war worn and war sick Sons of the South Yes I can see peace Dawning through the Blood of a few more Battles Then let us be of good cheer Press onward and upward and peace will be our Reward I will close after saying we ReC[ceived] a letter from mother dated Apl the 13th a thousand thanks for it Let us hear from you often and oblige your son Richmond

Give our love to our brother George in your next letter and [tell] him to make a good soldier and ---- ever did and to write to us may God protect him is my prayer

This leaves us well Bud & John included Weather Beautiful Spring [time] [made] its appearance at last

My Best wishes to Dee Davie and all enquiring friends [Got] to see James Denly he is a good friend to us

Myself and Brother spends the most [of our] time Reading I have read [about] 12 or 15 volumes this winter