

4-6-1862

Letter from Jonathan H. Wells (Old Point Comfort, Va.) to family, April 6, 1862

Jonathan H. Wells

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Recommended Citation

Wells, Jonathan H., "Letter from Jonathan H. Wells (Old Point Comfort, Va.) to family, April 6, 1862" (1862). *Robert F. Hale Papers*. 6. http://digitalcommons.plattsburgh.edu/hale_papers/6

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Sunday, Apr. 6th., 1862

Dear father, mother, brothers, sisters & little Ettie.

D. or L.
It is a pleasure for me to write to you although it is seldom I receive any answer. I received a good long letter last Wednesday by way of L.H. Tarbell & I filled 3 sheets and sent next day to you. This is the 6th. letter that I have written home & one to Eds folks and have recd one from you and one from them.

We moved yesterday about a mile. We was stationed on a low piece of clay ground & it was rather nasty but we are now on a dry, smooth piece in a great orchard of peaches, pears, apples & cherries & rite across the road there is potatoes that grew in a corn field last year self seeded so we have potatoes to eat and we have got fresh beef & plenty of hard biscuit & we have got our tents so we live in grand style. We are within six miles of Yorktown & there is a constant booming of cannon & has been for the last 30 hours except through the night. We have heard a number of stories about the battle but nothing to be relied on. One story is that we had taken the city by point of bayonet. We will hope for the best. I think likely you will hear that we were in the battle but we are not but dont know how soon we will be. Yorktown is in a north west direction & there is a heavy smoak rising in the S.W as though there was a city burning. I have not seen a newspaper since I left Washington so I want you should write all the news & the opinion of the people there about the ware. I suppose you have got the \$50 I sent before this time. I want you should pay it out on the debts what you dont want for necessaries. You did not write anything about that piece of land of Days. I should like to know if you can get that. Ed wrote that you had about 6 cord of wood to clear yet & he had about the same. I suppose you have not drawn it yet nor will not this spring. You will not have Barrett to saw for you this spring & who will you get. The other boys get lots of letters but I get few. Almon Tower just redd 4 in one mail. There is 7 letters going from this tent in the next mail written today. Dan Tower has written 4 & the rest of us one each. Orin Smith has just recd a letter from his sister & he is going to answer it & he is going to send some money by express. That will be 71 cents postage from one tent. A. Tower has just read that the snow was 4 ft. deep there the 30th. of March in Westville & his brother had just sugard of for the first time. That sounds kind O good. & it would taste good if I had it. If I had a hundred weight of new maple sugar I could get about \$50 for it. or at that rate for any quantity of it or for good box honey. Fruit trees are in the blossom but I have not seen a bee of any kind yet. I dont think there is any hollow trees here. Howard Hinman has just recd a letter that his wife is dead but it does not come unexpected. He is going to be transferred and promoted into Co. C as 2nd. Lieut & I suppose L.H. Tarbell will be first seargt. It is getting dark & I must close. Write soon much & often & I want Eds folks to write. I am well now and if I could receive plenty of letters my health would improve. I will tell you how to direct for you wont get my other letter.

Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Va.

3rd. Brigade Cayses Division, 98 Regt Co G N.Y.S.Vol.

You need not put it in care of any one.

J.H.W.

(Jonathan H. Wells.)