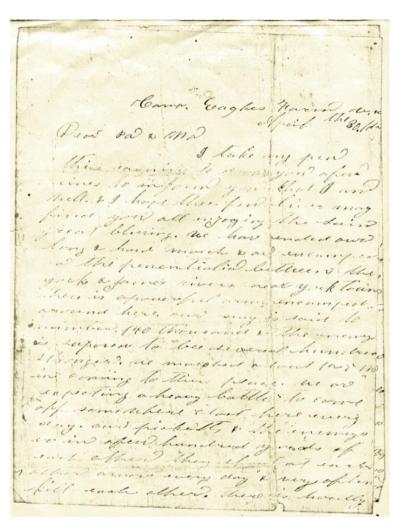
## A Civil War Letter from Oliver McPherson (a Brother of Sallie McPherson Patterson)

One surprising item that Jo Gibson brought to show me was a letter written by Oliver McPherson, a brother of great-grandmother Sallie. He had enlisted in the Confederate Army about a month and a half after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter. At the time he wrote it, he had seen little of the war.



[Original is 15" x 93/4", folded once]

Camp, Eagles Farm va April the 30.th

Dear Pa & Ma

I take my pen this eavning to drop you a few lines to inform you that I am well & I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the saim great blessing. We have ended our long & hard march & ar encamped at the penentialia between the york and James rivers. near york town there

is a powerful army encamped around here. our army is said to number 140 thousand & the enemy is suposed to bee several hundred stronger. we marched about 125 m in coming to this place. We ar expecting a heavy battle to come off some where clost here every day. our picketts & the enemys er in afew hundred yareds of each other they shoot at each other amost every day & very often kill each other. there is hardly

aday passes but what there is Three or four men bila along the line between was & The yankers there was alattle faut mean this place afew days since faut while ne now on the march to this place John Do Stockards company mus in the ballle three of his men mas kild & & Mounded. The fight did not continue but arbout Time, he see states in the rich mand The youkers having taken possess of medocleans I hope it is not There, it is reported that own men concreted the place before the energy reached it burning iving thing before they left. Thinking that it nould bee imposable for them to hald the place. I to day Alvin hout some of dery Mas to see mer they we encamped clost here, and yesterday I news to see It M. patterno & morroups Morninon. he ar encamped in one mile of each other, it done me agreat evel af good to meet no

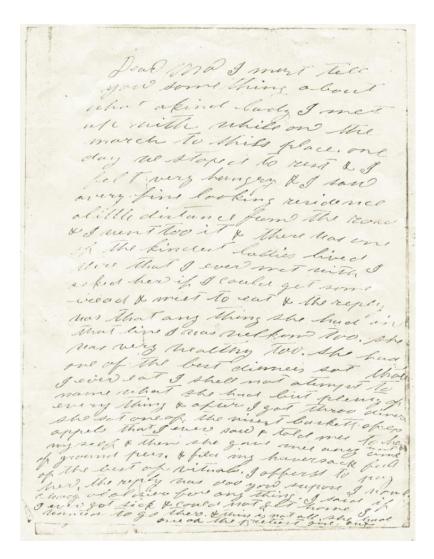
[p. 2:] aday passes but what there is three or four men kild along the line between urs & the yankees there was abattle faut near this place afew days sence faut while we was on the march to this place John. R. Stockards company [Company H, 15th Infantry (North Carolina)] was in the battle three of his men was kild & 5 wounded. the fight did not continue but ashort time. we see stated in the richmond papers thiss eavning a account of

the yankees having taken possession of neworleans I hope it is not true. It is reported that our men evacuated the place before the enemy reached it burning every thing before they left. thinking that it would bee imposable for them to hold the place. O to day Alvin Noah son of Jery was to see mee. they er encamped clost here. on yesterday I was to see J. M. patterson & monrough thompson. we ar encamped in one mile of each other. it done mee a great deel of good to meet up

with them they all want get home but The preside has part and act to keep all the tuely month valenteers as long as the now continues & all between The ages of 18 x35° at home hap to twen aut & help fight it out. tell Sahrods Jampson Down to come here where I am if they hat to go to the oring & william Atkinsen Tues, I am , To hear that they your men all hap to hear home I can't see hoe is to help cary on the work that is to do I sald mal Robinson afew days ago he tales med that he said. "Meetly gold borouges afew days before & that he was well & looking finely. this place is the best fortified that I ever said any place, it is now coin planting time or fast oh how grand I would be if this was mould come to actors & the sould get horn to help you doe your night I hop 51 it will soon come to aclose & a me get home. Direct your lete to you plour. in write son from your loving son , O . Migherin

[p. 3:] with them they all want to get home but the president has past an act to keep all the twelve month volenteers as long as the war continues & all between the ages of 18 & 35 at home haf to turn out & help fight it out. tell John & Sampson Doan to come here where I am if they haf to go to the army & william Atkinsen two. I am very sorry to hear that they yong men all haf to leav home I cant see hoe is to help cary on the work that is to do

I saw mal Robinson afew days ago. he told me that he saw [Mistby?] in goldsborough afew days before this & that he was well & looking finely. thiss place is the best fortified that I ever saw any place. it is now corn planting time or past oh how glad I would bee if thiss war would come to a close & we could get home to help you doo your work I hope it will soon come to a close & we get home. Direct your letters to yorktown, V.A. write soon from your loving son. O. Mcpherson



[p. 4] Dear Ma I must tell you some thing about what akind lady I met up with while on the march to thiss place. one day we stoped to rest & I felt very hungry & I saw avery fine looking residence alittle distance from the road & I went too it & there was one of the kindest ladies lived there that I ever met with I asked her if I could get some bread & meet to eat & the reply was that any thing she had in

that line I was welkom too. she was very wealthy too. she had one of the best dinners sat that I ever eat I shell not atempt to name what she had but plenty of every thing & after I got throo diner she sat one of the nisest baskets of er appels that I ever saw & told me to help myself & then she gave mee any amount of ground pees & fild my haversack full of the best of vituals. I offerd to pay her, the reply was doo you suppose I would charg asoldier for any thing. I said if I ever got sick & could not get home I wanted to go ther. & thiss is not all, she had one of the pretiest girls out