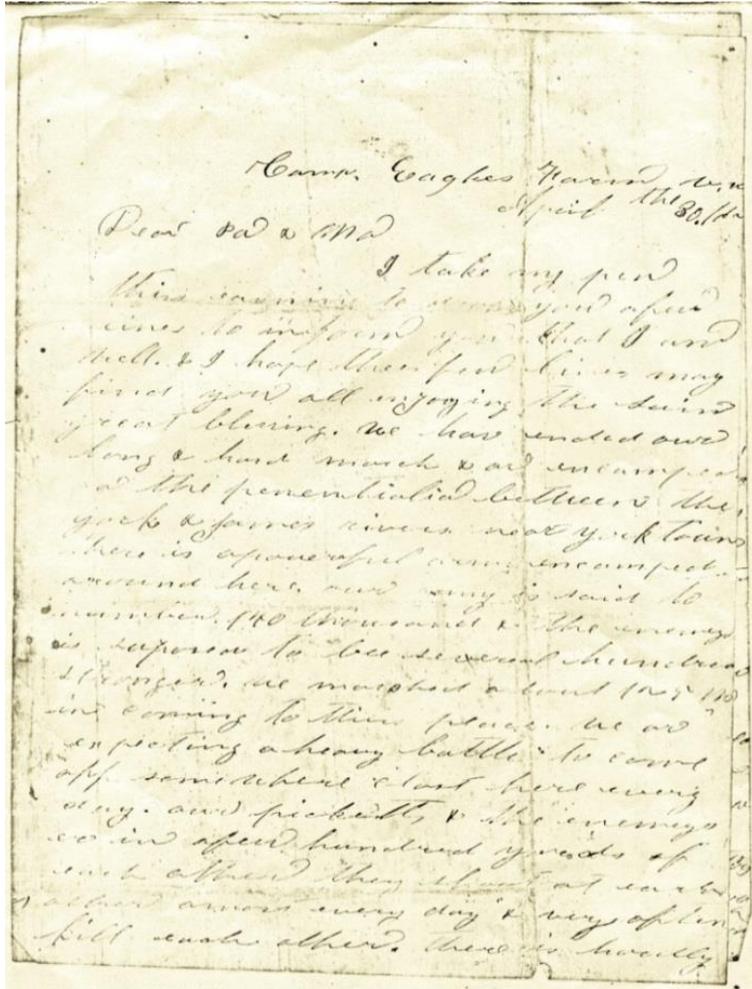


A Civil War Letter from Oliver McPherson (a Brother of Sallie McPherson Patterson)

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 9¾", folded once]

Camp, Eagles Farm va
April the 30.th

Dear Pa & Ma

I take my pen this evening to drop you a few lines to inform you that I am well & I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same great blessing. We have ended our long & hard march & are encamped at the penitentialia 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 supposed to be several hundred stronger. we marched about 125 m in coming to this place. We are expecting a heavy battle to come off somewhere close here every day. our pickets & the enemy are in a few hundred yards of each other they shoot at each other almost every day & very often kill each other. there is hardly

aday passes but what there is
three or four men kild along
the line between us & the yankees
there was a battle faut near this
place a few days sence faut while
we was on the march to this place
John R. Stockards company was
in the battle three of his men
was kild & 5 wounded. The fight
did not continue but a short
time. we see stated in the richmond
papers this evening a account of
the yankees having taken possession
of new Orleans 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 be impossible
for them to hold the place.
O to day Alvin Noah son of Jerry
was to see mee. they ar encamped
close here. and yesterday I was to
see J. M. patterson & Monrough
Thompson. we ar encamped in
one mile of each other. it done mee
a great deal of good to meet up

[p. 2:]

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with them they all want to
get home but the president
has past an act to keep all the
twelve month volunteers 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 Atkinson 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
goldsbrough afew days before this & that
he was well & looking finely. this
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 this 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. 3:]

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Dear Ma I must tell
you some thing about
what a kind lady I met
up with while on the
march to this 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 attempt 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
my self & then she gave mee any amount
of ground peas. & 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. & this is not all, she had
one of the pretiest girls out

[p. 4]

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