

Summit Point N.A.

At July 14<sup>th</sup> 1865 = =

Dear Cousin

I received your kind letter  
the 14<sup>th</sup> and was glad to here from you once  
more and glad to here that you was well. There  
has been a good deal of exciting news since I  
wrote to you before and I have been on quite  
a march to of about 80 miles. I suppose you  
dont think 80 miles is very far but if you  
should come to walk it with a Gun and equipage  
to carry water, rapsack on your back you would  
think it was a long walk we left here the  
14<sup>th</sup> went up the valley about 40 miles to  
step back see from coming down the valley  
we should try to with a bit of camp. We  
had left after leaving the point but a for a

had got up the valley about 40 miles we heard  
that Lee had surrendered to Grant with  
his whole Army so we turned back and are  
now at Summit Point again but I think we  
will move from here again soon but do not  
know. from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month up to  
the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> we had glorious  
news but the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> we had very  
sad news you know what I mean of course for  
you must of heard it and every body in  
the United States the murder of our President  
and Secretary Seward and Son seriously wounded  
we have not got the particulars of the news  
yet here but will to night when the papers  
come I suppose you know more about it  
than I do but I tell you it makes you  
sad times here all the Bands playing solemn  
airs and the flags at half mast and so on  
I hope the secreters that done it will be  
cashed and hanged at the first Tree they  
come to

I have cashed an awful cold and it has  
settled in to my eyes and my right eye

is swelled so I can not see out of it and  
I hafto keep it done up so you see I  
have not got but one eye to see to write  
with and that one is sore and it makes it  
sore to write so I guess this will be a very  
long letter and it is wrote so poor I guess  
you wont care but a short letter is better  
than none perhaps I am in hopes this  
war will soon be over so I can come and  
see you instead of having to write so much  
I think I shall be to home by fall if I  
live untill that time every thing looks  
favorable now I think for a speedy Peace  
and I guess every body is trying to see it  
Citizens as well as Soldiers

I dont feel so as I could write much more  
this time please write to me often give  
my best respects to Uncle Channing and Aunt  
Caroline and Frankie and I send my best  
love to you so good bye for this time  
This from your affectionate

Cousin  
Reverend G. J. Smith  
P.S) Please direct the same as before

Savannah G.A. June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1815

Dear Cousin

I received your kind letter  
last night, I was glad to hear from you  
and more and glad to hear that you  
was well. I have not had a letter  
before since I left Washington 22 days  
ago until last night I got 3 last  
night one from you and one from  
Maria and one from a friend of  
mine in P.A. I have not heard from  
home yet since I left W. but I  
expect I shall see when I write to  
you before I thought I should see  
be have but the heading of this  
letter don't look much like it was

does it. The last day of May we thought  
we should be home in a few days and  
the first day of June we got orders to  
go to Savannah which worked all  
our home thoughts in the head June  
1<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon we got orders to  
pack up and be ready to move we  
got ready and started left our camp  
near Brightwood and marched down through  
the city to the steam boat dock where  
we got aboard of the steamer A. Harter  
and went to Alexandria there we got  
transferred to an Ocean Steamer the  
Matanzas and started from Alexandria at  
daylight the 2<sup>nd</sup> got in to the  
Savannah River in the forenoon of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> and there we got transferred from  
the Matanzas in to a River steamer the  
U.S. Grand. The Matanzas drawing in  
much water to run up the River after  
we got on to the U.S. Grand we started  
got to Savannah at 6 O'clock P.M.  
the 5<sup>th</sup> got off from the steamer

and marched through <sup>the</sup> city and went  
in to camp just outside of the  
city where the Regiment still remain  
but I don't remain there with them  
I am farming it the 9<sup>th</sup> of this  
month I was detailed as safe guard  
and about a mile from camp was  
in a farmers place to keep the  
Soldiers from destroying his property  
he is a real nice man and goes to  
the Soldiers to if they come and ask  
him for any thing he gives it to them  
so they dont try to steal from him  
they dont bother me a bit I dont have  
any thing to do unless I am a mind to  
any time I want to go to the city I can  
take his horse and buggy and go and  
if I am hungry I can get something to  
eat and that that is just to they live  
tip to of here I tell you I shant  
complain of my duty here while I  
am in Savannah if I have the same  
duty all the while that I have got

me but still I had rather be discharged  
and to have them here after all but  
I don't think we shall get home now  
sit away I think we are gone for a  
month here in Savannah if not more  
it is a very pretty place here but pretty  
sickly we can get most any thing we want  
but vegetables of all kinds most are  
in the prime now and also Blackberry  
and Whortleberry are ripe now and a  
plenty of them at that so you see there  
is a plenty of every thing here now I  
don't know as I have got much more  
news to write this time please write  
to me again soon for I like to hear  
from you often I am well and hope  
this will find you and all your folks  
the same give my best love to Uncle  
Henry and Aunt Sarah and Frankie  
and all enquiring friends and I need no  
best love to you so good bye for this  
time please except the few lines  
from your affectionate Son

Robt. J. Smith

Summit Point, Va.

March. 25<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Cousin Nettie

I received your kind letter the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month and I should have answered it before but I have been so busy lately that I have not had much time to write. I was glad to hear from you once more and glad to hear that you was well and all the rest of your folks. have you heard from my Father yet if you have let me know when you write again. I have wrote three letters to him but have not got an answer from any of them if you have not

heard from him lately I will write  
to his Captain and see what has  
become of him he may be a Prisoner  
as you say I guess he is if there isn't  
any body heard from him lately for I can  
show he would ~~never~~ write to some one  
if he was not. you said that you heard  
that Sara Hough was dead and wanted to  
know if I knew whether it was so  
I do not know whether it is or not  
but one of his sons tents with me and  
he has not heard of it and if it was  
so I should thought he would heard of  
it. I haven't got much news to write  
this time there is nothing new here the  
same thing fight over and over day after  
day first Picket then camp guard the  
Police and so on but I don't think  
we will have to do a Soldier's duty much  
longer for I think this war is about  
over every thing looks like it was any

way the South is whipped now and  
they know it all the Private relations  
of the South say so and say there is no  
use of fighting any longer and they are  
deserting and coming in to our lines now  
as fast as they can there is a few  
leaders in the South that want to hold  
out as long as they can now they know  
they are whipped but I don't think that  
can be very long now. but I am afraid  
that before or by the time that peace  
is declared between North and South  
that the United States will be at war  
with Foreign Nations but I hope not  
but if it does we will have to take it  
the best we can I suppose. the Bible says  
that all Nations shall be at war <sup>with each other</sup> and  
I think some times that this is the  
beginning of that war but I hope and  
trust not though I hope the time  
will soon come when peace is restored

To our land and that we <sup>Soldiers</sup> may go  
home once more and see our Friends  
and relatives and I trust God it will  
I dont know as I have got much  
more to write this time please write  
to me again soon for I like to hear  
from you often give my love to Uncle  
Johnny and Aunt Caroline and Frankie  
and all enquiring Friends and I send  
my best love to you so good bye for  
this time this from your

affectimate Cousin  
Roland G. Smith

P.S) Please ~~write~~ the same as before