


5-24-1864

Letter: W.E. Johnson to W.E. Johnson, Sr., May 29, 1864

W. E. Johnson
Confederate States Army

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Drearys Bluff May 24th 1864

My dear Father

Yours of - inst. and
of May 8th were duly received.
The first enclosing three letters
of credit to persons in the north
for which I am much obliged
to you and will preserve them
carefully in the event of my being
captured.

A few days after our arrival
in ^{Vir.} Va we were sent to Mingo Point
to meet ~~the~~ and observe the enemy
who were advancing upon Drearys
Bluff in very heavy force. The service
was extremely severe and dangerous,
for ten days we were in the saddle
almost day and night, within one
to four hundred yards of them
all ~~the~~ all the time and were
often obliged to fight their skin-
-mishers and drive in their pickets

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It was the most harassing and ex-
-hausting service that could be as
we were in danger of being shot
at any time of the day or night
and no chance to sleep or rest.
We have been resting for several
days lately as Gen Beauregard has
driven the enemy inside of his entrench-
-ments and has no use for cavalry
but we expect to be sent to the other
side of the river very soon.

The enemy got possession
of our outer lines of entrenchments here
and had made wire fences and other
obstructions in front of them which
required the most gallant fighting
on the part of our men to drive them
out of, which they did almost
without a pause. I saw a good deal
of the fighting, it was a grand ex-
-hibit. our Synadron was stir-
-mishing with the Yankee Cavalry

most of the day ^{on the extreme right} at long range but
 only had a few horses shot. We have
 had but one man killed. We never
 have more than one hundred
 men for duty as there are several
 companies on detached service and
 two not yet arrived. I am very well
 pleased with the Regt. and field
 Officers, which are Col Stringer
 Lt Col Alcock Haskell and Maj
 Brykinn.

I suffered dreadfully from low
 spirits for six weeks but have entirely
 recovered, and am most thankful
 for it; it was a most miserable con-
 dition as to be in as no one knows
 better than yourself. I suffered always
 most intensely in the morning and as
 evening approached got better invariably.
 I often sat up late at night because
 I was comfortable and knew the mis-
 ery that awaited me in the morning.
 I think if it had not been for the daily
 long marches my health would have
 given away



I have been elected Junin 2nd Gent
of this co by a vote of 45 to 10 and
am much pleased as the life of a
Magistrate in this service is a very hard
one as I know from experience I
will need money and wish you
to let me know how I can get it
what ever I use here I must sell
something to replace it - with I have
propos'd to do that effect and she
will advise with you what will be
best to sell, I will have to buy a
serviceable horse (which will cost me
\$500. probably unless I can swap
the one I have and give some tools
and probably a thousand dollars
of other necessary articles. I will spend
as little as will possibly do, knowing how
hard it is to get money, it may be
that I can make the horse I have do
and then can furnish me with some
made cloths for a uniform & & and
I may not need so much money, but
would like you to put me in power
to get it if I should need it
once as we may ordered to northern