

Camp Griffin, Va
October 28, 1861

Dear friends

Your favor is rather good, was
recd last night, and as I am to take
charge of 210 men and go out on picket in
the morning at half past three I think I can
manage to write yet tonight. However I will
be brief, as the tattoo has just commenced to
beat in front of my Markoe. My California
fire place is blazing at an awful rate, and
smoking some too by the way, which Bill is
trying to prevent, - success attend his efforts
say I.

There is nothing particular going on
just now. Two companies of our Regiment were
out scouting today and captured 2 prisoners
One of them was engaged in the laudable
business of impressing men into the rebel
service. He is in safe winter quarters at
least.

I received a Gazette last night and
I do not like the idea of having my private
letters published. They are written to you alone
and not for general information. At all events
if you desire to publish a fact, leave out
all matters of a personal nature. I did not

want my thanks to Mrs Snyder or Mrs Young
made in quite so public a manner. Besides
the style and language was not such as I
would use in a letter for publication.

Mother

do not be alarmed about my being foisoned
by Virginia girls. More danger of my being
captivated by their charms than by their Rebel
friends. The one I visit particularly is
as loyal as anybody can be and extremely good
looking. Our Adjutant has been lying sick
at his father's house for over a week and
"Grandmother" has been attending him. I have
set up with him - not her - several nights
"Grandmother" and all the family think there
is nobody like Capt. Gobin. And if you could
see us seated around the big fire place in the
evening toasting our shins and telling yarns, you
would think I was at home. or as they say
"to hum". A piece below us are a couple
of Pennsylvania Girls from York County.
They have lived here a number of years.
A couple of New York lieutenants have however
"got in" there. I go to see them once in a while
however, but never alone. So you see I am
well guarded. Don't be alarmed I won't
get married or if I do will invite you
all to the wedding.

Ed, tell Zettlemyer I gave that seal
to George Courad. He has it.

I have not been
to Washington since Boulet's death, for the
reason that I cannot get over. I want to try
this week, if we do not advance, or there
is a probability of a fight.

I have built in
my Markoe a California fire place
which keeps me warm and comfortable.
It is a trench about a foot deep, running
through the tent covered up with thin stones. A
hole is left open for the wood to be put in.
A couple of barrels outside serve for a chimney,
and the whole thing does very well, only it smokes,
once in a while, and sometimes the chimneys
catch fire, and then there is a time, every
body in the Camp hollering fire. Bandykes
burnt up yesterday, but he soon had a new one
up.

I think you would have laughed, had you
been in my position last night. Lieut Rees is
very fond of fun, and finding a scarcity of the
article in Camp, he got Rigby, Jim Butte,
Jim Wolfe, and several others, and among
other amusements, offered 25 cents to the man
that could open his mouth the widest. They
all sat in a row, and it was the richest

sight I ever saw. Right down the quarter
I just dropped in on them

But it is late, and I
will retire and get a little sleep, before we
go on duty. My men are all well, with the
exception of a few who have colds. The weather
is getting quite raw, but we are getting some-
what accustomed to it.

Remember me to all
friends and let me hear from you soon
Good night

Yours Truly,

J. P. Smith of Fort

Head Q^{rs} 3^d Brigade
Camp Griffin Oct 29/61

Order!

Counter-sign

Egypt.

By Order of R. F. Taylor,
Colonel Comdg 3^d Brigade
Smith's Division
fr. H. S. Merrill
A. a. a. Genl.

Capt. John
447, 1000 1000
Field off. of the
Piquets,