

1-25
1862
Jan. 3

PERSONAL LETTER from C. W. Gay, in Staunton, Virginia, to
his friend, Paul Declouet at home in St. Martinville, La.
Staunton, January 3rd, 1862

Dear Paul,

I was very sorry when I found you had left Richmond the morning after we parted, for I had hoped to spend one or two more pleasant days with you. I remained in Richmond several days after you left, but owing to the inflammation of my face, I did not enjoy myself very much and did not summon courage sufficient to go and call on the ladies at Mrs. McFarland's.

Our company did not come to Richmond but went from Lynchburg to Charlottesville and there disbanded. The pay-roll was made out in Salem and sent to Richmond by Lt. Old. You and I were reported "absent without leave" and the pay-master said he could not pay such. Did you not think you had Capt. Crane's permission? I certainly thought so. If we had not, why did not he tell us so when he saw us leave Dry Creek, instead of saying he wished he could go with us. He gave us the same permission he gave Buck Young and Buck was reported "Absent with leave" and was paid. Do you not think it a shabby trick that because the pay roll happened to be made out in Salem, we must be deprived of four month's pay? I have not seen Crane, but have written about it. If he chooses, he can very easily and conscientiously rectify the matter. That contemptable little Cocke I. N. who was with the company about ten days - asked for his whole pay (6 months) and received it. Paul, I am thoroughly ashamed of having been a member of such a company. Young came to Richmond the day after you left and was very sorry he did not see you. He mentioned that he owed you something and would give it to me to send you soon. I have not seen him since my return,

1862
Jan. 3
(con't.)

tho' he is now at home. I saw Jim Clarke in Richmond. He said he had been knocking about at Manassas and Richmond and in Virginia generally since the war broke out. He was very sorry he did not see you.

Calwell spent a day or two here Christmas and desired to be very remembered to you. Paul, I am about to start to Buffalo Gap on a deer hunt and am in a great hurry. I will write you a long letter very soon. Let me hear from you at once, please. All send kindest regards to you and all your family. We are all well. Remember me particularly to Alex (your brother).

I am your attached friend,

C. W. Gay

P. S. The Yanks have not got Lewisburg yet, but having burned our houses at Mt. Bluff and stolen Mr. McFarland's property - went back to Summersville . I hear Tompkins old regiment will get Lewisburg.