

contest, striking for the independence of their country. I lost a brother in the Battle of Sharpsburg in Maryland on 17th September. I had not seen him in thirteen years. He had a wife and three small children in Texas when I last heard from him.

Our Regt did not get in the fight at this place. We were held in reserve just to the rear, of where the battle was going on. We were not needed consequently were not carried into it. For two days we remained in line of battle where the shells were bursting over our heads nearly all the time and the rifle balls whistling thick and fast. None of us got hurt. When the battle was raging fiercest and the shelling was most terrific we were called to attention, and a beautiful Flag was presented to our Regiment from the Governor of Florida made by the ladies of Tallahassee. We were commanded to receive the Flag without any demonstration whatever, to receive it in silence. The letter of the Governor attending the Flag was a beautiful one. It was read to the Reg. while the thunder of Artillery was so incessant that frequently the reading would have to be stopped for a short time. It was the most imposing scene I have ever witnessed or heard of. It seemed that every heart would burst with the pent up feelings which, but for the order forbidding it, would have made Fredericksburg heights sing with their shouts & hurrahs.

I was sorry to hear that Sallie May cut her hand so badly & wish I had been there to peel that cane for her. Mr. Rogerson says if he was there he would "break the knife that cut Sallie's hand." I hope you will not be disturbed when you write again so that you can draw your letter out a little longer.

Truly yours - Walter
(Colonel Moore, 2nd Florida Regiment)

