

December 26, 1862

Dearest Mother,

I write you with joyous news. We have indeed arrived safe in Fredericksburg and found the 2nd Florida Co. E. We arrived Christmas eve morning. As I rode into camp along side Maj. W. Speir I saw Capt. Kearney come charging out of his tent followed by 1st Sgt. French. We walked with Capt. Kearney to the center of camp. There around the fire was Sgt. Saunders, Cpl. Saunders, Put. Reed Franklin and Put. Nate Greene all playing music of the season. Right in front of the captains tent was a beautiful Christmas tree decorated with candles, lanterns, tin cups, knives, forks, spoons and a bayonet on the top. Mother it was as close to home as I have felt in 2 years.

We set up our tents and insulated the bottom. I emerged at about noon after a long needed nap. We sang and talked for the rest of the day and into the night. I awoke the next morning I awoke to confusion in the ranks. Capt. Kearney said it looked like St. Nicholas had been in camp the night before. There were gifts for every man in the company wrapped in burlap every one in the company got 4 cigars and a ration of salt pork the only one not to get cigars was Put. Nate Greene as the lad is too young. The company cook made a make shift feast of salt pork and hard tack dumplings. Well mother you now know what is happening here. I miss you and brother dearly and hope you are celebrating the holiday better than we are. I hope to see you and brother soon Until then I remain.

Your Loving Son,

Victor

Assigned to the 2nd Florida Light Artillery

Co. A.

Army of Northern Virginia

CSA

