

[Sharlots ville at Mechuma river depot] September 27 1864

Dear wife

I seat my self to drop you a few lines to let you no that I am stil numbered with the living yet But I am not in good helth yet I am 9 miles above Sharlots ville at Mechuma river depot we left Harison burg last Saturday nite & the yankeys came in thare in a hour after we left I am very tired & sore from our march & my legs is sweld rite smart & my feet is very sore I hope when those few lines rech you they may find you & the children wel

I am sor to tel you that the 51 regiment is nerly all kild & captured* I havent hurd of but one of my company & that is lutenant Neel & he is sick I cant say what has become of John I cant hear eny thing of him a tol but Jacob grosclouse & lutenant grose (Grossclouse - Joseph A. T.) & john grose & david grose & E li davis was all captierd & all the brigade was capturd but 180 men & Bracon Ridge division or is all kild & capturd but 4 hundred magor yanch (Yonce) is mortly wonded he is shot in the back & the bal is in him yet he is at sharlets ville & curnel Fros Burg (Forsberg) is wonded in the hip

we nurly whiped the yan keys yesterday & drove them back 6 miles but the yankey calvery went thru Stanton yesterday towards lynch burg I think it is time for us to stop for the yanks wil kil us all yet it is reported that the regiment is all captured I am to go back to harison burg as quick as the yankeys leaves if we can hold the valey but I cant say what they wil do yet I am atatched to the Provose gard of stanton but whether they wil let me go back thare againe or not I canot sey yet or whether they wil send me to my regiment But thare is one thing surten I cant march far til I wil give out But I hope they wil ceap me til I can get back to harison burg

you nedent rite to me eny more til I rite to you againe you must ~~let me no if the~~ you must let paps no that I don't [know] what has become of John I hope & pray that john is not kild & hope that this war wil soon clos & that I can come home to remane with you and the chil dren I must close for this time I wil rite as soon as I can a gane to you I stil remane your trew husbent til dethe

T O Wilson to M J Wilson

Letters of a Confederate Private: Thomas O. Wilson, Company F, 51st Virginia Infantry, Whorton's Brigade, edited by James F. Wilson, Blacksburg, Virginia

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* The 51st history lists the battle referred to in this letter as being at Winchester on September 19, 1864.