

Southern Female College
May 9th 1863.

My dearest Ma.

I wrote you a very short note by Mr^r Harvey and have intended to write you a long long letter ever since he left but having no way to send it I have delayed writing for that reason. Mr^r Carter has kindly offered to take a letter for me and I am indeed rejoiced. You have long in this heard of the Battle near Fredericksburg and it is spoken of by all as being the hardest fought battle of the war, as yet I have not heard a word from my dear brother. Suspence is almost insupportable. I would give oh so much to hear from him. Mr^r Davis has just received the intelligence that his oldest son was taken prisoner, he was sick about three miles from where the fight took place, he is missing, and it is supposed he was taken prisoner, I saw a grand sight yesterday between 7, and 9,000 (thousand) soldiers passed through here and I really wish you could have seen them but many of them were bare footed, and caused many sighs for to escape from our happy land, the Yankees

will never conquer such men. You wrote me word
in your last letter that Mrs Betts sent Jennie a bundle
she never received, and Mr Harvey thinks it was stolen
from his carpet-bag - it is truly a great loss - contained
a black silk dress, and baguette. I hope it may be found.
I can imagine what you are all doing at home this
bright Saturday evening. Pa has gone to the office to hear
from his dear boy, and you with a sad countenance
have taken a stroll in the garden to look at your flowers -
Cousin Joe, has retreated to some secluded spot, to read again
(for the 1000th time) some of Tommie's sweet missives, Cousin
Maggio, and Bettie, have taken a walk to meet Papa -
or perhaps are entertaining their dears, and could neither
and I be at home now, I think we would be happy for a short
season. Mr Toll, came over from Richmond this afternoon
he told me he saw Brothie drawn up in line of battle
the day of the fight - but could tell me nothing more -
Mrs Coynes, has several times enquired of me - if I had heard
from him since the fight - she feels a great interest
in him, she is certainly a splendid lady. I wish you
knew her. I commenced this Saturday evening - but something
trivial prevented me from finishing it - but I know Ma will
not object to receiving a letter a few days out-of-date, since
writing the above concerning (the ~~supposed~~) capture of Mr Willie
Davis, his father received a letter from the gentleman at
whose house he was sick at stating he (Mr William Davis)
was dead, being on the Yankee line, a Confederate

Surgeon could not be obtained, but a Federal one came
and he had every attention that could be paid him. This
is truly an afflicted family, Mr Davis will start this afternoon
for his remains, I don't suppose we will have school again
for a week. If I could be absent during this week I would not
object for I know we are but in the way now. Mrs Toll and
Sophie are going to visit Richmond, Ashland, and the recent
battle field near Fredericksburg, this week. Oh! how I would
like to visit it myself. We have lost the greatest General of
our Confederacy, General G. F. Jackson, and before this unholy
war closes - how many hearts will be bowed with sorrow - how
many homes rendered desolate - alas we know not, war is a
terrible thing. The short note I wrote you & Mr Harvey - I
scarcely had time to thank you for the things you sent - but
I do so now, I am very much pleased with the dress - I could
not get one for \$1.00, and I think I wrote you about the Swiss
muslin. Mr Davis advised me not to sell the silk dress
you sent. I can have it made next winter - and puffed
at the bottom with something black, puffs and small flounces
are very much worn - in fact any kind trimming is worn
on the skirt. I wish I could send you some of the "old fashions"
for there is nothing new here, but I have no way of sending
any thing I may wish, Mr Harvey staid such a short time
I did not ask half as many questions. I would like to have
done. He intended having a large concert at the close of the
session - but I don't think we will now - since Mr D. has
to his son - believe he will ^{not} ~~not~~ send his children.

Tell Cousin Bette, I am very much afraid I cannot get my-
self at home much less bring flowers - but if I can I will
certainly bring a few with me, I have seen some beautiful flower
gardens since I have been here. I commenced this letter more
than a week ago - but various things interrupted me
from writing, and I have at last taken this letter up with
the determination of finishing it. I received a paper last
Wednesday (13th) containing the casualties of 4th Regt, and
you may imagine feelings on seeing brother's name among
them - since then I have heard he was slightly wounded
in fleshy part of the leg below the ~~below~~ knee, I have not
received a letter from him for a month - I cannot imagine
why he don't write. I spent a day out in the country
last week - and certainly enjoyed myself - reminded me
home, we have only 5 days to remain here - and then
I will leave for home, the dearest spot on earth.

I guess this will be the last letter I will write you - for
I don't expect to write more than one more - ere I leave -
Tell Cousin Bette that Bette Paul, and Billy Bishop
(the Butcher's son ~~her dear~~ I mean Cousin Bette's) have run
off to be married, it is reported all over town - but I cannot
vouch for the originality of it, Tell Cousin Maggie I have
gotten the Geometris for her but the ^{the} book I don't think can
be gotten - but I will try - and I am very sorry I could not
get it in time to send by Mr. Harvey - but he reached about
8 o'clock at night, and left at 3 in the morning - and
I scarcely had time to talk to him - I intended sending
the by Mr. Carter - who I don't go to Lancaster, and

**Broun, Bettie Lee. Bettie Lee Broun to Harriet C. Johnson
Broun, Petersburg, VA, May 9, 1863.**

FileName: ua24-19_cw1_18630509

Handwritten letter from Bettie Lee Broun to her mother Harriet C. Johnson Broun. Southern Female College, Petersburg, Virginia. May 9, 1863. Original letter in poor condition with holes and tears. Date inferred. First 4 pages of letter, unknown number of pages missing.

Bettie Broun writes her mother Harriet Broun and discusses the aftermath of the Battle of Fredericksburg, confederate prisoners of war, family, dresses, and reminisces about home.

Subjects: American Civil War (1861-1865); Fredericksburg, Battle of (Virginia : 1862); Jackson, Stonewall, 1824-1863; Letters; Personal correspondence; Records and correspondence; Virginia--Northumberland County; Virginia--Petersburg; Women college students; Women's colleges;

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[pg.01]

...will never conquer such men. You wrote me word in your last letter that Mrs. Betts sent Jennie a bundle she never received, and Mr. Harvey thinks it was stolen from his carpet bag. It is truly a great lost. Contained a black silk dress and [basgreen?]. I hope it may be found. I can imagine what you are all doing at home this bright Saturday evening. Pa has gone to the office to hear from his **dear boy** and you with sad countenance have taken a stroll in the Garden to look at you flowers. Cousin Joe has retreated to some secluded spot to read again (for the 1000th time) some of Tommie's sweet missives. Cousin Maggie and Bettie, have taken a walk to meet Papa or perhaps are entertaining their beaus. And could brother and I be at home now, I think we would be happy for a short season. Mr. Doll came over from Richmond this afternoon. He told me he saw Brothers drawn up in line of battle the day of the fight but could tell me nothing more. Mrs. [Paynes?] has several times inquired of me if I have heard from him since the fight. She feels a great interest in him. I commenced this Saturday evening but something trivial prevented me from finishing it but I know Ma will not object to receiving a letter a few days out-of-date. Since writing the above concurring (the) capture of Mr. Willie Davis, his father received a letter from the gentleman at whose

house he was sick at stating he (Mr. William Davis) was dead, being in the Yankee line, a Confederate...

[pg.02]

...surgeon could not be obtained, but a federal one came and he had every attention that could be paid him. This is truly an afflicted family. Mr. Davis will start this afternoon for his remains. I don't suppose we will have school again for a week. If I could be absent during this week I would not object for I know we are but in the way now. Mrs. Doll and Sophie are going to visit Richmond, Ashland, and the recent battlefield near Fredericksburg this week. Oh! how I would like to visit it myself. We have lost the greatest General of our Confederacy General T.J. Jackson and before this unholy war closes - how many hearts will be bowed with sorrow. How many homes rendered desolate. Alas we know not. War is a terrible thing. The short note I wrote you [PAGE TORN] Mr. Harvey. I scarcely had time to thank you for the things you sent. But I do so now. I am very much pleased with the dress. I could not get one for \$100, and I think I wrote you about the swiss muslin. Mrs. Davis advised me not to sell the silk dress you sent. I can have it made next winter and puffed as the bottom with something black, puffs and small flowers are very much worn in [pack?] any kind trimming is worn on the skirt. I wish I could send you some of the **"old fashions" for there is nothing new here**, but I have no way of sending anything I may wish. Mr. Harvey stayed such a short time I did not ask half as many questions as I would like to have done. We intended having a large concert at the close of the session but I don't think we will now since Mr. D has lost his son. I believe he was the favorite of all his children. ...

[pg.03]

Tell Cousin Bettie I am very much afraid I cannot get myself at home much less bring flowers but if I can I will certainly bring a few with me. I have seen some beautiful flower gardens since I have been here. I commenced this letter more than a week ago but various things interrupted me from writing and I have at last taken this letter up with the determination of finishing it. I received a paper last Wednesday (13th) containing the casualties of 47th Regt, and you may imagine feelings on seeing my brother's name among them. Since then I have heard he was slightly wounded in fleshy part of the leg below the knee. I have not received a letter from him for a month. I cannot imagine why he don't write. I spent a day out in the country last week and [?] enjoyed myself. Reminded me home. We have only 50 days to remain here and then I will leave for **home**. The dearest spot on **earth**.

I guess this will be the last letter I will write you for I don't expect to write more than one more ere I leave. Tell cousin Bettie that Bettie Paul, and Billy Bishop (the Butcher's son **her** [?] I mean cousin Bettie's) have ran off to be married. It is reported all over town but I cannot vouch for the originality of it. Tell Cousin Maggie I have gotten the geometry for her but the other book I don't think can be gotten but I will try and I am very sorry I could not get it in time to send by Mr. Harvey. But he reached about 8 o'clock at night and left at 3 in the morning and scarcely had time to talk to him. I intended sending them by Mr. Carter but he did not go to Lancaster and ...

[pg. 04]

[MISSING PAGES?]

Notes:

- **Bolded Words:** Underlined words in original documents.
1. **Swiss Muslin:** a crisp, sheer muslin that is constructed in plain weave, bleached white or dyed, and often ornamented with raised dots or figures (dotted swiss), used chiefly in the manufacture of curtains and women's summer clothes.