Dear wife & Friends—

I am well & hearty at this time & I hope & I hope when these few lines come to hand that may find you and all the rest of the friends in Good health.

We took Chattanooga on the 9 instant with the loss of only one man the rebels retreated back towards some Jorg-was told thence a bout 12 miles to Lee & Gordon's mills (mills) on the Chickamauga Creek in Georgia & their Bragg took a stand. Lee was large read for to from Lee & Johnston the Pitt comment on fridays 18 & ended on Sunday the 20th one of the most terrific late Battles of the war our loss is very heavy in killed wounded & missing after 3 days hard fighting we was compelled to fall back on Chattanooga Bragg's forces was 100% thousand our strength was 78000 I past thru the heat & fire without a scratch my close was Hat & torn by bullets my kids not touched we air in Chattanooga to day hard at work fortifying the place the rebels close buy us in site.

The weather had the Advantage of us thay the woods to Shelter thame & was the open land to fire in but now we will Whip thame worn them the River was whipt sense the War began for we air in a fortitude place I lost one man elled that I no Silas wainwsher his father lives close to horagon (1) I have several a mission I hop ant elled her cap (2) told our loss in between 10 & 16 000 thousand the rebel loss in reported 30 000.

I sent you a Present the list later in my likeness take out the piecer in the box you will find the present.

Give my respects to all of my friends i must close for this time tell uncle Jon trimbell lones well & Harris sam & wes Turtar air both well you shill her from ness a Clain soon of I live rite soon the boles is Generals well.

Robert Gilmore to Elizabeth E. Gilmore friends our loss in killed & wounded is 150 no more at present.

WILL OF JAMES GILMORE, PULASKI CO., KY.

In the name of God, Amen, I, James Gilmore of the county of Pulaski and State of Kentucky, being weak and feeble body but of sound mind and memory do make ordain and publish this as my last Will and Testament—hereby revoking all former Wills made by me. That is to say—

I will that all my just debts be paid out of the proceeds of the debts owing to me and my loose property which loose property consists of all my Horses, Cattle, Hogs and other live stock and perishable property not herein after bequeathed and the debts owing to me after paying my debts out of the same, I will and bequests it to James Gilmore, son of Robert Gilmore, Mary Martha Gilmore daughter of Jefferson Gilmore, Martha Lee, James G. Lee and

Kentucky Family Histories #1, 1700s-1800s
Genealogies of Kentucky Families, Volume II, Stephenson-Lee-Logan-Gilmore Family Records, Page 302
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In modern spelling and punctuation:

Chattanooga, Tenn  
September 24, 1863  

Dear Wife and Friends –

I am well and hearty at this time, and I hope and hope when these few lines come to hand they may find you and all  
the rest of the friends in good health.

We took Chattanooga on the 9 instant (9th of this month) with the loss of only one man. The rebels retreated back  
towards Rome, Georgia. We fooled them about 12 miles to Lee's & Gordon's Mill on the Chickamauga Creek in  
Georgia, and their Bragg¹ took a stand. Here was a large regiment from Lee and Johnston. The fight commenced on  
Friday the 18th and ended on Sunday the 20th, one of the most terrific battles of the war. Our loss is very heavy in  
killed, wounded and missing. After 18 days hard fighting, we were compelled to fall back on Chattanooga. Bragg's  
forces were 150 thousand. Our strength was 75 thousand. I passed through the whole fight not touched. We are in  
Chattanooga today, hard at work fortifying the place. The rebels [are] close by us in sight.

The rebels had the advantage of us in the woods to shelter them and we the open land to fight in, but now we will  
whip them worse than ever was whipped since the war began, for we are in a fortified place. I lost one man killed that  
I know, Silas Rainwater, his father lives close to our horizon. I have several a mission I hope killed nor captured. Our  
loss is between 10 and 15 thousand. The rebel loss is reported 20 thousand.

I sent you a present [in] the last letter in my likeness. Take out the picture in the box, you will find my present.

Give my respects to all of my friends. I must close now for this time. Tell Uncle John Trimble [that] Tommy is well  
and hearty. Sam and Wes Tarter are both well. You shall year from me again soon, if I live. Write soon. The boys are  
generally well.

Robert Gilmore to Elizabeth E. Gilmore.

Friends our loss in killed and wounded and missing is 150 no more at present.

¹ General Braxton Bragg, CSA