

Chatanooga, Ten.
September 24—1863

Dear wife & Friends—

I am well & hart at this time & I hope & I hope when these fiu lines come to hand tha may find you and all the rest of the friends in Good helth.

wea took Chatanooga on the 9 instant with the Loss of only one man the rebels Retreated back towards rome Jorga. wea foload thame a bout 12 miles to Lees & Gordens mile (mill?) on the Chickmauga Creek in Georgia & thair Brag took a stand Hea was large rean forgt? From Lee & Johnston the Fite commenet on frida the 18 & ended on Sunday the 20th one of the most terific iate Batels of the war our los is vera heva in ciled wounted & mising after 3 days hard fting wea was compelled to fol back on ChatnooGa Brags forces was 10050 thousand our strength was 75000 I past thrue the heal fite without a cratch my close was Hat & tora buy bulits my hide not tuched .we air in ChatnooGa to day hard at work fortifian the place the rebels cloas buy us in site.

The re(b) als had the AdvantaGe of us tha the woods to Shelter thame & wea the open land to fite in but now we will Whip thame wors then tha Ever was whipt sence the Wor beGun for we air in a fortifide place i lost one man ciled that i no Silas wrainwater his father lives cloas to horigon (?) I have several a mison i hop ant ciled ner cap (t) tered our loss is between 10 & 15 000 thousand the rebel loss is reported 20 000.

I sent you a Present the last leter in my likeness tak out the picter in the box you will find the present.

Give my respects to all of my friends i must close for this time tell uncal Jon trimbell tomy is well & hart a sam & wess Tartar air both well you shii her from me a Gain soon ef I live rite soon the bois is Generia well.

Robert Gilmore to Elizabeth B. Gilmore friends our loss in ciled & wounded & missing 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 of 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 Horsee, 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 bequeath it to James Gilmore, son of Robert Gilmore, Mary Martha Gilmore daughter of Jefferson Gilmore, Martha Lee, James G. Lee and

#2170

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