Covington Feb 16th 1861

My dear Brother

I'll again endeavor to write to you altho I don't know any news of importance to write. I'll will try to write short letter that you may hear from home. I've been looking a letter from you for several days, but haven't received one for at least two weeks. I wrote to Dick sometime ago, but have not received a line from him.

I received a very long letter from Ellen Horne (?) the other day. She requested me to give her respects to you and Bro Dick. She said that her father was detailed a few days ago on a scouting expedition, and captured a boat, which he gave the name of The Avengers in honor of a school-mate of thiers) and they say they intend to offer thier services and go down on the coast if the will accept them.

Ma got your shoes today. She says she'll send them the first opportunity she has. They look like very nice shoes, and are very pretty.

Ma says you must take care of you health, and that you must try and be contented. She is very anxious about you.

Lucy says you must answer her letter. All send much love. Love to Bro. Dick.

Affectionately your Sister

Lucy Simms
Camp Marion Feb 16th 1861

Dear Sister

I feel ashamed at this late date because I think I might have answered your letter before this time, but through negligence and inconvenience I have not performed my duty as it should have been done. Being here with Dick I knew you would hear from us frequently through him. Health of our Camp is very good -- very few sick and none dangerous -- so far as regards myself I believe I am as strong and healthy as I have ever been in my life. We are spending an exceedingly quiet winter. our quarters are so much better than tents, that all in Camps seem to be perfectly happy. Mischief in some way or another is being carried on incessantly.

Mr Clark arrived here last week and spent two days with us. The night before he left our Band gave him a serenade, and he gave us a short speech. We expect Judge Carr this evening or tomorrow. He has I understand been on the road over a week. He fell asleep and was carried to Charleston which caused him to delay two days.

Tell Mother I'll write soon to her. Excuse this short letter much as I can possibly write at this time. My love to all and remember me kindly to Servants.

Your affectionate Brother.

A B Simms
Camp near Richmond Aug 7th 61

Dear Mother

Since my departure from Covington I have been exceedingly well, and in good spirits, in fact, I have been most too much disposed to levity for such a serious matter as the one is in which I am engaged. I am very comfortably situated at present, having a pretty hard bed upon the ground, but I have exercised so much that when I lie down I go to sleep instantly and never wake till morning, so I am just as well off as if I had the finest feather bed and a mattress. But I care nothing for hardships just so long I am not sick, I can stand almost anything when in good health. Our fare is very good, coffee, flour, meat, vinegar, and anything else that we have money to buy. I have a good appetite as usual.

I visited Richmond on last Tuesday went to see the caged Yankees, we have a good many of them prisoners. It would be impossible for me to make a correct estimate of the number as I could not see all of them. Some say we have five hundred others two thousand. I saw four buildings, about size of the College building in Covington, full, every building, except one, was three stories high, and it was four, and then they have some in the tobacco manufactory. I know not how large a building or how many are there. I would suppose one thousand is about all we have. They are the most impudent and saucy looking set men I ever saw, by the way, they are quite a fine looking set of men. they are much larger and stronger looking than our men. it seems strange that such men should be whipped, routed, and taken prisoners, by an inferior number.

We have been mustered into service and are now regular Volunteer soldiers. Col Cobb says he thinks from indications at present,
that we will be sent to Manassas and will leave here for there about
the fifteenth of this month. I will write again before leaving
here. Give my love to my three Sisters and also to brother Jim.
I will write soon to Jim. Dick is asleep by my side as I am
writing. he has been very well all the time. One of our company
will return home soon -- Heath of Oxford -- he thinks his consti-
tution is not strong enough to undergo a campaign but I am rather
of the opinion that fear has quite a effect upon his
imagination. I must now close as I have nothing at all interesting
to write about. If you receive this and then not receive another
soon you need thing nothing of it. Mr Cobb says the mails is not
at all regular, and that is very hard for a letter to pass through
the mails.

Your affectionate Son

A B Simms
Covington August 20th/61

My dear Brother

I received your highly appreciated tho' short missive yesterday. You cannot imagine the pleasure it afforded me for I'd looked so long for a letter that I'd come to the conclusion that you never intended to write to one at all. I must now try to answer your letter but I cannot write a very long one, as we are busy preparing to go to Sisters tomorrow. I will write to you again as soon as I come back from Sisters. Today is the first fair day we have had since I last wrote to you, we've had very damp days -- nearly every one is fearful that it will occasion a great deal of sickness. I've just heard that Mrs. Shepherd is dying -- I don't know that it is true. Mrs Hurst is very low. If the weather continues as bad as it has been, I shouldn't be surprised if there were a great many deaths in Covington.

The revival is still going on. Mary Lucy (Jims wife) & Florida Floyd have joined the church & there is a great many serious mourners. Mrs. George Carr professed religion yesterday.

I heard that you called on a young Lady while passing through Columbus Co. you didn't tell me about it. Julia Pace told me of it, so I do not know whether it's true or not.

Miss Lou Holmes is in Covington at present -- she's intends spending some time with Julia & Mary Pace. I heard that Lou Allen would be up soon to stay with Florence & Dollie Anderson -- They like our little town better than the most of the young ladies that have graduated here.

You say that you continue to fatten -- I'm glad to hear it for it is a very good sign that you are enjoying good health. Bro. Jim often tells me that when I get grown I'll weigh three hundred pounds -- I hope his prediction will never prove true,
as I would dislike very much to be fleshy. If you or Bro. Dick
want anything at any time write home and we'll send it. I expect
you have received my last letter before now. I directed it to
Sergeant A. B. Simms. And as you did not tell us how to direct
them, I thought it was perhaps the safest direction as there are
several Simms in the company. I didn't know but that they had
the same initials as yours. Ma wrote to you yesterday -- she says
tell Dick she'll write to him soon. Give my love to Bro. Dick
and tell him I'm looking for a letter from him by every mail. I'm
going to write to him soon. I must close as I've a great deal of
work to do this evening and the sun has nearly set.

Ma Jim and all the Lucys send their love. Ma says she wants
to hear from you both often and that you must write and tell her
everything about both -- that she is glad to hear that you all
fare so well. She told me a great deal more but I've forgotten
it.

Most every one thinks the war will soon close -- I pray that
it may -- If we could only have peace there would be many a heart
almost frantic with joy. I saw in the Crusader a piece written
by Luke Lane on the death of one of your classmates at Oxford --
Mr. Atkinson.

You must excuse all mistakes for I've written this in about
two minutes.

Write soon and often to

Your devoted sister.

Lucy
Richmond Sep 9th 1861

Dear Sister

Your nice little letter was rec'd yesterday. I was much pleased at getting a letter from my sister. Lucy [?] Hyde didn't write to me, but I know she is well, or you would have told me.

Mr Cobb, I forget to call him Colonel, (which I have to do in his presence) is anxious to move us to Ashland, about 12 miles from Richmond. We will know in a few days if we are to move there. It is said to be a beautiful and healthy place. We are desirous of the change.

Has your college resumed its exercises? How many scholars have you at school and who are the professors?

How is the revival progressing? Who have been converted?

It is reported here that our army is in three miles of Arlington heights. I don't believe it. When they get that close fighting will be going on.

Col Cobb allows Billie to stay at the hotel with Jennie while she is here, as she only intends staying a short time. She is the first and only lady who has been to see her husband in this Legion. All of our officers except two or three are married, and if their wives were to come on here, I expect we would be so demoralized as military men that Mr Cobb could not find enough to drill. He would have to disband. For I assure you they are so anxious to see those at home, that it is difficult to keep them here now.

We are to have 8 infantry companies, if not 10 -- four cavalry, and two artillery companies. All are here except 1 infantry and the artillery comps.
Tell Lucy Hyde to send to Mr Pace's or Andersons and get me four or five pair of gloves. I want to give Ben some of them. One pair of light colored -- heavy material -- gloves, the others good winter ones -- any color or kind. My own gloves, in my room, will answer for one pair.

We played a great trick on Jno. Woodson last night -- worse than any on Wilson Morrow -- last night.

Hal Burham pretended to have a fit and to be delirious. We the trick, and pretended to convince Hal that we were prisoners, and that Woodson was guarding us. Hal cried awhile and declared he would get away before morning or die. He threatened to kill the sentinel (Woodson) -- didn't know any body, except Ben, and frightened bad. Occasionally he pretended to try to get a bayonet stealthily [?] whereupon tried to convince him who he was -- but to no purpose. Burham wouldn't know. You never saw one as much as Woodson. He is on the sick list today -- I don't say what made him sick.

I would write to Lucy Hyde today but suppose this will answer in

I am about out. I expect I had better stop as I have written all I know.

Love to all

R. L. Simms
Covington Sept 29th 1861

Dear Brother

I received your very welcome and interesting letter on Friday night and hasten to reply as I have a very good opportunity. While I'm going to school I have to write at such times as I can get a chance, which are very few.

I wrote to you last Thursday, thinking that Dr. Conyers would leave the next day, but as he will not leave till Monday, I concluded to write you a short letter this evening. I'm the only one awake in the house and feel quite lonely.

There was two hundred and fifty prisoners passed last night, and among them was a Virginia Tory. The same number passed Monday -- they are on their way to New Orleans.

Ma told me to ask you of your cakes and peach pickles were nice when you got them. She says the pickles were very nice when she sent them. We are all very anxious to see you and Bro. Dick. Ma says you must write and tell us when you think you Dick can come home. Mrs. Jennie Conyers says that they don't give but one furlough during the war. Is this so? Dr. Bates came home last Thursday he is a great deal better.

"The Henderson Coast Guard" has been tendered to Gov. Brown and ordered, when completed, to rendezvous at the junction of Gulf & Brunswick Railroads. They are expecting an attack there daily. When they leave there be a very few men in Covington. it will be but poorly protected.

Lucy Ann says she is determined to go with Brother Jim. I hardly think she will go through. She surely is not able to -- She looks very badly indeed.
Ma received your letter, and will answer it when she feels well enough. All send love to you and Bro Dick. Tell him to write me soon.

Your affectionate Sister

Lucy J. L.

Giv requested me to write you a letter for him. I haven't time so you must take the will for the deed. He says tell Josh howdy, and say to him that he heard that Mr. Conyers' black man was mighty dull about waiting on you all, and that he didn't want to hear the like of him.
My dear Brother --

I will write you a few lines tonight, as I write twice a week I've concluded to write of Wednesdays and Saturdays as I find it more convenient. It is useless for me to try to write a long letter, for Covington is the dullest place, that you ever saw. It is always dull but nothing to compare with now.

Bro. Jim's company is on encampment. They are at the Camp ground in the old tents there. Bro. Jim is at home tonight; he came this evening.

Miss Cornelia Woodson and Mr. Durham of Watkinsville were married yesterday morning at nine o'clock, and left at eleven. I saw them when they left, as it happened to be recess. I think he is very homely. The marriage was quite a private affair -- Miss Lucy Anderson and the boarders were the only ones present, excepting the family.

It has been sometime since I received a letter from you, but as Camps afford such poor facilities for writing you are perfectly excusable altho' nothing delights me more than a letter from my dear brother. Do write as often as convenient.

We are all extremely anxious to see you and Bro Dick and look forward with great pleasure to the time when you both shall come home.

We have not heard from Sister in two or three weeks. I think it is too bad for her to do us so -- She might write every week. I write to her by every other mail, which comes only once a week, but she never answers any of my letters.

Miss Lou Holmes left last Sunday -- she spend eight weeks in town. Miss Dumpsie Wellborn is still here. I understand that she is going to stay until December. I dont know though.
We heard that the Regiment to which the Young Guard belong (third Georgia Regiment) have had a fight, and that Wright's horse was shot from under him, and only one man on our side killed -- but the news has not been confirmed.

Ma says don't expose yourself -- she says she is very uneasy about you for fear that you will take some disease. She received your letter by Mr. Lamar. She told me to tell you that she will send you and Dick two blankets in the box in which he will carry things for the soldiers. They have your name on them.

Everybody has gone to bed and left me. It is very cold, and my candle has burnt down to nothing but a wick, and I haven't another, so I am compelled to stop.

Give me love to Bro Dick, and tell him to answer my letter soon. All send love.

Write soon to

Your affectionate Sister

L. J. Simms
Camp Marion Va Oct 14th 1861

Dear Sister

I am truly under obligations to you for your faithfulness as a correspondent. I am ashamed of my negligence. I received two from you on the arrival of Dr Conyers one by mail -- other from him I think. I intended answering immediately; but having orders to move our camp from Yorktown to this place six or eight miles distance I thought to postpone until I reached my new encampment, but after walking with my gun and all my accoutrements on back through mud and rain, I felt very little like writing. Just about time I got rested and fixed, we received orders to prepare one days rations with one blanket on back, and be ready for marching in two hours, when ready we proceeded about three and a half miles and there awaited further orders but receiving none, we remained without advancing farther, we had to sleep out in the woods under some little bushes we cut to keep dew off, after a pretty rough nights sleep we returned to our camps this morning; without seeing a single Yankee. In fact we were seven miles distant from any enemy at all. Our cavalry being far in advance and having a party of eight or ten in advance as a guard, got within shot of about one hundred Yankees. I hear the guard saw them and not the body of cavalry. The Yankees fired and the ten men just retreated without any damage being done. I can't believe that we will have much fighting to do, if we have any at all. I am anxious to fight and end the war, I see no use of our government's paying out money for the support of soldiers, unless they do fighting.

Ma wished to know when we would be able to get a furlough. I don't think I can get one for a long time yet. Dick perhaps may get one some time this winter, but I cannot tell how long. Commissioned Officers have far greater privilegedes than privates --
they get off from duty and do almost as they cloose.

I cant write a long letter this time, I will try and be more punctual hereafter. This paper I write upon costs sixty cents per quire and envelopes sixty centy by the pack -- so you must excuse half sheet. I wrote to Sister Lucy by Dr Conyers I suppose she has received my letter before this time. I appreciate her letter very highly, indeed; but I am afraid mine will prove so uninteresting that she will not feel like answering it. Give my love to all and thanks to Ma and Bro Jim for papers -- Georgia papers are very interesting as it is the only source we get news from there. Write soon to your affectionate brother

A B Simms

P. S. I desire to be rememberd to Hannah Peggy & Gib
My dear, dear Brother

I received very dear and interesting letter this morning. I am truly glad that you have received my letters, for I had begun to think that you had not surely received them. I thought perhaps they had been destroyed at the P. O. as Mr. Hurt wrote to Him word that a great many were burnt. I think it is very wrong for any Post Master to burn letters at this time when every one is so eager to hear from their absent friends and relatives.

We have indeed a dark, gloomy day, tho' it accords well with my feelings -- Brother Jim left us this morning. Home is desolate in truth, it does not seem like my once happy home, but instead, all is sad and gloomy. Lucy Hyde and myself have some fears of staying here, but Ma talks very boldly about shooting in (Jim left her two pistols) the air to frighten any one who should attempt to steal her chickens. She says she does not wish to kill them for so small an offense.

Lucy Ann went to her mother's this morning.

We heard from Sister last last friday -- her family were well -- and sick negroes getting better.

I am very sorry that you cannot come home soon. I wish that it was so that you and brother Dick could come and join bro Jim's company or some other Georgia com. His company has only enlisted for six months or a year. I think there must await some great punishment for Lincoln an his Cabinet. They have caused great troubles and a great many sad hearts.

Bro. Jim told me to tell you that paper was thirty cents by the quire and by the time that you would get it, it would cost as much as you can buy it for there. I sent all over town to get you some this evening, thinking that it would save your paying sixty
cents but I could find none. I think it is ridiculous to take the
advantage of the soldiers. If I can get any soon I'll send you some.

Mr. Hinton's house was burnt last night. He is in North Caro-
lina -- It was a dreadful night, the hardest rain you ever heard.
She Mrs. Hinton had to go to Mr. Graves'. The church in Mr. Graves'
neighborhood was burnt a few days ago and a Gin house and stable.
There was a negro hung yesterday. I hear a good many complaints of
servants now. I think they must do it all. Every one (or a great
many) fears that there will be a great deal of trouble among them.

Mr. Olbricht (?) has made your shoes and sent them home. Ma
doesn't know how to send them as there is no one going on as she
knows of but Mr. Newton Anderson. She sent and asked him if he
would take them, but he said he was going to Roanoke Island and
didn't know that he would go to Yorktown. Ma told me to ask you if
it would be safe to send them on the cars.

Mr. Humphreys was tried last week -- and is to be sent to the
Penitentiary for six years -- I am sorry for him but that is better
than to be hung.

Uncle Allen Turner came to see brother Jim last Saturday evening
and took supper with us. He says he does not forget you and brother
Dick in his prayers. I think he is a good old man. Old Mrs. Turner
was coming in to the Sewing Society last Tuesday and just as she
got to the creek she fell in. She was on horse back.

I hope you and Bro Dick may come home sooner than you expect.
You can try anyhow and maybe they'll let you come. we are extremely
anxious to see you both. Ma sends love, and is very much troubled
about your getting sick. She says you and Bro Dick must not expose
yourselves, and must be particular. Give my love to Bro and tell
him to write soon. And you must write as often as possible for I am
as you must know always delighted to hear from you, but I would not have you to write when you are tired, I wouldn't have you punish yourself. I will always excuse your not writing often for I know camp life is hard, as it is and I would have you rest as much as possible. I am always anxious to hear from you.

I remain your affectionate Sister

Lucy J. Simms
Camp Marion Vir.

October 22nd 1861

My dear Sister

I should have written to you long before this, but have been very busy during Capt absence and Bill Conyer's sickness. Both are on duty now and I am comparatively at ease. You and Lucy Hyde have written more frequently than the others and Ben and I feel very grateful for your thoughtfulness. Ben has received some letters from Lucy Ann also and feels very proud of them. Do write to us often.

Yesterday we went out to find some Yankees but failed. However, about one hundred Vir. cavalry met three hundred Yankees killed two -- captured one -- and had one of their own men wounded, and gave up the chase. Both sides were a little scared. If we had been equal in number we would have taken of them.

Ben is still sick. I think he has camp fever. We have men in the company a good deal worse off than he is, yet I feel it my duty to let those at home know that he is unwell. I think his symptoms are better to night, tho he has been worse off to day -- and this morning especially than heretofore. The Surgeon thinks that he is not dangerously ill. I went out to day and engaged a room at a private house for him, and will carry him there if the weather will permit. It has been raining all day.

I have tried very hard to get him sick furlough, but fear that I cannot.

Give my love to Lucy Hyde, Ma and Lucy Ann. Howdy to servants. I am with much love

Your affectionate bro

R. L. Simms
Friday Eve Nov 1st 1861

My dear Brother

As it is a very rainy and wet evening we haven't any school -- so I've concluded to spend a portion of my holiday in writing to you, as I cannot think of a better way of employing my time.

Ma, Lucy Hyde and myself were sitting around the fire just now talking about you all, when we heard some one coming in the front door and down the passage. when we were wondering who it could be in stepped brother Jim. You cannot imagine our surprise and pleasure when we saw him. He has come home for recruits, and says that he'll remain at home for five or six days. I was overjoyed to see him, and felt as if you and brother Dick would soon come too. I wish were all here now, and I do believe I would be the happiest creature living.

Mrs. Glass is going to see Sister next week. She'll only stop a night or day, as she is on her way to Macon to see her mother. Little Lou often talks about Mr. Bennie "Immes" as she calls you. She told me some time ago to give her love to you.

Bro Jim came through the Circle this evening, and says that an attempt was made to burn the Hotel there, but failed.

Bro Jim says that Col. Henderson told him at one time that the Adjutants place was open, and that he thought that Dick could get it, so Bro Jim was certain that he could get the office, but by some means he gave the place to a Mr. Phillips of Jasper Co. You must not speak of Mr. Henderson doing this, for brother Jim doesn't want it spoken of out of the family. Ma says she is very anxious to hear from you and that you must write
as soon as you are able, and if you are sick enough to need her to wait upon you, you must let her know. All send much love to you and brother Dick. Write soon.

I remain with much love,
Your affectionate Sister
Lucy Simms.

You must excuse paper, but I haven't scarcely any, so I must use it sparingly so as to make it last. Tell Bro Dick to write soon. I wrote to him yesterday. Servants send love.
Dear Sister

I received your last letters yesterday. I would have written to you often, but for sickness. I have been quite low with the fever. my fever is broke now. I hope soon to be well. I am very feeble yet. I wrote home by Dick for some clothing. As I never wrote for all I wanted by him, I will just repeat what he wrote for and also the additional wants. Send me four heavy shirts colored, two flannel shirts two pair woolen socks two pair heavy drawers. If you can find a good overcoat in town send it to me, if not have me one made. Mr Patillo has my measure. I want one good pair of pants. And ask Ma to please send me a mattress. She can wrap all those things tightly up in the the Mattress and they will come safely if directed to me at Yorktown. Sister I must close as what little I have written has almost put my eyes out. I am as ever your affectionate brother A B Simms.
Covington Nov 17th/61

My dear Brother

I received your very dear letter this morning, and you cannot imagine the pleasure it gave me to know that you were again able to write. I have indeed missed your letters very much.

I haven't time to write but a very short letter as I have to go to the college today.

I wrote to brother Dick yesterday.

We have had beautiful weather, tho' it has been very warm. Ma is now trying to get those things which you sent for -- She says she'll send them as soon as she can get them ready.

Sister's family are all well -- Gib went down this week. Brother Jim is perfectly well now -- Has he written to either of you since he left? He told me that he intended to write to you very soon.

Ma sends her love to you and bro Dick -- She says that you must write to her as soon as you get well.

Give my love to bro. Dick and accept much for yourself.

From your affectionate Sister

Lucy Simms
Camp Nov 28th 1861

My Dear Sister

This morning your letter was recieved and it surprised me to hear you say that you heard from me so seldom that you imagined that I was sick, when I write to Lucy every day or two. I was of the impression that you could hear from me in that way, without having to write so often -- but however that may be I think that I have the best right to complain of you all for you have nothing to do but write & I have my hands full & when I do write I have to scratch off what I have to write in such a hurry that I scarcely know whether I have said what I desire to say.

I am sorry that Ma failed to get the present that I made her of Tobacco & pipe. I paid $2.75 for it & directed it to be sent by express to her & if I knew the name of the man from whom I bought it I would write to him about it but I neglected to take his name & I expect it is lost.

Tell Ma that I would be delighted to recieve a letter from her if she feels able to write.

I have written to Bennie since I have been here but have not yet heard from him. I was much rejoiced the other day to hear that Cobbs Legion was to be sent here but am afraid that I rejoiced too soon as I have not heard anything more of it since.

I am anxious to see you all very I will come home Christmas if I can possibly get a furlough at that time.

Give my love to Ma & Lucy Hyde and tell both to write to me.

Always tell me about Dick & Ben when you write as you hear much oftener from them than I do.

Your Affectionate Brother

J. P. Simms