

Jonesborough, Washington Tn

January the 8 1867

Dear Brother

As it has been a long time and many journeys and divisions in all since I last see you and not knowing whether you survived or fell during the last six years. Till quite resently I was all moste a feared to make any inquiry till I left North Carolina and returned to East TN where I still live at present. My family is all well at this time and so sincerely wish yours the same. I have had as the olde sayin is the world the Flesh and Devil to contend with or rather Jef Davis and the Devil. For the last 5 years tho they haven't killed me yet, not with standy. They have shot my clothing off my back. They never drawed one shot but once and that only stitch, only left me misused clothing.

I am living at A L Mackwoods 3 miles west of Jonesboro at this time but I don't expect to remain this long. Tho I have not firmly concluded where I shall go yet I may probley go up to the Carter till next fall and then I expect go to the west. I would have went this fall but my primary affairs would not admit of it just yet. I was doing as well any one til this war broke out and then I was robbed till I was as bair as gotes ass. The rebels took \$1500.00 worth that's at one time and still kept the thing up till I had nothing for them to get and of corse they had quit but how they Devil thanked them for that. I was up in Carter and heard from yours. I thought I would drop you a line to let you know old AJ was still on the land. Amagin the lesser with head and tail the times is harde in this state money maters tho the James has raised good corn and oats crops wheat neary did. The hogs dyed off powerfully with as many which will make worse in (?). Winter rye in the ground has not been plowed of snow but not more than 6 inches deep. My boys is

good stout boys. James plowed all last summer, John will be stout enough against the coming summer. My girls is still single yet. Mary Eliza was all fall ingaged in teaching school in the Carter County in Turley Town. Debby is as young as ever and can beat Frances running and jumping. Give my love to sister Frances and all the children my love and tell them I wish to see them all and will see you all if I can get off. Rite to me at Jonesborough as soon as you get this letter and fail not my family in a time. Send them love to you all nothing more but remain your brother.

A.J. Hamilton

P.S. I wish to know how hunting is in Scott and how crops is and the next thing is of corse how many children you have or rather Frances and their names if you have paper enough to record their names. Tell James Jackson when I come over to VA I will crack his red head for him. We have lost one child. One you never see his name was William Henry. He was a sweet little child. He was born in Burnsville and dyed their. He was one year and 6 days old. We have but 4 children left. The 2 girls is grown and the 2 boys good stout plough boys. I want to send the boys to school for the next 3 or 4 years as they have had no chance since this God forsaken war has been in agitation . The schools all went down in the South as everything else but this country is looking up but will be some time before she can hold up her head as she did 8 or 9 years ago. The people in East TN is not all together settled yet. They kill and maim every once in awhile. And my opinion is there will be people killed 20 years from this time over this un called for war.

AJH

*Union Flag* October 13, 1865

Jonesboro' Its Advantages. – Now that our soldiers are discharged, and have returned to their homes and our citizens generally, have resumed their usual avocations, it will not be amiss to say something of the advantages our town possesses, as a market for the farmers of this and the surrounding counties. – Our merchants have on hand, and are receiving a good supply of everything, needed in any community; and are anxious to exchange their goods for the produce of the farmer; their Feathers, Beeswax, Butter, Jeans, and c., are in good demand. The citizens being depending upon the farmer for everything in the line of provision; it is not uncommon for two or three at the same time, to hail persons from the country, with, “what have you got sell.” regardless of price, ready to pay, “Greenbacks,” “store pay,” or any kind of “barter” that will suit the farmer, even we will take anything that will “help our wife and children to live,” and in exchange, will give you a years' subscription to the “Flag,” and we will pledge ourselves that by so doing, you will be benefited thirty fold, perhaps sixty fold, yea, even an hundred fold. To mechanics, from abroad, we would say, that a more healthy location, a more quiet, peaceful, and orderly community, cannot be found in East Tennessee. where you cannot only make a living, but lay up something for a rainy day, then our town of Jonesboro'. At another time, we intend to speak of the resources of our county generally, and the advantages we possess for the manufacturer and capitalist, as we wish to make a more extended reconnaissance of the industrial interests of this portion of our State.

Knob Creek K.K.K. – September 18, 1868

The following is a list of persons belonging to this organization, and appears in print in fulfillment of a promise made to the public a few weeks ago: J. C. M. Hankle, a rebel officer, whom Mr. John C. Davidson ruled in damages to the tune of \$5000 for outrageous treatment during the war, at the last June term of our Circuit Court, Abner Hankle, Benjamin Hankle, Michael Hankle, James Hankel, William Gharst, George Jenkins, Joseph Hale, Finley Hale, John Mitchell, Rufus Vaughan, John A. Martin, Robert Bruce, William Scalf, Alfred Jenkins, Jr., Joseph Archer, who was implicated in the burning of the barns of Deputy Sherriff E.S. Cox and J.S. Beard a year or two ago, John Hopper, Joshua Gray, Jr., the self – acknowledged murderer of William McLain, a brave and efficient Union pilot and scout during the war, W.K. Hale, Millburn Basket, James Crouch, Jr., Joseph Couch, (short leg on account of the rebel army), James Hodges, Abraham Jones, Harvey J. Chase, James Maupin.

These individuals say, that the name of their organization is the “White Man’s Council,” which we suppose means death and destruction to the colored people. Most of them belonged to the rebel army, and it is impossible to conceal and disguise wicked, revolutionary and treasonable designs of this order. It is in full concert and co-operation with the oath-bound murderers and rope-deserving conclaves of Middle and West Tennessee, who have made those sections of our State a Pandemonium of lawlessness and terror. We are personally unacquainted with every one of these characters, but our information is furnished by men of undoubted reliability, and in case any one of them feels aggrieved by this

publication, we shall withhold the names of our informants, until we have indubitable evidence of innocence. More anon.

Bristol Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 1866

“Very Dear Sister

... I should have written you immediately after our expulsion from Jonesboro; I never think of that awful time, without a shudder, You know dear sister we had left our pleasant little home, in the country, for protection from ‘bushwhackers.’ They had made raids upon us from the mountains, nine times and Mr D, nor our sons, were at all safe, an hour, and the last time your David visited us—those wretched men followed him to our house; with intent to kill, but a kind of Providence had directed him to tarry with us, only an hour, and he just had left, so had poor Wallace.—Well we felt a good deal safer in town, after moving there and my husband conducted himself nobly, that I never dreamed of his having an enemy, when the Confederate rebels has possession of our place, he was kind, and attentive, to the wants of the union families; whose heads had abandoned them, for the Yankees: all seemed to look up to him...until about a month before we left,—Our sons had been ordered off like menials, ;told they should not live there’ indeed persecuted, threatened, and written to—all this I could bear—because I knew they had been very good rebels—but I was amazed! when a letter was written to Mr D—telling him ‘if he did not leave in ten days—that death would be the penalty’ he advised with his friends, who all thought ‘he ought to treat it with silent contempt,’ which he did—at the end of ten days—Just at twilight (when our only two sons, (which were at home) had gone to the far end of the town to a lecture) a knock was heard at the door—Mr D—went to admit them and there stood forty armed men, seven of them came in, and commenced an abusive harangue, their revolvers, and buoye knives pointed at his head. State immediately ran with a light, and I followed: there stood my noble old husband

(for then he looked 80 years old) with so much dignity, so cool and calm, arguing with the fiends, appealing to their consciences: alas! they had none. 'They told him to leave in three hours—or they would return and handle him roughly,' We knew what that meant—for many old men around us, had been beaten with clubs, and cowhides, until barely alive, I kept my eye upon one pistol pointed just behind his ear, I did not feel myself breathe for ten minutes; determined to knock it up if the felon pulled trigger. I saw that Mr D would not determine to go,—and told him to say he would go on the midnight train—The wretches told me 'to shut my damn mouth and let the old man do the talking' They told him he should go and take his family with him. I begged for time, and they granted me ten days, and said 'if I was found there, they would use me rough.' After Mr D left I had an awful time, they tried to rob me, threatened to burn the hosue, and to beat Dizzie and Charlie—I had to send them off and these sister, were not Yankees—but mostly raised in Washington County, many of whom we had fed, during the war, If he had called for help,—not one man in Jo—would have come to our relief, they were all afraid—as much subjugated as we poor rebs, they owned it—for the union league numbered 500, and met at the court house twice a week. After the villians left us:--we sat up all night, afraid to go to bed—afraid to talk, for the league had ears; this in Jonesboro:--... We knew not where to go in our hurry:--but thought Bristol a point from which Mr D could attend to his business—when allowed to—and now when he attends the courts, in Washington, and Green—I am in terror:--and pray all the time for he is in the midst of cut throats. I can have my children with me here—poor boys—I hope as they have had their last earthly hopes, and brightest prospects blighted; they may seek for immortal honors, crowns of glory, and find eternal life--...We find a peaceful quiet home here, can

talk as we please are not afraid to think, and can have a minister after our own hearts—all are southern people:--true the society is not such as we had in Jonesboro ten years ago, there is not much intelligence—but good clever people—and as I do not mix much with the world—I am satisfied--...After my fright in Jonesboro—when I went to comb my head the next morning—my head was perfectly white, my bones ached, and I could scarcely attend to the arduous duties before me, but I amused State by dressing, all of us in our best; holding very high heads and leaving on the daylight train—I was determined to be seen, and the depot was thronged to see us: as I stepped into the car—I stooped with my handkerchief and dusted my shoes...there seemed a pall, thrown over the town—the stores did no business, for three days, and every one feared a raid from the league, We think it was hired by some, one horse Yankee Lawyers—that had settled in Jo, three of them who felt that Mr D stood in their way—but every one was saying 'if James Deaderick cant live here who can'?...

Adeline Deaderick

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Knoxville, Tenn.

March 12, 1862

“My dear Lizzie,

.....I got leave of absence for a few days to go home and while there received a Telegraphic dispatch from Middle Tennessee saying Eugene was in the last stage of Typhoid Fever and would probably die in a day or two—I hastened to him in all possible dispatch but before I reached there the spirit of another dear son had departed. Oh, Lizzie, this is another sad stroke and has overwhelmed our family in the deepest gloom. Nathaniel and Eugene were the pride and idols of Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters....., one in the vigor of manhood, the other in the Bloom of youth.....

Yours affectionately,

A.E. Jackson”

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Knoxville, Tenn.

Feb. 5, 1863

Dear Lizzie,

.....I would have been truly glad to have seen you and the children before I enter upon duties in the field, for then I will not be able to leave my command till the war is over.

I must make up my mind to submit to many deprivations and discomforts. I enter upon my new field of labors fully conscious that I deny myself, for the time being, all the pleasures of social intercourse and perchance I may never again

return to enjoy the society of friends doubly dear to me by all the ties of affinity and consanguinity.

I am fully aware of all the responsibilities I incur, but I meet them all rather than submit to be governed by a despot and tyrant whose minions have conducted this war of invasion in a manner to shock the sensibilities..... Many desire to have me retained in E. Tenn, and quite a number of letters have been written to the President to intrust me with the defense of East Tennessee,

(These letters were written by both Southern and Northern adherents.)  
but where I am to be assigned to duty I cannot tell. It is not for me to select my field of labor.....

Yours most affectionately,

A.E. Jackson”

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Letter from Addie Jackson to her sister-in-law

June 2, 1865

“Our future looks, indeed very dark.....I feel that we are the poorest of the poor, not a cent to buy necessities of life. Mother was just saying a few moments ago that she never thought she would be so poor that she could buy a broom.....Our furniture at home (Oak Grove) has been taken and deposited in a house down town for sale. I do not know why the Union people feel so bitter against Pa---they certainly have lost all gratitude. There is no man that has done more to protect the Union people than he has. And, in case where it has been in his power, he has restored their property to them that has been taken by our soldiers. He has done as much to protect them as he has ever done for our Southern men, in fact, he has been censured for doing so much. He has always

felt that a man ought not be punished for his opinion, and has acted upon that.....The union people always wanted him kept in that Department (Dept. of E. Tenn.) and there has been several petitions signed by Union and Southern men to that effect, and sent to Richmond.”

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Clearbranch, Va.

Nov. 1866

“Dear Lizzie,.....

We have lost property, but that is a dust in the balance compared to the loss of those precious boys, noble, generous and self-sacrificing. Oh, if they had been spared I feel I could have borne all else that we have been called to endure, with a proud, defiant consciousness of the justice of our cause....

Very affectionately,

A.E. Jackson

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Near Abingdon, Va.

Jan. 12, 1867

“Dear Lizzie,

Your letter of the eight inst. with one from Alfred or Bud as all persist in calling him came to hand yesterday.... I do not intent to return to E. Tennessee with my family until after January, and perhaps not then. There has to be a decided improvement in Washington County before I go back there, it is decidedly the most radical and lawless county in the state, and likely to remain so for sometime to come. I am glad to learn everything is quiet in Blount....

I have gotten rid of all the damage suits against me but the suit of Mr. Morton for \$10,000, and the trust of Sam Snapp for \$30,000.... I never had other than kind feelings toward the Snapp family....

Yours affectionately,  
A.E. Jackson”

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Letter to John F. Henry, Nathaniel Jackson’s father-in-law

Jonesboro

May 1, 1861

“We are all terribly excited up here, a complete revolution has taken place in public sentiment—nearly all are for separation and resistance. Many of the Union men are for immediate secession.

Last night we had one of the most exciting and enthusiastic displays I ever witnessed. It was understood early in the evening that about 300 Alabama troops were to pass through tonight.... All was intense anxiety and when the Old Iron Horse was seen approaching such a shout rent the air I never heard before. As soon as the troops saw our flag and heard the shout they responded. Seemed delighted with the warmth of our reception—gave cheer after cheer for Jonesboro and the ladies....

Unionism has completely died out here. Many deplore the necessity of abandoning the Old Ship but acknowledge it.

They (Thomas A.R. Nelson and Andrew Johnson) have an appointment to speak here Monday. Some say Johnson shall not speak. Others think it is better to let him say what he pleases—he can do no harm. Old Tom Nelson’s boys have volunteered and are open Secessionists—one of them makes speeches

denouncing his father's idea of 'Armed Neutrality.' We have three companies raising in this county—we feel that the danger is upon us and requires prompt action. That is to resist the Northern vandals we must unite and leap to arms.

Yours truly,  
N.T. Jackson”

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