

VIRGINIANA FILE

PWC - Historic Sites  
(Leesylvania)

FILE - L

Prince William Public Library  
Manassas, Va.

Weems-Botts Museum

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Collection

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Historic Dumfries, Inc.  
Dumfries, Va.

Gentlemen:

Herewith are some artifacts which I recovered from the LEESYLVANIA historical sites, some years ago, with the assistance of Norman Reed of U. S. G. S., whom I took to the sites, as he had a metal detector which he volunteered to use. Also, through my position as Historian of the Society of the Lees of Virginia, I was sent, from our Member Mrs. Earl Moulder of Springfield, Missouri, a letter and map showing the action in that area, during the Civil War. They came from her grandfather, who was a surgeon in the Confederate Army. I am happy to present these to Historic Dumfries, Inc. I suggest that the iron items be treated to protect them from further rusting.

Cordially,

*Eleanor Lee Templeman*

ack. 1/4/28/78

Camp Counde  
Hampton Legion  
Oct. 20, 1861

Dear William,

Another interruption: how often does it happen that we are moving on Sunday! It generally occupies from two to three days, and Sunday "vel forte vel frande" is almost sure to make one. I am alone in my tent preferring to go tomorrow. Cecil and my other mess-mate are off. I am here with a small rear guard and twenty tents. Well, you can preach as well as I can, and as we may be busy for some days to come, I will to news. We have a strong battery at Ivans Port, now all ready and the gunners after some failures beginning to shoot well.

About eight days ago we moved a large boat from Ocoquer to the inside of O'possum Nose (see diagram) The enemy came in with muffled oars, passed the pickets on this side the creek and burned the boat. A regiment on the other side of the creek at the battery saw them and poured such a well directed fire of musketry into the boat, that the Capt. was distinctly heard to call out on this wise, "Damn your souls, what do you mean lying down when half the men in the boat are killed." A Marylander who came over to join us yesterday says that we killed seventeen a few nights ago, the Battery fired on a steamer going down, cut her up, and the Maryland man says she took fire below and was consumed. We saw a great light from our camp, and I suggested the very disaster which is said to have happened as its solution. We have been thrown into a state of great excitement day after day by the reports of heavy guns at the battery; ride down to Oppussum Nose and learn that a steamer or sailor passed; was struck several times but succeeded in passing. At length we hear of a schooner sunk, a steamer burned, seventeen men killed in the boat. We know that the Legion Battery with the aid of one borrowed gun (the great one taken on the 21st) sank a war steamer from "Free Stone Point". Yesterday the firing became most animated soon after a division of the Legion left here for Bacon Race.

I mounted my horse and rode to Cock-pit Point about five miles, and arrived just in time to see our boats boarding the second one of a brace of full fledged schooners bagged at one firing. Two tugs undertook to take two schooners wach by a battery. They were emptied on so freely that the Capt. of one was heard at Cock-Pit, and also at the Battery to call out, "Damn it, why don't you cut her loose, they will sink us all directly." Accordingly, two schooners were turned loose and one which had given up and taken down her sails a little further off, was picked up and taken off. Each Tug carried one instead of two to Washington. It is beautiful to see the two fleets above and below the Battery numbering about thirty-five each, sails all up and looking like fowls wanting to roost, when the hole is shut. The fellows took to their boats and reached Maryland, we sent over and took the boats. One, a large packet schooner just from New York, was loaded with corn and whiskey: hay on deck. Schooner and cargo cheap at \$10,000. The other is loaded with wood. We can mount cannon on these fellows and, under the protection of the Battery, can run them out as opportunity offers and bag the birds.

We are moving back to Bacon Race, or that neighborhood. what it means I cannot guess. I think our generals are trying to coax the enemy to Centerville: it is a magnificent battlefield for us. The enemy will never be taken in that trap. It is probable, I think, that we are do constitute part of the reserve. This is only a conjecture. No one knows what will be done or what ought to be done, except the Mercury, alias the Tribune of the Confederacy.

One of our Majors about a week ago took a party in a boat and went below Ocoquan town to call on a fellow long suspected of tainted opinions. He was delighted and named all the Lincoln men and their ladies also the hated Secessioninsts but he was eclipsed by the garulity of his patriotic wife, who could not control herself. The affair wound up with the arrest of four or five fellows who are now in a cage. The 4th Alabama Regt. is just in the act of crossing our ground. They fill our place. Will probably encamp at point 3. I

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have sent Allen and the horse home: do my own cooking today. My old gun is the crack gun of the Legion. The only objection to her is she crowds too many shot in the game. She killed ten squirrels, a crow, and a dove and four partridges without missinf a shot.

Love to all

Your aff. Br.  
Richard.

Chapin's tract

is below. I have  
missed in my diagram  
for the want of room  
Powell's creek bounds  
our parade grounds. You  
must regard the diagram  
as having two sides, one  
for the river and one for the  
land. R.J.

