

10-8-1863

Letter, William Sykes to James Sykes; 10/8/1863

William Sykes

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Middleton, Oct 8th 63

Bro. James,

We find ourselves here without anything, our country is hard of almost every thing needed except corn, of which there is plenty. When I was with you I heard it stated that Iron was being manufactured by Murdock & Co in the neighborhood of Columbus; and I wrote this to ask you to inquire and let me know if Iron suitable for ploughs, and waggons can be furnished by them. Really, I know not how we are to get along here (even if the Federals let us alone), unless some can be had. Our ploughs & waggons are worn out, and we have no material to patch up even to make a crop.

We get no news - no paper, and and really know little of what is going on. Sometimes we are led to hope that the much boasted army of Bragg is about to accomplish something important, and a gain to fear that it may be overpowered by Superior forces. Together with our anxiety in that quarter, and frequent alarm by reported raids coming upon us we had little enjoyment in this section. For some weeks since however, none of these things has worried me. My whole time has been taken up by sickness in my family. Margaret was taken sick two weeks ago and until last few days we had little hope of her recovery. The children and negroes had all been sick with chill fever, and now only now getting well - all look badly. I had never had so much sickness in my family anywhere and never known this country so sickly as it has been this summer.

Edwin Sykes is probably lost in the battle at Chattanooga. He was missing up to last account received by the family. Edger has not been heard from and it is said he is also lost. I am sorry to hear of the death of Palmer. When will this cruel war end?

Yours Truly
W. Sykes