

my letter as it is. I think that the name is unappropriate and altogether unbecoming so beautiful a place... (EMN: for more an Anderson McNutt, see letter of Jan. 28, 1861, re: the large estate he left.)

We will leave here tomorrow for Texas...for I believe we may, and trust will, avail ourselves of such opportunities, (which will redound to our welfare), as are not offered in any of the old states. Yet, I don't expect to make a fortune in one year by going to Texas, but I will give it a fair trial...

G.H.B. Grigsby

P.S. The boys send howdy to all, and Jno. says tell Allen they drive 10 oxen in one team here.

P.P.S. (by Abner Joseph) ... I have met a great many on their way from every state south of the Potomac, more from Miss., La., Tenn., Ala., Georgia, and S.C. than any other, and the society better than any that has ever been known to migrate to a frontier settlement...

Andrew Jackson Grigsby  
to Reuben Grigsby

(VHS - G)  
Fort Levenworth  
June 25, 1846

My Dear Uncle,

You will no doubt be surprised when you receive this to learn that I am now a soldier in the volunteer regiment raised to operate against new Mexico. Whether or not I shall ever return is a very doubtful case as there is no telling the fate of soldiers when they go to war...

We...have all kinds of work to do, I assure you, such as cleaning out our stables and various other duties too tedious to mention. I have just been relieved from picket guard. I was stationed about three quarters of a mile from the fort and had to stand twelve out of twenty four hours, very hard work, I assure you, for a man who for twelve months has had little or no health...

We have before us vast plains, unpeopled except by animals, with here and there a savage or so. The undertaking is one unequalled in the annals of history. We have to travel 1000 miles, most of it barren plains with scarcely any water, and expect to meet a force largely superior in point of numbers to our force. We expect, however, to be able to overcome all difficulties and dangers. I may however be disappointed, though I feel confident that we can go it.

We start with the determination to do or die, without regard to consequences, and hope to meet an enemy worthy of us, and if we do, we expect to give a good account of ourselves...

I am now a soldier destined to fight for my country if it is necessary. I stand as one willing to go to any portion of the republic of Mexico. My officers may require it, and I hope we may have to march to the City, and there plant the glorious stars and stripes under which we march, an emblem which I have ever looked upon with proud satisfaction as the same glorious colours under which the heroes of the revolution fought and conquered.

...I have traveled through the finest country since I left home it has ever been my lot to look upon. Could it be but removed to the Old Dominion, it would sell for \$200 per acre...

Remember me affectionately to all the relations and accept for yourself the sincere love of one who can never forget the many acts of kindness shown him.

I remain affectionately your nephew.

A. Jackson Grigsby

(EMN: Andrew Jackson Grigsby was later to be a Colonel of the 27th Virginia infantry, one of the five regiments in the Stonewall Brigade.

One of Reuben Grigsby's granddaughters, Anna Hamilton Chandler, recalls Col. Grigsby in a letter she wrote in June of 1935, to Virginia Chandler Shattuck. (VHS - D)

"You know, of course, all about the distinguished bravery of Col. Andrew Grigsby in the Civil War; that he was in Stonewall Jackson's brigade; that when Jackson called for volunteers in some impossible feat of arms, it was always our cousin who volunteered the first and made it possible. He loved the "bigger face of danger," and he swore and blasphemed enough for ten troopers...

"You know, I am sure, that once when Col. Grigsby out-Heroded Herod by some such brilliant dash of bravery that even Jackson was astounded, he exclaimed to one of his staff, "That Grigsby! That gallant Grigsby!...were he not so profane, he would be made a general!" (Jackson was deeply religious, as you well know.)

"I thrill yet over the fact that after General Jackson's exclamation, Col Grigsby was ever after called, throughout the Army of Northern Virginia, "The Gallant Grigsby"...it was a nickname that stuck by him."

When we visited Lexington in 1972, Cousin Matt Paxton, Sr., told me a story about Col. Grigsby's reaction when he was passed over for command of the Stonewall Brigade. (The position went to his cousin, Frank Paxton.) Evidently, Andrew Grigsby was furious; he went directly to Jefferson Davis to complain. Finally, having heard enough, Davis said, "Do you know who I am, I'm Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America."

Undaunted, Grigsby replied, "And do you know who I am? I'm Colonel Andrew Jackson Grigsby, the best damn soldier in the whole army!"

I don't know if this story is accurate, but Grigsby was sufficiently angered to resign his position, and evidently felt that Jackson had treated him badly. See letter of Emma Grigsby, Dec. 23, 1862, for the family's view of the matter.

Andrew Grigsby remained a bachelor all his life. After the war he lived with his sister, the Widow Goss, in Albemarle County. At the time he wrote the above letter, he was 27, and his Uncle Reuben was 66.)

Reuben Grigsby to his sons  
Abner and Hugh Blair in Texas

(Shattuck)  
Hickory Hill,  
Rockbridge Co., Va.  
September 12th, 1846

My Dear Abner and my Dear Hugh,

Duty requires of me to attempt the solemn task of announcing to you the heartrending truth that your dear, dear Mother is separated from us in death forever. I think I know with what deep agony you will read this sad news, but am sure you can form no adequate idea of mine. She was to me, as you know she should have been, the dearest object on earth, my wife, my guide, my comforter, the exemplar of the pledges of our love, always.

She took to her bed on Friday, the 28th of August, complaining of headache. To all my inquires for the first 4 days,