

Hope College

## Hope College Digital Commons

---

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

---

10-12-1863

### A Letter to A. C. Van Raalte from His Son, Ben

Ben Van Raalte

Clarence Jalving

Nella Kennedy

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp\\_1860s](https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s)

The original documents are held in The Joint Archives of Holland. This digitized material is intended for personal research/study only. The original documents may not be reproduced for commercial use in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from [The Joint Archives of Holland](#).

---

#### Recommended Citation

Van Raalte, Ben; Jalving, Clarence; and Kennedy, Nella, "A Letter to A. C. Van Raalte from His Son, Ben" (1863). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 189.

[https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp\\_1860s/189](https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/189)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Van Raalte Papers at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869 by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@hope.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@hope.edu).

London, Tenn., October 12, 1863

A letter to A. C. Van Raalte from his son, Ben, who was happy to report that twelve letters were waiting for him when he arrived in Tennessee.

Original in the Archives of Hope College.

Translated by Clarence Jalving.

N.B. Elton -  
change of  
place name!

transcription +  
revision

[5]

Loudon, Tennessee October 12, 1863

Worthy Father,

I am glad to have the opportunity to write this letter as Huizenga and Lt. Kramer are going to Michigan on a conscription tour, so I will have to write a little bit. We are well and happy, for it's raining. We had fixed up a place here for winter quarters. We had fixed up a sturdy log house, but now Gen White has changed things again. Now we have to go a couple of miles farther, across the river again, and go into winter quarters there. It is likely that we have to go there because there are Rebels there. I don't like

[2]

to leave my log house because it was warm there. It always is so that whenever I make anything, we have to move the next day. We will leave at ten this morning and then we'll try again.

A week ago last Saturday we received our mail and we were certainly happy to get it. My portion was only twelve letters so it can go fast now. I was happy to hear that you are all well. Good health is worth a lot. They will learn where Abraham [Aberahan!] gets his mustard from.<sup>1</sup>

[3]

I hope that there will be several from the colony who have to come. I will have to close now as I have no more time. Next time more and better. I am sorry I haven't more letters ready. Tell Cornelis [Kornelus] to write me. I believe it is his turn for I wrote him each time. We hope that mail may now come more regularly.

Greet everyone from me,  
that is, family members,

Your loving B Van Raalte

[Revision of Clarence Jalving's translation: Nella Kennedy,  
January 2008]

---

<sup>1</sup> A Dutch saying which signifies knowing all about something. The soldiers will gain knowledge through experience.

Loudon, Tennessee, October 12<sup>th</sup>/63

Waarde Vader,

Het is met plijzier dat ik uw bij deze gelegenheid mag schrijven daar Huizenga en Luit: Kraamer naar Mich: gaan om conscript zoo moe ik tog een letter of wat schrijven wij zijn in goeje gezondheid en voelen vroolijk want het reegent wij hadden hier al op gefichesd voor winter quaters wij hadden een fiks loghuis gemaakt maar nu heeft het Gen: white het weer veranderd nu moeten wij een paar mijl weer over de revier en daar in winter quaters gaan daar zijn een paar Revels [sic] daarom moeten wij er zeker na toe. en ik lijk mijn

[2]

lokhuis niet te verlaaten want het is er warm in maar dat is altijd zeeker als ik wat maak dan gaan wij de volgende dag weeg en nu zullen wij vertreken van morgen om tien uur en dan zullen wij het nog is perbeeren verleeden week een zaaterdag keegen wij onze mail wij waaren er blij meede mijn aandeel van de brieven beliep er maar twaaelf dus nu kan het snel gaan ik was blij te verneemen dat gijlieden nog allen goed gezond waart want dat is veel waart Kraamer en Huzenga zullen een moije trip hebben en de conscripts nog beeter die zullen ook gewaar worden waar Aberahan de mosterd van daan haalt.

[3]

Ik hoop dat er nog is wat van de Keloonie moeten koomen: Ik zal nu moeten eindigen want ik heb geen meer tijd op een andere keer wat meer en beeter het spijt mij dat ik geen meer brieven klaar heb zeg tegen Kornelus dat hij mij is schrijven moet want ik denk dat het zijn beurt is: want ik heb hem elke keer geschreeven.

Wij hoopen dat nu de mail gereegeld mag gaan.

Groet allen van mij  
dat is huis genooten van mij

Uw Lief: B Van Raalte

[Transcription: Nella Kennedy,  
January 2008]

u

Dear Father:

so I will have to write a little bit.

I am glad to have the opportunity to write this letter as Huizenga and Lt. Kramer are going to Michigan on a conscription tour. We are well and happy, <sup>frankly</sup> it's raining. We had fixed up a place here for winter quarters - had fixed up a log house but now Gen. White has changed things again. <sup>Now</sup> We have to go a couple miles farther, <sup>across</sup> over the river, <sup>again</sup> and go into winter quarters there. There are a couple of Rebs there - I suppose that's why we have to go. I don't like <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>idea of leaving</sup> my log house because it was nice and warm <sup>in it</sup> but ~~so~~ <sup>it</sup> always <sup>is so</sup> goes. <sup>that</sup> Whenever I make anything, we have to move the next day. We will leave at ten this morning and <sup>then we'll</sup> so I can try again.

A week ago ~~last Saturday~~ we received our mail and were certainly happy to get it. <sup>portion</sup> My share was <sup>only</sup> twelve letters so <sup>it can go fast now</sup> that helps. I was happy to hear that you are all well - that is worth a lot. Kramer and Huizenga will have a nice trip and the conscripts a still better one. They will <sup>learn</sup> find out where Abraham gets his mustard. <sup>(3)</sup> I hope that there will be several from the colony who have to <sup>come</sup> go. I will have to close now as I have no more time. Next time more and better. I am sorry I haven't more letters ready. Tell Cornelis to write me - I believe it is his turn. <sup>not write him each time</sup> We hope that mail may now come more regularly. Best regards to all members of the family.

Best everyone from me, that is, family members,

Your loving

B. Van Raalte

\* he knows all about it

15

London Tennessee October 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

Waarde Vader;

Het is met plezier dat  
 Ik een by dese gelegenheid mag  
 Schryven naar Huizen ga en Luit  
 Kraamer maar d'leech; gaan ons  
 conscripts voor moet Ik tog een letter  
 of wat schrijven mij zijn in goede  
 gezondheid en voelen vrolijk  
 want het regent mij hadden hier  
 al op gefieken voor winter  
 quaters mij hadden een fikslag huis  
 gemaakt maar nu heeft het  
 Gen: White het meer veranderd  
 nu moeten mij een paar myt  
 meer over de rivier en daar in  
 winter quaters gaan dan zijn een  
 paar Revels daarom moeten mij  
 er leker na toe en Ik lijk mijn

toekin niet te verlaten want  
 het is er warm en maar dat is  
 Ik altijd peker ab Ik wat maak  
 dan gaan mij die volgende dag  
 meeg en nu zullen mij vertrekken  
 van morgen om hier voor en dan  
 zullen mij het nog is pekeren  
 staleden met een waaterdag  
 keegen mij onse maib mij  
 waaren er hij mede mijn  
 aandeel van de brieven beliep  
 er maars t'maak of dat nu kan  
 het snel gaan Ik was bly te  
 verneemen dat gyliden mogalle  
 goedgesond maast want dat  
 is veel maast waarn in d'using  
 zullen een moije tryp hebben  
 den de conscripts mog beter  
 die zullen ook gemaanorden  
 naar Aberahan de mosterd  
 Van daan haalt

Ik hoop dat er nog is wat  
van de Meloonie moeten  
Roemen. Ik zal nu moeten  
eindigen want ik heb geen  
meertijd op een andere keer  
wat meer en beter het spijt  
mij dat ik geen meer brieven  
klaar heb zeg tegen Korneelus  
dat hij mij is schrijven moet  
want ik denk dat het zijn  
beurt is want ik heb hem  
elke keer geschreeven.

Mij hoopen dat nu de mail  
geregeld mag gaan  
Groet allen van mij  
dat is knis gevoten van mij

Uw Lief: B. van Raalt

#15

London, Tenn. Oct. 12, 1863

Dear Father:

I am glad to have the opportunity to write this letter as Huizenga and Lt. Kramer are going to Michigan on a conscription tour. We are well and happy. Its raining. We had fixed up a place here for winter quarters - had fixed up a log house but now Gen. White has changed things again. We have to go a couple miles farther, over the river, and go into winter quarters there. There are a couple of Rebs there - I suppose that's why we have to go. I don't like the idea of leaving my log house because it was nice and warm but so it always goes. Whenever I make anything, we have to move the next day. We will leave at ten this morning and so I can try again.

A week ago last Saturday we received our mail and were certainly happy to get it. My share was twelve letters so that helps. I was happy to hear that you are all well - that is worth a lot. Kramer and Huizenga will have a nice trip and the conscripts a still better one. They will find out where Abraham gets his mustard. I hope that there will be several from the colony who have to go. I will have to close now as I have no more time. Next time more and better. I am sorry I haven't more letters ready. Tell Cornelis to write me - I believe it is his turn. We hope that mail may now come more regularly. Best regards to all members of the family.

Your loving

B. Van Raalte

#15

London, Tenn. Oct. 12, 1863

Dear Father:

I am glad to have the opportunity to write this letter as Huizenga and Lt. Kramer are going to Michigan on a conscription tour. We are well and happy. Its raining. We had fixed up a place here for winter quarters - had fixed up a log house but now Gen. White has changed things again. We have to go a couple miles farther, over the river, and go into winter quarters there. There are a couple of Rebs there - I suppose that's why we have to go. I don't like the idea of leaving my log house because it was nice and warm but so it always goes. Whenever I make anything, we have to move the next day. We will leave at ten this morning and so I can try again.

A week ago last Saturday we received our mail and were certainly happy to get it. My share was twelve letters so that helps. I was happy to hear that you are all well - that is worth a lot. Kramer and Huizenga will have a nice trip and the conscripts a still better one. They will find out where Abraham gets his mustard. I hope that there will be several from the colony who have to go. I will have to close now as I have no more time. Next time more and better. I am sorry I haven't more letters ready. Tell Cornelis to write me - I believe it is his turn. We hope that mail may now come more regularly. Best regards to all members of the family.

Your loving

B. Van Raalte