

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869

Van Raalte Papers

6-23-1864

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

The original documents are held in the National Archives of the Netherlands. 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 [National Archives of the Netherlands](#).

Recommended Citation

Van Raalte, Ben; Jalving, Clarence; and Kennedy, Nella, "A Letter to A. C. Van Raalte from His Son, Ben" (1864). *Van Raalte Papers: 1860-1869*. 234.

https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/vrp_1860s/234

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.

Camp 25th Mich, Near Marietta, Ga., June 23, 1864

A letter to A. C. Van Raalte from his son, Ben, reporting on the fighting of his company. The Rebs are experiencing heavy losses.

Original in the Archives of the Netherlands Museum.

Translated by Clarence Jalving.

trouser
revision

Camp 25th Mich. Near Marietta Ga., June 23, 1864

Dear Father,

Just a few lines to let you know that all of us are well. Yesterday we again made excellent progress. Last night we arrived just barely in time or the Rebs would have turned Hooker's lines. They had masked their troops and came forward in three strong battle lines, trying to penetrate our lines, but the Yanks were not asleep. The batteries had already been placed in position and the soldiers had made good progress in throwing up breastworks. You can imagine that at such times the soldiers work as fast as possible—I wish you could have seen it. When the Rebs were within 50 yards we gave them a dose of grape and canister and musketry, but the old boys had to go back with their tails between their legs.¹ When they were close we could hear the Rebel officers yelling: "Forward, take that battery." But the Johnnies [*Johnes*] didn't dare; they were under cross fire. Hooker was strutting about like a fighting cock and yelled: "We can hold them," and Schofield saying; "Just in time." I hear now that the Rebs are retreating again, but I don't think very far for that goes against their grain. [We can see] sixty Rebs lying in a heap here.

I must close now as the bugles are sounding again. I will write as often as possible just to let you know how things are with us.

From your loving,

B. Van Raalte

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

1

BVR uses the idiom *met hangende pootjes*, literally *with [hanging] raised paws*.

Camp 25th Mich. Near Marietta Georgia June 23d/64

Liefhebbend Vader.

Een paar woorden om te weeten dat wij allen wel zijn. gisteren hebben wij weer eenne schoon vooruit gang gemaakt. gisteren avond kwaamen wij juist net in tijd anders hadden de Rebs: Hooker zijn lijn gedraijd zij hadden haar troops gemasked en kwaamen op in drie sterke lines of battle en wilden erdoor maar de yanks slieden niet. de batteries waeren al gepland en de soldaaten waeren al goed begonnen met brestwork op te smijten uw kun wel na gaan dat de soldaaten in zoon tijd werken dat moest uw is kunnen zien. toen de Rebs: zo wat 50 yard af waeren keegen zij grapen an cannester and muskitry maar de oude jongen[s] moesten te rug met hangende pootjes. toen ze kort bij waeren konden wij de Rebbel officieren hooren roepen forward take that battrey! Maar de Johnes dorsten niet zij keegen cross fire. Hooker liep hier rond net als een fighting cock en riep we can holde them. en zij Schofeild just in time Ik hoor nu dat de Rebs weer te rug gevallen zijn maar ik denk niet van ver want het gaat tegen de draad met haarlui. Ps. er liggen hier sestig Rebs in en hooptje.

nu moet ik eindigen want de bugels gaan al weer. Ik schrijf zo veel als moogelijk om uw maar van ons te laten hooren

van uw lief: B. Van Raalte

[Transcription: Nella Kennedy,
February 2008]

Camp D. 6. th N. near Marietta Georgia June 23rd / 64

23

Liefhebbers Vader.

Een paar woorden om te weten dat
wij allen wel zijn. gisteren hebben wij meer een
schoon vooruit gang gemaakt. gisteren avond Knaamen
wij luist. net in tijd anders hadden de Rebs: Hooker zijn
lijn gedraaid zij hadden haar troepen gemaskeerd en Knaamen
op in drie sterke liness of Battle. en Milder er door maar
de yanke slapen niet. de Batteries maeren al geplant en
de soldaten maeren al goed begonnen met Arestwork op te smyten
uw Kun wel na gaan dat de soldaten in soon tijd merken
dat moet uw in kunnen sien. toen de Rebs: 20 mat 50 yards
af maeren kegen zij (graper). an Kanuten. and musketry. maar
de oude jongen maesten te rug met hangende pootjes. toen
de Rebs: zij maeren konden wij de Rebbel officieren hooren roepen
forward. take that Battery! maar de Johnes dorsten niet
zij kegen cross fire. Hooker liep hier rond met als een fighting
Coek. en riep. we can holde them. en zij schofeild jus in
time. ^{heard now that are retreating again} Ik hoor nu dat de Rebs meer te rug gevallen zijn
maar Ik denk niet van ver want het gaat tegen de draad met
Maerlin. P. er liggen hier. sestig Rebs in en woopjes
nu moet Ik. eindigen want de Bugels gaan al meer. ^{now my best. P}
Ik schrijf zo veel als mogelijk om uw naar van ons te laten hooren.

#23

Camp 25th Mich. Near Marietta Ga.
June 23, 1864

Dear Father:

Just a few lines to let you know ^{that all of us} we are well. Yesterday we again made ^{would} excellent progress. Last night we arrived just ^{barely} in time or the Rebs ~~might~~ have turned Hooker's lines. They had masked their troops and came forward in three strong battle lines, trying to penetrate our lines but the Yanks were not asleep. The batteries had already been placed in position and the soldiers had made good progress in throwing up breastworks. You can imagine that at such times the soldiers work as fast as possible -- I wish you could ^{have} see it. When the Rebs were within 50 yards we ^{but} gave them a dose of grape and cannister and musketry ^{As to return with their tails between their legs.} and the old boys were ~~soon~~ retreating. When they were close we could hear the Rebel officers yelling 'Forward, take that battery!' but the Johnnies didn't dare - they were under cross fire. Hooker ^{was strutting ahead} ran around like a fighting cock and kept yelling 'We can hold them' with Schofield saying 'Just in time!' I have heard ^{now} that the Rebs are ~~now~~ retreating but I don't think very far, ^{in that you are against them again} Things are going against them. ^{PS} From here [we can see] sixty Rebs lying in a heap ^{here}.

I must close now as the bugles are sounding again. I will write as often as possible just to let you know how things are. ^{with us}

From Your loving,

B. Van Raalte

tengevoelen met hangende voetjes