

Nov. the 8th 1864

Dear Barbara; (John C. Esarey to Barbara Esarey)

I seat myself this morning to let you know that I am well at present and I hope when this reaches you it will find you and my sweet little babe well. Barbara, we have had hard times since we left home, though I have stood it like a man. We left Camp Carrington the 28th of Oct. and we have been on the cars up to this morning. We lay at Louisville the 30th, the 31st we landed at Nashville and lay there one day. We left Jeff Walker and Hill and Kilpatrick there in the hospital. The next day we started to Chattanooga where we landed the next morning. Then we marched up above the city and went into camp on the side of Mission Ridge where we lay two days and nights in the mud and rain without any tents or shelter. The second evening we marched down to the depot and the officer left us and we scattered some on every train. My squad reached Atlanta yesterday and we reported to headquarters. I was returned to Marietta where we found our Reg. the old 53 Ind. All the old township boys are in Co. G under John H. Deen, John W. Walker and James Harp are sick in the hospital. The rest of the boys are well and in good spirits. I tried to get a furlough at Camp Carrington and failed. I was examined and passed through all right. You must take good care of yourself and the babe and I will do the best I can. I am lying on the ground writing now. I am glad that we are under John Henry for he is like a brother to us. I can stand hardships equal to a mule. Several of our boys are in the hospital already. The boys never knew what it was to be hungry and could get nothing to eat. We left Chattanooga with one days rations and got nothing to eat for three days. We get plenty to eat now. Our Reg. is camped one mile south of Marietta, Georgia. I have seen some of the southern confederacy since I left home. You attend to the things at home but don't expose yourself. Get the boys to fix the house as comfortable as possible and have them to build a chimney to the house for I will not get home in time to build it next winter. Tell John Ewing and John my advice is to them to stay at home as long as they can for neither of them can stand the service one month. I ought to have written home sooner but I could not get time. I would like to see you and my sweet little Johnny and hear his sweet little prattling tongue. You kiss him for me. I must close. Do the best you can and keep in good heart. You can write as soon as you get this, and tell me all about things since I left home. Direct your letter thus: John C. Esarey, Co. G 53 Rgt. Ind. Vet. Vols, Infantry via Nashville, Tenn. to be forwarded.

John C. Esarey