

Camp near Kings Bridge on the Canouches
River Dec. the 20th, 1864

(John C. Esarey to his wife)

Dear Wife: After an absence of some weeks I again seat myself to write you a few lines. I am well at present and hope when this line reaches you it may find you and Johnny well. I received your kind letter yesterday and was glad to hear from home once more and to hear that you were all well. I wrote my parents a letter the 16th. I will try and tell you something about my life since I last wrote. I have lived fine. Since I left Marietta we had some hard marching on this trip. One day we marched 28 miles but I came through safe at night. We had two slight skirmishes with the Rebs. The last time the shells, grape and cannister flew all around us. We were charging a Rebel Battery and a swamp alone saved us. Joe Miles had his right leg shot off in that fight. I have seen some of the world since I left home. I have trod on four states of Rebellion already. I stand soldiering very well. I have not had an hours sickness since I left home. The weather has been fine for about a month past. We have had plenty to eat here. We are guarding government stores at this place. We are in twelve miles of the sea but we have marching orders now. Sherman is preparing to storm Savannah. The city is infested and retreat is cut off. I went down on the skirmish line to get a peep at the Rebs heads when they fired on me and came near killing me. The balls passed close to my head. I gave them three shots and then got away from there as quickly as possible. The coldest weather I have seen since I left Louisville was a light frost. The weather here now is as warm as July is at home. I was detailed yesterday to unload a schooner loaded with hard tack. My mess mates are Sol. N. Snyder, Jim Jenkins, Clay Pearson, G. W. Sprinkle and Toak Sprinkle, though Jim is in the hospital yet. I would like to see you and Johnny right well. I was glad to hear that you and he keep well. You tell John Ewing to write and Abb Miller for I cannot get to write when I please. Tell all the kind folks to write for I like to hear from home. I saw Jim Elder as we came through Atlanta. Jim Shoemaker is in the pioneer corps and I am going to see him in a few days. You must take good care of yourself and Johnny for I believe I will come home to see you again after a while. Do the best you can with the stock. I wrote to Pap to let Jane Shircliff have those hogs. She will pay you the money for them. Tell John that I hear old Abe wears the veteran stripe. There was a great time in this army when the news came.

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I must bring my letter to a close. Give my best respects to all enquiring friends. So no more at present, but remain you affectionate husband.

John C. Esarey to his wife.