

3-31-65

Goldsboro, North Carolina

March 31, 1865

Dear wife

I received your kind letter a few minutes ago which give me great pleasure to know that you was getting along so well. This leaves me well and hearty with the forked end down and plenty to eat and nothing to do but to drill 4 hours per day. I would like very well to see you and my little boy. I received your and Amira letters yesterday. I was glad to hear from you. I wrote John and Johnst a letter today. I am in hopes that all the people will sell out maybe. Maybe the next generation will be better than the last. was. You said that it was very cold at home. Here where I am now it is warm and pleasant. The timber is leafing out and the blossoms is very nice and all nature seems revived and all things goes on lovely as though there was no war in the land but it has not been many days since this army passed through the ordeal of death as it were when brave men was fast falling all around and nothing could be heard but the dreadful roar of battle and the groans and sighs of the wounded and dying. I would sooner fight 4 battles than to take care of the dead from one you wrote that you had not received any letters for some time and I expect it will be 3 weeks longer before you did receive one. I was hid from the world near two months but I hope it will not be so any more. I have b received about 8 letters since I have been here. Them stamps and that money came through alright. I was glad to get it for I was out entirely. You wrote that you would send me some money. I dont need any now. If I want anything from home I will tell you and send you word when it is convenient, You cansend me a stamp or envelop or something that way but as far as selling is concerned

thats played out. I have traveled over a good part of America since I left home but in all my travels I have found no place like home is. Make no difference how far a man is led away from home his mind will wander homeward. I was glad to hear John had made such a grand raise for I thought he had got out of all patience. Spring is here and I would like to be at home to plant my crop but thats played out but I ought not to think hard of one years service for a young man like me. I think if you could see me now you would think I was some young lad about 16. Enough of this. Do the best you can. I would keep them molasses and not plant any cane this spring. I would not plant any tobacco this spring. either. Try and raise wa enough corn to do us. It is no use to say anything about them oats for it will be too late so do the best you can. I hope to see you before next winter. Tell John and Jont I will write to them soon I would give anything to see you and my sweet little babe. We will soon march on Richmond then you may look for some stirring news from this quarter. I rote / Jane Shircliff a letter so I will bring my letter to a close remaining your loveing and affectionate husband as ever J. C. Esarey To Barbary Esarey Tell all the neighbors that I am right side up.