

Camp near Raleigh, North Carolina
April 11, 1864

(John C. Esarey to his wife)

Dear Wife: I once again have the opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know how I am and that I am well and hearty and fat. Hoping that this will find you and babe enjoying the same blessing. Well, Barbara, I wrote you several letters from Goldsboro which must have reached you ere now. We marched from Goldsboro the 10th. After 4 days of hard marching we are at the capital of North Carolina. It is a very nice city and well situated. The rear of Johnson's army had left the city the day before we arrived. Our army followed him close to his heels and at Greensboro Kilpatrick brought him to a halt. There was some skirmishing in his front, and Sherman sent in a flag asking immediate surrender of all his forces. Johnson surrendered them and there is no more rebel army in the country.

I think the war is played. Johnson has surrendered. All is up this side of the Mississippi River. The army is in fine spirits. The boys are all well and hearty except A. H. Sprinkle. He has the chronic diarrhea but is still going about. Wilk Gibson was left at Goldsboro and we have not heard from him since Christopher has returned to duty.

Well, Barbara, I hope to live to see you and home again. The clouds are fast bursting and the tide of rebellion is gone. The war will soon be over with. The fighting is, I hope, all done and peace will soon prevail in this happy land. May the time come when friends will return to their comrades, husbands to their wives and boys to their sweethearts. The news reached us yesterday that Lincoln and Seward were killed. This caused some sad hearts. I don't know how true it is. I hope it is not true. They would be a sad loss at this time. I hear that the draft has gone off in some parts.

Take good care of yourself and Johnny and do the best you can to keep in good spirits. I think you will see me coming back some of these times. Then all your dreary life will be turned into a life of joy. Think of the future. Forget the past. You must write as often as you can. I expect we will camp here for some time. When you write you can send me a stamped envelope or a sheet of paper when it comes handy. Give my love and respects to all enquiring friends. So I will close. Direct to Raleigh, North Carolina. Goodby.

J. C. Esarey to his wife.