

April 30, 1865

(Amira Colby to John C. Esarey)

Dear Brother: I take the present opportunity of answering your kind letter which came to hand the 22nd of April and I was glad to get it. It find me and the children well and I hope

these few lines will find you well. Barbara and Johnny are well now. Johnny was very sick one day and night but he is well now and all the rest are well. I have no news to write that is worth writing here. I heard that peace is about to be made and I will be glad when the time is. It was sad news to us when we heard of the president's death. We have had a wedding on the Creek - a runaway match. Grayson Frakes and Mary Ann Esarey and the slickest runaway match you ever saw. She went to bed and they all went to sleep and she got up and she took all of her clothes she had and left them asleep and she went to the strawstack down the creek. She had on a red dress and a white hat and a pillow slip full of clothes and she was right at them before they saw her. She was so white it scared Grayson and Wesley. They thought she was a ghost. They were about to run. Grayson said to Wesley "Speak to it. Mary Ann, is that you?" She said nothing but went forward to them and they went to Bob Reily and got married. They have a singing school on the Creek. They turned our preacher off because he was a McClellan man. They would go to hear him preach. If I am any judge of a man, he was a good preacher. We haven't had a Sunday meeting since you left home. We will have to go to the Dutch or Baptist meeting to hear preaching. It's a lonesome place on Oil Creek now. Hard work is all the company that we have. I have nothing planted yet, but a little oats and potatoes. Yet what wheat I have looks very well. I haven't sold my tobacco yet. Nathan Jamison was here this spring and wanted me to go home with him. He said it should not cost me anything to go nor come and stay as long as I please and find me a house to live in and ground to tend, as much as I wanted, and he would plow it for me for nothing, but I think I had better stick to Sassafrass Ridge. I left home once to my sorrow and I said on my sick bed if God restored me at home again I would stay there as long as I had a piece of bread and one child to stay with me. Jane Shircliff has broken up housekeeping. Your mother has the little girls and John has Loney and Uncle Mason has Hiram and Jane dresses as fine as you please and whitens her face as white and says she isn't going to say she won't marry again. So I must bring my letter to a close. So no more at this time. Write soon. This is my second letter that I have written in eight years. Excuse all mistakes for my pen is poor and my head is worse. Amira Colby to John C. Esarey. I forgot. We have weaned Johnny and he was the best child I ever saw to wean. He can talk and call the cow. So goodbye for this time.