

Camp near Washington City D.C.
May 26, 1865

(John C. Esarey to his wife)

Dear Wife: I will try this evening to write you a few lines to tell you where I am and that I am well. Hoping this will reach you safe and find you and Johnny well. I have no news to write of importance. We are lying in camp near Washington City. I have not received a letter from you for some time though I have received several from the neighbors. I was sorry to hear that our babe had been sick. I was sick a few days coming through but I am all right now. I would like to have been at home when Nathan Jamison was there, but being at home is played out with me. I was sorry to hear Uncle Add Shoemaker had his leg shot through. I hope the Hobbses will reap their reward for their conduct. I was all through Washington City yesterday. It is the finest city by far that I ever saw. What I have seen has paid me for my march from Raleigh. I have seen a great deal since I left home. I have traveled almost all over the Southern Confederacy and have seen some pretty good times and some very bad times. Now Barbara you must keep in good heart for the time is getting short, even if I have to stay my time out, 8 months of my time is out tomorrow. Awhile ago they came and called for all soldiers whose time expires between this and the first of October. I fell among the number though I don't know what they will do with us. Some think they will muster us out before long but nothing is definitely known. You must do the best you can with the crop and that is all that can be expected. One thing I want you to do is to take care of your babe whether anything else is cared for or

not. I received a letter from George Jenkins. He says he will make us a big speech when we get home, but I don't know whether he will or not. It is owing to how he conducted himself when he was drafted. Some letters say he ran away; others say he did not. Jake Faulkenborough is in Co. B of our Reg. and is well. Our Reg. now numbers 1360 men, I believe. I have written all of importance, so I will close by saying I hope to see you soon. Tell John, Jont and Abb that I will answer their letters as soon as I get a chance.

Remaining your loving husband as ever, John C. Esarey to his Wife.