

Letters of Levi Daniel Bryant to his
wife Cornelia Hyde Bryant, Ellicottville.

Nashville tenessee Oct 4 1864

Dear Wife I take this oppertunity of writing to you this morn-
ing I am well and hope you & family are. it will bee one month
to morrow on my time.. I sent you 27 dollars from Great Valley By
Stage driver when wee came a Long. Wee are in a Large brick house
that has been ConfisKated from a reb it is a Large one 3.65 Roomes
& about 4000 union Soldiers in ~~it~~ it now wating for transpotation
when wee shal Leave here we cant tell befor many days tho wee think.
We are garded all the time for fear wee Shall run away I Shall bee
glad when wee get to our regament Oct the 5 We are at chattanoga
this afternoon. it rains all the time. I road 150 miles on the top
of the cars in the rain all night Last night and got some cold. you
hant no idea how a soldier is used worse than a Brute Beest. but I
must stand it Like the rest. the rebs have torn up the track so that
wee dont now when we shall get to the company but I hope soon. you
need not write untill I write you again & then I will tell you
where to direct it- I found Dick McCadin to day he has been Sick
with A fevur But is better now and is going to the regament soon
he looks bad and poor. my appatite is good and I am a going to
Live Just as Long I can this is the worst Country I ever saw I
would not give my cow for all the land I have seen in this State
it all Looks like brick dust and very hilly at that I must close
for this time I will right as often as I can if I dont write much
at a time

Good By Dear

State of Tenessee Oct 5

Chattanooga tennessee oct the 19- 1864

Dear & Bloved Wife & children as I am not on duty to day I thought I would write to you as I now you would Bee looking for a letter quite often from me I am well and the rest of our Boys to Wee do not know when we Shall get to our Regament. But soon I guess. the Railode is all most repaired again & when it is wee shall Leave here & go on to our regament Com. P. Vedder & Dick McCadden & Marvin Root are here with us all of them Belong to our Regament & will go as soon as wee can, it is 1.50 miles from here - I wrote to Stphens and he will direct your Letters to me when you want to send them write all the news you can & how you get along and if you have moved and every thing you can think of I got a paper yetterday from home I See Townir is giving a convension in Concert hall, I wish I could attend it & I would if I was at home I think When I was at Dunkirk I saw Mr Boals and said to him if Gallegar would take the 500 Dollar Bond and the rest in money to pay him all down & if he would not take it to pay him 350 down and the rest when the Bord was due, which is on the 15th of Febuary with me. the intrist will bee \$ 17.50 & that will more than pay for collection the Bond, & he said he would attend to it for you and help you if you wanted any help to Let him know, & when you write to me write all about it for I am ancious to know how it is & if you have moved yet and how Like it, that is the place how many potatoes have you got & are they good ones, how is the cow and dose she give much milk now kiss my Nolley for me, & tell Fanny Pa says she must Bee a good Girl & help her ma all she can & Dora to & when Pa comes home She shall have a new dress & Ride up to granpas in the Buggy- two months are allmost gone time flies fast along and stops for no one & my year will bee out before you hardly know it only keep up good cheer & pray for me and wee shall all meet a gain - I dont know as you can read this writing with a pencil if you cant say so & I will use a pen next time But this is the handeist if you can read it, I had some Bred and Butter Last night for Supper & it was good to But you did not make the Butter or it would have Been Better But I get enough to Eat as a general thing. it is warm through the day But cool nights. When wee get down to our regement wee shall have a better tent than now & fix things up for winter quarters I guess. I must close for this time Give my respects to all my friends & keep a heep for your Self

P S I have not had to wash any cloths yet hire shirts washed for ten cents a peace & socks for five I have two shirts & two pair cotten flannel drawers & Shellner gace me two more Shirts & a Blouse for notting so I have got as much as I can carry in my napsack now anyway - I Sent home my cloths By Ed Herring & a new pair of Shoes & when I ~~was at Elmira~~ was at Elmira I got another pair of new ones for nothing worth \$3.50 & put my best ones in my napsack So I Shant have to by anything verry soon unless it is stole from me & if any ~~one~~ one steals from me I pitty the next mans things that come in my way

Write Soon Good By
Levi D. Bryant
to Cornelia Bryant
Ellicott Cattaraugus Co Ny

Chattanooga oct the 23 1864

Dear Wife & children. I received your kind Letter Last thursday & was verry glad to ~~hear~~ hear from you for the first time since I left home But I have written 3 to you & one to Mr Stephans. I told Johns folks that I would write to them & then they were to write to you But I am wating untill I get to my regament & then I shall write then & I think wee shall go tomorrow but am not certain yet as the road is open But Cap Vedder thinks wee will. But you can direct the same as before while com is here well get our Letters for he goes to the office & Looks over the mail for Atlantia & if there is any for us he brings it up. to day is Sunday and I have been to church & heard a good ~~discorse~~ discorse. yesterday it was quite cold here & allso Last night and I got some cold & am not feeling first rate to day but think I shall feel Better to morrow. I think lotter is not a man of his word or he would get out of the house for you. if he dose not move as quick as you want him to, tell Judge Lamb that you must have the house for you do not want to pay rent nor move in the winter, & your house is warmer than whare you are. Whare is Linza and wife you said you had Learnd to milk But did not say where Liza was have you got your potatoes dug yet and how are they. you did not half write to me Send me a Sheet of foolscap written full if you can get one for I cant & have to write on Just such as I can get. is Stephans folks agoing to Stay in the Jail another year, & dose your folks come to See you often or not, Did Wesley Drury Bring you the Letter from Great valley with 27 Dollars in it. I sent it by him when I came thru. What did you do with the Bond that Blair Brought Did Gallagar take it in part pay if so write me next time. I have sent you \$9.52 in all, & that would Leve you ~~7.00~~ 7.00/2.52 two hundred fifty two after paying cotter then you take one hundred & Eighty dollars for Harvey & it will Leave you 72 & if you can get along 3 or 4 months I can send you some more in all probability But you must act your own please in regard to it I sent home more money than any one of the Boys I have got 5 dollars in my pocket now and can take ~~care~~ care of it to. So good by pray for me and I will for you & the children

Levi D. Bryant

Atlanta Georgia Oct 30 1864

Dear wife I got to my regament yesterday & found all the Boys & they was pleased to See us. Ellick is not coming home this fall he has been ● promoted to Lutenant & got on the Sholder Straps so you can guess how Big he● is. Theadore harvey & Josh Pettit & Grove Hopkins & Lettle Nelson Kingsley & lots of others that I know. my health is quite good for me & I am glad that I have got throu I am in Harys Maddisons tent untill I put mine up I Slept in his tent Last night & it was a good place & I Slept sound as at home. this is quite a nice place But the most of the country through which I have past aint worth a cuss - folks talk of the soney South But I cant see it, I would not give my house & Lot for the hooll darnd Shake of it I will send you some money as soon as I get any & I think it will bee Befor Long you must keep up good courrage & I will do the best for you I can & send you all the money I can. How is my Little Girls are they all well & fine & singing glory Hallelujah as ever. I am going to Stand my hard & Live it through if there is any such thing in the Book So take care of your Self & family & write as often as you can to me for I may not get all you write & I want to hear from you as often as I can. I have not much to write at this time I told you I would write when I got to my Regement & so I have cept my word you see I must close for this time So give my best regards to all my friends & tell them I am all right So the Rev Mr Norton from ~~Waverley~~ Wavrley is Chaplain of our regement and got here yetterday with us Wee got here in time to all vote for old Abe & I sent my vote home to A. G. Rice & made him my Power of Atterny to present my vote to the Bord tell A. Stephans to send me all the papers to read of any account & I will pay him well for his trouble some day for papers cost from 20 to 25 cents apeace & old ones at that

Good By my Dear Wife & children
for this time

Atlantia Nov the 2 1864

Dear Wife I take this oppertunity of writing to you for I do ~~not~~ not know when I shall have a nother oppertunity for wee havehad orders to Leave here as soon as wee can get readdy to & that will bee pretty soon I think But wee cant tell in camp when or where were a going untill wee get threw.. my health is verry good for me & I hope it will remain so for this year at Least But wee must all trust in the Lord & do the Best wee can for one year & then if wee all Live wee may meet again to enjoy home & friends & if I get home I think I Shall now how to appreciate it Better than ever Before. But I cant write much this time there is such a crowd around me it is imposable 'now I will try it again & see if I can finish it. I have received one Letter from you & that was at Chattanooga Some one sent me a Loot of voots But I had voted Before I got them ~~and~~ & they were no use to me I think Stephans sent them to me But there was no name sined to them Direct your Letters to the 154 Ny vol as useual & well Stand a chance to get them Some time. But dont give up writing write often if you dont write alst? at a time I shall Bee glad to hear from you quite often at any rate it seems as if it was a Long time to wate for a Letter But it will bee good when it comes. have you got moved yet and dose Willoughby take care of your cow & how many potatoes have you got, and have you them in the Sellar and Safe

Write to me as often as once a week at any rate if you can
I must close for this time So good By for this time to you all

L. D. Bryant

Atlanta Nov the 8 1864

Dear Wife I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you this _____ to Let you know that I am quite well for me stand it better than I expected to. I have Just come in from ___ drill _____ & as the mail will _____ here at one oclok I thought I would improve the time. Horace Herrington is detailed to take care of the Elders horse, Mr Nortons, So he dont have to drill nor carry a gun. Ed herrington _____ & I Bunk together now But dont now how Long wee shall wee have quite a good shanty _____ any for it raind all night last night & it did not wet us any & we woke up dry as powder this morning. Wee think we shall Leve here soon & march some whare but dont no whare. Wee had orders to get ready * & Leave on Satterday & marched two miles and halted all night and next day marched Back into town where wee started from. some think wee are a going to distroy the place & Leave it. it is a great cost to the government to hold the place and feed the men for the road to chattanooga is 150 miles through the Rebel country & Bands of _____ Booskhackers tare up the track most evry day some where & it takes a great many soldiers to gard it. Brum Mudgett is in the 10th Indiany regament a garding the railrode a bout 50 miles from here at kingston I saw him when I came threw & he was much pleased to see me he went out to live with Phillip & went as a Sub for a drafted man and got Eight hundred dollars for one year so you see wee done the Best of most any of them now I will try & finish this I have had another drill since I began to write this we drill 3 ours in a day & cook our grub. all but the coffy now wee only get half rations hard tack 4 one spoonfull of shugar one pint of coffy a Little Bacon & Beef and rice or Pea Soop. I can get along quite well for food, & my appetite is first rate But it is hard work to keep the Boddy-Lice of wash as often as you may. I find some on me in spite of all I can do. But they cant live long on me for I wont Let them I rint my shirt some every day & that helps some. I ware two shirts all the time so as to not cath cold for the climate is verry changeable here one day it is cold & the next warm I have not had only one Letter from you yet But Look all the time for one, for I want to hear often from you I must close & get my diner right away. take good care of my Little Girls and dont Let them suffer for anything. if you hant got any money tell your father to Let you have some & you can pay him when I send you some home. we think we Shall get paid of pretty soon & the you shall have some

So good By all
may Cod Bless you & Preserve you
all that wee may meet again

The U. S. Christian Commission,

Sends this sheet as the Soldier's Messenger to his home.
Let it haste to those who wait for tidings.

General Sherman's Army.
154 Regt. 2nd Div. 20 Army Corps.
Army of Gorga. Jan 12 1865

Dear Wire the time has com for me to write to you again. and
O how I wish I could get one from you for it is a long time to
wait for one. the last one I got from you was dated Novber 29
and then you had just got moved I cannot tell how many I have writ-
ten but I guess one evry week I have got six from you that is all
my health is tollerable good for me but I have had a poor spell and
had the jaundice verry bad but am around on duty again you must
write orten to me and maybe I shall get some of them arter a
while you said you had a good time upon the hill I am glad you
can enjoy yourseif if I cant I hear that it is quite Sickley in
Ellicottville this winter I am arraid you or the children will
get sick and then what would you do, but I pray to god for you
all evry day of my Life when the rest of the boys are or in some
tent playing cards I improve the time in reading my testament and
in prair to god for my family that he will take care of them un-
till wee may all meet again to enjoy each others society on earth
the time seems long to all of us but still it goes on one day after
another I wrote a letter to Well Brooks Last week and he sent me
a paper of tobacco and I tell you it was good to, you must get a-
long as well as you can for I dont know when I can send you any
money for wee have not got our discriptive Lists yet, and wee cant
draw pay untill wee do get them but the Magor has sent to Wash-
ington for them and I think they must come soon.. and then again
wee must wait for pay day. So you see that a soldier never knows
anything untill it comes along But if I can stand it 7½ months
more I will Bee home again with you So keep up courage you must
write how much your taxes are for I expect they will be heavy
Reed said his was 20 Dollars and if they are yours will Bee 30
easy a nough but you must pay them Lett them be more or less but
pay them and save the persentage if you can, and you can I am in
hast to day for I must close this and get the old gun Bright for
Dress Parade to night at four oclock it is warm here today and
fine wether it frose a little last night but not hard I have not
seen any snow yet this year and I dont think we shall unless wee
move from here there is a report in camp that wee are a going to
Charleston before Long but I dont think we shall, but I cant say
its all gess I must close for this time give my respects to all
my old friends and ask Andrew Steven why he dont answer my Letter
I rote him some time ago for he has got time to write Good By
my Dear family for this time

Lew. D. Bryant

Savannah Gorga Jan the 20 - 1865

Dear Wife I received ~~your~~ your kind letter of Jan the 4 Last night and was glad to hear you was all well and had a plenty of company wee have had orders to march from here this morning at seven oclock and I thought I would send a few lines to you that you might know it Where wee will go no one ~~knows~~ knows yet nor will untill wee get there I think to Charleston Sherman aint a going to Let his army lay still I dont think Long at a time But ~~show~~ Show them right along this winter, if wee can get a Little farther north By spring I shall Like it, some of the Soldiers have got the ~~small~~ smallpox and I dont want to stay here any longer on that account I have got 7 Letters from you now and keep on writing they will come to me if I do moove. Brum Midgett was here yesterday to see me and was well, I weight 1.32 lbs that is pretty good for me I think, dont you

Bosworth told you a darnd Lie I never settled with him a tall nor dont know how Big his account was But dont Let him cheat you out of the work I done for him Last spring if you can help it I must close or I cant send it, kiss my Girls for me and tell them Pa will Bee home some day I guess to see them So good By to you all

L. D. Bryant

January 30 - 1865

Dear Wife I am not buisey this after noon and _____ an opportunity to send you a few Lines once more which I did not Expect so soon Wee are ~~_____~~ camped in the woods about 40 miles up the river from Savannah wee shall cross the river to morrow into South Carolina & then noone knows to what place, wee was two days coming here and I am verry Lame in the cords of my Legs and feet wee have to carry such big Loads in order to keep warm nights But I am agoing through it if I can any how other wise I am all well. the rew of the Boys are well I got a letter from Well Brooks the other day he said the Snow was verry deep then you must be carefull and not get sick I got a Letter from you Barring date Jan the 9 and was glad to ~~_____~~ hear you were all well. one month more ~~_____~~ & my time will bee half out thank God for that I say and so will you I think our Discriptive Lists have come now and wee shall get our pay when the regament is paid of and I dont know whenthat will Bee But you must get along as Best you can without me untill I get home again and then I will try and stay at home with you the rest of my days you must excuse this writing for I have ~~_____~~ no convenance for here for writing So I will close write often to me and Let me know how you get along

~~_____~~ yours truly

Levi D. Bryant

Goldsborro North carolina March the 28 * - 65

Dear Wife I take this oppertunity of writing this Long Letter to you this morning But this pen is a poor one or else I cant write verry well. So I will leave it ~~with~~ with you to tell which it is, My health is quite good for me except bad colds & Living on the wet ground every night keeps a coll on me all the time But I dont cough much, And I have five months & 8 days Longer to work for Old Abe & then I am done for him & he haint got money enough to hire me an other year in the sirvices Wee are camped in the woods about two miles from town the railrode runs from here to Newburn this road is ours and in our hands and wee have put it in repair & are a runing it now they Brought up the mail Last night & I got three Letters from you the last one was written the 14 of february & I think wee shall stay here untill the first of May & get our clothes & Some pay & if wee get pay I shall send it to you & you can let it out for six months or Let Skinner have it for safe keeping untill I get home if they pay me all up to the first of next month it will amount to \$1.45. 33.. & I shant keep much with me for some think wee shall go from here to richmond & help Grant to take the Capital of the Southern confederacy & then I guess the rebellion is dead. the 14 & 15 corps had a fight last week with the Rebs & took 500 of them prisoners & they looked awfull ragged & dirty & half starved one had a pigs head in his hand a carring it a long for his supper it want drest & the eyes & nose & hair was all on it yet. Our Brigade has gone out a forriageing to day & I wanted to write to you & so I went up to the docter & got excused from going on account of rumatism in Left Leg.. So you get this Letter By the means. you said I must write Longer Letters to you if my time was my own I could But I will give you fits on this so you wont have to complain here after I sent a line to you & two skains of silk when we was back to the river But wee did not stop to Long enough to get it. wee have marched about 500 miles on this trip & about 400 on the other making in all nigh hundred miles. know you take a load of forty or fifty pounds on your Back & then your gun that ways fourteen pounds & march all the time rain or shine up nights & all thiss & it is any thing But fun for me. I would far rather be home a hold- ing my Nelly By the Stove to keep her war this cold wether it is quite cold a nights here now But comfortable days I have not had to fight any yet & I hope I shant but iff wee go to Richmond I think wee shall get enough of ~~it~~ it before ~~our~~ our time is out But I will trust in the Lord for he can bring me safe home & hee will I trust you must write often to me for I shall get them all when they get around. Sherman has got about one hundred & fifty thousand troops with him now & when wee went through South carolina ate up & Burnd up all most evry thing that came in our way & that took a range of country about 50 miles wide right through the state & north carolina aint a faring much better onely they dont burn ~~up~~ up all the houses But they forage all the time most all our Living & that amount of men consume some food I recon. Wee have enough to eat just now hams flour coffe Shugar hard tack So wee can make pancakes if wee can get the Saleratz (?) ~~cream~~ & cream tarter to make them light any quantity of meal Put no milk nor Butter wee find some molasses and some honey the reason I have not sent you any ~~preasants~~ preasants

before now is this the horse men can ride on in advance of the troops & stop at the houses ~~and~~ & get what they can & when the troops come up they post a guard at the ~~door~~ door & let no one in & I never had face enough on me to go into a house & step up to a young girl & demand her rings or Blow out her Brains. & I thank God for the hart I have it is not so hard as some I find. When I can Stoop to Rob the ~~wimin~~ wimin of their Little keepsakes I must have my hart hardened & case hardened first so if you want me to send you such presants I must come home ~~and~~ & let your father case harden my old hart. I hope you wont feel greaved at this for when I come I will remember you & Bring you some thing worth a while Silk for a dress or a Melodion or something you want when you write again Say what it shall bee & you ~~shall~~ shall have it. Brum Mudgett is not in our regament nor Division I have not seen him since I left Savannah Alexander Bird is first Lieutenant in our Regament I see him every day. he gets 1.10 per month & has to cloth him self and Bord him self. while I get 1.03.41 per month & am found So you ~~can~~ can see who makes the most at the end of the year & I think I shall save about 20 dollars of my clothing & money for all I have had yet since my first suit one pair shoos & Blanket & the shoose I wore from home was to small & I sold them for 3.50 in cash & then I bought my overcoat & gun Blanket & that saived 12 dollars for me on my clothing bill. I have had the rhu-matism in my feet ~~and~~ & legs some on the last march but not so bad but what I marched all the time. Joel Woodruff my bunk mait was taken sick on the march from Savannah & went to the hospital train he had the dropsy & was Bloted all up & since wee got to camp he died he was from Ashford came out last fall when I did has Left a wife & four children to mourn his Loss he was brother to the crazy Woodruff you have heard of But he is onely one out of hundreds that have gon to their long homes since this war Began. John & Mary wrote me a good Letter they want us to come out & see them in the fall after I get home But I think I shall have so much to do to get reddy for winter I can hardly go. But I cant tell yet I will wait and see, you must try ~~and~~ & rais all you can to live on next winter & not let the gardin grow up to weeds Let it cost what it will I guess you can coax Reubin to plow it for you & then save potatoes enough to plant & to eat if they haint all frozen this winter for I thought they would it was so cold, But there is no use of my telling you what to do for you can tell Better than I what to do. You said you did not mean anything in your Letter I guess you will think I mean something if I ever get home again for I am darnd Shure I Shant Leave unless I am Drafted & then I wont go to was ill Bet you wanted me to write Longer Letters to you & I guess this will ~~be~~ ~~longer~~ sute you it was long enough when I was at home But since I left it is to Short See easy Dear Wife five months longer & I will try & bee with you again & my Dear Children May Gods Blessing rest upon you & may hee keep you all Safe from harm. I have wored some about your ~~fire~~ fire was afraid you would get burnd out & then what would you do even if you was not burnd up in it But I have praid to God for your Safty & he has heard my prayrs thus far we are in the north part of north carolina & it is the best country I have been in a fine farming country & the old planters are rich here But this was the last state that went out of the union & I think they should not bee to hard on it for they have a good number of union folks in this state, But more nigars than you can snake a stick at grait fat lazy fools. I was quite an abulitionist when I came in the army but I have got over it now, for it is first a nigar then mual & then a soldier & the soldier is used worse than any of them you may think I exagurate the suject but it is the

truth. Mary said hur Boy & girl went to school this winter & was a learning verry fast you must try & Learn Fanny all you can about hur Book & when I come home I will try & bring each of them a nice Book with pictures in them. Now Fan you must have ma teach you evry day & Bee a good girl & help her & pa will bring you nice things. & my Little fat Do I wish I could hug you & kiss you now & my Baby to She wont know hur pa when he gets home I am afraid Old Lib & how is she is she enjoying good health & fat this winter or is she poor as an old shad this Spring O how I wish I had some of the nice Butter she gives just now & some of her milk to eat with my pudding it would go first rait, But I must close for this time this short epistol to my Dear Beloved Wife.. I remain yours now ~~and~~ & forever

Levi D. Bryant

P.S. Direct Goldsborro North carolina Shermans army

Goldsborro No. Apr the 6 - 1865

Dear Wife I have not got any Letter from you or Later Dait than the 14 of february & as you requested me to write often I will try to grattify you if you have got that Long Letter I rote you it will take you some time to Digest it I think. My health is quite good for me this spring wee have got clothed up & have orders to bee redy to march on the 10 of this month which will bee next mondy. wee will not get any pay here for the pay master is not here I dont know when wee shall get any pay. Our regament all sined for gunes & they are to be 16 Shooters So that we can Shoot 16 times without Stoping to Load they will cast us about 40 Dollars apiece & when our time is up wee can bring them home. Read has not been heard from yet & I think he is dead or a prisoner & Nelson Fisk with him. I dont think I shall go out a ~~war~~ rorigen any more I think we are destined to go & hold the Willington Railrode that is the onely road that the rebs can get suplies into Richmond & if wee can take it & hold it Richmond & its ~~army~~ army is ours in spite of Lee or Davis or any or all of the confedracy & if wee can get it the rebellion is gone up for a shure thing.

I understand this morning that our pay has been raised to 20 Dollars a month instead of 16 since the first of January & our clothing raised from 42 to 60 dollars a year so I think I shall make a saving on my clothing Bill, for I have got clothes enough to last me my time out & I dont think it will ever cost over 25 dollars, my first suit to Avon was \$16.76 cents they have lasted me untill now with the exception of a Blanket and shoos. if I can stand it through my time out I shall have some money to bring home & I want to By the two Lots Betwene ours & Manlies & that will make a nice place for us and a good Lot for gardin & corn & potatoes So try & Bee as ~~ey~~ eyomical as you can untill I come home & fix up things

Mr John Meloy was here yesterday he is ~~stopping~~ stoping at new-born now in the government imploy & came down her to see the Boys he is from home Lately he sais, I hear Bill Clark is married & Sam Huntly to Mary. tell Mary to keep his nose clean if see can. While I am writing the news comes that Richmond is evacuated & Lee & his troops are on the march & Grant after him it may bee onely a rumer after all But if it is tru I think wee shall have some fighting to do before Long But God will take care of me I think my trust is in him Live or die. I must close for this time kiss the girles for pa & tell them pa says bee good children & when I come home I will bring them nice things & wee will all go to Sondy school to gether Nelly & all

So good By my Little family. God Bless you

Raleigh N. C. April the 21

Dear Wife as I have a few minits to spair this morning I thought you would Like to hear from me once more bee fore wee march and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ this is our last march for peace is all-ready diclaired the confederates have caived in and all surrendered to Sherman and wee can march to ~~XXXX~~ fredrick citty in Maryland about sixty miles from Washington quicker than wee could go any other way. & when wee get ~~XXXX~~ thare, thare is to Bee a general encampment and a revew of the army General Gary thinks thare will bee some hundred and fifty thousand Soldiers in the camp he says thare will bee a grand revew & then the Soldiers of each State will bee sent to their States to bee mustered out & paid off it is a going to take some time to do this all Butif wee dont have to fight any more wee can Stand it it is some 3 or 4 hundred miles to march But I shall not carry anything more than I am obliged to & that will Bee enough this hot wether. my health is verry good for me though I think however I shal get home to spend the 4 of July for I want to verry & wont ___ have a good time & aggod dinner td with my Little family once more. then I shall bee 'appy once more in my Life. But I must Bee Breaf this morning for I have got to clean up my gun & have it all bright for inspection to day & I dont think it will get cleand much after this time By me if I can help it Darn the old gun I am sick of it I had rather have a plow & farm it than bee a soldier

I dont know if you can read this written with a pencil But it is the best I can do for I cant get any ink this morning

Now dont look your eyes out for me to come home for I shall get there as soon as I can & when I come you will all know it I guess.

So good By to you all for this time wee shall Leave here on our march sometime next week Just as soon as they can fix up matters a Little & get ready

wee can march faster tordes home than tords the Rebs I think the army have got sick of fighting & I dont wonder at it Eather men half starved in the war 3 years it is enough to kill any one

But I close

O Fanny I hant forgot you nor Dora nor Nellie

No Pa cant forget hiss Little girles ~~he~~ he thinks of them evry day & night & prays God to take care of them to and he will I trust

We'll be good children & mind your Ma and you shall go to sundy school when pa gets home & have some new clothes to

may God Bless you all

Good By all

Camp near Raleigh Apr 27

I have a few minutes to write this _____ for the mail soon goes out. But I will improve the time my health is good as usual. I got your kind letter of Apr 14th & never was more surprised then to hear Father had sold out his farm you did not tell to whom he sold or what he got for it, But I think he will be sick of it after a ~~while~~ while his crops wont be groing while he is a sleep. But where is Will you or is he with them yet. But I wont ask too menny questions at once. Wee expected to start for home from Raleigh But Johnson would not surrender up his army to Sherman. So wee marched ten miles tords him and camped & Gen Grant has sent in for a uncondishinal surrender & I think he will give up for they cant get away for wee have them surrounded on all sides. if I was a going to stay here Long I would write Seth a Letter. wee have to live verry short now on 5 hardtack a day & coffy & I can eat mine all at once & not have enough then for one meal. But they have to feed the citizans of Raleigh what wee ought to have. it takes a good many raitons to feed such a ~~large~~ Large army has Sherman has. But my time is almost ~~up~~ up to send this out. Reubin must help you & pay him well for it to O how is the old cow you have not said anything about her since fall it is most time for ~~her~~ her to come in I think. I herd Miss Stvans was dead & the county seat was mooved the weather is verry hot here ~~now~~ now But cold nights yet.

Whether wee shall march to Washington or go by transport I dont no. So good by all of you

L. D. Bryant

Washington D. C. May 28 __ 65

Dear Wife I take this oppertunity of Sending a few lines to you my health is quite good for me. Wee are in camp & the officers have just commenced to make out our papers. Where wee are to bee sent I dont know yet whether to Newyork or to Elmira. But wee have got to Bee sent to our own State Before wee are Discharged. wee have not Been paid any yet. yesterday I went & found Seth in the treasury & he was verry glad to see me too I tell you his health is good. Sends his respects to you. he gave me five dollars & I got some tobacco & 4 loves of Bread & a Pound of Chese & then went into a Saloon & got my dinner it is the first deacent meal I have ate since I enlisted & paid 50 cents for it & if I did not Eat my Belly full once I was most afraid it would make me sick but it did not I think wee shall get home as soon as the 4th if not Befor But I cant tell. some say wee will Bee home in 15 days But I guess not it takes some time to settle up & pay of the army it is no short job But I amjust as ancious to get home & see you as you are to see me for I know how hard it is for you to have to doo all the chores & see to everry thing. But I trust to soon Bee with you once more I got your letter of May the 2 & am sorry to hear you had such a bad sore throat. ● try & take good cair of your Self & family as you can I was gald to hear that my family was a going to school

Ma you must get her a nice Book so she can Learn fast to read - tell her uncle Seth is getting 16 hundred dollars a year Because he has got an education if I could get that for a few years I would Like it But I must close for my chum has got the breackfast ready & I am a going to help eat it Write often & I will do the same and I remain your & sincere husband

Levi D. Bryant