

Camp Army of the Potomac Virginia
Dec. 20th 1863

Mrs. Hummiston

Dear Lady,

I sometimes during our marching have felt desirous of writing to you, but being a stranger to you I felt some delicacy in the matter.

I have at last undertaken the task. I had formed considerable acquaintance with your husband before the battle of gettysberg and I was in that battle during the whole 3 day I saw Sergt. H. when he marched in to the fight but I never saw him afterwards

I saw some of his Regt and they told me he was missing and afterwards with deep sorrow learned that he was killed

he had many friends and I often thought of the love he had for those he left behind I had frequently heard him speak of you and his Children

I would not wish to add any sorrow to the bereaved, but he died a good soldier and a good man covered with honor and Glory, no more to hear the bugle or the drum or the roar of canons, at rest wrapt in a soldiers grave and resting will he continue until the graves shall give up their dead and may kind Providence smile upon you and may guardian angels protect his children through this toilsome world and may you all meet again where parting is no more is the prayer of the writer you no doubt are lonesome but we have few joys in this world

The writer has been deprived of Father and Mother, and have only one sister and one brother left in this world and no other relatives living and am now in my Twenty sixth year I am full of hope of Seeing peace again and if I am so fortunate I hope I will be able Some day to call and See you and yours

All things at present indicate a speedy close of the war we are in winter quarters near the Rapidann river I have only a very few correspondences and would be glad to hear from you and yours as my sympathies are awake to all situated as you are and should you conclude to write to me I can assure you you will be writing to a friend and any satisfaction that I can give you I will do it cheerfully

The mail leaves soon and I must close

Respectfully yours

John W. Summers

address thus

Coopers Battery Artillery
Brigade First Army Corps
Washington D.C.