

In the woods near Fairfax [December] 8 1862

Dear wife

you may think this a strange way to comence a letter to you but the truth of the matter is it is so cold in camp and no wood that we have taken our blankets and fled for the woods whare there is wood anough and to spare and we have a good fire and know how to enjoy it I am writing by the fire light and I cannot see very plain I was on picket last night and am very sleepy I hope that you can read this if you cannot send it back to old virginia there is snow on the ground 2 inches deep and the weather is cold now I do not want to get up aney excitement but there is strong talk of peace hear what grounds there is for it I cannot tel

9 Wel I start again to finish this letter we have got orders to march again as usual I cannot tel where we are going but the talk is that we are going to Culpeper that is down towards Richmond about 40 milds from here I am not very strong yet but I think that I can go it

Now you would be surprised to see me coming home about the first of May with an honorable discharge that may or may not be we can not tel if I had a good chew of tobacco I think that I could write a grate deal better than I do you want to know what I think about going down to georges if you can go and leave things safe at home I would like to have you go how will your potatoes keep if you go cover them up warm and the as safe as you can the devvle of it is when you will get any money I have tired of looking for the pay master my selfe I hope that he be here before long so that you can go tel them babies that pa wants to see them very mutch I think that you had not better send Frank to school til the smal pock has pased over you must over look mistakes for I have wrote this in a hurey take good care of your selfe and write soon good by A H

Now Ed you think that you have done it and I gues that you have I mean by getting maried and not telling me who you maried if I am going to have new sisters I want to know who they are thats al I am glad to hear from you that you are well and enjoying your selfe you say that you have got a hard job at the house do the best that you can Write to me and let me know how you and family get along as often as you can and do not enlist for they have more men than they know what to do with A H