

Camp near Brooks station v a

Feb 6 1863

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Dear Rhoda I received yours and a paper yesterday and was glad to hear from you and that you were well you will see by the head of this that we have moved to another camp and we had a hard time of it we started Thursday morning it snowed quite hard and the ground was freezing we went about 5 miles very well and stopped at a creek called Potomac creek and put up our tents to stay over night it began to rain before night and in the morning we found ourselves in a mud hole it was raining nearly all the time we were told to be ready to start at 9 o'clock when they found that the bridge across the creek was gone we then went into the woods and got our dinner while they sent for pontoons and got them across the creek we then started wading in the mud about ankle deep the sky cleared off in the afternoon and the sun shone warm and gave us a good sweet we got here before night about 9 miles nearer Washington in a piece of woods where we can make ourselves comfortable in a few days

I received a letter from Elisabeth last week and wrote her one and put a few lines in for you asking you to send me some stamps for I cannot buy them here and I have to borrow one to send this I hope you will write and let me know as soon as you will get the letter I wrote you last with the 20 dollar check in it you will find enclosed 2 small holly plants which I send to Uncle there are a very beautiful ever green full of red berries all winter if they will grow I think he will be very much pleased with them I suppose he has seen the same kind in England there is a kind of bush here called broom I will send a root of it to him if he washes and if they do not grow there is no hurt in trying now I must close with my love to you and all my friends

J D Quilliam