

Capital, Hill, Camp Mary July 19 1861
Washington D C

My Dear Friend as I received your letter yesterday it was a happy hour to hear even more from the place of so long acquaintance and from a friend to so was sorry to of the evidence of your Coxen, The boys are all well and hope that these few lines will find you the same, you told about seeing the letter that I wrote to D, Wilcox when and when did I write it I as a soldier and honest man do deny every word that you told and more than that I deny of ever writing to any of them, and if they say that I did I say it is a d-d lie, if you seen the letter I should think you would know the writing, now about our being taken prisoners is a misstake we have been in dangers severil times when out on scouting we have taken severil prisoners but never was taken the nearest we ever come to being taken was last night there was six of us out on a scout and was attacked by a ^{small} ~~big~~ member Calvary when we first saw them they was off about 50 rods

We sailed as in a group and fired up on them they returned the fire and by that time we was redy and fired again I think they must mistook our number for they left as thou the ob-6 had kicked them in end, a few day ago there was a number

of us out on a scent and nearly surrounded but before we knew it they had begun to retreat from us we fired up on them but had no effect. We took 3 prisoners that night and one last night we have not killed any one yet nor have we had any one killed or wounded if we should happen to be taken prisoners you shall know it at the earliest hours, they have had a hard battle at fairfax the other day we came out victors and have get it in our possession the other day they agreed for a battle at Abainassas Junction but the south give up with out fighting no more at present give my best respects to all to your folks in jesticles

Write soon tell some of the rest of the boys to write and let me know how they get along

this is all From W D Smith
Good By

Desert as before