

Cariers Switch, VA Nov 16th 1862

Dear Father and Mother Brothers and Sisters. I seat myself once more to let you know how I am getting along. I received the letter that Ella Wrote last Tuesday and was very glad to get it indeed from her. Since I wrote you before, we have had to march two days. Friday after I wrote that letter we marched about 6 miles to a place called New Baltimore. We halted about noon. It commenced snowing about the time we started and snowed all the time we were on the road. We halted at Hickory Grove and a field of black walnuts all around there. We had a fine time eating walnuts while we were there. We stayed there until Sunday morning. Then we marched to this place we are now at Thoughtfare Gap only 3 miles from where we were when I wrote my last after marching 12 miles to get here. I, with some other boys went through gap on picked last Monday. It is a gap through a part of the Blue Ridge rather a rough looking place only wide enough for a road, railroad and a small stream. Then rocks each side about as high as a person can see all covered with laurals. It is a pleasant place here. Where we are, by the side of a pure running stream of water. The talk now is that we shall march again tomorrow but I do not know how true it is. Ella wanted me to tell her if we had any peaches and how much they cost. There is non here there is no fruit except apples. We can get plenty of them at ...5 cents. ...cheese is 20 cents per pound. Butter is 40 cents per pound. Crackers 25 cents and other things to match. When you write, I want you to tell me how the crops was on our place. How many potatoes did you have and how was the corn and how the boys got them harvested. How did the cattle look. Write all the news that you can get hold of when you write. Tell me who was drafted in the town if you can find out. I must close my letter for this time. The other boys are well as common I believe. Give my respects to all the friends and take them yourselves. Write soon. From your much beloved Son.

J. Wesley Washburn

direct the same.

[Written on bottom of letter by J.A.W. Believed to be Julia Washburn - James's mother:]

You may get as much calico as you think it is worth when you read James letters you see that he wants a County paper you can get one where you are and send to him. We are well as common. I want you fetch thes(e) letters home when you come. Aunt Levia got a letter from Aunt Lydia this week. (they) were all well

JAW

*Courtesy of Cathy Wingeback, Diamond Bar, California*