

December 4th 1864

Camp Russell Near Newton VA

Dear Mother It is with great Pleasure that I sit down this afternoon to answer your kind letters that I Received from you Dated Nov 23 and one Nov 27 and was very glad to hear from you My health is as good as ever and but I wish I would like to be at on Christmas and New Years furstrate and have a good Sleight ride for it is so long since I have seen any Snow but I dont say that I am sick of Soldiering yet but still they dont get me again Mr Brewer got a letter from home that I was so sick of Soldiering and all this and that and it makes me mad I wished that you had sent my stuff in his box for he is the biggest Cheat there is he has a quarrel here with the boys Every day he keeps on shoe making as usual and makes more like smoke he Charges an awful high Price for his work I have not yet got the box yet but I Expect it in a day or two when the Quartermaster



gets back tell Pa that I would like
 to come and help him Butcher furniture
 ma write and tell me whether Pa is coming
 back and if he haint write and tell me
 some of the boys was telling that he had got
 his Discharge write and tell me if that
 is so well ma when I get my traps and
 stuff I will keep it untill next Spring
 and then I am a going to send home
 all of my stuff, Wallen blanket and rubber
 and a new Over Coat for Jolly to wear and
 something for Waring I dont know what
 yet how Does the watch run ma well ma
 you wrote to me not to Fly hard nor
 Drink Whiskey, not to take the first step
 towards them ten things I will give you
 my word and honor not to take the first
 step ^{ma} who told you that I Drink Whiskey
 and all this all the Whiskey I Drink is
 when I was sick and the Dr orderd it
 to come me when i was so sick to Camp
 pants and that is all I have Drink folks

are getting around there so you days
that it haint nothing for them to sit
down and write a Tom lie about other
folks business haint they ma I think so
at least for Every time old Praver gets a
letter he is always blowing about other folks
that I dont have so much Sugar Coffee
and all this and he cant send a fit son
ma you know that I haint done no such
dent you no more that to send the overcoat
and such stuff and that was my own and
it is paid for and I told him it was a lie
well ma when my Knapsack Comes i will
have my little to read again i did not take
it with me for fear that I would loose
it and i wouldnt loose it for nothing in
the World I shall had to borrow one from
the boys untill mine Comes tell Pa that
I cant William Materson is a going to
send his things as quick as they Come
well Pa we Draw soft Bread now ten
Says out of four and the like Pretty Well now

again the boys have all been out of hard talk
 so they all most started and had to pay
 15 Cent a Pound for them I tell you we have
 seen some pretty hard times since men left
 us but the boys think that I stand it about
 as well as the rest Dr Hutchings called in
 here the other morning and he said does
 your pa get along and I told him that you
 was on the gain the last I heard he said yes
 and he told me he would bet that it would
 stand it as long as any the rest of them
 he said he never see a fellow stand it as
 well as I do he expected I would have been
 discharged long long ago I told him that
 I guessed that I could stand it ~~as long~~
 nine months longer and it would take
 a smart man to get me again and the
 went off a laughing and said no more well
 and I can't think of any thing else to write
 about so I must close tell pa he must
 write to me and I will answer him so
 good by for this time this from your son
 who has not got but little over 9 months more
 to serve him't you glad I am so good by
 I will be a good boy that long I know don't you
 truly yours
 Jerry J Russell ^{think you} _{me}