

July the 10<sup>~~th~~</sup> 1861

Herisons Landing  
James River... Near Richmond

Dear Father and mother

I seat myself this morning to answer  
your letter which came to hand yesterday  
Evening Dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Note at Calland  
it found me in good health I wrote a letter  
to you few days ago and I hope you got it  
we left Alexander the same Day I wrote  
the letter that you got and came to  
Fortress murree and from there we came  
up James River to Herisons Landing got off  
and came 5 miles towards Richmond  
we are within 18 miles of Richmond we  
halve been scirmishing nearly ever since  
we came here until yesterday and to Day  
there hante any Rebels to be seen it  
is reported that they halve went back  
to Richmond for they was afraid  
our men would come in on the  
other side the Distance from here  
to the mouth of James River is 70  
miles and from Fortress murree  
to Alexander is 180 miles I  
think from here home is about 400 mi

You need not be uneasy about me  
Diserting but there is one thing I am  
afraid the slave question has too much to  
do with the Cause but when ever they  
want us union Soulders to free the negroes  
we will Just quietly lay Down our  
arms and give up the ghost I would  
then Consider it anoned to us to Do so  
but I hope that question will never  
Come up before us but for me Diserting  
you need not fear that I am glad  
that my over Coast arrived safe home  
I was glad to hear from my uncles uncle  
bill took sick the Day we left alexander  
and was left at the hospittle John Hardy  
is well the weather here is about 24<sup>th</sup> as  
warm as it is in Preston I hope that

Mr. and Mrs. Colens is getting along fine  
I should be happy to see all my friends  
again and I believe I will it seems  
to me that I will live to see this  
war ended and will Come back to old  
preston County again I hear that the  
Company at oakland think they  
halve very hard times from the  
fact they halve so much scouting to  
Do but I tell you they know

Nothing about Soldiering if they had  
to march all Day in the summer time  
with their Knapsack on their back and  
at nite whether it be wet or Dry Just take  
your blanket and lay Down on the ground  
to sleep that we have Done amuck at  
stretch but it hant Distartind us any  
yet we are yet willing to fight for the  
union and will fight for it as long  
as the Cause is union and I hope  
the good lord will Protect us in every  
good Deed and preserve our lives through  
this warfare I hear cursing and  
swearing every Day but nevertheless  
it Dont induce me to swear in the least  
and Cards is a thing I never did play  
nor never will now you may rest

assured of that as my paper is getting  
short I must Close so now and  
Present But I am your son

William G. Jefferys

Amos and Elisebeth Jefferys