



April 19th 1861

Dear cousin

I beat my self to
dorp you a few lines to let you know
that I have not forgotten you yet but
I recorn you think I have as I have not
rote to you well billy I have not much news
to write these lines leaves me and all of the fam-
ily well at this time present and I hope when
these lines reach you they may find you all well
and hearty billy I am almost ashame to rite
to you as I rite such a bad letter and a nother
thing it has ben so long since I received your kind
and affectionate letter but how some ever I will
endeavour to do the best I can under all circum-
stances well I under stand that there is some
good news at last I have been in form that
old Virginia has seceded at last which
if she had done this three months ago I
reorn we would have all ben better off for
she has held on so long that she made old
Abbe Lincoln think that she was a going
to submit to his rules but I trust that
will never be as long as time shall last
I herd some of my neighbours say that he
had ordered out severety thousand men to
come against the confederates states it makes
me think about war every time I go to Greensboro

I must say that if I have to fight I'd rather
be in wa if I was it would be some consolation
to think that I was protecing the old native state
in which I was bred and born in an in which those
I love next to my self lives not only parents but that
prethy little ~~girl~~ girl I love so well one of the prethiest
I ever saw their is a compna of artilery in Greensboro
consisting of eightty men which is now ready to go to
war at a moments notice I am done planting of cotton and
shortly worked over my corn I shall get I over next week
if nothing happens all except six or eight Acres of late
corn that I planted after I finished planting cotton

I must close as it is geting late excuse bad
writting and mistakes can give my love to all
my engireing freinds and relatives and recieve
A portion your self ^{full} cousins Manda and Henrietta
to wite to me and I will return and answer the
best I can I have ben thinking about witing
to them some time but I did not know bet what
they might serve me like some of my others cousin
not think enough of my letter to answer it
give my love to ma and all of the rest of the family

I remain yours as ever untill death

R R Rawlings