

In the trenches near Petersburg
February 13th 1865

My dear Pat -

Your letter by E. Parker and the nice plate of butter came safe to hand. You have my thanks for the butter and the letter also. But I am sorry to hear that you were suffering so from a rising breast, and was a little astonished that in your situation (without any milk in your breast) it should rise. I suppose however that cold has been the cause of it. I am in hopes that your general health may not be affected, and that you may enjoy the good health you have hitherto been seeing, and may keep as fat as you wrote me some time ago. Indeed I want to see you in such good condition. I like a woman with some flesh on her bones. I hope by this time you have passed through the suffering incident to a rising breast and that now you are yourself again. How I do wish I could have been with you, as you expressed in your letter, and now I am longing for home and the loved ones there. I suppose you have seen by the papers that our mission to Abe Lincoln has proved a perfect failure, and that now we have to prepare afresh for war. Oh! how my heart did linger around the slight prospect for peace as presented through that mission. How I prayed to God that He might be in the effort to restore amity between the two parties, and that we, who had been so long absent from our families, might be allowed to return. But He has seen otherwise and we must bow in humble subjugation to His holy purposes. But, my dear Pat, I have great fears that our cause will go down before the overwhelming power of the North this Spring. Our soldiers (a great many of them) are proving faithless, deserting the service and going back to their homes, and a good many boldly avowed that they will not fight any longer - that they have fought long enough for the rich people at home, that they will be as well off with the Yankees as with our skin flints at home, and they don't intend to jeopard their lives any longer for the property and comfort of the rich. At the commencement of the war I was fearful after a while this cry would be raised. And then our troops got peace in their heads and some are determined to have it at the expense of our subjugation. We have desertions almost nightly from our Brigade and even from our company three ran away (Calvin Martin, Ben Owens & Rob Schools). You have heard of their desertion, I suppose.

I suppose no plowing of consequence has yet been done, and that farming operations are much behindhand. Be sure that the old swamps be let alone. Did Brother collect Simon's hire and have him hired out again? About Winston coming over to bring some eatables - you might send him the next time you send Harrison and at that time put the things on the cart and come along with them and deposit them at Mr. Smiths. It wont do to send him alone with the cart, the horse may be stolen while he is coming to Petersburg from Richmond. It wont do to leave the horse alone in Richmond, but then you could not see me much with a load to sell in Richmond on a horse cart. I should like for him to come but don't know whether it would be practical. I wish you could get Brother to inquire of Mr. Wilson at Newtown, if I came to King & Queen to get provisions for the company he could send them to Richmond for me. I might get a detail in February. Our rations are very short, and that is one reason so many men are deserting - they don't get near enough to eat.

In the trenches near Petersburg
February, 1865

My dear father

Your letter by E. Parker and the nice plate of butter came safe to
hand. You have my thanks for the butter and the letter also. But I am
sorry to hear that you were suffering so from a rising breast, and was a
little astonished that in your situation (without any milk in your breast)
it should rise. I suppose however that you had been the cause of it.
I am in hopes that your general health will not be affected, and that you
may enjoy the good health you have hitherto been seeing, and may keep as
fat as you wrote me some time ago. Indeed I want to see you in such good
condition. I like to hear with some kind of a rising breast
time you have passed through the suffering incident to a rising breast
and that now you are yourself again. How I do wish I could have been
with you, as you expressed in your letter, and now I am longing for home
and the loved ones there. I suppose you have seen by the papers that our
mission to Abe Lincoln has proved a perfect failure, and that now we
have to prepare afresh for war. Oh! how my heart did linger around the
bright prospect for peace as presented through that mission. How I prayed
so that that might be in the effort to restore amity between the two
parties, and that we, who had been so long absent from our families, might
be allowed to return. But he has seen otherwise and we must now in
hand a submission to his holy purpose. But my dear father, I have great
fears that our cause will go down before the overwhelming power of the
North this Spring. Our soldiers (a great many of them) are proving
faithless, deserting the service and going back to their homes, and a
great many solemnly vowed that they will not fight any longer - that they
have fought long enough for the rich people at home, that they will be as
well off with the Yankees as with our skin flints at home, and they don't
intend to jeopard their lives any longer for the property and comfort
of the rich. At the commencement of the war I was fearful after a while
this city would be raised. And then our troops got peace in their heads
and some are determined to have it at the expense of our submission.
We have desertions almost nightly from our brigade and even from our
company three ran away (Galvin Harris, Ben Owens & Job Scholes). You have
heard of their desertion, I suppose.

I suppose no plowing or sowing has yet been done, and that
planting operations are much retarded. Be sure that the old swamps be
let alone. My brother collect Simon's wife and have him hired out again
about Harrison coming over to being some business - you might send him the
next time you send Harrison and at that time let the things on the cart
and come along with them and deposit them at Mr. Smith's. It won't do to
send anything else. The horse may be stolen while he is coming
to Petersburg. Be careful. Be sure to leave the horse alone in
Richmond, but then you could not see the man with a load to sell in Richmond
on a horse cart. I am sure you will find to come out don't know whether it
would be profitable. I am pleased to get a letter to inquire of Mr. Wilson
at Newtown. If I came to King & Queen to get provisions for the company
could get them to Richmond for me. I might get a detail in February.
Our health is very short, and it is a good deal of a hardship to
be getting the best of the weather to eat.

I don't need the money as yet, hope we shall be paid off some in a few days. Have not been paid any since June.

Now, dearest Pat, farewell, may the Lord be with you. My best love to you and the children.

Your affect. husband

J. L. Pollard

I don't need the money as yet, hope we shall be paid in a
few days. Have not been paid any since Jan.
How dearest Pat, farewell, may the Lord be with you. My best love
to you and the children.

Your affec. husband

J. B. Sallard

