In the Trenches near Petersburg Dec. 20th 1864 My dear Pat -Your letter was received day before yesterday after anxiously expecting it and was glad to hear that you and the children are so well. Glad to hear that my little Betsy goes to school so cheerfully and tell Willie I told him she would catch him in learning her book. Glad to hear that the corn will be gathered before Christmas but you did not say how much had been made. How many hogs have you to kill and have the sows come back. What prospect for hogs another year. I was fearful Lewis would let the stock of hogs go down. Always try to keep ahead in pigs and then you can have a stock of hogs on hand. I wrote to you just a few days ago and told you how I had suffered from the cold. The weather is more pleasant now but the sharp shooters are very bad on our front and we have to be very particular to prevent being killed at any moment. I was a little mortified to hear that my coming home would be no pleasure to you. I don't expect to come now at the time I wrote you. If I do at all it will be not sooner than the 1st of Feb. Sleep brings very little balm to me, but I am rejoiced to hear that your health is so fine. May the Lord keep you in such. When I lie down at night it is under the fire of the sharp shooters, and when I awake in the morning it is to hear the whizing of bullets over my head, or the bursting of mortar shells. Oh how uncertain is my life! Bengy Walker was killed two days ago standing in his tent, not thinking I suppose of death. Make an early start towards a crop next year, put in to ploughing as soon as it is allowable. I rather think the fighting around here is done with for this season, but next spring will tell an awful tale. Tell Mollie she must not be such a boy but must learn her book more. Have the colt altered this spring. My best love to all. May the Lord protect you and them. Your affect. husband Jos. L. Pollard

ty dear factor Your longer was revenued voy not one you entire entire recting it and was glue to near that you and the collect and so well. Giad to hear state of title heavy constituted and the consection of the and wall the cook that girls made has all stopped throw the suit all of the said it. to not been not the country of the parties of the country of the south of the country of nge much had been eene. Now may long jist hold wo kill mid historiks sone some pack. These proceeds for most should read. These harries well as a could let the the stock of highly down, walmaps my to the daying in its and a stock in the state and their action the state as stock of long and later and the state as the mood. The world water the days ago and could call the mood. The weather its brown is one free sections where on sign free and are find need many impossible brown to gave to be very particular to growing being glilde at he morent. on ad block as of grinds on that it as the would be applied as the I passage to you. I don't expect to come now at the time I wrote you. It is do at all to will be not adone, then the larger Feb. alega brings very fattle bala to ce, but I ampe placed to hear test your hearth is so fibe. Any the tark weep out in auch. When I lie hown or mitted in anger the three of the chart anothers and which I want at the training it is to lear the whicher of believe ever an need, or the Strating of moreac shelfs. On how uncertain is my wire. seren faller was initied two days ogo estring in his cent, and inight in suppose of death. Make on car, class construct antiques year, par in to clougning sa soon pe di ta dilova je. I comies inimital ilgralda si de si secon co cons with los this sesson, our mext spring vill tell on awist age. Tell Mullic and wast not be aven's boy promate Larry Wer pace more. Avoide sain methila afon add ova My best love to all, har one word profect you and com. Modera . Journal and Bysite ... . ecl