

In the trenches near Petersburg  
Jan 19th 1865

My dear Pat -

I am exceedingly sorry to have to write you that I shall not be able to come home at the time we had set apart. I sent up my application as I wrote you I should but Gen. Anderson sent it back disapproved on the grounds that enough were allowed to be absent on furloughs. I had set my heart on the furlough right smart and must admit am very much disappointed.

Tell Sue what I have written you and she must do as she thinks best about qualifying on the estate. I hardly think it worth while that she should wait longer for me. I don't know that I shall be able to come at all. It may be that I may never see you all again. When the good weather opens towards spring there will be no chance for me and the campaign next spring will be one of the severest if not the severest of this war. I can't calculate to live through such a campaign as we had last summer, but I am in the hands of a wise God.

We have nothing now in this vicinity to write. Everything is quiet. The Yankees though are successful everywhere else and much inspired of their successes, as they testify by their huzzars and salutes. Some even think that our course is over and the Confederacy must back down. Wont be an awful time with us if such be the case - the blood that has been spilt and treasure expended to accomplish nothing - surely the vanity of man could not be more clearly shown. Wilmington I expect will fall in a very short time - then how is our army to be supplied? The army has been supplied with food and clothing mostly through this part this whole campaign. We can't tell what is in store for us, but everything looks very dark.

If you have any Virginia clothing, I want you to have me a pr. pants made with double seat, and kept for me until I shall need them. I don't expect to be able to get any from the gov. now. These I have on have a hole in the seat.

Oh how I want to see you all, but it may never be again my good fortune so to do. I look with fearful foreboding to the spring. How can I pass through another such campaign without being called. May the Lord have mercy.

Now I must close, farewell my dear wife, may God be with you.  
My love to you and the children.

Your affect. husband

Jos. L. Pollard

