Mechanicsville Turnpike three miles of Richmond May 9th, 1863 My dear Pat-I should have written to you again long before this, but last Sunday we were put under marching orders from Fredericksburg, as we thought, but it turned out to be in this vicinity to protect Richmond from the marauding Yankee cavalry that gained the rear of our army near Fredericksburg, and were thought to be advancing upon Richmond. You heard perhaps that they cut the communication on the Fredericksburg Road, and then stopped the mail to Newtown. But I understand that communication has now been resumed, and I shall endeavor to get these lines to you, as I can find no private conveyance to the upper part of K & Q. We have been here (in the grove opposite Thos. Cawthorn's) ever since Monday morning. And since being here the whole outside country has been in the wildest excitement for fear of the Yankees. The saucy villians did approach in 4 miles of Richmond and tore down the tressel work across the Chickahominy belonging to the Central Road. We have had various rumors about their landing at West Point & C. but they all proved false. There has been another great battle in the vicinity of Fredericksburg and Gen. Lee claims a great victory. Our loss has been tremendous. The Regt. from Essex has been cut to pieces. We have heard that Buck Davis is certainly killed. I have not as yet seen any particulars - all will shortly appear in the papers. I have been and am still very anxious to hear from you. Expect to go back to camp in a day or two. Do pray write as soon as possible. Jno. Longist says to tell his wife that he is tolerably well - that she must write to him as soon as can be - that his brother Tom is certainly dead - died in Lynchburg. When any persons come from the neighborhood I will send the copperas and Indigo. I can't write any more just now - am very well, but want to see you all dreadfully - dreamt about you last night. My best love to you and the children. Yr affect. husband, Jos. L. Pollard

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