

Head Quarters Camp Parole Va
Oct 7, 1863

My Dearest Mother

I take great pleasure and find much happiness in writing a few lines to you. I am well as my writing will indicate & hope you all are the same.

To night we have had to part with our commander Lt Col Watkins. he has shown himself to be a gentleman a scholar and a good Soldier, none of these stuck up kind but one that can associate & sympathize with his men in fact he is one of the best men I ever came across and his office does not exalt him over much either

Enclosed you will find a likeness of that Truly noble man please take it and care for it for me till I come home his Moustache is only about 4 or 5 inches in length and is as you see exceed becoming the man. I think you can with safety direct a letter to Distribution Camp to your son Charley and it is near Alexandria

Please give my love to all & Remember me always and I am ever your son and most affectionately your

Charley Abell