

Head Quarters Paroled Prisoners
Camp convalescent Va July 13, 1863

My very Dear Parents

it is with a good deal of pleasure that I take my pen to write a few lines this afternoon and I hope that you are all well I am quite anxious to hear from you as it is more than two weeks since I have heard from you

I am well and find my self comfortably housed at the Hdqrs PPs as usual yesterday I heard one good sermon and in the afternoon we had a hard thunder storm but towards night it cleared up and I began to think that we would have a lot of fine weather but this morning I awoke and found the elements patting away on the outside and heavens artillery adding its music to the chorus, if there was any and it has rained all day so far and seems to try and hold out a little longer but I find it is a fine thing to have a good comfortable house to stay in. This morning I met with a small adventure which I think worth relating I went down to Parole camp for Breakfast as usual (which is cooked in the open air) and as it did not rain very hard I thought I would cook me a little coffee and meat well I got my coffee made and it manifested unmistakable signs of going to rain harder but I got the meat over the fire and soon it commenced raining harder and by the time I could get to my meat with out getting wet through the fire was almost out and there was about two inches of water in my dish a joke on the meat wasn't it Well seeing its you I guess I will give you a description of my bed 1st for Feathers I have a Pine board (ie) (a Table) 2nd for Ticking and clothes I have one (1) overcoat (1) one Woolen Blanket. 3rd for Pillow I have a knapsack with my Pants doubled and laid thereon. That comprises my bed and fixings and I dont envy any body as I know of except those who are permitted too spend a part of their time of inactivity in the Bosom of their families some of my own Regiment I know are at home but most of them are marked as deserters from Parole camp which in my estimation is no very enviable name in my humble opinion I would love most dearly to see home and friends I do not want to run away but could I get a furlough I would take it. If we are not exchanged soon I shall try to get one from here

Black Berries are ripening fast and I have had some they are truly delicious

Please excuse my scribbling and do not forget that there is such a boy in convalescent Camp Va as

Charlie "W" Abell

Please give my love to Ella & the rest and reserve a large share for your selves for I try to send Plenty

Charley