

Camp John Manly

May 17th 1863

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Dear Rhoda

I am wateing to get a letter from you for several days but have not got it yet i think you must have stop writeing because i did but i can get letters when i can not send any I have not much nuse to tell you there is naughting going on here now we have nothing to do now exsept to stand picket ocatinaly i have been ont once since we got back i soposee you think that there is great denger on picket but i naver see any denger when we ware at kellies ford i was steaking with a reb picket acroos the river they say there orders air mot to fire at us kellies ford is a shalaw peacc in the river called by that name after a rich old man by the name of kelley the hegroes told us that he owned 5000 acares of land there he hed a large gris mill and a negrow village nearry as large as hartfield but i should think that the maJority of the inhabotans had leaft there ware a few old men and women around and quite a number of children the solgers went in the mill and carried of every thind that they lould there ware a good deal of corn which the fed to the horses there ware a munder of darrels of flour which they carried of and made pancakes but wasted the most of it the then went to the house and got a great deal of stuf that was of no uce to then the old man looked very sour but they negers seemed to enjoy it very much i took mothing but some flour and a lot of goos eggs that i found in a nest near the house i had good pancakes and egg super and breakfast and carried a few qwrts with me and lost the last of it on the battle field two days after this was on the souh side of the river after we hed crosed