

Blacksburg

November 29, 1863

My dear Husband,

This has been a long, lonesome day to me. I have not even been to the front door. I have read a good deal & took a nap after dinner. I was waked by someone asking if I was at home. I jumped up & found it was old brother Spickard, so we chatted for an hour & a half about things in general.

Uncle Joe came in & read me a letter from Pollie Gilmore giving a description of how the Yankees had treated them. They took everything she had. He is going to send for her & her children. They took about \$7,000 worth from the old lady & Oscar.

Aunt Mary made me a present yesterday of 8 1/2 lbs. of tallow. I was very much surprised, but I tell you it came in good place for I was about out.

Bill Payne called to see me last night. He told us that Gen. Ewell was dead. I hope it is not so as there has been nothing of it in the papers. He said he heard a Col. say he died on Wednesday.

E. Anderson preached here today. All that heard him say it was a fine sermon. He bore down on the extortioners.

All the children but Charly have gone to church, so I feel lonely. He talked to me as long as he could. This is the first time Alex has gone out at night. I think I will venture out tomorrow night as I do not itch & I have stopped rubbing with sulphur. The f.t. does not give me any uneasiness in my stomach. My head feels full sometimes & my face is swollen, so I have reduced the dose to five drops.

This is a cold night. I have a fire in both rooms, & it is not too warm now; how you do in tents I cant imagine. Payne said you were moving towards Fredericksburg, that all the stores were

Ever yours, Mollie

sent to Gordonsville, so we may expect to hear of some fighting soon.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday night.

I have just returned from church & as Mr. Lybrook & Cull Spickard start after the remains of Capt. Evans I thought I would add a few lines to the letter I began on Sunday. I feel anxious to get a letter from you since the fight. I received one yesterday written on your departure from Orange. We heard Capt. Wade was wounded & we feel anxious to hear from Ed & the other boys.

I hope we may still continue to whip the Yankees there for they gain ground at every other point. It is reported here that Gen. Echols is retreating again & Col. McCauslin has left the Narrows & gone towards Lewisburg to reinforce him.

When will it end? I think something must be done before spring to bring peace. Mr. Earheart was here about two hours today talking about the war. He says he is about on half rations. If such farmers as he begin to complain, what will become of the poor & widows.

Our meeting is growing in interest. There have been 8 or 10 converts among the whites & as many blacks. Nan T., Ida A., Phone Surface, & a Miss Bodelle from New Market are seekers.

I got me a splendid pair of shoes yesterday. Mr. Shief made them for Lizzie Palmer & they were too small, so I furnished calf skin for her a pair & took them.

Alex has not got his boots yet, but Mr. Carden says he will try to get them next week for him. He wears a pair of Kent's old last winter shoes that just keep his feet off the ground.

I have about \$300 on hand that will last me some time.

Uncle Will Peck is trying to buy Charles Taylor's farm in

Ever yours, Mollie

Craig. Uncle Ed has been talking of buying Daniel Hoge's if he sells & Peck was to take his. I think it is only mind work with all of them.

The Misses Peterman left the city today to spend the winter with Daniel.

I saw Luster at church. He missed the fight.

Oh my, it is so cold. I almost froze last night between Nan & Alex [and] I hope to rest better tonight.

Goodnight my dearest. Ever your devoted & affectionate wife.

Wednesday - All are well & send much love to you.

Ever yours, Mollie

Blacksburg  
Dec. 18th, 1863

My dear Husband,

I suppose you have heard of the raid into Salem. There has [been] the greatest excitement here for two days. Last night we all slept in our clothes, expecting the Yankees in every moment. I think the hard rain Providence sent kept them back as the creek was so much swollen they could not cross. The last news is they have crossed Craig's Creek.

I hope Imboden may bag them, or Gen. Echols. He is at Sweet Springs. Col. McCauslin is at Fort Harris on the Gap Mountain; the latter might have caught them if he had gone up Sinking Creek last night, but he had been on the march for two days & his men were broken down. I have a poor opinion of all this Western army.

We hear various estimates of the damage done in Salem, but all exaggerated very much. I expect it will be a month or more before the cars run.

I hope we will get a mail soon. The time seems so long. I got all your papers & silver & packed them. Arch said he would take them with him. Uncle Will & Tom Evans left with the hack last night about 11 o'clock. If the cowardly Yankees get away safely, we may expect them back any time. The children were very much frightened.

I am so sleepy I can scarcely write, but as it will take so long now for letters to pass, I thought I must write. I am anxious to get your reply in regard to selling the house. I think we better let it go.

I hope we may have a mail tomorrow. I heard that Lac Miller had a letter from his son stating that I. Hess Hymen, E. Peck & himself were all prisoners & well. Did not learn where they were.

Ever yours, Mollie

Old Mr. Davis is very low. Also Henry Dobbin. He has brain fever. The Drs. think he must die.

Brother Spickard called to see me tonight. He is a good deal excited. I will write again in a few days.

Saturday - All well, but it is dreadful cold. Good bye. Mollie

Major Kent sent me eight bushels of wheat, said he had taken it from his own supply. John Keister let me have five & says [if] I can get his note from Giles Henderson from Mitchels papers he will spare me some more.

How much I would like to see you tonight. I have your likeness in my packet. I thought the Yanks should not get it. Accept my best love.

Ever your devoted wife.

Ever yours, Mollie

Blacksburg  
Dec.22, 1863

My dear Husband,

I wrote you on last Saturday & sent the letter to Christiansburg & the boy lost it. Mr. Robinson found it & gave it to me. We have not had a mail for a week, so you can imagine how anxious we are for letters & papers. I am afraid Arch will not go in the morning. He is so vexed because he cant get hay & corn. I feel sorry for him.

I spent the day with Mrs. Green King. Aunt Judy & Nannie were there. We had a pleasant time.

Tonight I have been preparing the raisins for my mince pies. I get my beef tomorrow. I told Uncle Ed this morning I was glad I did not have it when we were expecting the Yankees. Tis reported they got away without a fight. About 800 were captured.

Jim Henderson went out after them & he was tight & was taken prisoner. He was riding one of Uncle Ed's horses & had a fine pistol of Mr. Alexander's that Aunt Mary loaned him. His mother is in great distress, but she ought not to say a word for he got the liquor from her.

It was reported that Giles Thomas was a prisoner, but he has come in.

Col. Linkous got some coffee & sugar. I do wish I had been close to the coffee; I would have taken a paper for I am tired of substitutes.

Arch says he dont want me to sell the garden - that he will give \$200 for it. That is not enough. I think if I can get \$2,500 for the house, we better take it & keep the garden. We can rent it to them, & you & Arch can fix it when you come home.

Ever yours, Mollie

Jim Linkous made Lizzie Bell a pair of shoes, & he is going to make Alex a pair tomorrow. He will get them for Christmas. I am thankful to Jimmy for I could not get any one else even to promise them till after New year. Jim is a young hand. He has only made three pair, but he makes them very nice.

Uncle Will got back last night with the bank. Bird Linkous was after me this evening for a list of accounts & hands. I shall get John Black to help me fix them up. I tell you I am tired of such work. I wish the war was over, & then I will pay more attention to such matters & be ready for the next war.

The wind is rising tho the moon is shining beautifully. We have a prospect of another cold night. I thought I would freeze Saturday & Sunday night. Tis going on eleven, & I must soon close.

Miss Nannie Preston asked after you this evening & sends her respects. I wish you a pleasant Christmas & plenty of good things to eat. Kent is very sorry the railroad is out of fix. He was full of taking a trip home.

Wade was here Tuesday. He had been over to New Castle after the Yankees. His arm is quite sore, but he says he could not stay at home.

I thought we were all rid of the scratch, but the children were complaining again.

That was a false report about Miller getting a letter from his son.

Oh, how much I wish you were here tonight. The little ones send much love & say Christmas to Pa. Give my respects to inquiring friends. Accept much love for yourself from your ever devoted Wife. Do write soon.

Wednesday. Well, everything has been excited again today.

Ever yours, Mollie

This morning before day we got word that the Yankees had burnt Tom Jones' house & were coming on, burning everything.

Uncle Will in a hurry. Word was sent to Christiansburg. Col. Wade came over with his men & staid about two hours & went home. Bob Peck went to Roanoke & heard from Jim Brown that six Yankees had been at Mrs. Jones'. Tom was not at home. They took all her flour, meat, blankets & some beans & Capt. Evans' uniform. They told her they would not harm her this time but would make another visit.

I think if the 150 men had gone down through the mountains, they might catch them. Wolf has been hollered so often, they cant believe what they hear. Seven were left at Uncle Ed's to carry dispatches if any news came.

Grandma as usual started down to see Aunt Cook before day & fell down near where she broke her leg & had hurt her arm. She contends it is broken in the elbow. She has suffered very much today & has been in bed all day.

Charly is mad today. He says if he ever was a man, he would kill all the Yankees, soldiers & the Government too, so his Pa could come home.

Arch started for a mail today but heard there was none & come back. My eyes hurt me so I must close. Good bye. I opened this after I sealed it.

Ever yours, Mollie