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Wiley Nessmith

Sally Ann Akins Deal (Transcriber)

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CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
MARCH 4, 1862 – APRIL 9, 1865

WILEY NESSMITH

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS
WRITTEN DURING
THE WAR BETWEEN
THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH

TRANSCRIBED BY
SALLY ANN AKINS DEAL
GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF WILEY

AUSPICES
BULLOCH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 42 STATESBORO, GA. 30459
1999
DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the memory of Wiley Nessmith, the Confederate Soldier, who endured the War, sustained by his love of home and family.

The publication of the letters is made possible by:

- Paul Nessmith, Wiley's grandson, who made contact so that the Nessmith family might have copies of the found letters that were lost for more than 125 years.

- Wally Wildenradt and Annie Laura Wildenradt, granddaughter of Wiley Nessmith, who are responsible for the story, Deep in the Heart, a novel by E. Randall Floyd, based on the love letters written by Wiley Nessmith.

- Franklin R. Hatch, of Doswell, Virginia, who found the letters and searched diligently until he found Wiley Nessmith's family in Bulloch County, Georgia, and gave permission for their publication.

- The Bulloch County Historical Society for publishing these letters.

WILEY NESSMITH

Wiley Nessmith was born in Wilkinson County, Georgia on August 20, 1840. His parents were James Nessmith, III and Jane Price Nessmith. He grew up on the family farm that his parents had gotten in Wilkinson County through the lottery. Wiley was the youngest of eleven children.

In 1860, Wiley and Martha Ann Walker, daughter of Jeremiah and Johanna Fox Walker, were married in Wilkinson County, Georgia. On June 28, 1861 a beautiful baby girl, Johannah, was born.

On March 4, 1862, Wiley volunteered for duty with the Confederate States of America. At this time, the 49th Georgia Regiment, Company A, in which Wiley would serve for three years, was formed. The company was known as the Wilkinson County Invincibles. They were drilled for service in Wilkinson County before being shipped off for more training in Whitesville, Effingham County, Georgia. Then they went by rail to Goldsboro, North Carolina. Their first battle was at Seven Pines. Then on 26th of June, 1862, they were in the battle at the Seven Days' fight in front of Richmond, Virginia. On June 27th, 1862, they were in the battle at Fraziers' Farm and First Cold Harbor.

In July of 1862, they were assigned to the Army of North Virginia, under the command of General Robert E. Lee. They were attached to Thomas' Brigade, commanded by General E. L. Thompson and on August 8, 1862 they joined Stonewall Jackson's Division of Foot Cavalry. On August 9th, 1862, they met the enemy at Cedar Run. Then they went into the battle of Manassas on August 29 and 30, 1862 and on September 2nd, 1862, they were in the Battle of Chantilly.

On December 13th, 1862, the 49th of Georgia was with General Lee in the defeat of the Federal Army of the Potomac in the First Battle of Fredericksburg. Their winter quarters were set up at Camp Gregg near Fredericksburg, Virginia. A battle at
Chancellorsville on May 3rd, 1863, was the next combat that Company A was engaged in and then on May 6th, 1863, they were in the second battle of Fredericksburg. The great three days battle of Gettysburg on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 1863 and Lee's Pennsylvania Campaign found Company A in the forefront of enemy fire.

During the Winter of 1863, the 49th, with General T.L. Rosseir's brigade of Cavalry went on raiding expeditions into the Shenandoah and Moorefield Valleys. They surprised the Federals in Moorefield Valley and captured a supply train with 136 wagon loads of provisions, enough to supply General Lee's Army for four months.

After the raiding expeditions, they returned to Rappahannock and remained at the Orange Court House area until May, 1864. They took part in the fighting from Spotsylvania to Second Cold Harbor at Richmond and the Petersburg Campaigns.

On March 25th, 1865, they were assigned guard for General Lee and Staff. The 49th Regiment of Georgia, Company A, surrendered with General Lee at Appomattox, Virginia on April 9th, 1865.

After the surrender, Wiley walked from Appomattox to his home in Wilkinson County, Georgia where he was reunited with his family.

After the war, Wiley and Martha worked on the farm that he was so concerned about during the years of the war. They had six more children born in Wilkinson County, Georgia. Then after 1885, Wiley and Martha moved their family to Bulloch County, Georgia.

In 1892, Martha Ann Nessmith purchased 100 acres of land from W. H. Blitch in the Westside Community, Bulloch County, Georgia. It was here they farmed and raised their family. The farm provided cash crops of corn and cotton. They raised hogs for meat, cows for milk and butter, and chickens for eggs and meat.

Wiley, along with two of his sons, Wash and Ben, and a neighbor were charter members of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in the Westside Community, Bulloch County, Georgia. They purchased four acres of land near their farms on which to build the Church. The church was established on September 29, 1901 and it will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary in the year 2001.

As Wiley and Martha grew older and farming became difficult, they sold the farm to their youngest son, Dorsey in 1905. After selling the farm Wiley and Martha ran a community store. Also, Wiley fitted glasses for the people of the community. His grandson, Paul Nessmith, has the glasses kit that Wiley used in this endeavor.

During an influenza epidemic in 1917, Martha Ann died. After a few years of living alone, Wiley's ill health made it necessary for him to live with his children. While sitting beside the fire on a cold November day with a quilt over his legs, a spark ignited the quilt. Before it could be extinguished, he had received severe burns. On November 27, 1924, Wiley died and was laid to rest beside his beloved Martha Ann in Brannen Cemetery, Westside Community, Bulloch County, Georgia.

We know little about the farm when Dorsey Nessmith owned it, but would assume that he continued to raise the same crops and foods for his family that his father had raised.

In 1910, Dorsey Nessmith sold the farm to his brother, Benjamin David (Ben) Nessmith. Ben had a farm adjoining the farm he bought from his brother. Now with a larger farm area, Ben would plant pecan trees on part of the land. The money crops would now include corn, tobacco, cotton, peanuts, velvet beans, sugar cane, and pecans. He had mules, cows, hogs, and chickens.

In 1951, Benjamin Elisha (Bennie) Nessmith bought the 175 acres farm owned by his father, Benjamin David Nessmith. Bennie was not a farmer but rented the farmland and the pecan orchard.

After the death of Bennie and his wife Dartha Bonnett Nessmith, the farm was purchased by Guy B. (Bunny) Deal and Sally Akins Deal, Bennie's niece.

Bunny and Sally Deal live on the tract of land that belonged to Benjamin David Nessmith (her Grandfather). The house that they live in was built in 1918 by her Grandfather and is
located directly across the road from the original 100 acres farm of Wiley and Martha Ann Nessmith.

The Nessmith-Deal farm was recognized in 1998 as a Georgia Centennial Farm by the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources. This program recognizes farms that have been in the family for at least 100 years.

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CONFEDERATE LETTERS OF WILEY NESSMTIH

The report we have concerning the Grandpa Wiley letters is that they were found in a Civil War knapsack in the attic of an old house in Petersburg, Virginia, several years ago. How did they get there, no one knows. Why were they written but never mailed? One can only guess.

We know that the 49th Georgia Regiment, Company A was in the nine-month siege of Petersburg from July 1884 until April 1885. We wonder if Grandpa Wiley left his knapsack at the home of a friend, or in a building that the troops was holed up in for a period of time and he forgot to retrieve it when his company had to move out suddenly.

The letters show that he wrote often to his dear Martha Ann and the Baby. We know from the letters that some of his letters were mailed, so why were these written and never mailed?

Wiley wrote about the hardships of war and how disease was rampant in the camps. He told Martha Ann about the long marches in cold and wet weather, of the shortage of food and at times of just waiting around.

Weariness began to reflect in his letters as he wrote that he wished that the unholy war would end and all the soldiers would join their loved ones back home. In responding to a letter from Martha Ann he stated that it wouldn’t be so bad if we went back in to the union. He even stated that it looked like the Yankees would win the war, but the most important thing was to get home to his family.

The original letters are in the possession of a collector of Civil War relics. As he took on the task of deciphering and typing the letters, he felt a need to locate the family of this Georgia soldier. After several years of searching, he was able to locate Paul Nessmith, Grandson of Wiley, in the Georgia House of Representatives.
The rest of the story is that we now have a copy, though not the originals, of the letters that has made the War Between the States a real war to the family of Wiley Nessmith. The family is privileged to have this account from the pen of a family member who personally experienced life during a devastating conflict and time of major crisis in American history.

Goldsboro North Car May 5, 1862

Dear wife I now dis moment set miself to let you no how I am . I have had the mesel but now is well of em now but not strong yet. You rote to me I had not tol you about me having the mesel but you never told me about you having the mesel and how can you speck for me to tel you. Dear Wife I can say to you dat the is a gwod dele of sickness hear. Some mesel and some the mumps. You sed the baby ben sick about three weeks and ant well yet and I am sorrow to hear of it but I cant help it but you must nus it gwod. Richard Martin has got the mumps. Martha Ann I want you to nus mi pigs gwod. I think you beter mak a pen and put dem in it an they slepe der. I want to cume home mity bad bad as you want me to cum but I can say to you I dont expeck to cum home now. Dear wife we cant git a fullw under sixty days. I want to cume home the fust of auggust if I can but dont now when it wil be. I wil cum if I can so I wil cum to a close. You must excuse mi bad ritin and bad spellin so nuffing more dis tim so good by for dis time.

Belove I give mi best respeck an love to you.

Wiley

Richmon July 6, 1862

My Dear Wife I set miself to in form you dat I am well at dis time an I hop des few lines ma cum quicly to hand an find you an the baby both well. I was more glad to hear that the baby was well. My Dear I can say to you dat I hav ben into fore battel sence I rote you before but I nevr got hurt. We run the yank bak to the gun boats and now they ar lying around the couse to ________. They hav taken 5 thousand prisner. I resev you kind letter and I was glad to hear from you my Dear. I want to see you mity bad so I can tel you how I rund the yank. I am glad to hear of crops being
good. I cant rite no more mi time is short. So I wil clos by say I will remain your Dear husband untel Death.

Wiley Nesmith

(over)

Dear Bruther I sen mi love to you and familey I wod rite more if I cud but is bad hear. So good by to you all for dis time. God bles you all and me too.

Wiley Nessmith

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Winder Hospitile Dec the 12th, 1862

Dear Wife

I seat myself this morning to drop you a few lines which leavs me up but not well. I hav had the newmoney (pneumonia) very bad but I am gitin well again. I hop when this comes to hand it will find you well. I ant got any news to rite you the would interrest you tho I will in dever to drew your attention a while. We hav had severl cases of the small pocks hear at this camp tho I havet happen to git it yet. I hant had a letter from you in too monuts. I want to hear from you very bad. I want you to rite to me how my hogs in gitin along also rite how corn and meet is there and if there is any to sell or not and how you are making out for something to eat whether you hav got or not so turn (the page) over. I hav drew my money sents I hav bin in the hospitel. I would like for you to hav some of it but I dont see any chance to send it to you. I hav to make use of my money for I hav to by something to eat for I don't get half a nuf to eat hear. Butter sells for 200 and 25, milk for 50 cts per potaters $5.00 per bushel, molasses 5 dollars a gallon. Tell Madison that I havent heard from Greenberry in 3 mounts and I do not know where he is. Direct your letters to Winder hospital Ward E 1 div. Rite soon so I will close riten by. I remain your true husband till deth.

Wiley Nesmith to Martha Ann Nesmith

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Richmond, Va March 10th 1863

My Dear beloving wife I seat myself to drop you a few lines to let you now how I am. I am well and I hop and trust to God des few lines ma retch you and find you and the baby both well. My Dear I want to see you and the baby the wust I ever did in my life. My Dear I ant got nay letter from you sents the 20 of Febery. I am so onesey(uneasy) I doo not now whot to doo. I wod giv the world if I had it to see you and my Dear little baby. My Dear how bad I doo want to see you and My Dear little baby so turn (the page) over and look. My Dear I want you to kiss the baby for me. I wil send you and the baby a lot of sweet kiss. I cant tel you how bad I doo want to see you and the baby. I ant got no good nuse to rite. It has snow some today but not to mutch. I ant herd from Green B. Nessmith yet. My Dear Wife rite sone and let me hear from you. My time is short. My Dear excuse my bad write and bad spellin for it is the best I can doo. So I wil come to a close by sayin I will remain your Dear husband untel Death. So far well for dis time.

Wiley Nesmith to Martha Ann Nesmith

*****

Richmond Va March 15 1863

My Dear beloving wife it is with the greates of pleasur I agane seat myself to drop you a few lines to let you no how I am. I am well and harty and I do hop and trust to God des few lines ma cum duly to hand and find you and the baby both well. My Dear belov I
want to see you so bad I do not now whot to doo. I wod give enfing in dis world if I had it and a lot more to if I had it
(over)

Wiley Nesmith to Mrs Nesmith
My Dear Wife you don't know how glad I would be if I could get to see you once more on earth. It would be grate plesure to night to hear that pease was made so I could come home to see you and to stay with you the remander of my days and to injoy myself with you as I once hase in days that is past an gone. My Dear I am a coming home just as soon as I get a furlow. I hope I shat get one before long. Rite soon rite all the news.
So fare well my Dear to remane yours till Death.
Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

*****

Camps near Richmond Va May the 26 1863
My Dear loving Wife I tak my pen in hand to ancer your kind letter witch I got today and I was very glad to hear from you to hear dat you and the baby was both well. Dear Wife dis leaves me well at dis time and hopin dis letter will go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well. Your letter I got today was wrote May 21. Martha Ann it hav ben two weeks sents I got a letter from you. I was so onezey about you I did not no whot to do. Dis is the fust letter I got from you sents the fight(Chancellorsville). I can say to you dat I ant heard not a word from Greenberry yet and looks lik I cant hear from him. Dear Wife I want to see you and the baby myty bad I cant tell how bad I do want to see you. Martha Ann I ant got no strang nuse to write only we hav nice wether hear now. My Dear so turn over and tak note
(over)

Miss Martha Ann Nessmith
My Dear Wife I can say to you I am sorry to hear of the old man cuting up his caper so but I cant help it. I do wish he wood do better. It mak me feel sorry for your mother and the children but I am a long ways from home and I cant help myself if I cud I wood. God grant he will do better if your mother was lik me she wood quit him. I can tell you he is your father but as he dun what he hav I can say to you I don't want him to cum about you for you cant feed him and your self too. But I don't say dis to mak hard feeling on you not a tall and I hop it wont. It makes me mad to think how he is a misstreeting his wife. He is a old man but a old man mus be in his plase well as a young man. Dear Wife you mus kiss the baby for me. So rite sone so I will close by saying I will remain your Dear husband until Death. Wiley Nessmith

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Camp in the woods Culpeper County near the bloo Rige rd. June 19th 1863
My Dear Wife I set myself one more time to drop you a few more lines to let you no dat I am well and hoping des few lines ma cum saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. I can say to you dat it has ben most a mount sents I hav got a letter from you. I aint got mutch to writ only I can say to you dat I doo want to see you and the baby so bad. I don't know what to doo. I can say to you dat I want you to writ to me sone as you git dis. Dear loy I can say to you dat we hav ben on the martch 4 days. We are stope now to ress but we hav got to martch at 4 o clock. I hav heard some canerns today. I specks we will be in a fight for many days but I pray and trust to God dat we will not hav no more fighting to doo dis now. So remember me untel we meet agane so I will stop until we back up.

June 21th 1863
My Dear Wife I seat myself to drop you a few more lines to let you now I am well and harty. My Dear Wife I can say to you dat we
have been on the March 6 days and I believe I am in better health and I ever was before in my life. I can tell you Martha Ann I get better every day but my feet is myty sore but is better. My Dear loving old man Ixley his son Boburk is well but is wornout a march so much. Dear Wife I want to see you and the baby myty and I long to hear from you. I recking we will get to Winchester to more. I hope we will get to ress den I can say to you we was among the clouds yestidy on top of the mounting. So turn over

(over)

Martha Ann Nessmith
My Dear loving Wife you must kiss the baby for me so I will stop hoping to hear from you soon.

Camp near Sniger gapt Va June 22nd 1863

My Dear loving Wife I take my pen in my hand to drop you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am well and I do hop and trust to all myty God des few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well my Dear Wife. We hav ben on the March 7 days I don't know when we will stop. Martha Ann I will send you some of your hare for I am afraid I will have it to throw away to keep the yankey from getting off it and I will keep some of it Myself.

Wiley Nesmith

Maryland July 8th 1863

My Dear Wife it is with the grates of plesure I agane seat myself to drop you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am well and harty and I do hop and trust to all myty God des few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. My Dear Wife I want to see you too tell you all about the big fight we had in Pen Sail Vancea. We had a time of it. We charg the yankey too days and we lost a got 7 wounded and 9 prisners. I thank God I can out saft I can't see how I got out but the Lord was with me. I cant write mutch dis time if I liv to git in dicks land I will write you all the ness I have. I want to see you and the baby myty bad. You must write soone. So I will be saying I will remain your Dear husband until Death. So far well. Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

(over)

This side of the letter contains one sentence written over and over again. It appeared that Wiley Nessmith is practicing his writing. The sentence he seems to be practicing reads as follows: "Meany men of many minds marry birds of _____________."

Camp near Bunker Hill Va July 19th 1863

My Dear Wife I take my pen in hand to anser your kind letter witch I got today. It found me well and I do hop and trus to all mity God des few lines may go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well. One on your letters was wrote July the 8 and one June 29. It was a long wayse behind but they both was gladly red by me. Dear Wife nothing new to write only we are in camp at bounker hill. We hav been hear 3 days and night but I don't no how long we will stay hear. I hop we will stay hear a long time.

(over)

My Dear wife my time is short and you must excuse my short letter. It is a mest night and I am in a mity hury. I have wrote you sevel letter sents the fight. I want to see you mity bad. You must kiss the baby for me des time. So remember me until we meat agane. You must write sone as you git des. My time is short so I will cum to a close by sayin, I remain your Dear husband until Death. So far well for dis time.

Wiley Nesmith to Martha Nessmith
Camp near Orng Cort House, Orng County Va August 1st 1863

My Dear Wife I seat myself dis morning with much pleasure of dropping you a few lines but sorry to my heart to tell you what a bad accident happened to me. I can say to you that I lost my pocket book last night dear was ten dollars in it and one fine come in it and some butin and some of you horse in it and the baby too and some pen pont. I went to town yesterday to have my amitipe (picture) took but could not get it taken now. I don't got any sent of money now. It is the first time I ever

Wiley Nessmith to Miss Martha Ann Nesmith

Lost my thing sent I ben in the war and I hop it will be the last time. Dear Wife I am mity sorry I lost my pocket book but I cant help it now. Dear Wife I hop and trus to God dis letter will cum saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. I want to see you and the baby mity bad. You mus kiss the baby for me and call it Shuger candy. I hop I will see you soon. Rite sone and let me hear what you have to say about the times. I hav a bad cold but not bad. So I will close by saying I remain your Dear Husband until Death.

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nesmith

Camp near Orng Cort House Orng Co. Va August the 28th 1863

Wiley Nessmith to My Dear Wife I seat myself dis pleasant morning to answer your kind and welkom letter. It cam saft to hand and found me well and I truly hop des few lines ma retch you in dew time and find you and the baby both well. Dear Wife I ant got no ness of intrus to wir. Dis letter I resved it was wrote August the 10 and jest hav got hear. You had sed that Caty Colly was gone. I am glad of it myself. Dear Wife I mus cum to a clos by saying I remain your Dear Husband until Death.

Wiley Nessmith to M. A. Nessmith

Camp near Orng Cort House Orng Co. Va August the 19th 1863

My Dear be loving Wife I seat myself dis morning to answer your kind letter. It cam saft to hand and found me well and harty and I do hop and trus to all mity God dat des few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. Your letter was wrote August the 14 and I got it August the 18. It cam thro in 4 days and it was gladly red by me. Dear Wife I ant got nuffin mutch to write only times is hard hear. We hav very nise wether hear now. We hav meeting hear everyday and night two. We hav come

Wiley Nesssmith to Mary Walker (Mary's Sister)
to the church and I hop dear will be a heap more
to the church. Dear Wife you mus excuse my bad write and bad
spelling for I cant help write for studing about you and the baby.
Dear luv Capt. Daggan giv one of his men a furlow yestedy. His
name is CY Davest. I do hop I will git a furlow before long so I
can cum home and stay with you. My Dear you sem to think if we
went back into the union we would be ruining peapol but I can tel
you it wont hurt us a tall. I wish we could go back before night. It
wood not hurt my feling one bit. Dear I will cum to a close by
saying I remain your Dear husband untel Death. So far well.
Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nesssmith

*****

Camp in the wood the head of no hurs   Sept the 25th 1863
Wiley Nessmith to Mrs. Martha Ann Nesssmith
My Dear beloving Wife I tak my penn in hand dis plesent even to
ancer your kind and wellcome letter witch I got yesteday and it
came saft to hand and found me well and I doo hop and trus to all
mity God dese few lines ma go saft to hand
(over)
Your letter was wrote Sept the 17. My Dear lov I resoved a scrap
of your cloth and it was mity purty surtain. It was so purty untel
the old man Brooks had to send it to his Wife for her to look at.
We dus have stop hear in dis woods dis even. I cant tell you how
long we will stay hear. I dont expeck we will stay hear long. You
sed sonthing about making a hog pen. I want you to rite to me how
many haugs.

*****

Camp near Orng Cort House Va   Sept 30th 1863
Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nesssmith
I giv my hart and hand to you dis morning. My Dear Wife to ancer
your kind letter witch I resoved yesterday and it cam saft to hand
and found me well and harty and I doo hop and trus to all mity
God these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby
both well and doing well. My Dear lov I have no news of intrus to
write you only I want to see you and the baby the wust I ever did in
my life. I pray to God that it wont be long before I can cum home
to see you and the baby both as I cant harly help from crying
(over)
when I think of you and I think of you all the time only when I am
a sleep and sometime dream about you and the baby then it makes
me feel bad. My Dear lov and dar I wood giv all in dis world to
see you and the baby one more time if I had it. Dear lov I am
intending to cum home if I can dis winter. I think I out to hav a
furlow if anybody dos. I want you to writ to me about all of my
litel a fares my spades and she el whar is them. Martha Ann I wish
you wood git them at home. Dear lov kiss the baby for me if you
plez so I will cum to a close by saying I remain your Dear Husband
until death. So fear well My Dear Wife for dis time.
Wiley Nesssmith to Martha Ann Nesssmith

*****

Camp near Orng Cort House Va   November 10th 1863
Wiley Nesssmith to Martha Ann Nesssmith
My Dear loving wife it is with the grates of plesure I agane seat
myself to in form you that I am well and harty and I truly hop these
few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well
and doing well. My Dear Wife I ant got no news to writ only I can
say to you that we lak to had another fight dis mount. We are in a line of battle 2 miles up on Culpepper. All day long ther was hevey canern nading all day long then at night we left ther and martch untill about 2 over tell day then we tak up and slep till day lile then we started and martch until 12 oclock and we came to the old camp we left from down by Orng Cout house. Will stay here but I cant tell how long we will stay hear. My Dear it is cold hear now. My Dear Wife we had to wad the river yesterday and it was a snowing whil we was a wading of it. It looks to me lik it wood freez my legs off but we came throw saft. My Dear Wife I will stop and see if I will git a letter from you today for I am a ______ for one today and I do truly hop I will ______.

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith
So I will stop.

November the 11th 1863
My Dear Lovin Wife I seat myself dis plesant morning to wrt you a few more lines. My Dear Wife dis leaves me well and I truly hop these few lines may go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well. My Dear Wife I ant got no news of intrus to rite you only I can say to you that I want to see you and the baby the wust I ever did in my life. Dear Wife I will stop and see if I will get a letter from you today for I am a ______ for one today and I do truly hop I will ______.

(over)

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith
So I will stop.

November 12th 1863
My Dear sweet little wife I hav wated 3 days to git a letter from you and hav fald to git one at last so I will bring my letter to a close by saying dis leaves me well and I truly hop these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well so no news dis morning to rite so I will close by saying I remain your Dear Husband until Death. So far well my Dear Wife.

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith
best of health. We left Orng Cort house the 13th of this month and went to Staunton then we went from Staunton to ______ gap. We stayed over there one nite then we were ordered back to Staunton again so we left Staunton last nite about 9 o'clock we arived here this morning about 4 o'clock at this place. I don't hear no talk of no yankees no nearer then 20 miles as I hear of and they I hop that we ant have no fight with them. We are about one hundred and twenty miles from Orng Cort house. We are in ______ I don't know how long that we will remained up here but I hop not long for I am anxious to go back to Orang Cort house we haint got the _______ (reserves or supplies) that Capt J. D. Duggan started with as yet but I hear that they are in Richmond Va. So I will cum to a close for the present I remaining as ever you loving husband til death.
Wiley Nesmith

Camp Near Strawburg Va. Janery the 6th 1864

My Dear loving Wife I seat myself to inform you that I am well at dis time and I tryly hope and trus that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. My Dear Wife I ant got mutch to rite you now I can tell you that we have a big snow on the ground. It is about a half a foot deep on the ground. My Dear Wife we have started back towarse Staunton agane but I cant tell when we will git back so turn over. My Dear I wont write mutch dis time fur I don't know wher it will go throo or not so you mus excuse my short letter. My Dear I want to see you and the baby mity bad but I cant tell when I will git to see you but I hop it wont be long. I do hop I will git a furlough dis winter yet but I am afread I wont. You mus ceep in good hart. I ant never got the things you sent me yet and I don't never expecks to git them. So I mus cum to a close by saying I remain your Dear husband untell Death. So far well my Dear. Wiley Nesmith M. A. Nesmith

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Camp Near Harisonburg Va. January 21th 1864

To Miss Martha Ann Nessmith
My Dear old lady I will tak the opunity of write you a few more lines to inform you that I am well and I hop and pray to all mity that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. My Dear old lady I ant got news to write you only I want to see you and the baby so bad I don't know what to doo. We are in camp in about 25 miles from Stanton. We came (over) hear yisterdy at dis place and I don't know how long we will stay hear. We got the order not to put up wenter. Carter hear theas fore. I don't know what we are a gonter to doo. We ma go back to Orng. I hop we will fur it looks lik we will be on the tramp all the winter. My Dear Wife I had my amipipe (picture) taken in Stanton Va. And I will send it to you by H. A. Halle when he go home and I reckin he will start 24 dis ints and I hop he will care it throu saft so no more at present. So far you wel my Dear trulove Wiley Nessmith. I ant heard from you in some time my dear wife December 14 is the last. Miss M A Nessmith so rite sone

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Camp near Harisonburg Va. Jan. 24th 1864

My Dear wife I seat myself dis morning to inform you that I am well and I truly hop these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. My Dear Wife I ant got no news to write you only I can say to you that I want to see
you the wust I ever did in my life. Dear Wife I ant herd from you sents the 14 of last month. I am so oneasey I don’t know what to doo. The boys is all jently well and harty so turn over. My Dear Wife I will send you fifty dollars by ____ Cook and also I will send you my amitepe by him. I will tell you that it cost me 20 dollars that is a big piece to pay for it but I thought you wanted it if you notes ther is a spot on my cheek dus spaul it so no more I hop I will see you sone in the ______ of a weakes in now so I will cum to a clos by saying I remember you untell Death so far well. My Dear old lady.
Wiley Nesmith to Miser Martha Ann Nesmith

*****

Camp near Harisonburg, Va Feb 12th 1864

My Dear Sweet little wife I seat myself to inform you that I am well and harty and I truly hope and trust these few lines may go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. My Dear old lady I have no news of intrust to write you only I want to see you and the baby mity bad and I do hop it wont be long befor I can git to cum home. My Dear it is warm and pleasant wether hear now and the company is all in good health. My Dear old lady I will send you a papper of ______ in dis letter. I hop it will go saft to hand and you will get them. I will tell you the price of them. They cost me one dollar and 25 cents a papper. I thought it was cheper than you can by them in Ga so turn over and read on.

(over)
My Dear Wife dis afternoon and it is very cloudy and looks middy lik rain now but I expects it will snow before night but law it may be pease before night. Janury the 24 was the last letter I resoved from you and it looks to be a long time to me. I do wish I could corsponder from you regler liks I was home. My Dear old lady I do hop I will git to come home by the first of March if not soner.

So I want you to wrt_________. So I will close by saying I remain your dear Husband until death old lady.
Wiley Nessmith
I wayed yesterday and I wayed one hundred and 13 pounds.

*****

Camp near Harsonburg Va Feb 14 1865

My Martha Ann Nessmith from Wiley Nessmith
My Dear loving wife it is with the grates of plesure I agane seat myself to inform you that I am well and harty and I truly hop these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. My Dear love I imbrase myself to tell you the truth but I cant think of noting to rite now to save my life. We have nice wether hear now and the boys is all well as to health but not in mine. I hop the Lord will be with us all and let us meet in the land of the living agane. I ant head from you sents 29 of Janury. My Dear Wife I will send you a song balet in dis letter so far well My Dear

(over)
My Dear old lady walk over and tak supper with me tonight and I will go home with you then I will have bisket and huney and frid pork and gravey. So I will close a hoping to hear from you sone so fare you well My Dear love. I remain you Husband til Death.
Wiley Nessmith to Mrs. Martha Ann Nessmith

*****

Camp near Harsonburg Va Feb 22 1864

My Dear loving Wife I seat myself to ancer your loving and kind letter which cam saft to hand and found me well and harty and I
doo hop that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and
the baby both well and doing well. Your letter was rote Feb the
14. My Dear Wife I aint got no good news to rite you but bad luck
a plenty old lady. I drawed for a furllow today and never got it tho
ther was 9 furllows drawn for in my company. The boys all hav
ben home now but 4 and I am one of them. Myself and one was
James Gilder and _ S Cannon and J B Alcook and I recking we
will git a furllow the necks time but I cant tell when the necks time
will com but I hop it will cum sone

(over)

My Dear Wife I recd the gloves you sent to me by H. A. Hall. I
am very glad to git them. We have very plezen wether hear now.
My Dear my heart is almost brak from not giting a furllow but
luck all bat as now I hope and trus the Lord will be with me in
the next drawing. My dear my feeling esplaind to me that I
wood hear bad news from home and shore anuf I did. I was sorry
to my heart to hear that sister Lusay was dead. I pray she is in the
happy land of canon wher peas will be for ever and ever. Dear
Wife if we never meet on land lett us try to meet in a better world
than this. So no news at present so I will cum to a close by saying
I remain your Dear Husband until Death. So far well My Dear old
wife. Mrs. Martha A. Nessmith

*****

Camp Near Orang Cort House Va. March 7th 1864

My Dear loving wife I seat myself for the purpers of writing you a
few more lines to let you know how I am. These few lines leaves
me well and harty and I do hop and pray to all myty God that these
few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well
and doing well. My Dear love I ant got no news of interest to write
you only I doo want to see you and the baby so bad I don't know
what to do. I do hop it will be the Lord will spare me to come

home yet. Martha Ann I had a mity purty little Sweethart in
Harsongurg Va and the day I left ther she mad me promest to write
to her and now I a gonter to write to her and that ant all. She sez
are you mared the ancer was no mam but I will mary sone

(back of page 1)
as I can git any lady to have me the reply she mad you have heded
me now. She was a soing the binding on my hat. She give me her
name and I will tell you her name Miss Mary Elizabeth Sturlin.
Martha Ann when I git a letter from her I will send it to you so I
will quit dis subjeck. You must not think hard of me for I must
plez the lady sometime. We don't git half rashing sentz we came
back to Orng C house. You mus write sone and write all the news
you have. You must be sure and kiss the baby for me. I do hop I
will git to cume dis wenter yet so I must bring my letter to a close
by saying I remain your Dear Husband until Death. So farewell
My Dear wife.
Wiley Nesmith to Martha Ann Nesmith

*****

Georgia Bulloch County April 10 1864

My Dear Cosin I embrace the present opportunity with the greatse
of pleasure to rite you a few lines to let you no how we are. Dear
cosin thes few lines leaves me and family all well and I do hope
and trust to God these few lines may go saft to hand and find you
and your Dear little Baby in the best of helth and doing well. Dear
cosin I receive your very kind leter and was so glad to hear of your
Dear husband having of the pleasure of seeing of you and his dear
little Baby once more. Fore I no you was glad and he was glad to
sea you and all of his people once more (This is an error, Wiley
did not get to go home the entire war). Dear cosin I am so sorry I
didn't git his leter sooner so I coud of rote to him while he was

home

(over)
Dear Cosin, I want you to write to me what company he is in and what regiment so I can write to him. My dear cosin do the best you can I do hope and trust to God he will go through this inhuman war safe and come home and stay with you and his dear little baby yet. Dear cosin write to me every chance you get and write all the news you have and when you hear from cousin Wiley I wish you well and to do well from my heart and all so all of my dear people I love to hear of them doing well. God no that I hop. I will close I remain your loving cousin until death. S. J Hendly to Martha Ann Nessmith. Write soon if you please and let me hear all the news you have.

Well John (Wiley’s brother) I will put in one word as I have been writing to Wiley I have been right sick for a day or two and I am not well yet but I hop I am getting better so I have no news to write you. You will know by the size of my paper that paper is scarce article. I can tell you there is a many scarce articles here. I hop this will find all well and doing well. You must write to us when it is conveany and excuse short letter. Give my respect to all my friend except the same to yourself so I remain yours as ever. J. Walker

June the 12 1964
Mrs Nesmith I set myself to write you a few lines which leaves me well. I hop that these few lines may come to hand and find you and your little baby both well and all the rest of your family connection all well and doing well. I can say to that I hant hirde from Wiley since I rot to him before.
Wary Thomas Solomon Ward

*****

Macon Georgia June 20th 1864
Martha Ann Nesmith
Dear loving wife I set myself this morning to write you a few lines these few lines leave me well to my foot and it is a menning very fast. I hop these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and Jay both well. Dear Wife I hav no news of intrus to write you only I can say to you that I tied for a furlough this morning and Dr. Green sed ther is no chance for me to git a furlough. I will say to you if you wanter com to see me cum necks Thursday even fore the bord setting Friday morning and if you cum write some as you git this and when you cum you can inquire the way to the Floyd House Hospital Ward No 1 and you will find me there. I don’t know if you can do eney good by cuming or not but you can cum if you wanter. I wood lik very much to see you and Jay but if you cum you had better leave Jay at home fore she will be a hep of trubel to you. So I will clos by saying I remain your Dear husband until Death.
W. Nessmith to M.A. Nessmith

*****

(NO DATE OR PLACE – Beginning of the letter missing)

……and find you and the baby well and doing well. Dear love I ant got much of intruss to write you only I can say to you that we have brook up old camps and now is getting about from place to place lik yorning I keep exspeck to be in a fight but we ant got in to nay one yet and I hop we never wil git in to nay nother fight for it ant plesent sore as you born
You have got and to rite to me how mutch corn you hav got and
how mutch meat you hav got. Dear wif I want you to be shore to
send me some soing thread in your next letter for I ant got none
and I want some. My Dear loving wife I want to see you and the
baby the must I ever did in my life. I hop we will git to see one
another yet. Martha Ann I way 100 and 90 lb. And that is a nuffor
any man ant it Martha Ann. Your Dear Husband

(NO DATE OR PLACE – Beginning of the letter missing)

(last night and have dust came in and I will sone have to go agane
so I ant time to rite mutch. It is reported that the yankey lost is
about 60 thousand. I cant tel wher it is so or not old Genel Grant is
badley ___ now but he is a shame to on up to it. Dear Wife I will
send you a yankey pocket bible and some yankey cards. I have a
payer of shouse for you if I can ever git the chance to send them to
you and I have some shurt butens fore you and a fine spule of
thread fure you. I will send them the fust chance I git and I hav got
8 posted stamps from the yankey and I will __________

Martha Ann I coped me a bran new pocket knife it is a butey one
and I got me a bran new payer of wooling socks so I will close fore
the present so I still remain your Dear Husband untell Death.
Wiley Nesmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

Dear Wife a few more lines on this page you must take good care
of your self and do the very best you can and not greave after me
for I am doing as well as eny solger and we are all doing very well
hear at this time. Some of the boys is taking the chil and fever I
am afraid we will have a heep of sickness hear yet this winter.

Tell Elizabeth I saw Mr. Dixon the 19 day of these mounth and he
told me that he had a chil that day but I think it is from a bad cold.
I hop nuffing warz. I wrot a letter for he to her the 16 day of this
mounth and wrot you on the same time I do hop you will get them
I wood be more than glad now to git a letter from you

Dear love pray for us all that we may all reach back home safe in
life. Dear love give my best wishes and love to all inquiren friends
and recved a dubbel posian yourself. So now may God blessing
rest a pun you all so I will cum to a close by saying I still remain
your Dear loving and affectionate husband untell Death so may
god blessing rest a pun you all is my prayer amen.
Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

J W E Nessmith

My Dear little Daughter a few lines to you be a good little
child and mind you maw.

****

Dear Brother
I embrace the present oppotunity to write you a few lines which
leavs us all well at present. I hope this will find you injoying the
same good blessing. I hav no nuse to write you any we have very
_____ weather hear now at present time. I wold like very mutch
to see you all. I want you to come over and see Hensy. He says he
wants to liv with you next year and I want you to come and see
him if you can and if you cant come I want you to write to him
what you will do. He says he like to no what you will do before he
gets in with anybody else. Pleas come an write soon. I must caios
as it is getting late. I remain as ever your sister untill death.
Catherine Walker (Martha Ann Nessmith’s sister)

****
(NO DATE - In New Providence Church House)

We are all safe. I am coming back to see you all quick as I can. There is about four thousand people here and will be a five thousand when they all get here. I want you to rite to me as quick as you can Martha Ann. I want you to kiss the baby. We are all a staying in a church house by the name of New Providence. I did draw one blanket and all the rest. We are all a staying in the meeting house yet we hant got no tents yet but I hop we will. I am better satisfied than I thought I wood be. I don't look for man for protection I look to old master above. Brother John I want you to rite to me for you don't know nothin about leaving your Wife. You wood have the hart ack every time and the water is myty bad.

*****

Camp Near Petersburg Virginia July 13th 1864

My Dear loving Wife I will proceed to present optunity to rite you a few lines to inform you that I am well and harty and hoping these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and little Jay both well and doing well. Dear Wife I have no news to rite you that is worth your attenchun only we are all quiet hear at this time. It is a very cold day the boys is all well and hardy. Dear Wife I sent you the sume of 40 dollars by Mr. Green Smith and I want you to rite to me soon as you git this letter. If you have got it if not I hop you will git it soon. I expeck you are in need of it Martha Ann you must do the very best you can and I will do the same. Dear Wife I want you to send me a letter ever chance you git for I am glad to hear from you at any time. I want to see you and Johanah both so bad I cant hardly help from crying. I want you to be shore to kiss little Jay for me and call her Shugger Candy and kiss her little lips so I will quit that. (over) 

Dear Wife I did think for a while I wood git a furlough but there is no chance for me a furlough now but I pray God I will live to return safely home agane Dear Wife I do expeck we will git to. After a while we wont git to hear from each other at all but I hop not. I do pray with all my hart that this cruel unholy war to end so that we all poor soldiers can cum home to stay and to stay in peas. God giving the time when peas will be made and no more war to be heard of agane. I hop we all will be home by the ____ day of July. God grant that we will. If we dont get ther I want you all to do the very best you can and I will do the same. I will bring my short letter to a close. Hop to hear from you sone. I want you to write me about ______ when you write and let me hear how you are giting along so I still remain loving affectionate husband so good by and write soon.

Wiley Nessmith

*****

Augusta Ga Sept 11th 1864

My Dear loving Wife I take my pen in hand to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I do hop and trust to all mity God that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and Jay both well. Dear Wife I came hear saft this morning and I am all right so fu and I expeck to keep on to my company dont eney delay so you must not be mad with me for I feel the rest ____

To keep on to my company so I will write you agane sone so you must excuse my short letter this time so I am all right (over)

so fur. Dear Wife ther was a good deal of yankey prisner cam on last night as I cam on and a good many of them jump off the trane last night and the gard shot them and kill som. So I will leave in a
few minute so I will bring my short letter to a close by saying I still remain your Dear loving husband untell Death. So fare well My Dear. Writ sone and direck your letter to Petersburg Va.

Wiley Nessmith to Martha A Nessmith

*****

Petersburg Va September 29 1864
We are in line of battel

My Deare loving wife I will tak the privilige of droping you a few lines in answer to your kind and well come letter being dated the 21 of this mouth and it came saft to hand and found me well and I truly hop that thes few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and harty. I was truly glad to hear of you and little Jay both being well that was what I love to hear. To hear that all was well. Tell Elizabeth I handed over Mr. Dixon letter to him the one that cum in my letter and it found him well and he was truly glad to git it. So turn over and read
(over)

My Dear love I want you to write all the news you have and writ how your peas is coming on and ground peas and potatars is git a long and write to me how your hogs is getting along. You must feed them and mak them grow fast. You must try to fit some one to slater them for you and you must have them little pigs marked if you can. So no more at present so I will close hoping to hear from you sone. So excuse my short letter and bad riten so I will close hoping to hear from you sone. So I still remain your Dear loving and affectionate Husband untell Death.

Good by Wiley Nessmith to Martha Nessmith

*****

In the line of battel near Petersburg Va Oct 5th 1864

My Dear loving wife in the hand of all mity God I will send you a few lines to let you no that I as well and harty and hoping that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and little Jay both well and doing well. Dear wife I have no news to writ you that will inter rest you. We are all quiet hear at present but I cant tell how long we will stay. I beleave the health of the soljers is very good at this time. I dreamed of being hom last night and seeing you and little Jay both and someone else two but I cant say who so turn over
(over)

My Dear love I want you to write all the news you have and writ how your peas is coming on and ground peas and potatars is git a long and write to me how your hogs is getting along. You must feed them and mak them grow fast. You must try to fit some one to slater them for you and you must have them little pigs marked if you can. So no more at present so I will close hoping to hear from you sone. So excuse my short letter and bad riten so I will close hoping to hear from you sone. So I still remain your Dear loving and affectionate Husband untell Death. So fare well my Dear love.

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Nessmith

*****

In line of battel near Petersburg Va Oct th 10 1864

My Dear loving and affectionate Wife thro the grat murcey of God I seat myself to inform you that I am well and I do hop and trust to all mity God that thes few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. I received your most loving and kind letter yestedy being dated Sept the 26 and it came saft to
hand and found me well and I was proud to hear that you and little
Jay both was well and harty. I pray God this will find you the
same. I have no news only we are all quiet hear at this time. I am
very sorrow that you don’t git my letter
(over)
As you stated in your letter that you wood be very glad to git a
letter from me. I cant see the reason you dont git letter from me for
I have wrot you som 15 or 16 letter sents I have come back hear
and I never have receved but 3 letters from you yet. Martha Ann
that tale was thru mistake about the fine Son. It was brother John
wife not you it cum from Sarah Myrks the biggest lier in the
Confederake States. I am sorry to say so but I blev it is so I hop
God will press a pun her mine and return hear weaked ways. So I
will quit the subjekc. You sed you saw my track in big sandy. I do
wish I could of ben ther then with you to padal the batto a cross the
creak for you. Why diten you tell me who was with you. My Dear
love I got a letter from her the 8 day of this mounth and she wrot to
me that she was a going to live with you. She said that she wood
be up there in the corse of 2 or 3 weeks. I want you to writ me
ever chanc you git so I still remain you Dear loving affectionate
Husband untell Death.
Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

*****

Stephens Mill Ga. October 23 1864

Mr. Wiley Nessmith
My Dear loving Husband I seat myself through the grate mercy of
God to wright you a few lines to and answer of your kind letter
beng dated the 10st of this month. It came saft to hand and was
gladly read by me. This leave me and Jay both well as harty and I
do hope and trust to God these few lines may go saft to hand and
find you well and doing well. My Dear love I have nothing of

importance to wright onley I do wanten see you so bad I cant tell
the truth about it. Im at Mattersons this butifull evenin and all is
well there. You sed that BaBe is going to live with me. I wish she
would live with me for my hogs is getting along fine. I wish you
was here
(over)
with me. I had rather have you to BaBe with than any one els on
hand. I recived the 3 letter that I sent to you. I had rather you
wold send them back to me than to through them a way. I can say
to you I have put the old sow up to fatten and want you to send me
some of your hear in the next letter you send. I wold be the gladest
in the world to see you cum home this winter as I pray to God this
war will end this year at yet. Tell Mr Dixon that Elizabeth is up
through not very well. I will come to a clos by saying I hope to
hear from you soon. I am as ever your loving and affectionate
Wife untill Death. Good by Wright soon to me Mr. Wiley
Nessmith.
Martha Ann Nessmith

*****

Skimish line near Petersburg Va Oct 28th 1864

My Dear lovin wife I will seat myself through the power all mity
God to assemble a few lines together to inform you that my health
is very good in deed and I pray God that these few lines ma go saft
to hand and find you and Jay both well and doing well. Dear
Martha Ann I received your very kind and loving letter yestedy.
One of the 18th one of the 16 and they both came saft to hand and
was gladly read by me and with mutch pleasure and they both
found me gain after rushing to eat. We draw a plenty to eat at this time. Such as flower and hawg (hog) meet
(over)
And rice and coffee and some beef but not much shugger but we cant grumel. My Dear Wife I was very sorrow to hear of you having the hand acke so bad. I hop you will sone git well. You must tak good care of yourself. Do the very best you can I was truly glad to hear of Jay being so purty. I dreamed of seeing her night be before last and runing around the house. I thought she was the pirties thing I ever did see.

Wiley Nessmith

*****

Kamp 14 Ga Regt near Petersburg Va November 1st 1864

Martha Ann Nessmith
Dear Ant I will proceed the present optunity to wright you a few lines and answer up a few lines witch I resoved in Wiley letter yesterdy. They cam safe to hand and found me well. I pray God that thes few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and family all well. I have not got no news to writ only I wood be glad if I was in old Wilkinson today. See you all once more in life. I hop the time wont be long befor I can cum
(over)
We are all very quiet hear at this time and I do hop that it will remain so. I hop they will mak peace this winter so that we all can cum home to stay. I beleve that is all I have to writ this tim. Wiley is well and hafy and want to see you very bad indeed. So I will close hoping to hear from you sone. So I still remain yours as ever to writ so good by.

Thomas R. Dixon to Martha Ann Nessmith

*****
same way if you wanter. I ant a fread but what it will cum through all wright. Oh My Dear love how bad I doo want to see you and dear little Jay. Oh I would give the world to see you both one more time in this life. I pray for me and all the rest of the poor soljers and pray for this unholy war to end so that we all poor soldiers can cum home to stay with ourer Dear and near lovdones, Oh what a gospull time we wood have in this life. Dear Wife I have heard some very heavey shelling today about Petersburg but not in frunt of har. I stay and I pray God that they never will shell in front what I stay

(over)

Martha Ann I bleav I have wrot all the news I have so I will being my short letter to a clos by saying I still remain you Dear and true affectionate Husband untell Death so write soon and tell me  

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

*****

Camp near Petersburg Va. February 10th 1865

My Dear Wife I avail myself with the present opportunity of droping you a few lines which leaves me in toleable good health at this time hoping these lines may reach and find you and the remainder of the family well. Dear Wife I have been very sick for several days but I am about well now. Dear Wife I have nothing worth writing to you now. More than all is quiet here on the front this morning. We still remain here in our ole camps in our Winter Quarters. There has been some fighting here lately on our right but we wer not called off to it. There was heavy fighting for 2 days but we repulsed the enemy but with very heavy losses on both sides. All remains quiet now. Dear Wife I am going to send you $40.00 dollars by Mr. Smith. I want you to send me some sewing thread and kneedles in the next letter you send to me. Tell Elizabeth  

Wife write to me whether you have anyone living with you yet or not. I now conclude my letter. Write me soon fail not. I am ever Wiley Nessmith

*****

Camp near Petersburg Va. March 16 1865

My Dear loving and affectionate wife I will proceed the present optunity to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well and harty and I truly hop and trust that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and little Jay both well and doing well. Dear wife I have no news to write you at this time only we are still in ouver old camps as yet but we had orders to be ready to move at a minute warning on the 3 night in this mounth but we are still hear as yet but I think we will soon leave hear but I hop we will stay here untill this cruel unholey war will end and I hop that will be soon or sooner. Dear wife I am getting along well as could be expecks I hop these few lines will reach you and fine you and Jay both well and doing well. 

(over)

Martha Ann I never did want to see you and little Jay the warst I ever did in my life. I do hop I will git to cum home this summer but I see no chance to git hom soon but I hop we will all git to cum home soon. Give my best love to all the family conections and tell them to write to me. I have not much tim to write at present. I want you to write soon to me and let me hear from you soon. Kiss little Joanah for me and tell her I will come home somtime I hop so at least I am about out of words so I will bring my short letter to a close hoping to hear from you
soon. So good by My Dear love one at home. I still remember you long as I live. So yours as ever and husband Wiley to Martha Ann Nessmith.

*****

In line of battel near Petersburg Va  Match 28th 1865

Martha Ann Nessmith  
My Dear loving wife I will proceed the present opportunity to rite you a few lines to inform and I hop that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you and the baby both well and doing well. Dear Wife I can say to you that we have had a big fight on the 25 day of dis mounth and ouver lost was very hevy. We cared into the fight about 2 hundred and came out with one hundred that was from the 49 understand we are still in line of battel and expecks to fight every day. Dear Wife ouver company was nearly all taken prisners. I will rite some of prisners names (over)

Prisners: John Green and W. H. Green and W. _ King and W. W. Wynn, J. L. Wynn in all was 14 prisners from Co A and I lik to been taken myself but through kine mcrcery of the Mity God I came out safe and did not git hurt. I want to see you and Jay very bad indeed but the chance look very glomery at present. Oh I forgot M.J. Cannon prisner two. I haven tim to write much . I hop you will excuse my bad writin for I cant half writ today but I hop you will understand it. I cant tell if you will git this letter or not but hop you will. My Dear Wife I pray God I will cum out saft and return back home safe again. We are in about 2 miles of Petersburg on South side (over) Martha Ann tell Elizabeth that Thomas R. Dixon is well and he cum out of the fight safe and sound. I pray God will spare us both to live and spear us to return back home to ouver love ones agane. God be with us I pray. I haven had a letter from you sents H. C. Laster cume hear and you no how long that has been. It seems a long time to me. Ouer

Summer Campane has open now. We will not see no more pease this summer. I am a fread but I look to God for beter times and I hop he will give unto us and he will if we looking right maner and I pray God ever one will do so. I want tell which side did huiped I can say that the Yankee run lik rip but we run them two so hear it goes

(over)

So I bleave I have no more at present so I hop I will hear from you soon. I want you to write ever chance you have and writ all the news you have so I will bring my short letter to a close. Hop to hear from you soon so I still remain your dear loving husband until Death. So fare you well My Dear loving and affectionate Wife and baby.

Wiley Nessmith to My Martha Ann Nessmith  
Joanah, Jane, Willmuth, Elizabeth, 13 15 14 100 Nessmith  
Good by Martha Ann Sweetest one in County.

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