Confederate Soldier, March 4, 1862 - April 9 1865

Wiley Nessmith

Sally Ann Akins Deal

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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
CONFEDERATE SOLDIER
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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 were sent to Savannah, Georgia. Next the company 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 of 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 Fedricksburg. 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. Rosser’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.

**CONFEDERATE LETTERS OF WILEY NESSMITH**

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.

Wiley

Belove I give mi best respeck an love to you.

*****

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

*****

Winder Hospittle  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 seve1 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 don't 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

*****

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 Feberry. I am so onesev(uneasy) I doo not now what 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 cume 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

****

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 whot to doo. I can say to you dat I want you to writ to me sone as you git dis. Dear lov 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 ben on the Martch 6 days and I beleiv I am in better helth and I ever was before in my life. I can tell you Martha Ann I git better ever day but my feet is myty sore but is better. My Dear loy tel old mon Oxley his son Roburd is well but is wornout a martch so mutch. Dear Wife I want to see you and the baby myty and I long to hear from you. I recking we will get to Wenchester to more. I hope we will git to ress den I can say to you we was among the clouds yestidy on top of the mounting. So turn over

Martha Ann Nessmith
My Dear loving Wife you mus 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 tak my pen in my hand to drop you a few lines to let you no how I am. I am well and I doo 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 martch 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 hav it to throw away to keep the yankey from giting of it and I will keap 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 now 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 cum out saft I cant 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 Nesmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

(Cover)

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 ancer your kind letter witch I got today. It found me well and I do hop and trus to all myty 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 mus excuse my short letter. It is a mest night and I am in a myty hury. I have wrote you sevel letter sents the fight. I want to see you mity bad. You mus kiss the baby for me des time. So remember me until we meat agane. You mus 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 mutch pleure of
droping you a few lines but sorry to my hart to tel you what a bad
axdent happened to me. I can say to you dat I loost my pocket
book last night dear was ten dollars in hit and one fine come in it
and some butin and some of you hare in hit and the baby too and
some pen pont. I went to town yesterdy to hav my amitipe(picture)
tacken but culd not git it taken now. I ant got nay sent of muneny
now. It is the fust tim I ever

Wiley Nessmith to Miss Martha Ann Nesmith

Lost iny thing sents 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 untel Death.

Wiley Nessmith to M. A. Nessmith

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

Wiley Nessmith to My Dear Wife I Seat myself dis plesent
morning to ancer 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 writ. Dis letter I reseved 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 untel Death.

Wiley Nessmith to M. A. Nessmith

Camp in the woods near the Solgers tent August the 26th 1863

W. Nesssmith to Mary Walker (Martha’s Sister)

My Dear Sister I tak my penn in my hand to ancer your kind letter.
It cam saft to hand and found me well and I truly hop des few lines
ma go saft to hand and find you well and doing well. Dear sister I
to the church and I hop dear will be a heep 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. Daggin 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 beloved 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 sartain. 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 somthing 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
untel death. So fear well My Dear Wife for dis time.
Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nesssmith

*****

Camp near Orng Cort House Va November 10th 1863
Wiley Nessmith 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 batel 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 lite 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 writ you a few more lines . My Dear Wife dis leaves me well and I trully 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 say to you that you ourter put your hogs in a penn and ceep them ther then thay will fatin better I think but do as you pleas about it . Dear old lady you mus kiss the baby for me and I will send a little kis to you. Giv my lov and respecks to mother and tell her to rite to me and giv J. H. Blur the same. So rite sone and let me hear from you. So I remain your Husband untel Death.
Wiley Nesmith to Martha Ann Nesmith

Camp near Millston Va Dec 19th 1863

Dear Wife this evening I mbrace the pleasure of dropping you a few lines which will inform you that I as well hoping that these few lines may cum saft to hand in due time and find you enjoying the...
best of health. We left orng cort house the 13 of this month and
went to Staunton then we went from Staunton to _______ gap.
We staid over there one nite then we were ordered back to
Staunton again so we left Staunton last nite about 9 oclock we
arived hear this morning about 4 oclock at this place. I don't hear
no talk of no yankees no

(over)
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 now how long that we will remained up hear but I hop not
long for I am anctious 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 trly 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 throu 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 yesterdy 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

*****

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 mounth. 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 amitipe 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 corrsponder 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.

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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 Jauery. 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

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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 drewed for a furllow today and never got it tho the was 9 furllows drawen 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

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 Dea~

My 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 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 plesure 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 theses 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 letter and was so glad to hear of your Dear husband having of the plesure of seaing 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 letter sooner so I cud of rote to him while he was home

(over)
Dear Cosin I want you to rite to me what comeny he is in and what redgment so I can rite to him. My Dear cosin do the best you can I do hope and trust to God he will go through this inhuman war saft and come home and stay with you and his Dear little baby yet. Dear cosin rite to me every chance you git and rite 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. Rite soon if you pleas and let me hear all the news you have.

Well John (Wiley ' brother) I will put in one word as I have been writing to Wiley I have been right sick for a day or too 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 conveney and ecuse 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 rite 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 hird from Wiley since I rot to him before. Wary Thomas Solomon Ward

*****

Macon Gerogia June 20th 1864

Martha Ann Nesmith

Dear loving wife I seat myself this morning to write you a few lines these few lines leave me well to my foot and it is a mening 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 rite you only I can say to you that I tied fore a furlough this morning and Dr. Green said 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 for the bord sets 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 ther. 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 close 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 lov I ant got mutch 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 like 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 com 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)

........ baby both well and doing well. My Dear wife today makes 15 day and night we hav in a line of batten. The Lord has spared me so far to cum out saft but fighting ant dun yet. I hop it will sone end

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 Nesmith

Dear Brother
I embrace the present oppotunity to write you a few lines which leaves 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 cloas as it is getting late. I remain as ever your sister untill death.
Catherine Walker (Martha Ann Nesmith’s sister)

Tell Elizabeth I saw Mr. Dixon the 19 day of thes 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 woor 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 receved 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 leaves 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 cloas as it is getting late. I remain as ever your sister untill death.
Catherine Walker (Martha Ann Nessmith’s sister)

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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 write to me as quick as you can Martha Ann. I want you to kiss the baby. We are all staying in a church house by the name of New Providence. I did draw one blanket and all the rest. We are all staying in the meeting house yet we haven't got no tents yet but I hope we will. I am better satisfied than I thought I would be. I don't look for man for protection I look to old master abov. Brother John I want you to write to me for you don't know nothin about leaving your Wife. You would have the heart ack every time and the water is myty bad.

My Dear loving Wife I will proceed to present opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well and harty and hoping these few lines may go saft to hand and find you and little Jay both well and doing well. Dear Wife I have no news to write you that is worth your attention only we are all quiet here at this time. It is a very cold day the boys are all well and hardy. Dear Wife I sent you the sume of 40 dollars by Mr. Green Smith and I want you to write to me soon as you git this letter. If you have got it if not I hope you will git it soon. I expec 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 Johannah both so bad I can't 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.

Dear Wife I did think for a while I would 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 expec we will git to. After a while we won't git to hear from each other at all but I hope not. I do pray with all my heart 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 hope we all will be home by the ______ day of July. God grant that we will. If we don't 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

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 may 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 fur and I expec 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 mounth 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)

Telegraft 29 8 ocolck last night in my hearing was very hevey musket fireing all over. Wright and very heavy cannon down ther two and this part of the line where I was call to attence but has proceed so fear and no fighting yet all is quiet at present. It is thought by a grat many that the yankee will stand the Vicktoure an as yet that is fullay my bleaf but I do hop and trust that they want proceed. It is very likley that we will have some fighting to do before niney days but I hop not. Dear Wife you wrot that Richard Martin was at home. I want you to tell him to write to me and writ all the news he have. So give my best reseck to all inquiring friends. So I will close hoping to hear from you sone. So I still remain your Dear loving affectionate Husband untell Death.
Good by   Wiley Nessmith to Martha A 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 by saying I still remain your Dear loving and affectionate Husband until Death. So fare well my Dear love.
Wiley Nesssmith to Martha Nessmith

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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 believ it is so I hop
God will press a pun her mine and return hear weaked ways. So I
will quit the subjeck. 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
would 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 again 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 grumble. 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 for last and runing around the house. I thought she was
the pirties thing I ever did see.
Wiley Nessmith

*****

Camp 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 resieved in Wiley letter yesterdy.
They cam safe to hand and found me well. I pray God that these
few lines ma go safe 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 bleave that is all I have to writ this tim.
Wiley is well and hafty 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

*****

Skirmish line near Petersburg Va November 18th 1864
Mrs. Martha Ann Nessmith dear affectionate wife and child I will
proceed this present optunity to wright you a few lines to inform
you that I am well and harty and I semprry(simply) hop and trust
to all mity God that these few lines ma go saft to hand and find you
and Little Jay both well and doing well. My Dear wife I have not
got no news to write only I want to see you mity bad. ______
And we have a ________ of bad duty to doo. Now we have to
seat up one half of the night ever night that cumes but thar are
talking about having us releaved from hear and I don't care how
soon for we don't git to sleep one half of ouver time. I am needing
on my over coat ________ but now but I hop I will git it soon.
(over)
Dear Wife I am looking for Mr John Green back hear ever day and
I surly think he will com in today. I hop he will bring my overcoat
to me for I am in need of it. I want you to write soon and often for
I haven had nay letter from you sents the 23 day of last mounth. I
am worried about you because I think if you was well you wood
showly write to me. Martha Ann when thar are eney body at home
and you think ther will be a good chance to send a letter by hand I
don't want you to stop writing on that acount. I want you to ceep
writing and send them by mail. Martha Ann I hav forgotin one
thing you told me to writ to you about and that was about my
blanket. I can say to you that I hav got my blanket but I never got
your shoes. Have someone stold them I was truly sorry that
someone had stold your shoes for they was a good peare of shoes.
Tel Elizabeth that Thomas are well and harty and want to see her
ver bad. Thomas went to the 3 Ga Reg after his furlow but
______ is back as yet.
Martha Ann My Dear Love my old pocket hankercheaf is gone up
the spout and I want you to send me another one if you can. I can
tell you how to send it. If you wanter to send it you can mak you
a big inveloups and put it in it and pay 20 cents postag on it and it
will cum through all right and you can send me some pepper the
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 fore 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 whar 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 agane. So good by Dear loving Wife.

Wiley Nessmith to Martha Ann Nessmith

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Camp near Petersburg Va. February 10th 1865

Mrs. Martha A. Nessmith

My Dear Wife I avail myself with the present opportunity of dropping 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

(over)

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 agane. 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 opportunity 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 mouth 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 conection 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

(over)

let me hear from you soon. Kiss little Ioanah 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.

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In line of battel near Petersburg Va Match 28\textsuperscript{th} 1865

Martha Ann Nessmith

My Dear loving wife I will proceed the present optunity 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 ouwer 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 mucrery 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. Oouver 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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