

**Letters and Diary**

Table and Transcriptions

The Letters of

Nannie Godwin Figgat and Charles Miles Figgat

and

Martha Mary Godwin, Thomas G. Godwin, Isaac Robinson Godwin,  
James H. H. Figgat

&

Nannie Figgat's Diary

Date	From (place)	To	From (author)	Source
Aug. 20, 1835	Richmond	My Dear Martha	affectionately your Tom	VT
Aug. 26, 1836	Richmond	My Dear Martha	your most affectionate Tom	VT
Sept. 27, 1839	Baltimore	My Dear Martha	faithfully Yours T G Godwin	VT
May 12, 1859	Lexington	Dear Friend	yours most sincerely and affectionately Charlie	LVA
June 14, 1859	Lexington	Dear Friend	your true and sincere Charlie	LVA
Aug. 31, 1859	Lexington	...my dearest friend	your affectionate friend Charlie	LVA
Nov. 24, 1859	Fincastle	...dear Charlie	Yours most sincerely and affectionately Nannie Godwin	LVA
Nov. 28, 1859	Lexington	My Dear Nannie	Truly yours most affectionately Charlie	LVA
[1859]	[Philadelphia]	[Ann]	Rob	VT
Dec. 8, 1859	Lexington	Dear Nannie	your true & devoted Charlie	LVA
Dec. 29/30, 1859	Fincastle	My dear daughter; Dear Sis	your ever loving mother, MM Godwin; Good bye JMG	VT
Jan. 17, [1860]	Fincastle	My dear child	in love to our child MMG	VT
April 2, 1860	Lexington	My Dear Wife	your affectionate husband CMF	LVA
April 13, 1860	Lexington	... my dear, fond & affectionate wife	your affectionate & devoted husband CMF	LVA
April 17, 1860	Lexington	...my dear fond wife	your affectionate & fondly attached husband Charlie F	LVA
April 20, 1860	Lexington	My Dear Wife	[CMF]	LVA
May 18, 1860	Lexington	...my dear wife	your fond and devoted husband CMF	LVA
May 19, 1860	Charlottesville	My dear Charlie	Your fondly attached, Nannie	LVA
June 21, 1860	Fincastle	My dear Daughter	good bye Thos G Godwin	LVA
Sept. 28, 1860	Fincastle	My Dear Sister	Your ever affectionate Bro Rob	LVA
Oct. 17, 1860	Fincastle	My dear Husband	your own dear wife. Nannie; Your "little darling"	LVA
July 2, 1861	Fairfax C H	My Dear Brother	[James H. H. Figgat]	LVA
July 24, 1861	Lexington	My Dear Wife	your devoted husband C M Figgat	VHS

Date	From (place)	To	From (author)	Source
Aug. 5/6, 1861	Lexington	My Dear Wife	your much devoted husband C M Figgat	VHS
[1861/1862]	[Fincastle]	My dear Daughter	[Martha Mary Godwin]	VT
Sept. 5, 1862	Camp Narrows	My Darling Wife	As ever affectionately Ch	LVA
Nov. 8, 1862	Fincastle	My very dear Husband	your "darling" Nannie G Figgat	LVA
March 25, 1863	Hd Qr 2 Army Corp	My Dear Wife	As ever your devotedly Charlie	VHS
April 7, 1863	Fincastle	...My dear absent One	your ever devoted wife Nannie; Papa kish Ever yours T G Figgat	LVA
May 15, 1863	Hd Qrs 2d Army Corps	My very dear Wife	your devoted husband Charlie M F	VHS
June 18, 1863	Fincastle	My honored & ever dear Husband	constant & affectionate wife. Nannie G Figgat	LVA
Oct. 21, 1863	Hd Qrs Near Brandy Station Culpepper Co	My very dear Wife	your devoted husband C M F	LVA
Nov. 27, 1863	Fincastle	My ever dear Husband	Nannie G Figgat	VT
Dec. 5, 1863	[Fincastle]	My very dear Husband	Nannie	VT
Dec. 26, 1863	[Fincastle]	My very dear Husband	ever devoted wife. N G Figgat	LVA
March 17, 1864	Fincastle	My dear Husband	Yours ever affectionately Nannie	LVA
April 25, 1864	Hd Qrs 2d Army Corps	My dear Wife	Yours devotedly Charlie	LVA
July 19, 1864	Stone Castle	...my dearest Charlie	ever your devoted wife. Nannie G. Figgat	LVA
Sept. 20, 1864	Fincastle	My dearest Charlie	his ever fond & true Nannie	LVA
Dec. 28, 1864	Fincastle	My own dear Husband	[Nannie]	LVA
Feb. 13, 1865	Hd Qrs, V D	My ever precious wife	Devotedly, your own Charlie	LVA
March 23, 1865	Salem	Darling Wife	Devoted husband & father Charlie	VHS
[March 27, 1867]	[Fincastle]	My dear Daughter	[Martha M Godwin]	VT
Nov. 18, 1885	Fincastle	My dear children	your lonely old mother	VT

**Richmond, Aug. 20, 1835**

Mrs M M Godwin, Fincastle, Va

My Dear Martha

I have this moment arrived here & hasten to inform you that I landed in safety accompanied by my friend F Johnston, Mr White of Salem & others who joined us on the way. The heat & dust made the trip a little unpleasant, but otherwise it was quite agreeable. I shall remain here tomorrow & leave next day for Philad<sup>a</sup> from which place you may expect to hear from me again

I hope you & my dear little Ann<sup>65</sup> are well -- do kiss the little creature again & again for me. The farther the old stage carries me from you the worse I want to see you. I shall lose no time in doing my business & returning to the fond embraces of my dear Ma't

I write in greate haste you will therefore excuse the brevity of this my first epistle far [sic] well & believe me to be

affectionately your Tom

**Richmond, Aug. 26, 1836**

Mrs Martha M Godwin, Fincastle Va

My Dear Martha

I landed here yesterday in health & safety & shall leave in the morning for N York where I hope to hear from you. I have nothing to communicate of interest -- Tell Mrs S Kyle that Mr Donly little son who was accidently hurt on the Race Road is a great deal improved -- indeed he is almost entirely well. I find this city much improved since I was here in the Spring & there are several large buildings now going up, a great quantity of goods in market & the merchants busy receiving & selling their new goods

I am in company with four or five gentlemen who all start in the morning & I hope to have a pleasant trip. With my love to all a kiss to my dear little Ann I am as heretofore

your most affectionate Tom

65. Ann Godwin, b. April 28, 1835, was 4 months old.

**Baltimore, Sept. 27, 1839**

Mrs M M Godwin, Fincastle Va

My Dear Martha

I wrote from Richmond advising you of my intention to go to N York, but on my arrival here & after an examination of the goods I found I could probably do as well as to go farther. Mr White and I have been together all the time since we met in Beford! He has left me this morning for Philad<sup>a</sup> from which place he will return by the time I finish my business here, which will be about next Sunday. The stock of goods both here & elsewhere is the most in different I have ever seen, indeed there is nothing new. There is a very considerable decline in domest[ic] good[s] but in others there is a very little difference. Give my love to all my friends take care of my dear little Ann & I Robinson.<sup>66</sup> Have the Pigs well fed & believe me

faithfully Yours T G Godwin

P S I should be very happy to get a letter from you at Richmond on my return but you must write immediately on receipt of this or it will be too late -- direct it to the care of Miss H. W. & I. I. Fry

*Charlie's first letter to Nannie.***Lexington, May 12, 1859**

Dear Friend

If it was as easy for me to write as my desire is strong and the pleasure it affords me to do so, I could hope to make this my first letter to you interesting, but where in I fail I hope you will attribute it to my inability to compose and not to any lack of interest, or desire so to do, for surely there could nothing be of more pleasure to me than the privelege of seating myself for an hour to hold converse with the one, of all my friends the most dear, the one who for years I have striven to make myself worthy to be called her friend and now when I am permitted to know from yourself that my efforts have not been in vane, how else could I feel than happy, it could not be otherwise, when I feel that I have now obtained that, for which my whole life has been aimed,

66. Isaac Robinson Godwin, born August 8, 1837.

and now Nannie it seems as if all I have desired in this life has been granted unto me, even my wildest imagination, desires that I never expected to be gratified, and the greatest, the one most coveted has been give me last, and now I am happy. Some told you that I had become vain, but I do not think I had, but I confess that I am proud now, not with that empty pride that fills the brain of one who really has nothing wherein to be proud, but it is with that pride, which should fill the breast of every man in the knowledge of the possession of the true love of a pure, virtuous and noble woman and especially of one whose virtues are founded not merely on self reliance but on the firm rock of Christianity, which cannot be overthrown and this is what I have long known you to possess, yea Nannie it is for your worth that I have long since learned to love you, it has not been with the mere passion of the moment but from close study of your character and from the conviction that I had found in you a degree of worth that I have never been able to see to the same extent in any other of your sex, and thus in my choice I have looked farther than outward appearances for beauty though nature has not denied you, a full portion of personal charms, I have dived farther the pocket for worth and search for temper beyond the good humor of the moment, and was satisfied that in you I have found my treasure.

And now Nannie why is it that I am the recipient of such a gift, for surely I have nothing to offer in return but my first and only love, yet you are willing to take me as I am, I have neither honor nor wealth to bestow and yet you are willing to leave a happy home and risk your fortune with mine, you are willing after mature deliberation, to place in my hands your future happiness. You are satisfied that you can with confidence trust all to me, and Nannie in the strength of him who keepith all who put their trust in him, you shall not be disappointed, for I trust that I have not sought this end without God's guidance. I have long prayed that he might direct all for our good, and for his glory, and that I might attain this, that together we might hand in hand lead each other on in the path of life, that by his word guided and by his wisdom kept. We might be one in him and through life be helpmates on to

glory, and now as the future seems bright before us, let us trust in him go forth into life leaving all in his hands, I ask not for myself the worlds honor. I ask not wealth only that it may add to your happiness, and not on earth do I desire, but that without sin have those things which I would confer upon you and that I may so live to prove myself worthy of the love which upon me you do bestow. If I can attain this why then from my heart I can say that I desire nought else, and I do feel willing as God has kept me thus far to remain in his hands, for him to do as unto him seemth good and therefore do I feel that all will be well. But why need say more on this point, for considering all that has passed and with which you are perfectly acquainted, surely there can be no doubt in your mind, but that the attachment which I have for you and which time and absence in the past have not been able to erase, can ever be severed, and I do feel Nannie that they never can be.

I saw Miss Ellen C. yesterday and was glad to hear her say that you were well, as you were not when I left you, and I do pray Nannie that God may give you perfect health that you may live not only in the enjoyment in the blessings of life but that all times you may be enabled to feel that God is your portion, and that with faith laid upon the only foundation. Salvation through Christ, you may look unto him as having borne all your sorrows, and that he lays no burden upon you which he will not enable you to bear. "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

O that we may never forget that we receive all things from God, and therefore ever be obedient to his will. Did you ever renew the conversation with your Ma? I must confess that I feel anxious to know whether your parents will approve of my proposal plans. Yet I will try and be patient, although it seems a long time until August, especially when I think that I am not to see you in the meantime.

And now Nannie goodbye, excuse what you may deem amiss and with earnest prayers for your future happiness, and in the hope of having the pleasure of hearing from you soon. I remain

yours most sincerely and affectionately, Charlie.

**Lexington, June 14, 1859**

Dear Friend,

Your kind and highly prized letter was received some days since and permit me after pursuing it to express the same reason in attempting to answer it, that you did in replying to mine, for Nannie I cannot express the great pleasure its contents afforded me, and at the same time I felt that I would hardly know how to reply, as I know that I cannot dictate such a one, but receive it as from me and I am satisfied to be the inferior writer.

As I have told you with regard to my feelings whenever I was permitted the pleasure of enjoying your company, having always a deeper sense of your excellence, so now in your letter it contains so much of self, modest, unassuming, gentle, all that and which alone is the true attraction in the female character, and although the opposite to that which attracts many, it is this in you, with your many virtues that has always held me spellbound and made me feel that if there was not in you all that I might desire, I need not look for it elsewhere. Long have I wished that if I should ever leave home, that I might have the honor and great pleasure to receive a letter signed "Nannie", and now when it is so how else could I be than proud and happy.

I was glad to hear that you were well, and do hope you may be entirely relieved of that with which it has been Gods will so long to have afflicted you, truly Nannie, we should ever be grateful, for the love he has always manifested towards us, and try and feel that he does all for our good, but it is hard so to feel and we are ever prone to murmur; but his grace alone can change these feelings; then let us strive that we receive not the grace of God in vain, but ever in an humble and grateful heart, receive it whatever form he may bestow it, truly we have much whereof to be thankful.

Oh! Nannie how much I felt reproved for my unfaithfulness for you desire that I might pray, that the spirit of prayer might be more abundantly granted unto you, so sensibly did I feel my coldness of heart, and needed much, first to pray that I might ask aright. Yesterday was our communion day and I trust my heart was

softened, and I was enabled to draw near to God in humble prayer, and then I remembered my dear friend and hope that she felt too, the nearness of the Holy Spirit. O! Let us continually pray that he would reign supreme in our hearts, and we may both have that holiness of heart that I so much feel the need of.

You wonder if I have not had some complications in regard to uniting my life to yours. Yes Nannie I confess I have, and they are what I have told you, that it was because I felt unworthy of your love, even if I should be so happy as it win your hand but Nannie I have ever striven to make myself worthy, and it will always be my highest aim and greatest pleasure to honor you, how far I have succeeded you must judge how far I may succeed time will tell, and as, you are willing to risk the future, I shall strive the hardest not to disappoint you. I regret exceedingly Nannie that which promises so much pleasure to us should be attended, with other than pleasant feelings to your parents.

I can fully appreciate the affection that fills their hearts for a daughter such as you; and that their warmest solicitations should be drawn out by that which must fill the heart of every parent (the happiness of the future life of their child when she must leave for another) is not at all surprising. I do not know what it may be that causes the feelings beyond this but I have too high an opinion of their discretion and good judgment to think that my matter of a trivial or worldly nature could cause them to withhold from you that which would add to your happiness; I do not doubt Nannie but that it may be a struggle of parental love to determine whether they will be justified in giving your hand to me, as far as position in this life is concerned, I do not portend to a higher place than is known to them, but I feel that I am not what I was five years ago, and with the blessing of God I do not mean to be, five years hence what I am now. I have ever striven to make for myself with character, which is all I think worth striving for; whether I have succeeded so far to be worthy of their confidence to such a degree as to justify them in granting unto me that for which my highest aims have been, is for them to determine; the withholding of which Nannie would

be the crushing out of all life's fondest hopes, and create a vacuum in my heart that nought can ever feel. But probably I am anticipating, if so, forgive wherein I have spoken inadvisedly, as these reflections have been brought about by the knowledge, that the contemplation of our union was attended by some not altogether pleasant feelings to your affectionate parent.

But we can but hope for the best, and I shall try and prepare myself for their decision, and while my heart clings to the hope that they may grant our wishes, I will endeavor to submit cheerfully, if they shall think otherwise, and feel that it is for the best; But O! will it not be hard, hard indeed to bear. Softened only by the reflection that it is for your happiness.

I expect to go up to your Aunt Jane's<sup>67</sup> next Saturday and spend Sunday as I have not been there for a long time, Mrs B is at home I believe and I wish much to see her before she leaves; I am sorry you were deprived the pleasure of attending convention, but as the next is to be held in C\_\_, no doubt but that you will be there, and this probably will be a greater pleasure than if you have gone to Norfolk.

But I must close this long letter hoping Nannie that you will overlook what you may deem amiss, and believe me as ever

your true and sincere, Charlie

**Lexington, Aug. 31, 1859**"Tis the last rose of Summer"<sup>68</sup>

With what feelings now address you as my dearest friend I cannot describe, neither is it necessary that I should, for no doubt you yourself experience somewhat the same and are quite different to what we did before all doubt as regards the future was removed, --and now when I know that I am surely at some future day to claim you as mine, seems to have all that I can desire, and I trust that I am grateful to God that I am to be blessed with a companion through life in whose society my own thoughts and feelings will be elevated and my aims in life will be higher, because I shall desire to honor her, by whom I am so highly honored and that in things heavenly

67. Martha Mary Godwin's married sister, Jane Robinson, Mrs. William D. Moffett.

68. Thomas Moore's 1805 poem.

my heart will be brought nearer to God because in sweet communion with one unto whom I can open my whole heart and feel that in her bosom beats those feelings in unison with my own and thus together we will lighten the burden of life, and make by the grace of God the path to heaven plain and pleasant. O! Nannie let us continually humble ourselves before him whose we are, and pray that in all things we may be guided by his grace and thus learning to lean upon him we may ever through lifes checkered scenes be enabled to lift our hearts unitedly to him and say thy will be done. And if in the frame of mind we are kept what can earth or earthly things do to mar that happiness which it cannot give, what would be all the wealth and pomp of a world like this, without the ever present knowledge that we are the children of God and heirs of an other and better world than this, for surely the past has shown us that in this alone is there true happiness.

O! Nannie how sweet it is for me to know that I am then possessor of the affections of one whose happiness is not based upon the things of this world and its delusion charms, but whose heart has been by the grace of God has been long lifted from earth and who strives to live for higher and nobler things.

No wonder Nannie you so fondly love your dear parents for truly few are blessed with such, many who think your Pa cold because of his manner little know the depth of kindness in his heart. O! how I felt drawn toward them when I read his letter announcing your Ma's acquiescence to our wishes, so tender, in a few words, and a prayer for our mutual happiness, hard will it be to give you up to another. And hard for you to part with them, and this will make me strive but the more to render life to you as pleasant as when with those who first have a place in your affections. I received a letter from William the other day and he remarked that it seem that he expected to marry the lady<sup>69</sup> who everybody thought the best in C[hristiansburg], and I the one in F[incastle]. who held the same place in the opinion of all, it certainly should make us proud that it is so. He thinks so much of you,

69. Charlie's brother, William Fletcher Figgat, a physician in Christiansburg, married to Matilda (Mollie) Mary Edie.

and has always urged me to try and win you for myself.

I suppose you have had the pleasure of Mr Judkins company, ere this as I say his name registered here a few days since and supposed he was on his way to F[incastle].

I handed your letter to Mary S.<sup>70</sup> and she said she felt badly, when she read it and knew for certain that she was to lose another friend as she calls it. She says she did not tell L R but I believe she was telling your Aunt and Mr B before I got out of sight although I told her to obey your instructions. She spoke of going to F. and as you were so anxious to see her, I hope she is now with you. I enclose the ring promised, with which you will be pleased, although it is not such a one as I would have chosen, but I had to have it ordered from the maker to get one of the proper dimensions. I am so glad you gave me the motto as it is so appropriate, that it seems there will always be a voice whispering its meaning, and I feel that we can always adopt it as our feelings, and desire to be watched over by our heavenly father, that whether present or absent we may feel the sacred influence that binds our hearts together that all our hopes and all that we shall enjoy will be received as coming from him.

And now hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you soon, and with many prayers for your health and happiness, and with sentiments of esteem and love I remain as ever

your affectionate friend Charlie

*Nannie's first surviving letter to Charlie.*

**Fincastle, Nov. 24, 1859**

Your letter most welcome, was received dear Charlie on last Friday. But I was quite disappointed at not receiving it Wednesday but with it came the reason of its delay, as also the case with mine, which I had intended you should be gotten within a week after yours, but I have same excuse to offer having been from home the same length of time. My dear uncle J Godwin<sup>71</sup> came in very unexpectedly Monday night from Lynchburg (60 miles east of Fincastle), where he

70. Nannie frequently mentioned her friend, Mary Spiller.

71. Nannie's paternal uncle, John Godwin.

had been at conference [religious convention]. He had expected to stay a few days with us but had received a letter from the Cashier saying he was obligated to leave on business and requesting him to come home. So he had to hurry home, but concluded to go by Salem and as Mrs Snider was here, we concluded to take a hack, and all go, of which opportunity I was very glad indeed to avail myself as I had been so anxious to go there once more. I spent a very pleasant time though very short, having reached there at 5 o'clock at 1 next day but sufficient time to see all my relations, as we had to breakfast by candlelight so that uncle [John Godwin] could get to the [train] cars in time. My friends there are very anxious to see their relations that is to be. One of my uncle's is about blind having a cataract growing in both eyes. He wanted to make a bargain with me as he said, to delay the pickle approaching occasion [i.e., Nannie and Charlie's wedding] until he could see it well done, which will be he hopes about next April at which time he expects to have the operation performed. I told him I would of course have to consult the other party concerned. I reached home last night pretty well broken down and another good cold, but feel a good deal better, and have seated myself the first thing after my accustomed duties to the pleasant task of writing to Charlie fearing that something might happen that should prevent my writing in time.

You did not surprise me at all by the communication of news concerning William. As he had told me all about it when down and his intention of getting Mollie<sup>72</sup> to consent that it should be on the 13<sup>th</sup>. But he enjoyed such a strict secrecy even concerning you, that I said nothing to you being determined to let him know I could keep a secret. He said moreover he had written to you not to tell me. I told him he was selfish but I would be here; now have you found or did he withdraw his restriction. I sent Mollie word, I should like to give up to her as she was to have the eldest but her arrangement would not suit us at all so she must try and accommodate hers to ours. I was very glad to hear from you that such as the case, for I had

72. Matilda Mollie Mary Edie of Christiansburg who married William Figgat.

been anxious to hear, and ask William to tell Ginnie<sup>73</sup> to tell me, but she has never mentioned anything of the kind to me, and as I think it is her place. I wouldn't ask as much as I wanted to know it will be quite an interesting occasion and won't the people open their eyes I do hope it won't be found out I hear your Ma is to give quite a large party on the "occasion" as Nannie T[urner] calls it. There will be considerable gaiety I suppose. And how is Mrs Johnston? I have been thinking a great deal about her, and feeling sorry too, knowing it is a trial, and then she an entire stranger in the place such a gloomy day it was when she reached her new home, but I hope it did not exclude the sunshine of her life, and that it will be bright in spite of clouds that we perhaps imagine. Give her much love from me. Poor Sue! Mrs B says she won't let Sally be spoken of as she feels as if she were dead. There is a depth of feeling with Sue which very few discover or appreciate.

P[auline] Price has determine to remain here until after Christmas, and Nannie [Turner] too, of which I am very glad as I should like my friends near to enjoy with me the great era in my life. As you have asked that I should pray for you Charlie that your mind should not be so led off from God and heavenly things so do I need the same for of, how great is my coldness and thoughtlessness. But may we not hope that it is but natural that our minds should be engrossed by things of so momentous importance to our worldly interest, though we will pray that it may not continue to be so and that in the future may also concern our spiritual interest. For we think neither of us have viewed it in a mere worldly point of view; & is it not our faith, which has caused us to raise our eyes from earth, so looking unto Jesus as the author & finisher of that faith, we will run with patience—the race that is set before us, knowing that there awaiteth us, not worldly honors or praise, but an imperishable crown, unfading, everlasting, at the right hand of our ever gracious God a kind of loving Father, who spared not an only son, and will be not with him freely give us all things.

73. Charlie's sister, Mary Virginia Figgat.

Mr A[mbler] gave us a very good sermon Sunday from the text; "why stand ye here, all the day idle? I fear it is the case with many of us. Did you ever think of it, that for our sins of omission as well as commission, we are responsible. I fear we all forget that very often, and many will be condemned not so much for opinions but because their talent was hidden, and they have left and won what should have been done God forbid this should be the case with either of us, but whatever our hands find to do, we may do it with our might, remembering there is no work or devise in the grave toward which we are each day approaching, guide I hope by the unerring hand of our define guide.

Friday morning.

I feel very badly this morning Charlie weak and trembling and my head confused so you must not be surprised if I say some foolish things, for I feel as I suppose some persons do after having been on a spree. I believe I was tipsy last night. Dr. [Samuel] Meredith sent me some kind of mixture for my cold which made me sick and drowsy and drunk. The effects have not worn off. Had I known how badly I should feel, I would not have risen, but I hope I shall feel better in a short time. I could not forebear finishing my letter though I can think of nothing interesting; and fear you will find me quite dull.

Mag Callaghan is to be married on the 7<sup>th</sup> of next month. I hear of Sue Carper very soon to Mr Fagan and go to Pennsylvania. Can it be possible a Carper is going to leave Fincastle? I suppose you heard of Mag's beau, or rather who he was Mr Phelps a teacher in Bedford She will be quite a young bride. I hear they are going to give a large wedding.

I am glad you had an opportunity of witnessing a marriage in church, as you will be able to give some instructions in the matter We are having delightful weather now I feel it will be quite the contrary a fortnight hence I had quite a pressing invitation to visit Charlottesville with you on a tour but declined at the present time knowing it did not suit our arrangement I know this is quite boring so I will desist hoping the next time I have the pleasure I shall be more entertaining Will I not hear from you very soon?

Now good-bye.

Yours most sincerely and affectionately Nannie  
Godwin

**Lexington, Nov. 28, 1859**

My Dear Nannie

Again do I find myself seated to answer your last and welcome letter which was received on Saturday, and I was disappointed on not receiving it Thursday, but as you were enjoying a visit with your friends that would have been a sufficient excuse for any delay.

I was sorry to hear of your illness and do hope it may prove only slight and that now you are entirely well. Well and you have been on a spree, who would have thought it. I shall have to hold Dr. M[eridith] to account for your intemperance when I come to F[incastle]. I am quite well myself but sometimes a little somewhat, & cannot tell exactly how but attribute it to the near approach of the momentous occasion the grand epoch of my life [i.e., their wedding] & feel a swelling in my bosom of feelings unutterable, but pleasant to enjoy, and an occasional redress of the face when – well where is it to be Charlie and they tell me you are to be married soon & to Miss Godwin and sundry other speeches are made, and it is so pleasant to hear it but I cannot keep from showing some confusion

Sallie I think told it the day after she reached here and it pretty generally circulated now although but few know that it is so near I have taken the liberty Nannie of asking a few of my friends to go up with me but I do not think they will come as I asked those who cannot well leave their business.

If you can spare me three or four cards for the church will you be so kind as to send them in your next as there is about that number I should like to remember among them Miss H Barclay. Wm is a nice fellow now he might have gotten me into but I did not prove untrue as I wrote to him that I intended telling you, as under the circumstances it was proper you should know it, and he did not mention it in his reply I am glad he told you himself. Your Aunt Jane and Mary S were down last week to the fair and Mary is in town yet she feels badly about not having your

letter, but she did not receive it for a week after I came down and you know you had sent it before I went up and her eyes are so much worse that she cannot possibly write, and besides they have been looking for you down every day since Mrs J has been sick for a few days, but is better now although not out of her room.

Nannie I can but fear for her future prospects, although she says she is happy now and perfectly satisfied and is very agreeably disappointed in him finding much better than she had a right to expect from all that had been told her of him I do hope she may be happy. She is quite impatient for your coming and says she will then be satisfied if she does not form a circle of acquaintances. I have been so much engaged that I have not been able to be with them as much as I should like, I have not been able to deliver your message but will do so when she is well. I received a letter from Ned a few days since he was well and had acted upon your advice as he says he has written to Carrie and told her all, asking a decisive answer and I suppose when we hear from him again we will know how matters stand with him, and can but hope that for I do think they would suit each other exactly.

Poor Mag C[allaghan] is she to be sacrificed upon the altar of her mother's ambition for early marriage as some of her sisters have been I hope not but I should think they wanted to be certain of it as I understand they got the license three weeks ago to keep him from flying the track (but I suppose they did not want to trouble him to go to town when he comes over for her and took them out for him when over the last time

Tom has just come in and proposes that we shall put it off being as May intends to marry. I received a letter from Jno Anderson a few days since congratulating me upon my good fortune in winning the heart and hand of one so worthy expressing himself in very complimentary terms of Nannie, saying you were one of whom anyone might be proud to call wife and also enclosing a 5 dollar bill asking me to buy for him (as he did not know any size) my wedding hat, as a token of his friendship for me for all of which I of course acknowledged many thanks but especially for his high opinion of yourself

and thus it is with everyone who knows you and I am congratulated by them in being so happy as to be about to lead to the altar one of the noblest of her sex. And while I know more of you than they yet I am proud indeed that she who is universally esteemed is willing to look all the beautiful traits of her character to make me happy and shall I now be happy I cannot be otherwise where my life is blessed with such a companion

Oh! that God may direct us by his spirit that in all things we may acknowledge his will and give us his grace, that we may learn what is his perfect law and walking therein we may enjoy life, not as a mere dream but feeling that unto us is committed the care of each others soul, and instead of hiding our talent we may use it continually until our Lords coming when we can render unto him his own with usury, and when he shall call us to give an account of our stewardship may we be found faithful. May the good Lord warm up our frozen hearts and enable us to start in life together not in our own strength, but leaning upon him our union may be one unbroken chain of peace and joy ordered so by the continual presence of the Holy Spirit, teaching us that all things are of the Lord and thus prepares up for prosperity, as well as adversity, and learning us in whatever state of life we are placed there with to be content. Nannie if you intend stopping over night with your Aunt can you leave home on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> at the farthest Mr M gets along so badly with business when I'm away, that I hope it may not put you to any inconvenience to leave that we may get here by the 20<sup>th</sup> I told him this evening that I would be away and he seemed anxious for me to get back as soon as I could, but as I very seldom go on occasions of this kind I am not disposed to be in a hurry.

And now only two weeks [until their wedding] and then the providence of God we shall meet again and which meeting promises to be one of so much pleasure and the occasion fraught with interest as lasting as time may our happiness never grow less, but hope this is only the beginning of a life of peace to wed in eternal glory. Write to me again dear Nannie before I come up and now "good bye".

Truly yours most affectionately, Charlie

**[Philadelphia, circa 1859]**

[...] you know. But this sort of talk don't suit me it sounds too green. I don't think I am green a bit. La me!, as Mrs Parlington says, what hard looking cases some of them are in our class. Allen and I just set and shake when some of them come in. I received a ticket to day inviting me to a party at Profr [Samuel D.] Gross [processor of surgery at Jefferson Medical College].<sup>74</sup> It is given to the students. I don't know whether I shall go or not. There is but one inducement and that is that there are to be no ladies there. The Profrs give parties to the students every year and they are always without ladies. You are so fond of looking out into the street to see what is going on. I just wish you could go on Chesnut street for two or three days, I know you would get tired. Allen recd a letter from Dr. Nelson the other morning. We enjoyed it very much. It had a great deal of impudence in it. He says he is going to try and \_\_\_ flying rip this winter. We are good for a week or two when we go by there. I have received a letter from Tom since I came here. He seems to be very much pleased. And Flood is going to the fair is he! Tell him to tie his specks on if he don't somebody will steal them and tell him also that he had just as well see all the Elephant and come on to Philadelphia and see Allen and I. When you see Tom Peyton tell him that I have not forgotten him. I have seen men and children almost cut to pieces by the Surgeons. I reckon when I get through that I will be so hardened as not to Sympathize with any one at all No wonder Doctors seem void of any thing like feeling or pity.

Well I believe I have done except going the rounds distributing love *leary* over a basketful to cousin Eliza a bagful in the kitchen and Ma's barn wardrobeful for you all. Good night, good night and heaven bless you all.

Rob

74. Autobiography of Samuel D. Gross, M.D. <http://archive.org/details/autobiographyofs18871gros>

**Lexington, Dec. 8, 1859**

Dear Nannie

Again – and is it the last time<sup>75</sup> – is the time so near when we shall change this pleasant mode of intercourse for one still more so, when from the li\_\_\_ shall go forth the words which but give utterance to the deep feelings of the heart, & when together we shall be permitted in the providence of God to hold sweet communion one with the other. share our mutual joys & together look to God for comfort in our mutual sorrow. and is it so soon where the voice always so charming & the person so mild so gentle, & with a heart so kind warm & loving is by me to be thought of as all my own, when the one of whom I have so much cause to be proud, is in the presence of God & our many friends, going to promise to me her whole heart & then O how happy the privilege – when I shall be permitted to unite with you in those rows so sacred & lasting, as time, & forbid the thought that you my dearest friend may ever feel that you have not placed your happiness in the hands of one who was not worthy, & who sought to \_\_\_ but to destroy! Oh that through lifes long journey as day by day hand in hand, we tread the weary road, may each day to you follow the other with new charms & new joys in sweet recollection of the past & peaceful emotions of the present, & let but the thought that I have & do in any way contribute to her thus always pleasant life I desire nought else save the grace of God to make me happy, for this I have long lived hoping against hope and now when all my sweet dreams of childhood are to be realized, the fondest moments of my life will be when I look upon you dear one & feel that you are happy. And Nannie, when I err or do miss, I know that fond heart in all its tender feelings will forgive & overlook & believe me, they will come not from the heart but the head.

How welcome was the last of your ever welcome letters, for I was expecting it certain, & would have been much disappointed had it not come, for I was sick & Sad & wanted something to cheer me up, & what could do so as well, as a letter from you when absent how sweet its words

75. Their wedding was in five days.

& how my heart said Amen to your prayer for future guidance. I had lost by death one of my little S. S. [Sunday School] Scholars & had set up with the Corpse the night before, & this made me sick, then all the circumstances of his sudden & unexpected death, in connection with our relation as teacher & scholar made me sad indeed, he was about nine years old, a son of God L's. he ran a splinter in his hand a week before & it had gotten well apparently but the night before he died complained of stiffness of the jaw & limbs & died the next night in the greatest agony with lock-jaw. Oh! how careful should we be unto whom is committed the care of young immortal souls, father help us in the future to be more watchful & more prayerful – help us—for we can do nothing of ourselves, help us to rightly instruct & train then in they precept so that if there callest them soon, they may have only gone before & we soon to follow on to meet in an other & better world is not the responsibility great sometimes I have feared & thought its autherus of hallelujays on high & feel that though earth be dark & the clouds but hide from view the bright blue sky of God well reconciled countenance, made bright to our vision by being washed in the blood of Immanuel God.

But where am I & what have I been saying, here I have written more than I expected to do altogether & have said nothing to interest.

You spoke of writing to Rob & were correct in thinking me not so selfish as not to wish to hear you speak so, & to know how you felt it only makes me love you the more for I could not feel such entire confidence in your feelings for me if I knew there did not exist such as you have as a sister, for a brother that should ever be so dear, I do not wonder at your fondness for him for there is none except my own brother for whom I have the same attachment although I may be more intimate with others.

I expect Ned was thinking of Old Brown when he said he thought death preferable to Suspense & intended to say that to be suspended would be worse than a natural death. – why he does not know any thing yet, wait & if he should be so situated as a certain young gentleman of

my acquaintance was he will know what it is to feel bad

It seems as if we are to have bad weather Nannie – well lets take things as they come, if the Sun shines well, & if it rains, we will still not complain. I shall come up (at least this is my present arrangement) in a buggy & as Geo P will come down Thursday he can bring it back, & we get a conveyance in F[incastle]. in which we will return – if not this way

I will come in a carriage from here but think the other the most likely. Im pretty certain now that no one will come up with me, & I hope they will not be expecting any one at Beaver Dam as Tom & myself may not get there by dinner time. tell Robt I am much obliged for his invitation & will try & if possible be present & now Nannie until Monday night, though it should be late good bye – hoping to find you entirely well & happy & with daily prayers for your future life. Happy am I to be permitted to ascribe myself

your true &amp; devoted Charlie

P.S. I saw Mag C[allaghan] that was & her husband as they passed through to day – Mr P[helps] looks a little ancient I think.

**Fincastle, Dec. 29, 1859**

My dear daughter

I cannot say how much I was delighted when I received your letter, it did not take me as long to read it as you thought it would, you nede not be afraid of writing too much. I will now try and give some account of myself since you left. We did not get the hous put in order until Wednesday Thersday I went out with Eliza J<sup>76</sup> to return her cal's, Friday I made about half a bushel of tangle britches for the children (did not wish you had some as you do not like them but thought Charley was duchman enough to like them and wished he and dear Rob had some)

Saturday your pa and myself was invited to dine at Mr [Rev. John Sharshall] Grasty's it being such a busy day your pa could not go I went and spent a very plisant day & had a very fine dinner. Mr G, elders with the adition of Mr Miller & Mr Spears were the gentlemen. Mrs

76. Wife of James H. H. Figgat, Charlie's brother.

Smith Hudson Williams Elasco Price myself miss Mary *Grasty* were the ladais -

I was invited to spend the evening of the same day at Mrs Hariah's, I have bean siting down at home since. Your pa was at a supper at Dr Williams on Tuesday night, and dined at Mr Radfords yesterday I will let the little girls<sup>77</sup> tel you about their partais themselves. John Henry came for Jany on munday they went home tuesday. I do not mis her as much as I ~~would~~ will when the children go to scholl, but it dus seam to me more than a month since you went away I think of the weding as sumthing away back younder – but as you are happy my child I will not be so selfish as to regret it.

Robinson<sup>78</sup> has cum to Richmond we have not received a letter from him since he left Rh but he has sent your pa several papers he also received a letter from him before leveing aprizie-ing him of his intention your pa was aposed to his cuming and wrote to him to that affect but his letter did not get there before he left. There has bean a grate fus made over them in Richmond I hope it may all be for the best, James Mc[Dowell?] has cum. I think they will be married Monday morning I have sean very litle of Nanny [Turner?] since you left. I sent the pickel to Ginny when she came home, she tasted it and sent it back sais you won it and you must have it. I think it very doubtful! as to the time of Toms going back I herd that Colage would not open until the 16<sup>th</sup> and I suppose not then if the disese [small pox] continues. I am afraid I will have no oportunity of sendin-ing you things to you unless by the stage. I wish it had been so you could have cum home before you furnished your room we could have dun it so much better I do not like to send your things to make yourself it would not take me long to make them on the machein [sewing machine], (it is boxed up and readdy to take its Christmas) and I have fethers to fill your pillows. I think ten pound of new fethers will be anough put 2¾ in one pillow and try it if it will do make the other to way the same

77. Nannie's much younger sisters: Ella (Eleanor b. 1845), Jennie (Jane b. 1846), Haddie (Harriet b. 1849), and Mary (b. 1851 with twin brother Henry).

78. Her son, Isaac Robinson Godwin, who others usually refer to as Rob.

and put the ballence in the bolster. Would it not be a better plan to rent a bed and bedding untill you cum up if you can do this I would greatly prefer it, but I cannot ask you to cum until all danger of small pox is over, as you would not be kindly received by the citazens. If you get a matras get a good one your pa will pay for it also your bedstead and buro but I expect he could get one much cheaper in Richmond. You will have to buy an under bed, that I could allso funish you without cost as I have several emty ticks that would make nice ones, these all seam litle things but they will count up. You must have blankets and cumfort and maney other things which you have not thought of. I intend giving you a fether bed when you go to housekeeping, but you will not nede that now. I will send what things you most nede by Tom when he goes, unles you do as I have propesed, sheets pillow cases and towel I can send very conveaniently but other things are so bulky that will not pack in small space. Consult Charly about it and let me know. I have not sean any of Mr F[iggat]'s Famaly since I received your letter but intend going up as soon as the strete is fit to walk (we have had a dredful day) James red the first part of your letter to Mr Figet<sup>79</sup> he is very anxious to hear the perticulers about his bothers famaly. is there maney cases of naurall small pox or is it only about generly-we have had a very quiet Christmas among the-servants I do not think Mr G has hired aney of them yet, we have got Lilla again. Mother [Nancy McGarrell Godwin] as well as usual mises you very much the children all send their love to you Henry sais you must not love that little ira [i.e., Charlie] more than you do him

And Had & Mary seam rather jelous too

This is along letter for me I hope you will be able to make it out nothwithstanding bad speling, give my love to Charly You must both be good children and neither of you forget your own homes, I wish to do as I would be dun by, I do not want him to give up his own famaly for you and yours, as I have seen sum folks do. I hope your harts are large enough for both. Write me long & frequent letters and do not be backward in letting me know aney thing you want

79. Charlie's father, James Madison Figgat.

you know if I can give it you will cum frely if not I can say no and you must not think hard. Jane intended writing some in this but she has run off and I must close, they have just brought sum hogs to cut up I do hope they are the last.

from your ever loveing Mother God bless you  
MM Godwin

**Dec. 30, 1859**

Dear Sis

I will try and write you a few lines but it will be few sure enough and looks at that for the lines are not ruled as yours and it is very hard for me to write for I have not taken a pen in my hand since you went away but twice or three I suppose you have heard Rob is in Richmond, we have not heard from him since he went to Richmond but we look for a letter to night there are a good many children being vacinated we have not been but will be as soon as Dr gets some matter well that is all I can write kiss Mr F [i.e., Charlie] for me and tell him to kiss you for me

Good bye JMG<sup>80</sup>

**Fincastle, Jan. 17, [1860]**

My dear child

We received your letters on sunday which was eagerly red by all. I do not wonder that you were woryed at not receiving I direct answer to your question about the pillows. I was so certain that morning that Tom would go on friday that I did not think it nesacery to write and was not in when Tom ~~answer'd your~~ finished Clah's [Charlie's] letter. The cotten I have got I am afraid will not answer for the pillows you got I have not made the cases thinking you could suit your self best, I intended it to be mad crosswise as I could not get aney the right width to make the other way. I only got three pair thinking it would be anougt for the present, I will send the pillows I have made you can use eather, one pair will do for the Bed I will give you when go to house keeping.<sup>81</sup> I have made three pair of sheets too bolster cases. The rest I will give you again, if you be a good girl. I have not made your

80. Nannie's 13-year-old siser, Jane Moffett Godwin, usually referred to as Jennie.

81. Referring to when Nannie and Charlie leave the boarding house and move to a place of their own.

towels did not know whether you would like them hemed or fringed am afraid you will not like them as they have a red stripe, could get no others will send you a comfot, a new one, if not one I have. About your curtains I do not know what to say, you will find white curtains very troublesome for a chamber, still I do not think aney others look so well, you must use your own judgement If my old parler curtains will suit you for the present (until you can better determin what you will nede) you are welcum to them but I suppose they are too old timy. Your pa will send you some money or a check which you must make go as far as you can towards furnishing your room. I wish you I were thaer to help you to make your carpet do try and not make a mistake in cuting it you know you are famus for mistakes, you had better not try to cut it until you get in your room. It will look much prettyer than a rag one I suppose.

You want to know if aney of us went to se nanny [Turner] married, we did not I was very anxious to go but she did not want aney one she said She came over the evening before and took a very affectionet levee of us all perticalerly your pa, as useiall tried to be cold but I could se she felt it, I went out with her and she said very-coldly cousin Martha cant you and cousin Tom cum over in the morning but I could se very plainly she did not want aney one, notwithstanding I should have gon but for the cold it was the coldest night I allmost ever felt. Mr Dpsey [i.e., Dempsey] married them (he has gotten nearly well) James Mc[Dowell] sent for him to stop at their house on his way up took him into Jinna's room (for nun of them went to bed that night) and asked him to pray for a blesing on them, as it was the last time they would be a united famaly They say he was very much affected, he asked Jinna to go over with him and se him married she told him it was too much for him to ask of her, he asked her if she never intended to recognize him as a brother again, sh told him yes, all wais but never nanny Turner<sup>82</sup> as his wife, thus they parted, she stood in the dore untill the stage started. Mary Spiller told me she never witnessed aney thing so solemn. Nanny

82. Nannie Turner McDowell, b. Sept. 22, 1840, m. Jan. 1860, d. May 22, 1902.

has writen home once since she left is very much pleased. I forgot to say Jenny and Mr Paten wated on them [i.e., witnessed the marriage?] The room was fool not withstanding Nanna wanted no one, there was your Aunt Mary the too Spillers several stage pasengers and all the darkeys, of both famalaies. I was told that Mary R treated her very affectionetly and invited her to se her when they cum back. William did not go over I beleve this is all of importance about it

I am invited to Mrs L Robinsons to spend the evening if I hear aney thing interesting I will write in the morning - just thought of sumthing to write but am to tiard to write aney more this morning

Well I have eaten my dinner and my fingers have straightened so I will try it again what I thought of teling you was that Eliza Nelsen was confined about a month ago her baby was dead, she is doing very well Sue staid with her too or three weeks. *pore* Ann Eliz Peter is dead I only hered that her corps and her child was taken to her fathers last week I have not hered from Salem since Jinny Rhodes went home. It is said that Joe Woltz is to be married soon I do not know who too (perhaps you know his name I think I hered sumthing of it before you left.) also Mollie Robinson I suppose there is no dout she is ingaged to Mr Obrien. I saw Charly S yesterday evening sais he pased through Lexington a few days since was afraid to stop inquired very perticalerly for you is as devoted as ever to Salla I delivered your message to her sais she will write Mrs Woodsen is gon sent her love to you every body sends their love to you I cannot begin to give names, saw miss Mag and Carry at Mrs Prices yesterday evening sent their love Miss Mag and Miss Schloser were quaraling over Mr Kede. Lalla T sais she wants to se you so bad she don't know how to stand it you must cum before March. Mrs Brough spent a day with me last week - Pore thing I feal so sorry for her. I want to go out tomorrow or or next day to se her. Give my love to Lalla I hope she can cum up son to se her. Haven not hered from sister since you went down I wander how poor Martha is you did not el me what you thought of her boy. Wednesday morning. Spent a very plesant evening, with Mrs Wiliams Smith Price Anthony



Hannah Tomsen Word Bonel Woltz am going to Mrs Brouchs this morning Tom is hurraing me, I send you Robs letters you need not rede that part about your self it was not intended for you. O that I could se you and him but for one hour but this is not right, my love to C[harlie]

your pa joins me in love to our dear child MMG

**Lexington, April 2, 1860**

My Dear Wife

Feeling like I had so much to say I hardly know how to begin & I expect when I finish I will have said little to interest you, except to let you know that I feel entirely well, & only need my strength to put me in better health than I was before my attack, but I must confess that regretted, both Friday & Saturday that you were not with me as I did not feel comfortable until yesterday morning, when I am happy to say I rose feeling somewhat more like myself, & have felt better since, but am very tired now, having been in B[an]k all day performing my duties as Teller, & we have had a very heavy day but my acct—this evening was not troublesome, and I feel quite easy & hope tomorrow to be able to go to work in earnest, but I will be careful not to do too much in any day. O Nannie how glad was I to get your kind & unexpected letter, how thoughtful in you to this remember & for fear I should be lonely to cheer me, & what could do this as much as a letter from my dear absent wife, how much I have thought of you since you left, & much I wished Saturday that I had accompanied you, and Sunday when you were writing well do you guess when you think my thoughts were with Nannie, setting alone by the window, & holding communion with my Nannie for well I knew she was thinking of me, & thus I wished much that I was with you & our many dear friends, & any thoughts, then & since have been occupied, with other things pertaining to this & an another world, when soon at best we much leave all that is dear here, for the realities of an other world, & I trust my heart was not saddened but encouraged to use more diligence to make my calling & election sure, feeling my weekness, & the utter helplessness of everything earthly, my determination, is to live nearer to God by the aid of the Holy Spirit that through

the merits of Jesus I may at last gain heaven, & now dear Nannie, as this is Passion week, will you not (I know you will) write with me, morning & night, in \_\_\_isting, with Spirit until, upon there well be poured out a blessing, pray for your Charlie that I may be blessed & you know you are never forgotten by me, & will we not hope that we will receive the blessing, yea let us pray with that faith that will take no denial, & Gods word for it we shall receive the promise, may it be so & when we meet, may it be with new hearts in Christ & faces heaven ward—determining that henceforth let others do as they may we will serve the Lord. I hope my dear Nannie has ere this time entirely recovered her strength is quite well & will so continue I was fearful that you would suffer much from your ride, but was glad to hear you say you felt well when you wrote.

How can I sufficiently thank your dear Ma — for her remembrance of me, that while you all are enjoying so many good things she should be so kind as to send me so great a rarity & that which I love so much It came too late for dinner & I shall try it in the morning, many many thanks to her for it.

Please have the ch[eck] sent to Mr W.

O Nannie it is so lonely here without you it seems like about half living, I went to church Sunday, but was afraid to venture out at night, & although much interested in reading, the silence seemed oppressive & much I wished for Nannie, & would look to see where you would be sitting if here & when Tom came in after church it was such a relief, but Nannie will not, think me unhappy, & thus keep her from enjoying herself, but know that my happiness consist in yours & I know you are enjoying yourself among your many dear friends & at the same time think often of your Charlie, and then I am content & will employ myself & anticipating the pleasure of our meeting & the meeting again with our dear friends. Give my love to all the dear ones at your Pas & also to those on the Hill, & Nannie I know you will excuse this dreadful writing, & composition, as this is the first writing I have attempted & besides am very week & tired & I will promise to try & do better next time, & now will you not write soon again as soon as conve-

nient, & be sure & tell me of your health & how you enjoy yourself, not only with earthly friends, but also with our best our heavenly, until then & ever I am happy to ascribe myself

your affectionate husband C M F

**Lexington, April 13, 1860**

Well the days work is over, & again I find myself seated for a chat with the absent one my dear, fond & affectionate wife. I am happy to still be able to say that I am quite well, and sorry to say am getting as fat as usual. O Nannie how can I express the pleasure your last letter gave me although I had no right to expect it yet I hoped that one would & sure enough the dearest & best of wives, who thinks so much of her Charlie filled his heart with joy to know that he is so thought of and so fondly loved how could I be else than happy with such a wife & dear Nannie your Charlie did not intend that it should be so long before you heard from him but as you say about Friday being my busy day and I did finish work until after night & could not have written then & then the mails changed & thus delayed my letter a day, and I cannot think Nannie supposes for a moment that she is forgotten, ah no, the one loved for so long, as N. G. & now as my wife, the one who shares with me my sorrows & my joys, my fond companion for life, the solace & comfort of every moment could she be forgotten, no indeed & Nannie was only joking. O how sad I felt when I read of your suffering your head, & how much I wish I could have been there, to nurse & bathe, as I am wont to do I imagine Nannie would have taken her accustomed place at least for a while instead of the pillow she had to use, & then when Charlie could have rendered back a little kindness for the much my darling showed me in my sickness, it would have made me so happy to hear you say, O that was so sweet & thus I would have gotten a sweet — would I not. I hope you are entirely well now, please tell me whether you suffer with your back or have those other uncomfortable feelings. I do hope & often pray not. Would rather have had me to nurse you that night than Molly I except so. O I want to see you so much it seems so long since you took your accustomed seat for a little petting.

I had been thinking that it would only two weeks from now when I should see my Nannie, but I know you wish to stay until the 15<sup>th</sup> & by so doing you would have a longer time with your friends, & then the pleasure of an other wedding, & I cannot ask you to come sooner if you wish to stay, but O how can I wait a month longer without seeing my Nannie, but I will not be so selfish as to wish to deprive her of so much enjoyment, because I would have to wait for two weeks longer to be so much happier with her, & as your happiness comes first & it is my ever present desire to promote it, I will try & be content with a widows life a few days longer, although it is mighty hard as I set & look around & see the vacant seat & empty now, no light no sweet smile no happy voice to mingle with mine then indeed I am lonely & feel that all important, that which makes me sure of my life is absent & when I walk the passage my own footsteps seem louder, & “I feel as one who treads alone some banquet hall deserted” and then the oft repeated name the many memories of the virtues and loveliness of the absent & the sigh when alone tells me I did not know how much I loved you until you left. O Father forbid that it is too much. “I am a jealous God.” & let me not sin & arouse that jealousy, lest I meet thy wrath, let not my feelings be other than right loving & living only in thy fear; I know Nannie you have sometimes felt uneasy for me & oft after prayers when you knelt again I thought it was to pray for your husband, was it not, in party and always let us pray together that we may so live as to have our heaven fathers favour, & that we may do nothing to cause his displeasure, in much weakness do I live continually sometimes in hope & then I am sad because of Sin & the uncleanness of my heart but thanks be unto God thy Son hath died yea & is risen again & buried with him, from Sin, we shall be made alive again with him in righteousness, & then not unto us O Lord not unto us but unto thy name be all the glory & so enable me to live that having passed this life in thy service though in much weakness & oft repeated sin save through the merits of him as who bought [sic] us & gave himself for us.

There is not much to write about town. Court is in Session & I suppose will last for

some time Mrs McC. Has moved up town & Mrs I & the girls are to be seen oftener, though Mrs I says she has not unpacked yet as they cannot come to an understanding about the board, I do not know what they will do. Fannie P has come home, but she seems quite lame, I am in hopes she has improved. Mrs Cox is very well although she has had cold & one spell of head ache since she came, she has not *worn* her fine Bonnets yet, I am anxious to see Sallies \$20 – one, (shall I have a couple of the same put by for you). Sallie is here & is very well better than she has been although looking thin. I suppose you were surprised & I expect a little disappointed, when you received Miss B's letter, as I directed it, & may be you thought it was from me, please write me whether you will stay to Sallies wedding or not, if so I can come up with Saturday before & we can come here on Wednesday & if not, I can do the same if you only wish to stay until after Ginnies. My love to all at both homes, & tell your Ma that Tom is here & doing very well; I have not seen very much of him though since you left, saw him yesterday & he was well, & now Nannie excuse what is amiss, receive it from your Charlie who will soon join with you in asking Gods blessing upon each other & believe me your devoted & attached husband Charlie.

I am sorry that I have not more time to write but the up stage just a short time ago came in & hence it is time for the mail to close & I must hurry please excuse then. Tom is not in town, he went out with some student yesterday, spoke of returning this evening but I have not seen him yet. I found the ribbon without the least trouble hope it is the piece you want. & I saw so many nice things in the drawer where it was, which reminded me of the owner, as every thing does that belongs to you and I handle them because you have done so and because I feel like I love any which belongs to you.

And won't we be glad now so soon, & I hope our gladness may be manifested in our gratitude to God because that we are spared thus to meet again & be happy, how I wish I were with you now so that I could pet & nurse you, indeed and I will do so a heap when we meet & when we return home, write me Nannie what

Rob will do as I wish to make my arrangements to come, if he does not come, I will come up Saturday unless you would prefer me to stay until Monday. If so I know you have good reasons for it & certainly, I will make my arrangements to suit yours if possible & now good-night my Nannie, here is a ----- [sic] if you will have it & now may God bless & keep you & yours, save from sin & error & at last take us to glory is the prayer of

your affectionate & devoted husband C M F

I saw Segerwood<sup>83</sup> yesterday all well & neat: improving much write soon

**Lexington, April 17, 1860**

Tuesday evening & work done & now away with Bills & Notes, disct & Interest, Bills, Specie & every thing else for I am going to have a more pleasant time in talking with my dear fond wife, & want to be if possible, (but I know I cannot) as interesting to her as all her letters are to me. O Nannie how welcome was the looked for letter for I thought it would come & then its pleasant & interesting contents I wonder if my Nannie feels as happy to read a letter from me as I do when I read yours, for it seems that I cannot write like you, for ever word appears to have a charm about it & ever letter seems more interesting than the last, & this just the kind I love it was made up of the loved ones thoughts just as she would speak them to me, & Nannie I cannot think you did wrong, in writing Sunday as you did, although under ordinary circumstances I would not think it proper, and I trust that on that same day we both had sweet communion with God & were drawn nearer to him, and Nannie your letters & conversation on this subject always do me good, & encourage me much, because I feel that you do feel for & take an interest in me & your words are so comforting & come from an honest sincere heart – and the Nannie the sweet words which write about your Charlie. Oh! how happy they make me. & make me feel that come in life what will ever will there be a heart to which I can turn, & be sure of love & consolation & then when I think it is the out pouring of the feelings of partner of my

83. Sed Davidson.

bosom & she the so long loved & whose character & example I have admired & tried to follow, she who throws around me the bright rays of sunshine & joy, she who in all her words & actions so gentle & so kind makes me a home & makes that home happy, so happy that the can be none more so, & there should I not be willing to make any sacrifice for such a one, yea, & more than I can do but not more than I wish, will I ever strive to make you happy, & I know you are for you could not love your Charlie as you do & not be happy with him & I know you miss me & want as much to be here & I would be happy if you were & O Nannie how glad I am that you will come home the 18 May, while I was willing if you wished for you to stay this letter would have been written with a heavy heart if it should have been a month before I could have been with my Nannie & now the days will soon pass. Lets see only 11 more & only one Sabbath to spend alone the next with my dear friends, in the good providence of God for I will come up the 28<sup>th</sup> & Nannie I will be almost compelled to come back, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May that will be 5 days away from business & you know I have just missed 3 weeks & my books are not as I would have them & will wish to have them ready for the board the following Saturday which I cannot do if I stay longer. I wish I could stay a week, but we cannot always be gratified in this life. Can you make your arrangements then Nannie to leave the morning after the wedding. I do not remember that you said you wished to stay until 15<sup>th</sup> but I thought so from what you said before you left home, you & Sallie being such good friends, but I know that if Nannie only thought how lonely I now was, & how happy her presence made me she would not keep me a bachelor, any longer for she loves too much & wants to be here too with her husband. And now my dear wife it is my daily prayer that we may be both kept in the right way that we be to each other a guide & taking Gods word for our guide we may be enabled to *point* out the road to heaven & thus living & casting all our care upon him, seeking wisdom from him & trusting alone by faith in his Son's atonement & by walking steadfast unmoveable, & never doubting our way at last be lead of the Holy Spirit to

drink of that fountain of bliss that ever flows as pure so the water of life out from the throe of God, & with all the shining story writes in giving praise unto him whom the angels serve, for it seems to me that we shall then have more cause for joy than they, in that they have never sined [sic] & always bear in glory, but we who in Adam fell, & died & thus to be made alive again through the death & resurection of his own dear Son, will we not then feel as they cannot feel, because if the great love, of God to us is that he gave his only Son to die that we might live O! how sweet to me is that sentence in the morning service where in thanking him for his mercies "but above all for their inestimable love in the give of they only Son to die for us", may his love fill our hearts more & more until we shall be made happy in heaven. I have no news of much importance, Tom is well, but you will get his letter with this, his clothes suit him very well indeed, we have a prospect of a new home after awhile as the Bk speaks of building in connexion with Pettigrew across the street & if so, we will occupy the dwelling part of the house. Miss B enquires often about you, & so do many others Mag & Mary Rowland were here to day have gone home Mr Johnson is away so Sallie is a g<sup>s</sup> [grass] widow.

I am sorry indeed to hear of Mammy's illness and write with you in the hope, with prayer that she may recover, & is ever now much better. My best love to all, at both homes, I have written to Wm & Jas & will write to Sister<sup>84</sup> this week, & will try & pay all my debts. And now Nannie will give her Charlie the pleasure of soon receiving an other letter for dear I do love so much to read your affectionate & kind words of love & Christian comfort, & now may our Father mercifully look upon you, give you health. Keep from sin & save us both at last is the prayer of

your affectionate & fondly attached husband  
Charlie F

84. Charlie's brothers, William and James H. H.; his sister Mary Virginia.

**Lexington, April 20, 1860**

My Dear Wife

Again has the regular time arrived for me to hold a little pleasant chat with you and although I cannot promise to be very interesting, know that Nannie feels the same way about my letters that I do with regard to hers, for she has told me she loves to get them & not from vanity but from her answers, do I know she feels that they are always welcome, although I know they are not written in the same easy pleasant & interesting way that yours are, and now in the certainty of getting one those much loved & highly prized mementoes of your affection, on the morrow, I wait with impatience the arrival of the mail. I am still happy to say that my health continues good and I have reached again 175 at which mark I hope I may stay. O I do wish & always pray that my Nannie might be given perfect health unnecessarily, anxious about you, but how can I be otherwise when I love you so much and want to see you enjoy if possible, that which is so important to happiness, health and then please excuse me Nannie if I seem over anxious, for I cannot help feeling so, and I trust that my prayers for your strength are in accordance with Gods will & offered only with an eye single to his glory, while thus it would be for our mutual happiness, & when I pray daily for your body, I never neglect to couple therewith the interests of your immortal soul which is of more importance. O how sweet to feel that morning and eve when I pray my fond wife too retires to the secret of her own chamber, and me thinks I can see her bend in prayer as she is accustomed, and there offers up with me prayer for our guidance, mutually & for her husband absent from her for a season, and will not these prayers be answered, and they not offered in earnest with faith & has not God promise to answer such. O let us trust him, for all time & in all things casting our whole care upon him for he careth for us, it is needless I know Nannie to ask you to pray for your weak wondering erring husband that he may be guided by the good shepard, knowing his voice & know of him may be led in paths of holiness and at last having been guides, guided by the word of God & comforters to each other pointing out the way of life, & holding of sweet communion together

of heavenly things we may be admitted at last, into the kingdom, prepared for all the finally faithful & all we ask is & will be through the merits of a crucified Savior, who gave his life for us dead in Sin that we through him might have life eternal

Miss B. says she is looking for a letter from you Sallie says that she is so busy making sheets &c that she has not time to write, all are well.

O I am getting impatient & mark every day as the time approaches for me to go to see my little darling & only one week from the time she will be reading this in the providence of God. I shall have the happy privilege [sic] of being with you & my many dear friends, & then we will soon return to our own home, and Charlie will be no longer lonely & feel dull & time wear heavily because she who makes my life happy will then be with me & Nannie I did not think you would wish to stay away any longer because I knew full well the feelings of that noble loving heart; that its pleasure was most exalted when we are together; and have I not one of the best & kindest wives, without selfishness and whose great pleasure, is to give her Charlie happiness, and may I ever be enabled to appreciate it and by all that I can do strive to make her happy, but you say it does not need any trying it is so already, & may God grant that it may never be less. O how can I sufficiently praise my kind good wife, truly do I feel that such is from the Lord, and then I pray that the trust thus committed to me will be faithfully kept & that always I may from my hart [sic] praise her & thank God that you were given to me, for a comfort not only in the things of this life but also of those for the next. and now good-night Nannie, may angels watch over you while you sleep & may you wake with thanks-giving on your heart, unto God who has kept you thought an other night. and now I will wait to see whether the expected letter comes tomorrow. and sure enough Nannie did not disappoint me, for my letter came, but dear I was not prepared for the sad news it communicated as Tom received by the last Mail & letter from Robb, and as he did not mention Mammy's name I was certain she was out of danger. O how sad—death for the first time yet

such is life—death swallowed up in victory, the grave robbed of its sting, & peace now in eternal, sunshine we are permitted to hope is the gain over our loss of the loved & faithful servant. O Nannie I feel so sad, & feel so much for you all, but let us look to God & hence forth live more faithful, that when we too are called, we shall welcome the messenger with joy.

With regard to my coming on Nannie the reason why I proposed Saturday was that I would then have longer to stay if I came Monday, I would have to leave the same time that I would if I came on Saturday & that would be but a short time you know, however if Rob will come down so that I can go up with him Saturday I will do so & we can come down on the stage Thursday & I can work, hard & late Friday night & get my books ready for the, which is my reason for coming home so soon, but I feel almost compelled under the circumstances in which we are plac\_\_\_ have a statement for them at their regular meeting

**Lexington, May 18, 1860**

And sure enough my dear wife not disappoint me, last night when I was looking, so eagerly for a letter from her, and I am glad to hear that you are well, except what you feel from fatigue which I expected, knowing you would have to be about so much, and dear Nannie be careful, I felt so strangely about you Wednesday night just before I retired, and then had uneasy dreams also about my darling, but as I do mind such things yet I could not help feeling a little anxiety more than usual, but why when I had committed you to the care of our heavenly father, and I tried to feel that he would watch over you and keep you from all harm, and so I continued pray he may, not only of body but of soul, and keep your mind from wandering and thinking too much of earthly things, and as you say in your letter may be enabled to enjoy the exercises of the interesting occasion and return to your waiting husband with firmer hopes and more earnest desires after holiness, and long may God spare us to be a comfort to each other, and *that* I guided by the kind and mild manners and life of the dear one whom God has given may be better enabled to buffet with the outer world,

feeling the sweet influence thrown around me in our own sweet home, by her who has for so long been the guide of my life, and the director of my aims although not until lately was she aware of it, and how sweet to know that this one is living, to make her Charlie happy, and though absent, does not forget him among the many friends with whom she meets. truly do I wish I were with, but as it cannot be, will Nannie except this hurriedly written letter as a substitute I believe the longer you are away the more I desire to come, and I believe I was almost ready to yield to my desires and take you by surprise, but it is too late now, and I shall have to be content to let my darling enjoy herself alone and wait until she comes home to enjoy it with her.

We had a severe hail storm yesterday I have not seen any thing like since the one in 1848 and last night had an other thunder storm and I was so lonely, and felt how different it was when Nannie was here, and how sweet and peaceful, the same God who makes the terrible storm without, makes the sweet peace and harmony of our hearts, and of our home within. And so people will not let you be a married lady well if they dont believe it tell them to ask Mr Ambler<sup>85</sup> and from a recollection of what passed between us (if he did pass it wrong) I am certain he can testify to the contrary; well I know that there is one any how that has not fotgotten it, and in the kind letter before me is an other proof, for while she could find among her many friends, plenty to occupy her time and thoughts yet she withdraws from them and writes her absent husband, and in such away that he feels that he comes first in her thoughts, and whose plesure is considered & happiness thought of at all times. I have no news to write since you left, for town has been unusually dull, more so than it has been since the Small-pox times. I am afraid that your Pa left before you received my letter and cannot therefore purchase us a bedstead, I am sorry that I did not write sooner, but I can send to some of my friends there to buy one for me.

And now dear Nannie I hope you will overlook this short letter, and I feel must not be interesting in itself, for I cannote write in the morn-

85. Rev. Thomas M. Ambler married Charlie and Nannie.

ing, but I felt like you would like to hear from your Charlie soon, (Aren't I vain.) and therefore, wrote immediately on the receipt of your letter, for I could not set up for it last night as the rain kept the stage back so late but if I had been certain that it was coming I expect I should have waited longer than I did but I thought Nannie would wait to answer my first letter and I knew I had not written it in time as it take so long for it to go to Ch<sup>e</sup> Oh! you are the best of wives, so thoughtful of your Charlie and writing to him, when you were so tired and surrounded by so many friends. O I will pet and nurse you a heap when you come and we will have a nice time this pleasant weather, walking together, but now darling must take my letter to the office and with much love to your Ma and all our friends. I will stop that which I wish I could have made more interesting though so pleasant a morning chat with my absent darling.

Write soon Nannie if you have time and do not over do your strength, and soon I shall see you in the providence of God whose care and blessing I pray may abide with you & keep you in all dangers of soul and body. Remember me when you pray and believe me

your fond and devoted husband C M F

**Charlottesville, May 19, 1860**

My dear Charlie

I am sorry to say I am not able yet to tell you when I am coming or how for there is such a bustle & no finding out anything. Pa & Ma spoke of going Wednesday, if they do, of course I cannot go with them, as we would get there too late for the boat, & I should have to wait until Friday.

Ah! here comes another sweet missive of love, from Charlie, again passed mine on the road and how could I help but remember my dear Charlie, but I am in a great hurry now, & only write to let you know I am coming sometime or other. Ah Charlie I feel so sorry for you, & am almost sorry I came, but I know you do not wish so. And you are so lonely I expect I had better come Monday with the Dr, but I do not like to ask you to sit up, on an uncertainty & be disappointed perhaps, but I cannot do any

better my dear & please excuse me for being so unsettled. I have been at the depot, and met Mr Spears & Sallie<sup>86</sup> and was with them about 10 mins. Mr S was in a perfect fidget, scarcely noticed me they had some friends with them.

Oh! Charlie I can't write. I don't know whether you can make anything of this or not but please excuse it, for it is time to fix for church, but I don't like to write in this way to my Charlie. Don't feel uneasy about me dear I'll hold out as long as I'm here. I reckon but expect if jolt over that road from Staunton I'll be pretty well used up, but hope for the best. We've had some of the mud here, but today is lovely & I hope it will be pretty well dried up by to-morrow. Why didn't you come? I would not have been surprised at all to have seen you. But from Charlie I ought not so to write for it will make you feel sad, but ah we'll be happy together when I return. And now must stop, & hope soon to see my dear dear husband who is so sincere, affectionate, indeed everything that's good to this one who daily prays, that she may be enabled to be the same to him, & that he may be long spared to her, & both may endeavor to keep each other in the straight path, that leads to glory & to God.

Your fondly attached, Nannie.

**Fincastle, June 21, 1860**

My dear Daughter

Your very welcome letter was rec'd by me yesterday afternoon. We had, when it arrived, a house full of company. Viz. Mrs Jno T Shanks & children (wouldn't you like to have seen her?) Mr & Mrs Glasgow & children, Tommy Woodson, (his Mother was unwell and was not present) Dr. Wms & Lady, Mitty & Sallie Lancaster & we had of course a very pleasant time with such friends. We had ho. [however] Plenty of music on the Piano, which is one of the sweetest toned instruments in the town, and is the admiration of all the Amateurs about the Village. I never saw Ella, in such an ecstasy, than when it arrived. But she will be with you on the 4<sup>th</sup> and will tell you all the news, and that will be more interesting to you than if I was to write about it

86. Mr. Charles Spears and his daughter, Sallie Spears.

and will thereby save me some mechanical labour. It w'd be cruel, to her, to anticipate all she may have to tell you. Therefore excuse me. You know I dont like to write long letters and I don't want to disappoint in this

I was very much in hopes, that Tom wd have stood a first rate examination not a good one only but a very good one. I do not think I am mistaken when I think he has mental capacity equal to most youths and superior to many. He may probably be a little lazy, possibly don't study as hard as he might do. By the way, ask him if he dont want some more money, and the am't the necessary amount and let me know how much. I expect, as usual he is "hard up". If he is not, then his financial condition is entirely unlike most of folks hereabouts. I speak expiementally of one of the inhabitants of this place. But, thank goodness, I have got Jas McD[owell/]. receipt in full, and of course feel relieved of a heavy load th'o I had to borrow a small am't of money to enable me to do so. Do you remember the man who at the union prayer meeting in Chville closed his prayer very unexpectedly and abruptly by saying Amen. So I, following in his footsteps say

good bye Thos G Godwin

Mr Ambler leaves us in October. It is thought he is to be married, when I dont know

Chk recd and will be attended to

Cousin Eliza P. is going to S. and Ella will go with her

T G G

Mr Baker preaches for us next Sunday—our late pastor

**Fincastle, Sept. 28, 1860**

My Dear Sister

You cannot help but be surprised when you see my name at the end of this scrawl. I do assure you I rejoice to date a letter once more from "old Fincastle," I left Munroe [60 miles east of Fincastle] one week ago to-day and came over on mare backs. The season had almost closed, there being only a very few persons there, it got so lonesome that I concluded I would put up my pegs and made for a country, to say the

least of it, more civilized. I should not be at all surprised if I had concluded my stay in Monroe. I will tell you more about it however when I see you, which I hope will be shortly. And now for other matters. Robb recd a very interesting letter from Tom this evening. He began by saying "he did not intend to write but once in two weeks hereafter; that he had heard of the negro insurrection and that about twenty were in jail that they had a Bell and Everett [flag] pole there and that we ought to have one here, that he supposed Balenger Hype, Brown, Hazlewood Mays would make a few explanatory remarks on some previous occasion if we raised a pole, and then wound up. I think on the whole, from a two weeks gathering, it was one of the most interesting epistles I have had the pleasure of reading for some time. Well, on last Saturday night Capt Figgat heard some right loud singing in the direction of Mr Tom Nelson's, who now resides where Levi Simpson formerly tabernacled. He came up street and got some gentle men and went down there and found some 20 or 25 negroes holding a prayer meeting. It was after one o'clock they took down the names of all of them and on Monday morning they investigated the matter. You never saw a worse scared sett of creatures in your life. Mr Rice was one of the leaders. They whipped old Tommy and let the others go. I think they ought to have given all of them a little. Old Tom was ordered to leave the county by next Tuesday morning. I do not believe they met there for any thing else but to sing and pray and enjoy themselves in their own peculiar way. There were none there except members of the church. Capt F[iggat] got a letter from Mrs F[iggat] last night. She says Mollie is no better. They are very uneasy about her. Cousin Eliza has gone to Archys to pay Do a visit as she has never been to see her especially I suppose I will be down about the fair and will bring you up may be. I am in a great hurry, as you see, to get this letter in the mail Henry is quite well and running all about. Mrs Whittle died yesterday. Nothing more from

Your ever affectionate Bro Rob

**Fincastle, Oct 17, 1860**

My dear Husband

All alone this morning except Grandma's<sup>87</sup> company. I will try & communicate with you having such a favorable opportunity. But where in I fail to interest, or if you fail to decipher the penmanship, ascribe it truly to the head, for the essential to good composition (a clear head), is certainly not mine this morning, for my particular friend, a cold in my head has intruded upon me another visit, which though as yet, not so bad as the last visit, is disagreeable enough to make me feel quite stupid, & good for nothing.

Though I tried last night a foot bath, & molasses stew, it still seems to keep fast hold & will have to go its own way I suppose.

You will wonder how I was so unfortunate as to obtain this disagreeable guest. Will notwithstanding the remonstrance of my good Ma, I went to church Sunday in a slight rain, as I had my bonnet on before I discovered it, coming back, it came down pretty fast, and as I had left my overshoes at home, behind the door, they did me no good as far as preventing the water saturating my gaiter, was concerned, though I thought I dried them immediately, yet the consequences show, that I was not careful enough. But I hope I will soon be better, and don't give yourself any uneasiness my dear. I was invited to spend yesterday with Mrs Gray, in company with Mrs Wms & her niece Mrs Jones, Mrs Anthony, Wilson, & Ma, & had a very pleasant day, except I felt very badly part of the time, & the parlor was so cold, we suffered, & I felt my cold getting worse. When we got home, about dusk, we found a message from Mrs Brugh to Ma to come out to Mr Callaghan's as Mag was quite ill, having given birth to a babe in the morning which is dead, & she had been sick for several days. Pa thought it best that Ma should go out last night, so she went on horseback, and I don't know when she will return, but hope this evening. I feel uneasy about Mag, but hope the best.

I haven't seen Your Ma but a little while Saturday & have been expecting her down, but have seen more of them since Sunday evening

87. Nannie's paternal grandmother, Nancy McCarrell Godwin, age 83.

James [i.e., James H.H. Figgat] was to see me, I am afraid some of them may be sick. I would go up but feel so badly. I hope my dear Charlie has been very well, & hasn't been very lonely. Rob left yesterday morning for Monroe again, went in a buggy with Mr Peyton and hopes to get back by Saturday night, but was disappointed in not going Monday, and having a good deal of packing to do, it will take him some time. He has heard of no other place as yet. Measles are prevailing very generally here & half Mr Gould's school has it. I hope you won't take them when you come up.

Charlie please try & make your stay as long as possible when you come up, for they all think so hard of you at home that you speak of staying such a short time and come so seldom. G[innie?] Moffett speaks of coming up with you, so let her know if you can when you will be there, if you come that way. Aunt Jane says we must stay there a night returning. They all seem to think my stay here is scandalously short, but I reckon you will think it will be long enough. How does Tom come on? Have you been to see him yet? Rob & I gave them all a good scolding for him, & Ma was quite shocked that he hadn't received a letter from home & pities him exceedingly. Bob, said he wrote him a long letter, & expect it was a rich one.

James McD[owell], thinking last spring there was some probability of his having to fight a duel, resigned his seat in the Legislature, but had forgotten it entirely, until a short time ago his Excellency accepted it & issued a proclamation to that effect whereupon he McD was much astonished & forthwith announced himself a candidate for re-election, also Mr [Oliver] O B Gray & Mr Joe Carper. The latter will stand a very good chance of election. Oliver told me he didn't intend electioneering.

This morning was beautiful & bright but now looks as if it would rain every minute. I should like very much to get a letter from my sweetheart this evening, but don't like to expect it fearing I may be disappointed. I reckon Bob will be horrified if he finds I've written again to you, for he thought the other was entirely too soon after leaving home, & if he had a wife that

and equipped for fighting. It made us feel as if the hour of conflict had almost come; and one of the speakers said 'if old Abe did come, he would fight him from the mountain to the seaboard.'

*Daily Dispatch*: April 13, 1861  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Raising a Secession flag — Political Affairs  
Fincastle, Va., April 8, 1861

Some eight or ten days past we raised a secession pole and flag [the coat of arms of Virginia on one side, and the seven stars of the Southern Confederacy on the other. Per April 8 Daily Dispatch in our usually quiet town. Hundreds witnessed the raising, and, as it was ascending the beautiful pole, (81 feet height,) our excellent Brass Band gave us that soul-stirring air, "Dixie." Secession speeches were then made by some of our citizens, and the day passed off quietly. A great change — I judge from many that I have conversed with — has come over the minds of the people in this section, since things have taken the course they have. The people are beginning to arouse themselves, seeing the danger to which they are subject by waiting. They are getting impatient — the suspense the State Convention is causing cannot be longer submitted to, and it is denounced as the greatest "humbug" affair that ever assembled in your city, as a deliberative body, called together by the people to vindicate the honor of the Old Dominion. How long are we to be kept waiting before they arrive at some conclusion? We (in the mountains up here) read your excellent paper every day, but can never see anything from the Convention that is palatable to our taste. They sit, talk, and make long-winded speeches, while the enemy of Virginia is preparing his incendiary plans to succumb her sons.

We had speeches to-day (Court day) from gentlemen, all of whom were in favor of secession.

*Daily Dispatch*: April 16, 1861  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Onward March of Secession: Old Botetourt  
throwing flags to the breeze  
Fincastle, Botetourt County, Va., April 12th,  
1861

The secession move is making rapid progress among us. At the election for delegates to the Convention our county gave a large majority for the Union ticket, and if the question was now put to the voters of Botetourt, I believe there

would do that he'd thrash her. And I expect, Charlie will be rather surprised at the reception of this, but not disagreeably I hope for I thought it would give him pleasure, & I might as well be doing this as suffering & complaining about my cold so you will prise it doubly I know. But I think I'll stop now & lie down & try what good that will do me. Does Charlie dream about his "little darling?" Oh! I love that epithet from him I love best, he says it so sweetly & affectionately, but he is always so. I reckon this would make some of them bucketty, so I'll stop. Write soon & remember your dear one in morning & evening offering to a throne of grace. But why need I say this, for I am assumed that I am always thus remembered, as that I do remember you. Good-bye a ----- [sic] from

your own dear wife. Nannie

I have just received your most welcome letter & am so glad I can send you another immediately James F is sitting by me, and sends love &c. Ma has not yet returned & there has been no one to see me today & I feel pretty badly. Oh! for a little nursing! But this will just make you feel badly & I'll stop.

Your "little darling"

*Daily Dispatch*: December 7, 1860  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Amsterdam,<sup>88</sup> Botetourt Co., Va., December 4th, 1860.

Politics are running high in this county, I assure you. There was a great military gathering in Fincastle of volunteer companies on Saturday last, both from this county and Montgomery<sup>89</sup>. A very abundant barbecue was served up in a large upper room of the Court-House, attended by a large number of ladies Quite a number of Union, and several disunion speeches were made by the young officers and other hot bloods, I am sorry to say, the secession spirit is on the increase, still there is an overwhelming majority in the county for the Union, among that number we include a large proportion of the Breckinridge men. It was an interesting, but affecting sight, to see so many fine-looking young men in uniform, all armed

88. 6 miles from Fincastle.

89. Montgomery County, 47 miles from Botetourt Co. Population 10,617 (1860; 21% slaves, 2219).

[www.virginiaplaces.org/population/pop1860numbers.html](http://www.virginiaplaces.org/population/pop1860numbers.html)

would be five secessionists to one Union man in the county.

In front of our Court-House there was raised and still stands, one of the prettiest secession flags in the State, it being fifteen feet long and about 6 feet wide. Upon one side is beautifully painted Virginia's coat of arms, on the other seven stars, and the motto "Union with our Southern sisters."

There has been thrown to the breeze at least half a dozen respectable sized flags in our town from private residences--one at our Male and one at our Female Academies.

This afternoon was set apart for the raising of another, by the young men of the Male Academy; but it will have to be postponed, as it is now pouring down rain.

Guess "Uncle Sam" would be furious, if he had seen, as I did, the United States mail coach leaving our town this morning, with four flags of the Confederate States gracefully waving--one from the head of each horse.--We don't care for his rage — we are bound to go for secession, right or wrong, and give it a trial.

Our mountain boys are all excitement, daily expecting to hear of a conflict at Charleston. When it does come, old Botetourt will be represented in the Confederate Army by her sons, who will never permit a foe to walk unmolested over the soil of a sister State.

When war begins, the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia will, for a time, cease to echo the report of the hunter's unerring rifle. The deer may feed in repose, for its enemy will be on the track of a less noble animal — the Yankee of New England.

To-morrow the ladies of our town propose presenting to the Botetourt Dragoons a beautiful flag — such an one as so noble a band of men deserve. I wish them a bright and happy day.

We claim to have one of the best drilled dragoon companies in the State, and believe them every one true as steel and all right for South Carolina, unless it is with one exception, and that one has been dishonored by voting to aid the Federal Government in coercing a seceding State.

I'll keep you advised of the progress of secession. W.

April 23, 1861

*Fincastle Rifles enlisted for one year (Co. D, 11<sup>th</sup> Regt. Va. Vols.)<sup>90</sup>*

*Daily Dispatch: April 29, 1861  
Richmond Dispatch*

Botetourt.

This county is rallying gloriously to the call of the Commonwealth. The Valley Sentinel says:

'The Fincastle Rifles, Capt. Thompson, 80 strong — as brave-hearted boys as ever burnt powder — the first to organize in the county — the first to enter the service of the State--left Fincastle on Tuesday, to rendezvous at Bonsack's, in obedience to the orders of General Preston. Yes, left Fincastle, and left not a dry eye nor a tearless cheek behind them.--They left as we would have them leave, not with a senseless smile or self conceited smirk upon their visages, but with minds made up, ready to do and to dare, and if needs be die, in behalf of their proud old mother.

May 17, 1861

*Botetourt Dragoons enrolled for active service at Fincastle: Co. C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt. Va. Cav.<sup>91</sup>*

*Rufus H. Peck recorded in his diary, "We marched off gaily... following the flag presented to us by the Botetourt ladies<sup>92</sup> and carried by Wm. McCue... We were cheered on our way by the waving of kerchiefs and throwing of bouquets as we passed on, following the blue ridge road... Our next stop was at Liberty, now called Bedford City. Here the kind people of the town took us into their homes and entertained and accommodated us for the night. We were welcomed into every home and invited to stop with them again if we should pass that way."<sup>93</sup>*

May 17, 1861

*Birth of Nannie and Charlie's first child, Thomas Godwin Figgat.*

*Daily Dispatch: May 20, 1861  
Richmond Dispatch*

Affairs in Virginia

...Our market is well supplied with everything that we wish, and prices as low as could be desired.

90. Wallace, *Guide to Virginia Military*, p. 95.

91. Wallace, *Guide to Virginia Military*, p. 41.

92. Botetourt Dragoon's 1860 flag at the Museum of the Confederacy and [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/media\\_player?mets\\_filename=evr5190mets.xml](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evr5190mets.xml)

93. Peck, *Reminiscences*.

enraged at the idea of being disappointed.-- All hoped it was true, as we are satisfied, that the march of the enemy through our mountain gorges will result in the complete destruction of every devil of them.

The militia are rapidly coming in, in obedience to the Proclamation of Gov. Letcher. Sharp-Shooter.

**Fairfax C H,<sup>94</sup> Tuesday, July 2, 1861**

My Dear Brother<sup>95</sup>

I would have written to you much sooner but when I tell you some thing of what I have to do, you will excuse me. Your kind & most welcome letter was received about a week ago & read with much pleasure. I was glad to hear that Nannie was doing so well [following the birth of Charlie and Nannie's first son on May 17], & were so nigh convalescence. I hope she is by this time entirely well & that Thos James<sup>96</sup> is improving & becoming a fine healthy child. Is he pretty, handsome, ugly or how I imagine a little red faced sub nosed crying creature. I don't know. Yet if he is so he may afford you the same delight if he were the most perfect formed of all creatures.

We left Lynchburg Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst & arrived at Manassas Junction the next Saturday. We marched from 20 to 30 miles a day. The roads were very dusty & the heat exceedingly oppressive. I fared a little better on account of being guard over a fellow who had been drunk. I did not have to march in ranks, my only duties being to keep him from getting any thing to drink. We were treated with the utmost kindness by the citizens almost all the way, especially till we got to Orange. There was a marked difference. In Madison again we found the people friendly. In this county they are not well disposed toward us & we have to pay for everything we get & must be very particular who we get from. Monday we were ordered from Manassas to Centerville [~10 miles] & when we got to Centerville found orders to come to this place. We are encamped in a very pretty field by the

94. Fairfax Court House, capital of Culpeper County; population 12, 063, 55% slaves.

95. Assumed to be written to Charlie by his brother, James H. H. Figgat, per Library of Virginia.

96. Charlie and Nannie actually named their son: Thomas Godwin Figgat.

A Fincastle correspondent recommends that town as a pleasant, safe and healthful retreat to all who, during our difficulties, would make it a home. The society is good, religious advantages ditto, and there are two excellent hotels — all of which we can endorse. ...

Tomorrow the Botetourt Dragoons, Capt. Pitzer, leave for Lynchburg. Already Botetourt has nobly done her duty, having now five companies in service.

*Daily Dispatch: June 11, 1861  
Richmond Dispatch*

Excitement about Fincastle: The people spring to arms — exciting scenes, &c.

Fincastle, June 8, 1861

Thursday morning last a rumor reached our little village that 11,000 Ohio troops were marching through Western Virginia; that they had burned Lewisburg and the White Sulphur Springs the evening before, and were then marching upon Covington.

It would be impossible to give you the slightest idea of the excitement produced by such a report. A meeting was called immediately, to consider what was best to be done. Runners were started to different points to ascertain the truth. To myself was reserved the privilege of going to the seat of reported action, for which point I was soon ready and equipped. After a ride of seventeen miles I ascertained that the alarm was a false one.

On my return I beheld such scenes as would have gladdened the heart of President Davis himself if he could have been present, and would have made Abraham "tremble in his boots" ' if he could have had a sly peep. At every turn of the road, men, women and children were seen armed with rifles, bowie-knives, axes, hoes, rocks, sticks, &c., &c., waiting for the arrival of the enemy.

This is a fair expose of the feelings of Western Virginia, East of Kanawha county, and should the day come when the Ohio men feel inclined to march through this section of country, my word for it, a stump-tail ox in fly time would be more comfortable.

I learned that 3,000 men were in and around Lewisburg, anxiously awaiting their coming. Six hundred were on the march from Alleghany, five hundred from Monroe, and as many were ready to march from this county and Craig.

When these people learned that the report was a false one, many threw down their arms,

side of the woods—no shade & sun very hot. Tuesday we pitched our tents & Wednesday a party was sent out on picket duty. I went about 2 or so miles below C. H. on the road to Fall's Church where the enemy are encamped. We were then about 3 or so miles from them. Four of us stood together, on our horses. Thursday we returned from picket about 9 o'clock & were called to arms about 12 to go on a reconnoitering expedition. A part of ours a part of the Franklin went to gether about 50 in all

We went to within ½ mile of an encampment of 300 Zouaves<sup>97</sup> & one regular U. S. trooper with his horse & accoutrements. There were about 30 Zouaves & 6 troopers within call but they ran without firing a gun. Cowards they are. We of course beat a hasty retreat with our prisoners, as we were so near the body of the enemy Friday & Saturday we went through the regular routine of picket duty scouting & standing guard at the camp. Saturday evening we received an order to *march* to Leesburg immediately. We called in the pickets & got ready to leave. We arose at 3 o'clock & by 5 were prepared for the journey. Most of us had gotten on our horses, when Henry Payne asked a Franklin man to hand his gun. As he took it up, it went off & one shot hit Capt Pitzer in the left leg just below the knee & striking a sinew took an upward direction & went some six or eight inches. The wound is quite a serious one but not dangerous. He leaves this evening for his uncle's Mr Wise of Culpeper. Albert Pitzer also received a slight wound in the front part of his thigh. It was only a scratch

*Daily Dispatch*: July 11, 1861  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Military Matters — Arrest — Good Appointment.

Fincastle, Va., July 6th, 1861.

Botetourt has done nobly in sending her brave and gallant sons to the field to resist Northern aggression, and to aid in driving back the base hirelings of Lincoln. Five companies have already been mustered into service, and two more are in process of formation. They are composed mostly of our strong, healthy, mountain boys, and when the time comes for them to

97. Regiments organized from Union soldiers adopted the Zouave name and the North African-inspired uniforms.

strike for their homes and liberty, they will win for themselves a bright place in the annals of history.

Our town was thrown into some excitement on last Friday, occasioned by the arrest of a supposed Yankee, by Capt. Figgat and one of his privates.

Said Yankee upon a close examination by Capt. F., adduced evidence proving himself to be a loyal citizen of Virginia, and was consequently discharged from custody, with an expression of regret that in such perilous times the necessity existed for the exercise of such a rigid course towards strangers.

This community feels greatly indebted to Capt. Figgat for his untiring vigilance and activity in arresting all suspicious characters, and the duties incumbent upon such an office could not be better discharged by any one than he upon whom it is imposed.

**Lexington, July 24, 1861**

My Dear Wife

Your kind & welcome letter was rec yesterday & I was glad to hear that you & the little darling were well & hope you may be permitted to enjoy the good health. I am well & have been so. Crise<sup>98</sup> give me plenty to eat. nothing extra. had fish to day & will have chicken tomorrow, you need not be uneasy about this part of the housekeeping and as for the rest it can keep itself

You asked about Sunday, the stage did not get in until that morning & Mr N could not preach, but delivered a short, sermon or lecture at the P Church & then preached for us in the evening & I have been patrolling, waiting for the stage, setting up with Willie M C [McClury], I slept some 2 hours after dinner & read some in the papers but hope the day was not passed without some improvement in other things. Willie M C strange to say still lives with a good prospect of getting well. Mrs Jas White, Ned Graham & McCues all have daughters

Our militia go to Fairfield tomorrow, & will try there to organise 4 companies of vol-trs. To make up our quota, but I doubt if they succeed & if not we will send off about 800—we are

98. 45 year old female Mulatto employed by Charles Miles Figgat per U.S. 1860 census/slave registry.

preparing tents & knap-sacks canteens &c & trying to make them as comfortable as possible. I believe there is no other news here except from the way, Dr. Joe McClung came home last night from M[anasses]. he was there Sunday & assisted in dressing the wounded, he gives a very minute & interesting account, our companies were all in the battle & in the very thickest, but thanks unto a merciful providence, we suffered but little in comparison with the danger, yet many of our familiar have to mourn the dead. In the L. H. V. [Liberty Hall Volunteers] we lost five killed. Bradly, Bell brother of Jno C. Paxton Ott & C Utz supposed to have died soon. But of this you know, Willie Anderson badly wounded with a Minei in the knee & may loose his leg. Bradly was struck with a shell & so mutilated & as not to be recognized afterwards, Bill was buried at home today, & the others I understand on the field, of the Rifles but one was killed dead. McCluer, son of the shoe maker in town – Sed Davidson, supposed to be mortally wounded & most all were wounded more or less none others serious Neff shot twice but would not leave the field, but continued to pick his men & swearing there went another of the rascals. – Of D & P's one was killed, stranger to us Bow B. struck on the nose with a ball & fell from his horse but not much hurt, except his features Dr. P. struck in the leg with a piece of shell but not hurt & only two more of his new slightly wounded Of the Greys. Four are reported killed. John Moffett & Jas McCorkle, Wms older brother leaving a wife & two children. The others we have not heard, do not know how many wounded, I hear that poor John will be brought home to night & buried tomorrow. It is sad to thing [sic] he has been taken off & without being ready, may the Lord have pardoned his & the sins of all who have been killed. Willie Page who was in the Cumberland Rifles was shot dead on the field, his body will be here to night & buried tomorrow

It is said that our [Rockbridge] Rifles & the L. H. V. [Liberty Hall Volunteers] crossed bayonets with the N Y Zouaves, & whipped them back<sup>99</sup> Sandy Pendleton counted 70 of them in one pile, there piled up in some places 4 deep & dreadfully mutilated with cannon shot. Gen

99. Battle of Manassas was fought three days earlier.

Jackson was maj lost the index finger on the left hand. It was hanging by a piece of the skin & he pulled it off & threw it away. Put his hand in a sling and kept on with his command. I have to patrol to night & will close & give you any news we may receive to night, which I shall think would interest you & that you may not hear from other sources

Thursday evening but I have no additional news of importance but what you get in the papers some of our wounded came home last night but none of the killed have arrived & I judge they will not now, as they have been buried on the field. – I enclose you a correct list of our casualties. Sed D[avidson] died before his parents got to him. It is reported of Frank Paxton that he with some few of his company became separated form the remainder, & he met a Georgia regiment flying & in disorder, their standard bearer shot down, & Frank seized their colors & rushed forward & cried to them to follow, & they did rally and followed him & he seated on a cannon waved the flag in triumph [sic] & they continued the fight. He did not come for a long time & he was thought to be killed. But excaped [sic] unhurt.

But you no doubt have enough of war without me making up my letter with such items, but O what cause for gratitude we have for if God had not been on our side, what could we have done. O glorious victory, wondrous power but unto God belongs all the glory. & O. that all our people may realize his hand & may we all unite in giving unto him all the glory

I suppose there is no doubt but that they have Ned C. as Massie received a letter from Nanni C stating that they had been telegraphed to that effect & Ned Norgrove writes that they have Bob Lincoln Ned sent home a ball that struck him on the leg it was spent & did him no damage. Wm Patton had been sick, but got better, got drunk & died Brooks not Brooke died from sickness & great many of our men were not on the field, from sickness But now it is time for the mail to close & with best love to all, & hoping to hear good news from Jas & Rob, & with love to the little brat, & many kisses & a spanking

I remain your devoted husband CM Figgat

*Daily Dispatch*: August 5, 1861  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Deeds of Botetourt boys.

--We are always glad to announce manly and gallant exploits by the brave boys of Botetourt, and with peculiar pride and pleasure we chronicle the following:--In the fight at Bull Run, Lieut. W. J. Price, of the Botetourt Dragoons, we learn, killed two men and took two prisoners with his own hands. On the day after the fight Mr Lewis Nofsinger, of the Fincastle Rifles, came upon three of the enemy with loaded guns — he drew his gun to fire upon them, when they cried out “don’t shoot; we’ll surrender,” and he marched the three into camp as prisoners, bringing their loaded guns with him. When the incidents of the battle are fully told we expect to have many more such accounts to give of our bold boys. Each of them, we know, will have a good account to render of himself. No cowards or poltroons are there among them.--Valley Sentinel.

**Lexington, Aug. 5, 1861**

My Dear Wife

I had intended that you should have had a letter from me by last mail, but I was so tired & it was so late Saturday when I got through work that I felt that any thing I would write would hardly pay the reading & I cannot promise you much now. I am well & getting along very well but although I have said nothing about missing you I begin to feel that something is wanting, & Nannie knows what that is - her own sweet presence & that of the little one who sends me so many kisses. I will pay him back when I see him, and spank him for pulling your nose I hope my darling did not think that because I had not spoken of her absence it was because I did not feel it, but as I was getting along so well I did not think it worth while troubling her I have you thinking so much about me when I wanted you to enjoy yourself at home with your friends & so we will soon all be at home together again God permitting & then we will be happy, as I trust we always are & will continue to be. I heard two strange preachers yesterday Dr Col Pendleton & Mr Paine, the latter came Friday & the former Saturday night the Dr is looking well but mightily black & is quite a Lion in town every

body seems to think & talk of him as if though they loved him and esteemed him so highly when ever he comes on the street you find a large crowd around him asking questing & listening to incidents he received the appointment of Col the morning he left Winchester<sup>100</sup> & now has control of all the artillery they were detained 12 hours by the conductor as he had received \$800 for his treachery & for which his life paid the price - he was shot that evening on his own confession Cap J. White, Bow B & Mr Lee are also here & a good many privates the wounded ones, some have returned the others will do so in a few days. Dr. P[endleton] wants to raise 100 more to join his company I hope he may succeed, he states that we only captured about 30 Cannon, and as he has them all immediately under him he knows he says the Caissons were counted in the reports of 60 or 70 among the number was Shermans & the Rhode Island the best on the field. Willie McClury after much suffering for some days died last Thursday. I had helped to nurse him a good deal & set up with the corpse. This was court day but there were but few in the Militia had just returned from Staunton, & I judge there are not many in the county to come to court, our companies are now all full & there has been 2 or 3 new ones formed they will go to the north west, a great number of troops are going out, 1000 a day pass up the central road & all the wagons to be had in the county are pressed to carry the equipment & baggage. Gen Lee is out there & will no doubt in a short time have things all right. Wise’s men do not like him & have no confidence in his ability

Some of the Rangers are here & from them we learn that his army is more like a Big Muster than a regular army. No order at all I will stop for to night & finish tomorrow evening.

**Aug. 6, 1861**

Well I will try and finish my letter to my darling although I have but little more to add.

100. Capital of Frederick County, population 16,546 1860; 14% slaves. [www.virginiaplaces.org/population/pop1860numbers.html](http://www.virginiaplaces.org/population/pop1860numbers.html) Winchester, population 4,400 1860; 16% slaves, 15% free blacks. [www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Winchester\\_During\\_the\\_Civil\\_War](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Winchester_During_the_Civil_War)

coming to, and going through this place, almost daily, being driven from their happy homes by the Hessians of the North.

**[Fincastle] [Winter 1861/1862]<sup>101</sup>**

My dear Daughter

I will not make any excuse for not writing to you before now, but really it has become such a task for me to write and I do it so seldom that I scarcely know how to begin, and now that I have begun I do not know what to say. I have been out so little this winter that I know very little of what is going on. You will say what a fine chance ma has had to work, but I can assure you that although I have not been idle, there is very little to show for it. About two weeks ago I commenced doubling my carpet chain [i.e., using the yarn from two balls together] had to balls doubled when your pa brought in a pair pants to make then the girls wanted some cotton *prepared* for knitting then Tom brought four pr of draws to make then there was towels to hem for store and back porch and to my grate astonishment there was no \_\_\_\_ crash, so I have hemed nine yards of stiff linen today. I just give this as a sample of the way my time goes, with a hundred other little things between times, just as I think I am all most through sumthnig that I had not thought of turns up to be done Haddy and Mary have been making chemise I am very much afraid the [sewing] machine is giving out again. The feed wheel refuses to take the work through it has been a great help to us this winter. H has lerned to sew on it very well we have often wished for sum of your work that we might help you, you must cut out a bundl & send it up the girls will not have much to do when they get through \_\_\_\_ now, and Mary is learning sew right well. they have both gon down to Mrs Stoners tonight to sit til bedtime, Had sais tel you that is a very rare occurrence I say not more than twice a weak. Mary sais she fretting over her chemise like Sue Fagan, and she reckon (the fiddle strings you know) they are quite [a] small [group] tonight As Fagan is very drunk this evening. I spent a day at Mr Logan’s last week with Mrs Williams & [Mrs] Hudson & our

We are more quiet in town than we have been since you left and but few persons are to be sent

I will come for you Saturday but as Mr W is going away next week I will have to come back tuesday, so will have only two days to stay at home. Aunt Sarah talks of coming up with me but I do not know where they will put her at Pa’s when they have the boarders they have.

From the circumstances of the hearing of what is reported to be cannon in the western part of this county yesterday & that Gen Lee was to attack the enemy at Huttonsville about this time, we are disposed here to think that they had a battle there yesterday as the sounds were heard from 9 until 12 noon by referring to the map you will find Gen Ls proposed plan of attack as reported by [James B.] Dorman just from Richmond he was to leave Huttonsville with about 15000 men & be joined by Col Johnson from the top of the Alleg[hany] mountain with a few more & pass up the road from H. leading to Phillippi which passes at the foot of Cheat mountain, & attack them at Huttonsville, & if he succeeds in this plan he will then have the forces on Cheat Mountain cut off from the remainder & then can go after those that have been after Wise. If he has the number of men reported & from the number that has been going up to H. & Monterey, he must have at the two places near 20,000, & there cannot be much doubt about the result. May God give us an other Manassas, & may that corrupt portion be soon purged of all its viliness. Has it been any ways warm up the road I think I must be loosing flesh every day for it seems that I cannot keep cool any way night or day I expect if you were here you would get kicked out of the bed some night, & for fear I hope it may cool off before your return.

Give my love to all at both homes. Kiss Godwin for me & tell him to be a good boy & here is one for you \_\_\_\_\_. [sic] With much love, I am as ever

your much devoted husband C M Figgat.

*Daily Dispatch*: December 27, 1861  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Affairs in Fincastle. Dec. 22, 1861.

Refugees from the Western counties are

101. Fragment of letter we attributed to Martha Mary Godwin.

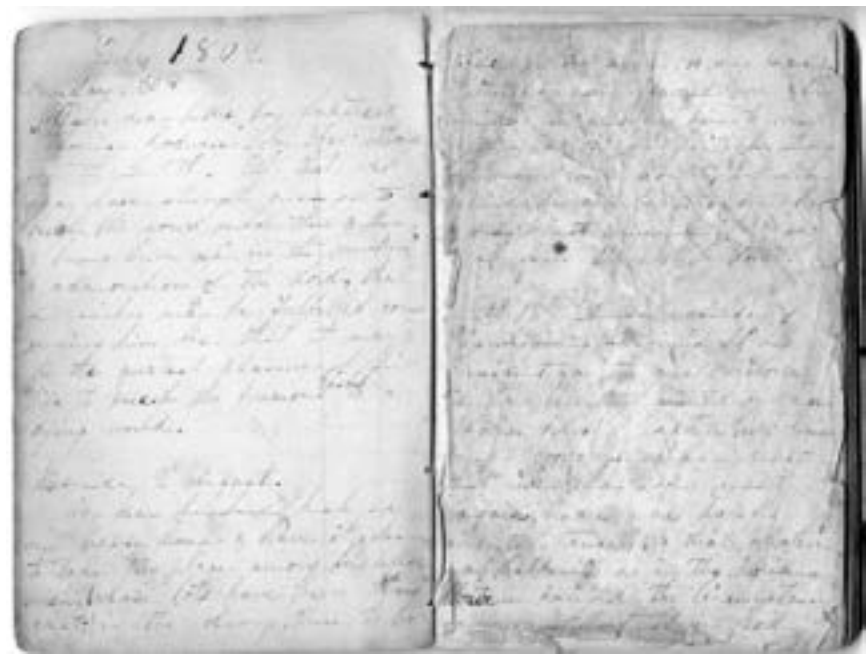


husbands, there was a grate many inquirys made after you and much love sent, indeed there are so maney asks me to give their love when I write that I forget, but you may just take it for granted that it is all your \_\_\_\_ This morning in which she inquired for you sent her love to you and a kiss to dear little Godwin. Henry went up to the farm saturday and staid til monday, they were all well. I heard yesterday that sister intended comeing up but had been detained by the roads and [stain] I wish she would come I want to se her so much have not heard a word from them since the weding

*Nannie's first diary entry.*

**Sunday, July 30, 1862**

My Our dear little boy baptized "Thomas Godwin"<sup>102</sup> by Rev. Thompson L Smith Oh! That we may have strength given us to keep the vows made then & there & bring him up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord, that our wishes may be fulfilled concerning him, vis\_ that it may be the greatest pleasure of his life to preach the precious Gospel to a dying world.



102. Thomas Godwin Figgat was born on May 17, 1861.

**Wednesday, Aug. 2, 1862**

My dear husband break up our happy home & leave it, he to take his place among his fellow men whose lots have been cast; in the Army, there to be separated from all he holds dear I & the little one to go to my Father's house [in Fincastle] there to seek protection & care during my husband's absence. Oh! That this little band may soon be reunited in our own happy & peaceful home & that the trumpet of cruel war may never more call forth our dear ones.

**Camp Narrows, Sept. 5, 1862**

My Darling Wife

Late in the night after a busy day & when in imagination I look into a little room & see two dear very dear ones, sweetly sleeping, maybe side by side, all unconscious of him who is now talking to them, and who seats himself to say good bye, for every thing I packed and ready and at 2 o'ck the drum will beat, & soon we will be on the march westward, not to stop I am in hopes until we see the Big Hog Pen, our army is very well prepared, but not so well officered as I think it should be – I mean regimental & co. of-ficers, but I hope that he who has done so much for us lately will remember us here too & grant wisdom & courage patience, & may keep us in health, and soon may we be permitted to return

in peace to our happy homes. And now while I am gone unto him who watches over us at home and abroad. I commit the precious charge that he has given me may he mercifully protect, guard & keep in sickness and health may my darling precious wife be kept from severe pain and sickness, and the consolations of his holy word be sought and bestowed, and in all times she may feel that there is no good thing that he will withhold from those who seek him in faith and now my dear will I ask but at the same time I know what I have what I ask and that is what the absent one may always be remembered, when at the throne of mercy you kneel. O how sweet it is to me to ask a blessing morning and night upon the absent loved ones & to know that at the same time like privileges are embraced & the same blessings asked for me & now hoping that both & all friends are well though anxious about the dear boys, I commit my all soul and body & whose dear to me, praying our Heavenly father love upon us willing to leave all in his hand unto when we are invited to come, and whether from sickness or otherwise we do not meet again on earth in that I do not return let us hope and watch unto prayer that God for Christ sake will pardon all our sins, and that we with all the dear to ones, to us given, may meet in that land where separation is not known, and my prayer is that the little boy who we have dedicated to him may grow up in Christ and when he comes to years may dedicate himself to his service, & above all things else esteem the ministry of his word, & be made wise & good & preach Christ to follow man and of another what shall I say all things are in the hands of our father, O God mercifully protect & bless & comfort her who must suffer, and let not this suffering be severe, comfort bless & console & give joy in those things which thou sendist before thy servants. And now darling I must say good bye & promise to write soon again. I hoped to hear from you tonight but no letter came, direct to care Gen E[chols] 1<sup>st</sup> Brig Army SW. Va, via Dublin. A sweet kiss yes many for my pets with pleasant dreams & happy days for them he who loves them O how dearly, must say, good night & be happy in that he has such sweet ones such a previous wife to love.

As ever affectionately Ch

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1862

*Lucy Breckinridge recorded in her diary that "After church Mr [Thomas G.] Godwin assembled us around him and read the [war] news... Mr Charles Spears [brother of Nannie's good friend, Sallie] had been killed."*

**Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1862**

My dear Charlie bid me good-bye, to take his place in the Army of the S. W. in Gen Echols brigade. Oh! It is a sore trial but my Heavenly Father may give me peace to bear it, grant I pray that we may meet again

Sept. 8, 1863

*Charlie received \$18.50 at Blue Stone [~100 miles from Fincastle, near Harrisonburg].*

**Thursday, Sept. 9, 1862**

My Husband returned unexpectedly to \_\_\_\_ place in the army, so my Heavenly Father has again favored me & his friends in allowing him to visit should not our faith be strong. Oh! May I never doubt, but always believe he will be there ever kind & may I not murmur but say in all cases "Thy will be done."

Sept. 11, 1862

*Lucy Breckinridge recorded in her diary that Mrs [Martha Mary] Godwin and Ella [Eleanor Moffet Godwin] visited Grove Hill.*

**Thursday, Sept. 18, 1862**

A day of Thanksgiving appointed by our President for the great victories he has recently granted our sons Again have I bidden my Husband good-bye. Heaven grant that we may soon meet again, under more hopeful circumstances. & that whatever may happen to us in the Providence however painful the circumstances we must still trust in God. & hope we may be safely delivered through them all.

Sept. 21, 1862

*Lucy Breckinridge recorded in her diary that Mr McGuire dined and preached at Mr [Thomas G.] Godwin's.*

**Monday, Sept. 22, 1862**

Ma left home today for Charlottesville [~100 miles NE from Fincastle] to see Tom [in school at University of Virginia] who Has Typhoid fever. Cous L Nelson & family accompanying her

Sept. 25, 1862

Charlie enlisted at Stryder's Mill, Jefferson County.

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 1862**

Mrs A Wilson died in Franklin

**Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1862**

Received a note from Charlie by Nat Logan, a letter day before by mail Answered next day by mail. Received a draft from Mr Myers \$197.85.

Oct. 5, 1862

Charlie was a clerk for Brig. Gen. Elisha Paxton at Bunker Hill according to Paxton's memoirs.

**Wednesday, Oct. 8, 1862**

James arrived having gotten a furlough being unable to march. At noon Ma & Tom arrived from C. [Charlottesville] Rec'd a letter from Charlie

**Thursday, Oct. 9, 1862**

Answered same, sending, with a comfort by Nat Logan

**Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1862**

Wrote to Charlie by this day's mail.

**Thursday, Oct. 16, 1862**

Rec'd a letter from Charlie today.

**Sunday, Oct. 19, 1862**

This day about 3 o'clock my second son was born. Thus has God seen fit in his all-wise providence, to place in my care & keeping another lamb. May he give me the strength to raise him up in the [nurture] & admonition of the Lord & in his dear fathers absence to be able to give him the care of both. And as he has been so kind as to enable me to bring him into this world, in this time of sorrow, with but little travail, so may I have as little sorrow in bringing him up

**Monday, Oct. 20, 1862**

Was able to finish a letter to Charlie this morning & apprise him of our new joy

**Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1862**

Bob returned from Coiner's Springs [~70 miles N of Fincastle].<sup>103</sup> Dr. Grant's little Kate died of Dyphtheria was buried today

103. At western base of Blue Ridge Montains between Botetourt and Roanoke on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad within a mile of Bonsack's Depot. Moorman, *Virginia Springs*.

**Wednesday, Oct. 22 1862**

Bob wrote to Charlie for me. Rec'd a letter from C. Mr Bittinger here gone to Monroe. M[ollie] had a daughter [Eva Sue Figgat] the 15<sup>th</sup>

**Friday, Oct. 24, 1862**

Bishop Johns preached here today confirming several persons, among them my sister Jane.

**Monday, Oct. 26, 1862**

Tom went to Aunt Jane's Wrote a long letter to Charlie Got \$1.00 worth P Stamps

**Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1862**

Ginnie Figgat returned from Amherst [~65 miles NE of Fincastle]

**Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1862**

Received a letter from Charlie

**Friday, Oct. 30, 1862**

Read a letter from the same.

**Sunday, Nov. 1, 1862**

Wrote to the same. Put on my wrapper & sat up most of the day; but feel lonely & sometimes sad thinking of my absent Husband but am resigned & await the wish of God when I may see him.

**Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1862**

Rec'd a letter from Charlie--camp near Berryville<sup>104</sup>, expecting to leave soon.

**Thursday, Nov. 6, 1862**

Mrs [Eve] Tiney<sup>105</sup> returned from Christiansburg [~56 miles, visiting her son William, his wife Mollie, and their new baby, Eva Sue, born Oct. 15].

**Fincastle, Nov. 8, 1862**

My very dear Husband:

I have been trying for three days to write to you, but have been prevented in different ways so this (Monday) morning, having been up & dressed before breakfast, for the first time [since her 2<sup>nd</sup> son was born], Oct. 19, into the dining room (now in the parlor) to breakfast, then returning. I seat myself to try to write to my dear Charlie dressed my little one for the first time.

104. Capital of Clarke County on Opequan Creek and turnpike from Winchester to Washington. *1854 U. S. Gazetteer*, B, p. 102.

105. Charlie's maternal grandmother, Eve Tinney, lived with the Figgats.

Haven't I been smart, & he is just three weeks old yesterday. I have been sitting up nearly all day for several days & don't feel much tired. In your last letter date 30<sup>th</sup>, w'h I rec'd Tuesday, you were thoughtful. I'd sit up & write to you, but all the last one written Nov 1<sup>st</sup> have been written lying down. I reckon you can't reckon I did it, as you used to think could only write in one place. While I think of it too I want to tell you that if I have an idea of sending you some candles if I have a chance, or Ma says she'll let you have one of her lamps, as you have to cut short your letters so often, for the want of them. But daylight is a great deal cheaper these scarce times so you had better take it then. The children are mighty anxious (especially Henry who would not let me read my last ones in peace) about the baby's name. Ma said she reckoned you that he wasn't suffering, but if he wasn't I was from being asked so often. Mrs Brugh was here yesterday when they were talking of it & said the "candle wasn't long enough to write his name by." Godwin calls him "brother" & "baby" too & pesters us & it too, kissing it. He has a right bad cold & hasn't been well beside, but is cutting some teeth we think. The baby is better we think, & beginning to look like folks I wonder where my dear Charlie is this morning or where this letter will reach him, for from wh't little we can hear, I rather think Winchester is not hd qrs now. It is said that Longstreet has gone to Petersburg, so I suppose the enemy intend trying the south side this time. It is also said that a larger force is in Highland advancing towards Stanton, and I reckon some of you will scatter over that way The first tho't that struck me was, they've send [sic] Jackson there, & as they go thru Charlie can run up here to see us, but I then tho't it hopeless, as you w'd be left so far behind. So I reckon I'll have to sit down & do what I can for my little ones & let them do wh't they can for me, & let my dear husband go his way alone, tho surrounded by thousands, no one on whom to bestow his caresses of tenderness & love, w'h he was want to lavish on those dear to him, & no dear ones to receive them who were so fond of being thus petted & caressed. But we will try not to think too much of that but as you say of our causes of thankfulness &

what we may do to please God. & *serve* him & pray for grace & strength to bringup the dear ones, God has given us, to his honor & glory. And oh. I do hope that this seperation may be over before our little boy gets so large so that you may assist me to teach him what is right for I know it will be hard to do it of myself, with so many around me to teach contrary to what I do. We have had some very cold weather here, & it made me think of you, my dear whether you are comfortable, or not & I fear you are not. Are not your shirts too thin & particularly your drawers. I fear you will suffer cold, for they cannot be thick & your pants unlined too. Please let me know if you do not want & I will try to get you something & send you, for I cannot bear that you sh'd want for anything that you might have. Your Pa is trying to get James' [Figgat] things ready, but finds it hard to get them. Ma is sitting by me, & has Godwin & baby both on her lap. G helping to nurse the other. Your Grandma<sup>106</sup> returned from C. Thursday & is very much pleased indeed. She says she spent 19 days out beside several evenings. I don't think she would have lived had she spent the winter. Ginnie says she didn't stay long enough in it. She has been teaching at Mrs Brugh's a week. Your Ma staid with the baby & I one night last week & let Ma have a good nights rest with Pa, & Godwin staid with them. These scratches were made by that same young gentleman, writing to you I suppose.

Toms furlough was out last week, but he is not strong enough to go back, rode to Buchanan [~13 miles east of Fincastle] Friday to get a certificate & returned nearly outdone. He was at Aunt Jane's a week, but did not improve very fast because he ate so much I reckon. All were well there, except Col. J who I fear never will be. Tom says his leg had been tied to the bed post for three weeks, so there he is, & has been for so long the sheets haven't been changed for six w'ks. Several pieces of bone have come out of his leg, so he is much worse but then was at first supposed His father is staying there, & they expect his sister, Mrs Bennet. James [her brother] is still here waiting to hear from R as to his transfer, & is becoming quite impatient. Mr

106. Charlies's maternal grandmother, Eve Tinney.

Law left only last week, & had gotten well. He is going to try to make his way to Maryland, to stay a short time. Georg Price is still here going deer hunting, & hanging about home I wish somebody w'd take him up. He looks mean & scarcely ever comes here now, I reckon because he feels mean. I understand he killed a deer last week, the company has killed \_\_\_ It is said Rucker is to be tried here next month, his jury to be bro't with him. They fear the enemy will try to prevent it in C. but I wouldn't think 30 miles would make any difference to them. Well I think I have given all the news I can think of, but feel I haven't written very much to interest you. I have been rather hurried. I hope to get a letter from you to day & have for two or three days. I won't grumble, but it would be a very great pleasure to hear very often from my dear husband. I don't know how many letters you owe me now. You needn't \_\_\_\_\_ when I get well for I shan't have the time. Now Charlie good bye Be assured always of my prayers in your behalf, as I know yours are offered in mine. And also assure yourself of the continued affection of

your "darling" Nannie G Figgat

**Monday, Nov. 10, 1862**

Wrote to Charlie

**Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1862**

A letter from C.

**Thursday, Nov. 13, 1862**

Bob returned from Monroe having gone with M Hinkle to purchase pork—unsuccessful.

**Saturday, Nov. 15, 1862**

Ma has been in bed with Diptheria several days. Ella the other girls & myself made a dress for Mary & enjoyed it very much. Godwin spent the day at grandma F[iggat]'s. I hope he will not take Diptheria, \_\_\_ Father forbid it.

**Sunday, Nov. 16, 1862**

A gloomy cloudy day, had my little time to read, my baby being fretful all the day. Ma has to be left alone all have gone to hear Mr McGuire Dr not go in to dinner. Ma is much better.

**Monday, Nov. 17, 1862**

Had to mind baby today also. Received letter from my dear Charlie. Poor fellow! He is so anxious to be in his own happy home again. God grant his prayers may soon be answered, & that he may again be with us to spend such happy & peaceful days as ever have done together. My dear little G [her older son, Thomas Godwin] is amusing me by reading a letter from his Papa. Oh! That he would see him too Aunt May R<sup>107</sup> was in to see me & Ell Jean<sup>108</sup> too, came up to see Miss Haller at Mr Mead's.

**Friday, Nov. 21, 1862**

My dearest bro Rob came home very unexpectedly on a short furlough. How much we shall enjoy it. Our Heavenly Father is indeed kind to us, allowing us to see these dear ones so often Oh! this happy reunions after long absences, how delightful, may I not look forward to one happier still than with my dear husband Thou! who hast all my life long given me all & more than I could ask, to the world I look & then w'd I trust for the future & that this my prayer may be answered To-day Bob started to Charlotte [about 105 miles] to return in a few days.

**Sunday, Nov. 23, 1862**

Could not go to church to-day, Ma being too unwell to keep baby. I wrote to Charlie to send by his father, who leaves in the morning for the camp. send also pr pants, 2 pr drawers & socks. Yesterday I walked up to Mr F[iggat]'s & enjoyed it so much, the first time I had been there for 2 months.

**Monday, Nov. 24, 1862**

The ladies<sup>109</sup> have met to-day to cut out clothing for our poor destitute soldiers. Shirts, pants, drawers, &c are all being furnished them. Cloth w'h Mr [Benjamin] Ammen has made for the Government was taken to supply the soldiers of the county first.

**Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1862**

Rec'd a letter from C written from Winchester but they In next day take up march for Fredericksburg, where it is expected there will be a fierce battle. Oh! thou God of battle who givest

107. Nannie's maternal uncle's wife—Mary Ferguson Robinson, i.e., Mrs. John M. Robinson.

108. Eleanor Jean Robinson, daughter of John M. Robinson and Mary Ferguson Robinson.

109. Soldiers Aid Society organized Sept. 11, 1861 per [Richmond] *Daily Dispatch*.

not victory, always to the strong, do then be our strength in this our time of great need & with great might come among us & help us.

**Friday, Nov. 28, 1862**

Bob returned from Charlottesville. So we are all together except Papa When will it be again if ever? Tomorrow Tom leaves us to go again to the army, perhaps never to return but we will hope & pray that he may, & that as our Heavenly Father has thus far been so merciful to us, he will so continue, but may we ever be resigned to his will whatever it may be

**Saturday, Nov. 29, 1862**

Tom left us this morning to join the army again, & oh God grant and protect him from danger & death as thou hast heretofore done, & return him safely again. Sent a long letter by him to Charlie also a pair of socks. Rob & Bob went up to Mr Pettigrew's

*Nov. 30, 1862*

*Charlie received \$50.25 "for commutation of rations while on detached service as clerk... Jackson"*

**Sunday, Nov. 30, 1862**

Went to preaching the first time for more than two months, & enjoyed it. Mr McGuire preached from the text "knowing therefore the terrors of the Lord, we persuade men." Felt much fatigued at night nursing the babe who cried very much.

**Tuesday, Dec. 2, 1862**

Rec'd a letter from Charlie written on the march to Fredericksburg & O.C.H. [Orange Court House] regrets having to leave this beloved Valley, but we will hope it may not be more desolated than it has been by our exercise He gives me a name for our dear little babe just the one I wished—his own; and may he prove as worthy of it as his father. Wishes me to send checks to State Auditor w'h had been sent about Nov 15<sup>th</sup>

*Dec. 2, 1862*

*Charlie received \$50.25 "for commutation of rations while on detached service as clerk in A. A. Gen'l's Office Hd Qrs \_\_\_ Gen'l Jackson"*

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1862**

Again is the loved home circle broken, & our dear Jimmie leaves to join the Army again. Oh God go with him, & protect him & bring him again to his happy home.

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 1862**

Mr Figgat returned from the Army but was not able to see Charlie br't his things back.

**Sunday, Dec. 7, 1862**

Went to hear Mr Grasty preach. A remarkably cold day. Mr Crenshaw preached at the Methodist Church the circuit rider for the coming year. Pa & I went up at night to see Mr F [Figgat, Charlie's father] & hear some ac't of his trip. Much suffering in the Valley among the inhabitants. We know nothing as yet of the horrors of war. Mr F returned thro L[exington], all well there; staid at Mr Bell's with Jimmie & companions. They expected Wm F[iggat] down but had not come, detained by sickness

**Monday, Dec. 8, 1862**

Sewed hard to-day to make a bed-tick & got some things ready to send to Charlie Court days. Mr Staples spoke on the state of the country. A great many persons expected the trial of Dr. Rucker, but will not begin until tomorrow. Mrs Carrington called. Ed R here day & night.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1862**

Rob has been unwell for a day or two, finds this morning he has Diptheria. Still continues quite cold. Catawba<sup>110</sup> frozen over more than two inches.

**Thursday, Dec. 11, 1862**

Finest ice being hauled that has been for several years. P[auline] Price & Nanne Turner spend the evening Yesterday received a letter from Charlie, from Guinney's Station. Bought \$1.00 P Stamps.

**Friday, Dec. 12, 1862**

Jimmi returned, having gone as far a Charlottesville but was detailed on service at home, in Capt Wilson's company.

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 1862**

Third anniversary of our wedding-day. Oh! that the next may be spent in company with my dear absent husband. Battle of Fredericksburg fought Thursday, with decided victory at our arms. Thanks be to God for his favor to us, & prayers, for its continuance. Went to the [Botetourt] Court-H[ouse] to hear Mr Tucker (Atty G.) speak

110. Catawba Creek enters James River in Botetourt County and flows northeast through Roanoke County. *1854 U. S. Gazetteer, C, p. 203.*

in case of Commonwealth Vs Dr Rucker.<sup>111</sup> Very much pleased

**Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1862**

Rob started on his long & weary ride to the part of the army to w'h he is assigned for duty, in N. C. May Heaven protect him & return in safety to his home. Yesterday rec'd a letter from Charlie.

**Thursday, Dec. 25, 1862**

Christmas day! when we sh'd all feel joyful, because of the birth of a Saviour on this benighted & ruined world. Oh! may I always feel that holy joy, & a thankful heart. On other accts I felt sad, very sad, for others hearts are this day bleeding because of the absence of dead ones \_\_\_\_\_ again to be assembled around the family fireside. And I am separated from the dearest of all others, but I ought not complain for he is protected from the deadly missiles of our foe & has been mercifully preserved in health & strength

**Sunday, Dec. 28, 1862**

Expected Mr McGuire to have communion today, & a huge congregation assembled but he did not come

**Monday, Dec. 29th 1862**

Ma & I went out to see Mrs Breckenridge, left baby at home & Godwin, quite unwell but the girls kept them very well. I hired a girl [servant] from Mrs B for \$20. Spent the rest of the day in calling. A letter from C.

**Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1862**

Wrote to C Girls spent the day at Mr Calaghans, the evening at G Carpers

**Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1862**

At Capt Breckenridge's & that night at J Carpers. Mr McC spent the evening

*Jan. 1, 1863*

*Charlie received \$23.25 "for commutation of rations while on special services as clerk in A. A. Genl Office, Hd Qrs 2d Corps A. N. Va." at Guinea Station.*

**Thursday, Jan. 1, 1863**

Pa, Ma, I & children spent the day at Mr Figgats, very pleasantly Friday. Girls spent the day at Capt McClures.

111. *Staunton Spectator*, Dec. 23, 1862-Nov. 10, 1863, reported on Dr. William P. Rucker's trial, held in Fincastle, for "...horse-stealing, murder, and siding and assisting the enemies of the State of Virginia," *Richmond Dispatch*, Oct. 4, 1862, p. 2, c. 2-3.

**Saturday, Jan. 3, 1863**

Sedge Moffet came up James returned from lake having gone up Thursday. Sunday went to the M[ethodist] Church sermon from Mr Field. Text I beseech you present your bodies &c. I have summoned the year with many good resolutions oh God help me to keep them through thy strength.

**Monday, Jan. 5, 1863**

Made a pair of drawers for F[incastle] Rifles. Heard to-day Miss Kate Glasgow was married Dec 23 in a black Bombasine w'h cost \$150. I cit it as an incident of the time & high price. Read a letter from Charlie to his Ma & Pa went to Roanoke [~22 miles southwest of Fincastle]<sup>112</sup>.

**Friday, Jan. 9, 1863**

Godwin rec'd a letter from his Pa, also one for me. I finished a letter to C. Very busily engaged making a dress. Wrote for the S[outhern] Episcopalian.

**Saturday, Jan. 10, 1863**

First snow of any depth.

**Sunday, Jan. 11, 1863**

Heard Mr Corvin preach from the text "Ye all who are alive here this day." A sermon for the N Year

**Monday, Jan. 12, 1863**

Bob rec'd a letter from Rob in Goldsboro, N.C., expects to leave soon.

**Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1863**

About 6 o'clock Martha<sup>113</sup> Lewis Williams died from Diphtheritec Cramps [diphtheria]. After an illness of a week. Such or Shock to her parents, & friends. Oh! God grant that it may be for their good, & give them strength to bear anything "the will of the Lord be done." She was just 10 yrs & 2 weeks old. Her brother George very ill of consumption [tuberculosis] James went to Salem. Bob to Mr Davis to a sociable.

**Thursday, Jan. 15, 1863**

Mr Garland preached M L Wm's funeral, from XXXIX P[salm]s 10 ver I was dumb, opened not my mouth, because thou didst it.

112. Roanoke County forms part of the Shenandoah Valley between Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains; population 8,048; 33% slaves in 1860.

113. The only daughter of Dr. Charles and Jane Williams.

fear she has symptoms of Typhoid fever Dr to see her. Sent a letter to P.O. for Charlie

**Monday, Jan. 26, 1863**

May & I commenced two roundabouts [i.e., jackets] for soldiers

**Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1863**

Bob started to Richmond to get situations in P.O. may he be protected from the many dangers w'h \_\_\_\_\_ him, & may he succeed & prosper both as to his soul & worldly matters. letter from C.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28 1863**

Snow fell last night to the depth of \_\_\_\_\_ in, & continued all day. James went to a party at Capt McClure's. Rec'd letter for Mrs N. contains //13 ½ Friday sent letter to J[ames H. H.] Figgat.

**Saturday, Jan. 31, 1863**

Sent bandbox to Mrs Cox.

**Sunday, Feb. 1, 1863**

Quarterly meeting M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church Mr Peterson preached from John XIII 7th "What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." An excellent sermon. Reconciling, free agency & foreknowledge.

**Monday, Feb. 2, 1863**

Rec'd letter from C wrote one to same

**Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1863**

Invited to Mr F[iggat]'s to dine with Mr Peterson, went to hear him preach same night from Je\_

**Wednesday, Feb. 4, 1863**

George Williams died. Wrote to Rob.

**Thursday, Feb. 5, 1863**

Snowed nearly all day. Friday Went to G W's [George Williams] funeral

**Saturday, Feb. 7, 1863**

A very bad cold from going out. commenced letter to Charlie

**Sunday, Feb. 8, 1863**

Communion at our church. Mr McG[uire] preached from [blank line] B Confer'. 2 meeting.

**Monday, Feb. 9, 1863**

Mrs Tiney spent the day. Had a letter fro dear C Oh! with what pleasure do I receive these silent

**Friday, Jan. 16, 1863**

Spent the day at Mrs Price also Ma & Jennie.

**Sunday, Jan. 18, 1863**

Heard Mr Grasty preach from text. "In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me." James returned from Salem. Finished a letter to C.

**Monday, Jan. 19, 1863**

Rec'd a letter from Charlie, just rec'd Paid \$2.00 P. Stamps. bundle sent 28th Nov Got Southern Episcopalian sent 3 copies to Charlie. Got letters from Rob & Tom. Rob to go to N.C. regiment want his clothes, 29th Bob starts to take them to him.

**Wednesday, Jan. 21, 1863**

Quite a deep snow fell this day & night. 7½ in Rec'd a letter from Mrs Norgrove in B.

**Thursday, Jan. 22, 1863**

Bob returns the trunk having gone, & he went to Beaver Dam Aunt M & E. J.<sup>114</sup> came up with him. The girls intend going to Stanton to school. Luercer returned last week, goes to Buchanan Hospital.

**Friday, Jan. 23, 1863**

Spent day with children at Mr Figgat's. Ginnie [Figgat] returned from school in the evening Rec'd letter from Mr Baker & one from Mrs Northern on business. Sent Mr Bowyer check for \$75. During this week rec'd rece'ps [checks? receipts] from S M Dold & State Auditor.

**Saturday, Jan. 24, 1863**

Had a bad walk up to G Carper's & shopping also. Gave [\$]1.25 for a braid for net. Mr McGuire stopped with us. Jennie rec'd a letter from Tom

**Sunday, Jan. 25, 1863**

Had a horrid walk to E[piscopal] Church heard Mr McG[uire]. Preach from John VII.19. Went again in evening walking improved. Congregations of 14 adults 2 children, only 6 gentlemen. Excellent sermon from Deut.V.3d. "All of us who are alive here this day. Moving text. Did not Moses give you the law? & none of you keepth the law." A Robins on to breakfast. Jennie very weak

114. Mary Robinson and her daughter, Eleanor Jean Robinson—also called Ell Jean.

messengers of true & lasting affection. Pa had letter from Bob.

*Feb. 9, 1863.*

*Charlie received \$23.25 "for commutation of rations whil on special services as clerk in AAGenl Office, Hd Qrs 2d Corps ANVa... 31 days at 75¢ per day" at Guinea's Depot.*

**Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1863**

James started to take some deserters back to the army. Finished my letter to Charlie

**Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1863**

Rec'd letter from Mr Norgrove containing chk for \$3.11. Also on 6th containing chk for \$33.75

**Friday, Feb. 13, 1863**

Rec'd note from M S Moffett who is at Beaver Dam. Beautiful Sentiment; read in a newspaper; the reply of a Greek maiden, on being asked what fortune she brought her husband. "I brought him what gold cannot purchase—a heart unspotted, & virtue without a stain—which is all that descended to me from my parents"

**Saturday, Feb. 14, 1863**

Haddie, a letter from Tom. C Price, returned from the army.

**Sunday, Feb. 15, 1863**

A rainy morning but quit [sic] during day. Did not go to C[hurch] Sentence in my morning exercise "Friendship is the delight of youth, the pillar of age, the bloom of prosperity, the charm of solitude, the solace of adversity, the best benefactor & comforter, in this vale of tears.

**Monday, Feb. 16, 1863**

Rec'd a letter from my husband to-day, so kind & affectionate as they always are.

**Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1863**

Rained all the night & today without ceasing Wrote to C

**Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1863**

continued rain Miss Joe Claiborne & Capt Hale married.

**Thursday, Feb. 19, 1863**

Margaret Shaver to marry Mr Shirey.

**Friday, Feb. 20, 1863**

How was I rejoiced this day & surprised at the return of my beloved husband to pay us only a short visit. May Shaw also came up from Beaver Dam.

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 1863**

Snowed all the morning. Charlie went to his father's in afternoon & Haddie & I followed him in the evening. Snow about 7 ins.

**Tuesday, March 3, 1863**

My dear Charlie left this morning. What a short time since he came but I try to be satisfied. Hope ere long he will be allowed to return to stay. Last Sunday night Nannie McD[owell] was delivered of a daughter, weighing 4 ½ lbs.

Rec'd during this week letters from Rob & James [H. H.] Figgat Sunday evening heard a report that G Price had been killed in a charge of cavalry in Stafford Co on Wednesday 25th. All the week passed & no certainty until Tuesday 10th Mrs P[rice] rec'd a telegram from John (who had gone to find out something about it) saying he was on the way to Frederickburg for his remains, w'h he got & brought home Friday 13th. Charlie accompanying Buried that afternoon with honors of war.

**Tuesday, March 17, 1863**

A letter from Charlie

**Thursday, March 18, 1863**

[A letter from] Bob

**Hd Qrs 2d Army Corp, March 25, 1863**

My Dear Wife,

Your letter of the 18th was only received to day and it appears that you had not received my last & h\_\_\_ it you may know that I have been quite anxious about dear Jennie. I received a note from Tom to day & he states that he had not heard from home, and was very uneasy & seemed to think quite hard of it tho I have no doubt but that a letter for him has been delayed as was mine. I also had a note from him the day after I wrote and found that there was no grounds whatever for the message I received about Jennie and that he had not sent a letter at all and only heard thr' mine by Nat & the tale told by the fellow was totally incorrect & he states that he misunderstood Tom, but at the

same time made many addition that Tom never thought of -- why will men lie. I hope that Jennie is much better now & out of danger, and that all the dear ones are well. I am quite well myself and getting along as well as usual, and suppose am doing my duties satisfactorily as Genl J continues to compliment me to his friends. Mr Lacy came into my tent one morning & was speaking of my duties & told me that the Genl had just been talking to him about me, and spoke highly of my efficiency & said that when Paxton left he was afraid that I would go also, which he did not want as I was worth any two clerks that he had ever had. Now you wont think this is vanity will you, for it is not. I could not help hearing it when Mr L came specially to tell me & then left, but I only want to tell my darling, for I know that she will be glad with me to know that I am able to give satisfaction to those with whom I am associated, and in this I believe that I have always been successful, and I have thus always striven to do my duty and it is a great satisfaction to know that I have been able to do so, though in doing so I have often denied myself many pleasures, & recreations that I might have enjoyed, but then this is but a small matter, when the one great object of my life has been gained thusly, that is in getting Nannie Godwin to love me and be my own sweet wife, for had I not succeeded in business, I could never have asked it, and would not have been worthy to possess such a treasure, so you see I make every thing as I always did concentrate on you, as being the chief aim of my life from boyhood, and if in this you think I am vain why I am content for of you & your love I am proud, and I know that I have good reason to be so, and only hope that our future life may be as happy as the past.

I received the 3 papers [*Southern Episcopalian*] on Saturday & was so glad they came as I had them to read on Sunday-- we had preaching by Mr L that morning in a large tent it was a bad day & could not go out to preaching had a prayer meeting in the evening & thus we passed a pleasant & I hope not an unprofitable day & hope we may have them in the army. I am sorry that there is so much uneasiness in the country, about the state of the army & country, but hope it may do much good, in urging the men to the

field, and to putting those at home to calling upon God for his help & humbling us all, and make us trust more to him & not to ourselves. But we have a fine Army here & well contented, as men could be under the circumstances & who will fight as they have always done, and with the almost certain expectation of winning -- as to our falling back on account of want of supplies it is simply ridiculous, for why should that be the case now when we have near 4 mo. & undergone all the hardships that we have and now when the time has come for which we have done this, for us to go back is simply folly, for surely we have the same transportation we have always had, and if we go back for supplies it would be to go out of Va. and Gen Lee's request to the 2 masters last winter was to use every means to keep up the stock, as he thought that by holding this position would tend to shorten the war. So you see that if persons would only take a common sense view of things they would not be so exercised about nor believe ever wild rumor they hear.

When I spoke about having nothing but middling I did mean that it was ourselves for this was the case for a while with the Genl & every one round us, but we get ham now and many thanks to Mrs Logan we often have the very nicest fruit roll, alias Pig. I wrote a long letter to William and expect he will call it a sermon, and hope pray to God that it may do him good, and may lead him to think of & turn from his evil way. O! that this may be so

Rev. W Jenkins was down to see us this week, was here and at the Battery two or three days, he did not give me any news from Rockbridge. There was a book came to Genl J to day addressed I am pretty certain in old Dr. Jenkins hand and was directed to care of Maj Genl Hooker, and came by flag of truce. I forgot to tell you when speaking of eating that I was invited out the other day & had turkey, butter, egg corn bread etc &c enjoyed it very much, having just come off of middling.

I understand that Picketts Div has gone to N. C. if so and I judge it is our boys have had another severe move, as the weather has been dreadful. Active and stringent measures are being taken here by Genl L for the Spring

Campaign, and it will open no doubt so soon, as the weather permit, and if we are successful you need not be surprised to hear of us in Md again for we must change our boarding house & stables if possible & if Hooker is badly beaten no doubt a forward movement will at once be made, as orders for reduction of baggage have already gone out, and officers & men will have but little else than what they themselves can carry. Now my darling I must bid you good night, and hope you will excuse this disconnected letter for I feel as if it is any thing but interesting and though I had but little to write about, I could not help sending my weekly message, and hope that I may soon have one from my dear one. Give much love to all and especially Jennie. Kiss the dear little boys for me O! how much I wish that I was there to give the good night to my dear, much thought of wife and nurse in turn the little ones and some-body else that likes it sometimes, but these thoughts cannot be And Oh! how long, how long

As ever yours devotedly Charlie

**Friday, March 27, 1863**

Fast-day app'td by the President. Mr Grasty preached to a large congregation, from Joel 11f Traced the present condition of the country to the neglect of training the youth of the land, in the way they should go. Prayer meeting at night at same place.

**Saturday, March 28, 1863**

Rained in morning Mr Camper was buried Mr Crenshaw preached from Is LVII.1st. Righteous perisheth &c. Salt was distributed from Mr D's. Went out in PM with M Stuart Jennie rec'd letter from Rob

**Sunday, March 29, 1863**

Went to P[resbyterian] Church Mrs B here to dinner & near all evening, felt as if Sunday was badly spent. Marie Watly came to see Jennie, brot a large orange from Petersburg. Paid \$2.50 for it.

**Monday, March 30, 1863**

Aunt M[ary] Robinson came up on horse-back, dreadful roads. Our dear Jennie gets worse & worse, do not think she can recover O God prepare us for the dread separation & enable

us to say "Thy will be done. Dr. W brought Dr Meredith to see her, both think she has Scrofula [tuberculosis] O Father spare her great suffering. Rec'd letters from Charlie, Bob & Tom

**Tuesday, March 31, 1863**

Snow two or 3 in deep but almost disappeared during the day.

March 31, 1863

*Charlie received \$44.25 "for commutation of rations while on detached duty as clerk at A. A. G. office Hd Qrs 2d Corps. Army No. Va" at Guinea's Depot.*

**Wednesday, April 1, 1863**

Thought Jennie sinking rapidly, but revived during the day. Dr Wms ceased his visits confined himself by a severe operation. A remarkably cold day.

**Friday, April 3, 1863**

Bob returned from Lynchburg.

**Sunday, April 5, 1863**

Went to hear Mr McGuire from text; That I might preach to the Gentiles, the unsearch-able riches of Christ." Jennie wished to commune but found she was too weak. Grant O Father that she "may drink it new with thee in they kingdom.

**Fincastle, April 7, 1863**

I fear My dear absent One, that you have perhaps expected another letter from me ere this reaches you; but I know you can think that where there is one as ill about the house as dear Jennie, that there is naturally some confusion, much anxiety—etc., so that one cannot always write when they would wish. And really there was little to tell you about our dear one, who is so slowly wasting away, yet we all feel confidently just as surely. We did not think a week ago that she would still be with us, but it seems that the chord of life is not so easily severed, tho' it is hard to know what keeps her alive, humanly speaking. She eats scarcely anything, & very often throws that up, & Dr says the glands that carry the nourishment to her body are closed, & her blood is starving, so the flesh had almost all gone & is going for the nourishment of her body, & stimulants keep her up, tho. She has more strength than you could imagine could you see her. O I know you could not restrain tears could you see her poor emaciated

good in they sight," & I do thank him that he has given me such faith, as to see the hand of love in it all. For our neglect & forgetfulness of Him

He has sent this one us, & oh that it may serve to bring us nearer to Him. Ma is surprising well & bears it with so much fortitude, but poor Pa is almost heart broken, for tho some may think him cold, beneath that exterior has a deep affection w'h I think few men have & he is so tender to her He looks so pale & sad, I feel more for him than any of the rest & he is so silent with it all, keeping it to himself, fearing to speak her name. Dr Williams has not been here for nearly a week. Dr Meredith has been here & performed for him a very severe operation, but he is doing pretty well I believe expects to be confined for 2 w'ks. We miss his visits so much for tho we know he could do no good, yet we like to see him come. Dr M was twice to see Jennie, but said Saturday there was no hope for her at all. He had known three similar cases, only one a patient of his own, who recovered but was not near so much reduced as is J. I had another great cause of uneasiness too last week. Godwin was a day & night threatened with croup, & that disease is always to be dreaded, but thanks to a merciful & ever kind God, he has recovered entirely tho still has a cold & cough. He is learning to talk right fast, but scarcely ever except in my rooms & is as grim as possible before strangers. When playing & very much pleased he will holler out "I tell you" very sweetly, & "I shoot you" very plainly I think he will be able to converse with you in a very intelligible manner when he next sees you. I have to whip him occasionally for his disobediences, & stubborn fits, & expect to do it for some time but hope by God's help to overcome it in the end, so that he may not have such struggles with it as his dear sweet Father has had but so successfully that no one would ever dream that things have been as he said in his dear letter of wh I was to day the recipient. Believe on my dear Charlie that of all the pain you have given me you, you are fully aware, for I have always been cruel to tell you of it, but did you not ask me to always tell you of your shortcomings, & so did I ask of you, but I have sometimes feared you were not so candid with me, then came to the conclusion it was with

frame. It seems to me it would almost serve the purpose of a skeleton, tho. Ma remarked yesterday & it made one tremble, that there was still a good deal of flesh on her body for her to lose, & perhaps she would last some times longer. But it was no relief to me to think of her living so long for tho I dread the hour of her release from her sufferings yet it will be a relief. Tho' she suffers scarcely any pain yet is so weary & if she did not think it wrong would wish the hour of her departure were at hand. But she seems afraid to express a wish in any way for fear she might not be resigned to God's will

The middle & latter part of last week, we were all much excited & as is always the case it made me feel weak & badly, but we become accustomed in a measure to almost everything, & Jennie begs us "not to look gloomy & mourn for her, & we all try to look cheerful. She did talk a great deal of dying, but now seems to wish to be quiet & says very little. Made known her wishes in regards to little things she wished done & talked to the children about wishing them to become Christians, says she would have wished to have seen Haddie a Christian. She does wish [ere] long to leave this world, because she has been so happy in it, & such a happy family as we are, but if God wishes her to go, she does not murmur knowing she doeth all things well. Ella asked her if she feared death or the grave, she said if she did it was gone in an instant. She requested to see Mr Grasty last week & conversed with him, but not a great deal, for she can't talk much. Then Sunday Mr McGuire came up, she asked in the morning that she might commune, but in a short time after told ma, that she did not think she could bear it, so if it please God, she will drink of the fruit of the wine, anew in his kingdom. She talks very calmly about it & all of us do, sometimes I wonder how we can, but we cannot realize it, as yet but I do now feel perfectly resigned; for have we not received always good at the hands of God, & shall we not also receive evil We have much reason to rejoice & bless his holy name that he has so long preserved unbroken the chain of this family circle, & tho now he has allowed the hand of Death to pluck one of the loveliest, yet I think I can say with sincerity, "even so Father, for so it seemeth

the blind eyes of love, that you always regarded my faults, And do imagine your "gentle wife" is always so? It is because you have never seen her under circumstances to try her temper very much, for you have always tried to make her so happy that little occasion has been for it. But here I find that I often become very impatient, & I have many & had while we were together struggles to overcome a spirit of contrariness w'h I have, but like you I have been enabled to triumph So you see you have not always had all the trouble in that way. I know Bob did not mean anything but a piece of fun when he said what I told you, & would be sorry if you tho't hard of it. I had forgotten to tell you that B came Friday & Jennie was so delighted, & he is still here. He is thinking about going into the Army but I hope will not James talks strongly of going back to take his place in F[incastle] Rifles, says he will not be able to keep up in Cavalry it takes almost a fortune. And although he's now with Mr Sperry & can stay as long as he pleases, he because as he says of the envious feeling that so many soldiers have, has fallen into bad repute because he has been so fortunate to get easy places, & thinks he will sell his place in cavalry & go back into infantry ranks. I do not see why he should do it, because he has had a trial & shewed his willingness to do what he could for his country, & he will only do what so many others, would like to do, if they could get a chance. Rob wrote to him some time ago, to pay no regard to the envious feelings of those who could not do as well, but consult his own comfort.

We have not heard from Rob for some time, & he has moved we do not know where, as they had orders when he wrote. & wrote to us not to write until we heard from him. I had written to him, & fear he has not gotten the letters, & told him all about Jennie, & I fear he will be greatly shocked when hears again. Poor little Jennie! This evening Ella wanted to go down to the gardens, & Jennie said she wanted to go to. & cried, & said she couldn't help wishing when she saw the bright sunshine that she could go out into it, but feared it was wrong. As she suffers no pain, she cannot realize that she must die, & asks us why we think she can't get well. oh! that we could give her a hope, but it is with a sickening

& sinking heart that we must acknowledge to her & ourselves it cannot be.

Tonight there is a reception at Mr Mays' preceding the marriage tomorrow morning of Maj Wm Wilson, Esq. to Miss Mary Lewis Mays. They are to have numerous attendants. James of course declined. I would be afraid to go, when there has been so little respect paid to her poor mother. I knew Mr M had little sense, but really thought he had more respectful feeling, tho, I suppose Bell has managed the matter. It is said Wm has never asked Mrs M[ays]. & she has been in bed for two or three weeks concerning it, but has not a word to say one way or another. The cards of invitation have only Mr M's name on. How can those who so openly break the command "Honor thy mother" expect to prosper. But I really must stop if my letter goes by this mail.

Haddie sends you much love, & says you ought to see Charlie Meade who is the sweetest baby. Mary S. says in the county, but she says in any adjoining one He can almost sit alone, & is so lively & grows rapidly. All join me in much love, & wish you were here, at least one oh how much. I don't think they have heard from James F[iggat] for some time. Wm wrote he was coming down if he could get off the month & bring Evie [his daughter, Eva Sue Figgat]. I think all are well up there except your Ma has a bad cold. Now my dearest husband good-night & how pleasant to say it in person, as fondly as I would like, little ones send numerous kisses. Now once more good bye, from

your ever devoted wife. Nannie

P.S. Please excuse errors, for I have written in hubbub, & confusion, & have at least become so nervous & crabbed that I can scarcely write. When I asked G what to say he answered without any prompting in the following language w'h I made him write.

Papa kish                      Ever yours. T G Figgat  
*Daily Dispatch: April 13, 1863*  
*Richmond Dispatch*

Cattle dying for want of salt.

--The Fincastle Express says that in Craig county, Va., the cattle are dying by scores from not having had salt during the past year. One

Charlie received \$30 at Hamilton's Crossing.

**Friday, May 1, 1863**

May S went to B[eaver] Dam [in Botetourt Co.] on her return home, having been here more than two mos. How much of a joy & sorrow has she seen while with us.

**Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, 1863**

Battles of Chancellorsville &c. Paxton killed Tom again by the interposition of a merciful Providence is saved from death or severe wounds. Jackson received two severe wounds, one right hand & left arm w'h was amputated but exposure bro't on Pneumonia w'h terminated his life May 10th Thus have the wounds of a nation been made to bleed afresh, but O God in mercy raise us up another to lead our armies to victory.

**Thursday, May 14, 1863**

Spent at Mr Figgats with Aunt Harriet<sup>115</sup>. Rec'd letter from dear C. Tuesday 12th Fannie Miller was married to Mr McCare.

**Hd Qrs 2d Army Corps, May 15, 1863**

My very dear Wife,

With every thing changed [following Stonewall Jackson's death], and sad and not well myself I will try and make out a letter to you but which, ought to have gone to you some days since, but not being well by a great deal, & other circumstances prevented. I was taken with a sore throat & bad cold & cough, and then with severe dysentery, such as I never had, but which I got entirely checked Wednesday, was very well yesterday, but to day have been suffering with my old complaint of the bowels with more pain than usual, but feel something easier now and hoped it may be stopped. I at one time began to think that you would be troubled with another sick one, as I felt for several days that if the fever which was indicated increased or continued I would have to leave camp, and get home if possible, but as I am well now you need not expect me until we get down towards R. if that should be the case when I fear that the mean mud-water will be more than I can stand but hope we will not have to go that way, and think it likely that we will start in another direction, and if we do I

farmer had lost fifty head, another forty, another thirty, and all cattle owners had sustained some loss. Sheep and hogs are also dying rapidly from the same cause.

**Wednesday, April 15, 1863**

Tom returned from the camp, to see his dear sister, who we do not expect to live from one day to another but been gratified in seeing this brother.

**Saturday, April 18, 1863**

Uncle John Godwin came to see us.

**Sunday, April 19, 1863**

Mr McGuire preached & administered Communion. Felt in quite a happy frame of mind

**Monday, April 20th 1863**

Aunt Jane Moffett came up.

**Thursday, April 23rd 1863**

This night is the most memorrable in this family for the first time has the grim monster invaded our happy family circle & transferred one of the presious links of this chain to a brighter & happier home above the skies But it was to me a sweet night The Holy Spirit was there pervading the hearts of the witnesses "A holy quiet reigned around" as the departing spirit, calmly, sweetly left its frail tenement of clay to rise to the bosom of her Savior Not a murmuring voice was heard the tears could not be restrained for a dear sister & daughter, yet God saw fit to do it, & "he doeth all things well" & while suffering by the stroke we w'd kiss the rod, & his grace is sufficient for us in all trials. Her [i.e., Jennie's] Spirit departed at ¼ past 2 o'clock on Friday morning.

**Saturday, April 25, 1863**

We buried her in the full hope of a glorious immortality.

**Sunday, April 26, 1863**

Dr Bonsack of the P[resbyterian] church has been preaching here for several days.

**Monday, April 27, 1863**

Pa took Uncle John home & Bob to the Depot in the afternoon. Aunt Jane left.

**Wednesday, April 29, 1863**

We were much surprised & pleased at Rob's arrival but too late to see the dear sister. Heard of her death from Bob on the [train] cars.

115. Nannie's paternal aunt, Harriet Godwin Snyder.

hope & pray that success may attend us, and that the war will end.

But as looking for the end I have done, and have resigned & feel as if I was settled for life, and if a brighter day dawns upon us, it will in Gods own good time, and then we will return to the dear ones and enjoy the blessings & privileges in store for us.

Things are sadly changed here now my dear, and we know not what Genl. J was until he was taken away, and no one who was not here all the time with him can comprehend what his loss is, and how much it will be felt. Genl. Hill who now commands shows none of striking characteristics of a great leader, that were so evident in all of Genl. J movements even about camp Hd Qrs he may be a good fighting Genl. But if he can plan and execute I will be very agreeably surprised, but if the men do not become disheartened, and think that no one can lead them but Jackson all will go well for Lee I consider the greatest man of the age and no man I believe but him could have saved our army much less gained so grand a victory as we did under the blessings of God in the late Battle, Truly we could say with all truth "had it not been for the Lord who was on our side &c &c" we should have been uttery [sic] consumed". And we Truly have the greatest cause for gratitude and praise and this should so much the more incline our hearts in prayer to God for the deliverance, and guidance, in these times of deep sorrow and distress. O! that this war might cease, and this carnage be stayed that the land might rest in peace- and for this should all that are Godly pray - and may their prayers be heard.

I have just left poor Mr Norgrove with Neds body taking it home, he had heard of his wound and came on and when in Richmond learned of his death, and brought on in case and took him up and though buried several days he looks perfectly natural, and with being discolored. Mr N looks sad indeed, but much more cheerful than I expected to see him, and is much comforted in the knowledge of his preparation for death, and says that is the only comfort, left there, and then today he heard of his other sons capture, but if this should turn out that he has been killed

instead I fear that it may kill his wife, and as for Mrs N. he tells me that he is not entirely satisfied yet that she will not lose her mind in account of the death of her children, but hopes this may have the effect to draw off her mind and thus be a benefit to her. Mr W tells me that our furniture etc is as well taken care of as possible and speaks of the highest terms of Mrs Henderson, as to her neatness, and care, and says that while every thing was well cared for by Dr C. it is even better now than then they use the back rooms and thus the carpet is not used as they say they have no use for that room. Mrs H is a cripple. I believe. Oh! what a sad week has just passed over L. first Grandma Davidson buried - then Gen P[axton] & then Gen J[ackson] and now next Ed W & 4 others of the town and county have lost limbs and it will not be surprising if Col Edmundson dies.

I saw Tom yesterday and he is quite well, sends his love to all, and is anxious to get a letter from home and says direct to Hamilton Crossing to him instead of Guinea's. Nat and I are still here and will remain that is if Maj Pendleton does of which I think there is no doubt but if he should leave which he is not compelled to do Nat says he will go to his Co. and I may try and go with the Maj. As I am so well up to his manner of business and things dont look natural nor congenial about here now, no piety, no prayers, no fear of God, nor reverence for His Holy name.

O this is the saddest change of all, and it looks wrong for the tent and other things of Jacksons to be turned over to a man who was not only his enemy but who so far falls short of great and good character which Gen J possessed. And though Genl. H has made much reputation. Yet when I see every thing as it was & is, it looks like taking a private and making him a General. Yet this is not so, for Genl H is no doubt a good officer, but is so different from Genl. J. But as is for the best - God doth all things well.

I have been a little homesick. I reckon it was, and no wonder when every thing around was so sad, and when I was sick and suffering. I wanted so much to be near my Nannie and when night came I longed so much for your

company, and to be nursed and comforted by the dear tender hands, and often was the picture of the room, with my darling and two little boys before me and I almost felt that I would be willing to be a little sick to have the pleasure of being there but may be this is not right for it is in God providence that we are seperated and we must do nothing to conflict therewith, but if I was taken sick I would want so much to be at home, and near my darling wife who is such a comfort, at all times, and whose presence, makes life so cheerful & happy, and may the day not be far distant when we shall again be united, and with the sweet little boys be so happy together. G must be growing very sweet indeed & I would like so much to be with him and also little Charlie. Now my dear hoping to hear from you soon, to get one of these letters always so comforting & interesting and which takes so much from the burden of this life in camp with much love to all at both homes. Many kisses for yourself & little ones, and hoping this may find you all well & happy I remain

your devoted husband Charlie M F

**Tuesday, May 19, 1863**

Pa, Ma & Aunt Harriet started to Rockbridge [~40 miles northeast of Fincastle]. James Figgat arrived very unexpectedly in the evening

**Saturday, May 23, 1863**

Mollie Figgat [Charlie's brother William's wife] came down, returned following Thursday. Mollie Robinson & little girl spent several days with us this week.

May 29, 1863

Charlie received \$38.00 for "extra duty pay on detached service as clerk," Hamilton's Crossing.

June 1, 1863

Charlie received \$45.75 "for commutation of rations while on detached duty as clerk at A. A. G. office Hd Qrs 2d Corps. Army No. Va" at Guinea's Depot.

June 3, 1863

Charlie received \$194.40 (\$72 wages, \$50 "bounty," \$72.40 "use and risk of horse") at Hamilton's Crossing.

**Thursday, June 11, 1863**

Mr Nelson and family left for home have been here 6 weeks

**Sunday, June 14, 1863**

Mr McGuire preached here the first time for 6 weeks. Charlie [Meade] cut his first tooth last week & this week has two lower ones. Monday first short dresses on him & commenced crawling at once. Ginnie Moffet came up & staid until Wednesday

**Tuesday, June 16, 1863**

Pa & Sylla left here for Richmond, she for Charlottesville [remanent of torn out page]

Pa is in Richmond buying goods. Meade has 3 new teeth

June 18, 1863

Charlie received \$15.25 "for extra pay while on detached service... 25¢ per day" at Darksville.

**Fincastle, Thursday, June 18, 1863**

My honored & ever dear Husband

Where I shall direct a letter to you or where it may find you I cannot imagine, for we have many rumors of Gen E's travels, but nothing certain, tho so long a time has elapsed since you reached W we have heard scarcely nothing & I wish sometimes I were in Lexington, for there we were so often in sight of news from the Valley. Tho I rec'd a letter from you Monday [June 15], yet it is now it seems so long since it was written at C. H. & I fear so much that it may be still longer ere I hear again, for I guess you are kept constantly busy, & then where will my dear Charlie be? Very probably on the soil of another & alien state. Oh, if so may God protect you all, & bring you safely thro all danger. But if so much dread going on, yet our Gen's know best, & things have become desperate. O that God may indeed be with us in our present severe struggle, & that our city & \_\_\_ may be enabled to hold out against it besiegers.

We hope & think Tom was not engaged at M & hope he is now well. Your Pa rec'd a letter from James [H. H. Figgat] yesterday. He escaped in the battle at C. H. with a saber cut on his thumb, & wounded a Yank dreadfully with his saber. I haven't seen his letter, wished had before I wrote you, for I don't expect you have had an opportunity of seeing him since I hope (tho fear you have not) rec'd a long letter I wrote you & w'h you spoke of being certain it was on the road, & in w'h I think your mind w'd certainly



be set at ease concerning your "little darling," & show you how wrong you were to jump at conclusions w'h are faithful, without any reason for it. But my dear I know it is your great love for me w'h makes you thus, & appreciate it exceedingly. I had hoped so much that I might perhaps soon, or at least before the end of the summer, be made happy by another visit from you but fear now such will not be the case. If you don't soon come, you will not be able to realize that you left a baby at home, for he is so fast becoming a man. I put short dresses on him Monday & he is beginning to crawl very well already. Last week he cut one upper tooth, & here this week before any one thought of it, he had two lower ones. Just so he gets to run about nearly all the time, he don't care for eating or any thing else, & often cries when Harriet gives him to me. And he can beat G in that respect, for he just screams out like he was "kilt entirely" for the least thing, tho he is an excellent baby & scarcely ever really cries. He crawls \_\_\_\_\_ G & tries to take his playthings out of his hands, & amuses G very much. I took G to church last Sunday, & he behaved beautifully, tho' he went to sleep at the commencement of the sermon & \_\_\_ with rather too much force & he slept throughout, & I had to wake him up after church was out, so I was quite encouraged, but I did wish so much his dear Papa could see him. He always loves pa-pa, being with his little hands outstretched. Last night I talked to him of you, then asked about who made him & he answered as he generally does "dush", but when I say no he answers God. Then I told him of God & how he must pray to him, & what to I know you would have liked to hear his sweet little lips for the first time lisping a prayer for the blessing of God on his "dear pa-pa" & all he loved best, & I hope God looked & smiled on the poor feeble efforts of an other, who tho' she feels as if she knows as little how to guide the young understanding aright, yet will try should he vouchsafe me his help, teach him from his cradle to have his Saviour, & ask in his name for what he wishes. Oh it is a great responsibility & one from w'h I shrink with conscious meekness, but while God vouchsafes me his support, I'll in his strength go on, & oh that I may succeed in implanting in his young heart, the seed w'h will

germinate & grow, into perfect fulness of virtue morality & true & undefiled religion and Heaven grant that ere long I may have assistance from an earthly parent who can feel with & for me, & whom his dear little boy may look up to, as a pattern of his life, & whose examples I may ever be his pride as well as presence to follow.

My dear Charlie, on reading what I have written, I find it very badly done, but hope you will excuse, for I did it in bed last night, as I had been waiting, thinking I might perhaps see something definite in the papers to your whereabouts but concluded I would write any how, tho' you sh'd miss the letter. My pen I lent out the other day, & find it is not at all improved. Your Grandma<sup>116</sup> spent yesterday evening with us, & we had a wool picking. Ma got about 20 lbs, & is going to have a piece of linsey made. We enjoyed it very much, your Grandma still talks about & grieves for you, & I reckon thinks your wife cares very little for you, as she doesn't seem to do so, but I don't think she knows or anybody else, how ardently I wish I were with my dear one. It is said "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"<sup>117</sup>, but not always so with me. Pa is in Richmond buying goods, but I guess he won't get many for Mr Wilson has just returned, & says he took money enough to buy in old times 4 large boxes of dry goods, but what he brought will be too small boxes that he could once have carried on his back. Pa took Ma, Haddie, Mary up to see the farm last week, & the children were delighted, & want to move at once, but I reckon they w'd be glad to get back. Ma says she likes it very well except the house is rather small, & I think but for that Pa w'd be very apt to come up for a year or two at least & am not so certain he wont do it anyhow. I tell them tho' that if there is a move, it will very likely be for always. Tho' there would be much to give up yet there is something to be gained, & Ma says they might do a great deal of good there. The Pettigrews are more than anxious, Pa took them all (Ma & rest) over & spent a night & day there. I can't say I fancy it, so very much, in these times of trouble, I feel like being near to friends & where I can hear everything directly.

116. Eve Tinney, Charlie's maternal grandmother.

117. Luke 6:45 [Matthew 12:24]

**July 3, 1863**

In battle Gettysburg Tom was severely wounded in arm had to have it amputated Heard he was mortally wounded. ~~Later part of month~~ In August rec'd a letter from him Robinson captured in Maryland saw his name in list of prisoners in Ft McHenry. Heard from him first at Johnson's Island in August

**July 29 or 30, 1863**

My dear Charlie returned home & was very sick for three weeks with Bilious fever. Started on return to Army

**Sept. 29, 1863**

arrived there (near Or[ange] C. H.)

**Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1863**

E Nelson's daughter died

**Oct. 14, 1863**

Went in co with Mrs F[iggat] to Christiansburg,<sup>118</sup> remained there two wks & Tuesday 27th went to Salem. Synod had just adjourned there.<sup>119</sup>

**Hd Qrs Near Brandy Station Culpepper Co,  
Oct. 21, 1863**

My very dear Wife

We have just arrived at this place and occupy an old house, which has been left by the owner and which was splendidly furnished, but very thing has been broken and mostly destroyed. I have been tolerably well since I last wrote you, but had a pretty hard time while on the campaign, going into camp late and getting up at 3 & 4 o'ck in the morning; but all this no one would have minded had the expedition been successful, but it was the most complete and shameful failure that has occurred I suppose during the war, especially when the opportunities of success are considered. I wrote you just as the guns open on the day of the fight at Bristoe Station, and at which place we ought to have captured one Corps with their wagons as easily as not to have done it, but A P Hill who made the flank movement and came in front of

118. Nannie went with Charlie's mother, Susan W. Tinney Figgat, to visit his older brother, William's family [his wife, Mollie Edie Figgat, and children, Joseph Eddie b. 1860; and Eva Sue b. 1862].

119. Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Virginia, Oct. 22-26, 1863.

They had a meeting the other day to organize a company for "home defense", & all seem to be expecting "raids" &c this summer, but I hope may be equally disappointed. I didn't hear what was done. They say George Carper is on his way home, having slipped out of Win[chester] when you all got there. It seems to me he might have slipped out before this.

We have heard that the F[incastle] Rifles have had orders to cook 13 days rations, so I reckon they go on & on.

Jenni Moffett paid us a very nice little visit this week, came Monday morning & back Wednesday. She left home & came to J Anderson funeral w'h Mr Hart preached last Sunday in B. Then came on up to pay us this visit. All are well there except Gus who has not been well for some time, has inflammation of stomach. Col Jackson has improved rapidly walking about on crutches, & has paid several visits in neighborhood. Aunt has one of his sisters boarding in the house who has 4 children. So there are 9 there under 10 years. They have been banished from Weston, & seem to think Aunt J[ane] ought to take them, & two other sisters besides, but she will not & this lady goes to Goshen to board.

May Ann Brugh is to be married very soon to a widower named Rapp from Augusta who has 3 children. Better she had taken Mr Miller. We all think it very probable Mrs \_\_\_ will take Mr Davis. She has gotten to be really frisky & talks about marrying &c a good part of her time. I get out of patience with her, though I have seen very little of her lately.

I don't think I have any other news. All send love to you, & Ella says school will soon be out, & then look for that letter. I want to start to Christiansburg, about week after next. Don't know until I get there, how long I may stay. I going [sic] out to spend to day with Sallie Spears, so must stop, but expect you think its time, but I don't waste paper by leaving it blank, like some persons do that I know. Now my dear hoping to hear from you very soon I am as ever with prayers for continued health & much happiness, & that you may grow in grace rapidly & ever pray for you

constant & affectionate wife. Nannie Figgat

the advance of the enemy committed a great blunder, and utterly failed in accomplishing that for which he was sent, and instead of putting in a force sufficient to hold the enemy put only 2 brigades and consequently lost some 7 or 800 men killed & wounded and 5 pieces of artillery, besides this one loss was small only a few hundred, we captured between 1500 & 2000 prisoners and killed & wounded as many of the enemy as we ourselves lost; we then turned away from Manassas and came back to this county, where we are visiting and trying to improve our horses, and in the course of a week or ten days if the weather is at all suitable we will start on an other expedition, but where to I cannot tell. I saw James F[iggat] to day, was at Hd Qrs all morning, came to get my horse as he was so unfortunate as to have his fine one shot on last Monday; how many narrow escapes he has made, now after he has been saved by Devine Providence, in the same fight he had his given cloth pierced, which was tied to his saddle the ball making ten holes and remaining in the bundle; I let him have my horse and he will send his boy home at once for his other, the one which was shot is too lame to walk as far and must be left behind.

I have not heard from Jas G. [James Godwin], since James saw him at Manassas, at which time he was safe. I fear you may have written to me at Orange C. H. and the letter has not reached me, and I miss it so much, as it seems long since I heard from you. I hope dear little Meade has entirely recovered, and is as gay and happy as usual, and that Godwin still loves and plays with sweet brother and both together make many pleasant hours for my dear darling wife, and thus together the three loved ones, dear little family are happy and contented. Monday was Meades first birth day the beginning of years, no one can tell when they will end, and what may be in store for him; may our Heavenly Father grant unto him and us all many days of happiness, together, in this life and in the world to come undividedly saved give praise to Him who hath redeemed and saved by his blood. Last Sunday evening was such a pleasant one and we were at a nice place, and I thought so much of home and the dear ones there, and it was the case all day as I rode along the road, and

I wished as much to be with my dear wife, and enjoy the blessed sabbath with its privileges but in Gods good providence these things are withheld from us, and it becomes us and is our duty to humble our-selves, before God, and pray that these heavy afflictions may pass from us and peace be restored to our unhappy land. O! what desolation is seen in the county of Prince Wm<sup>120</sup> to Valley is nothing to it. The day we came from Brist down the Rail Road I do not remember to have seen a living thing. man fowl or beast. every house burnt, and the fences also, and it seems as if the country has grown mild, and this is the case in other parts of the county, the county seat being torn to pieces, houses torn down, Court H and all the records burnt or carried off, and thus our country is served, by those who profess to be so much better both in a Christian and civil *persuit* when O where will this all end, and this which destroys and lays waste, be past, that happiness and contentment be given to us once more. I suppose from your last letter you may be in Christiansburg now, if so I hope you may have a pleasant visit, and you and the little boys may come home in perfect health; to spend a pleasant winter after having spent a season in Rockbridge which I hope you may be able to do. When I was in Lexington I took tea with Rev Mr Norton at Mr Campbells and was very much pleased with him and think we would like him very much if we were in L. every one seems very much pleased, with him and they have the church crowded every Sunday, down stairs with citizens and the Cadets in the gallery. They have Mr Keorber engaged, to play the organ, regularly, and now have a fine choir, and chant in the regular style. I am afraid that by the time we get back, we will hardly know them, and how to worship with them. I'm glad they have been so fortunate as to secure such a good pastor and one who gives so much satisfaction, and hope that much good may be done, and many souls may be brought to Christ under his ministration, and that the blessing of God may rest upon them all, and may be added to the church such as shall be saved.

Now my darling, I must bid you good bye, hoping this letter may prove more interesting

120. Prince William County, population 8,565, 28% slaves.

than it seems to me it can be as several have been talking all the time and I found it hard to write. Hoping this may find you all well and happy and with many kisses for yourself and the little boys, and love to all the dear ones at home, and hoping to hear from you soon, as it is such a pleasure to receive the sweet letters that come to me from my dear wife. Direct to Culpepper C. H. & write soon, as we may move soon, and believe me as ever

your devoted husband C M F

Oct. 31, 1863

Charlie received \$147.25 "For commutation of rations while absent on sick furlough from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept inclusive. Sixty Six days at \$1.25 per day: \$82.50. Approved Maj W. J. Hawks 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps will pay account By order of Lt Gen R \_\_ Ewell A. G. Pendleton A A G..." at Brandy Station.

Oct. 31, 1863

Charlie received \$23.25 "for commutation of rations while on special services as clerk in A. A. Genl Office, Hd Qrs 2d Corps A. N. Va."

Charlie received \$41.25 "for commutation of rations while on detached duty as clerk at Hd Qrs 2d Corps A. N. Va. Fifty five days at 74¢ per day" at Brandy Station.

**Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1863**

came home by Bonsack's Bob, Henry & Mary met me in a hack.

Nov. 5, 1863

Charlie received \$145.60 for six months (\$12/mo) and "use and risk of horse"(40¢ per day) Brandy Station.

**Monday, Nov. 9, 1863**

Home-guard went out to meet enemy advancing from Lewisburg. Rec'd letter from Charlie with chk for \$175

**Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1863**

Home-guard dispersed without any fighting

**Fincastle, Nov. 27, 1863**

My ever dear Husband:--

I had hoped to be cheered to-day by a letter from you, but I had something, must I say better than that? You would not be jealous would you, or chagrined, when I say that for an hour or two after the mail came in I did not think of

that having received a letter from him who is dearer than a brother, when instead I welcomed a dear bro' from a 4 mo's imprisonment!

Yet I did not think it strange that I did not receive it, for I reckon you waited in vain to receive a letter last week from me, but tho this wk' will repay you. Yes Rob arrived to-day, in excellent health, & of course good spirits, looking well, & as Bob says "dressed out in store clothes," with a large valise, I don't know the contents of. He bro't a good many things for friends of persons left there, only trinkets as he says. Says Col Harman with whom he roomed cried like a child when he left, he is so very anxious to get home, "w'd give all he is worth or expects to be if he could get home."

But I must tell you, of our dear little boy, of whom I wish I could give you a better report, but cannot say he is much if any better. He does not seem so sick, as when I wrote, & is not so weak, as one would think, yet he still throws up a great deal, & medicine seems to have no effect on him. He does seem somewhat better to-day, & is right fretful, w'h is a good sign, yet I feel uneasy, & my dear one, tho' I have had such cause for joy to-day this evening I felt sad & dispirited & oh how much I wanted to see my Charlie. I took a real good cry & feel better since. The principal cause was finding an ugly looking spot on my breast, w'h looked as if it might be a rising, & as the babe has not been able to suck as much as usual, I feared I had been careless in not keeping it as clear of milk as it ought to have been & when I discovered it, I almost got sick, with dread & apprehension of pain, particularly when my little one, needed so much of my \_\_\_\_\_. Now please don't be uneasy, for really now I think my fears may have been premature, for there is so little soreness it may be a pimple, as I have one on my hand. I would not have told you of it, only I tho't you would wonder why I was so sad, & I felt as if I could scarcely help telling you, for you know how I love to tell you of all my sorrows as well as joys, knowing I have such a ready sympathiser, I have been cheerful as I could be, when my dear babe seemed to suffer so much not thinking of myself at all, but this evening I suppose because my heart was tender, having so much of joy to

be grateful for. I felt my spirits sink away down at the prospect of a sore breast & all the pain wh' it brings. But I will not feel this long I hope, & I will trust that He who has been ever kind & good, & lavish in enjoyment of this world's good to me, will continue it, & should he afflict me severely, yet. it will be for good. I can't help hoping Meade will be better on the morrow, & all will soon be well again.

The meeting at the Baptist Church seems to increase instead of diminish in interest, & they have crowded houses every night. The penitents are principally soldiers, tho' a good many others too. Haddie is among the number. I hope & pray that she may soon find peace in believing. What a pleasure it is to see family as they come to years of discretion, giving themselves up to the Lord, & how happy it should make one feel. I hope I do feel it, but not as I would like to do. Charlie pray for your poor sinful wife, that her sins of omission may not be so great, & that she may be drawn nearer to her Saviour. James McD. has been up twice to be prayed for. Was sick last night, & did not attend. I would have gone to-night, for the baby does to sleep, but I was afraid of cold, I think I need some warming up. They all admire Mr Lee (a bro' of Elijahs. very much, who has been preaching lately. I have two pair of socks for you let me know if you need them sh'd' I have an opportunity of sending. I will try & get the covering but don't know how it will be. I reckon Tom will give you something. Tom told me sometime ago to tell you to send his "glass" (I forget the kind) by the first opportunity. Mrs L is constantly hoping & looking for Nat. I hope \_\_\_ this Col P has returned to camp improved in spirits. Your Pa told me to tell you to "go to a camp of instruction" before you accepted lieutenantcy." Pa is much better, went the other day to Col John's sale on the river, to buy some sheep, but they went first class over \$50. the third he bid to \$39 & stopped, so he came away as he went.

Pa came down street to-day, & some one called to him from the P.O. he looked up, & there was his hopeful grandson said he came to buy some candy, (of w'h Mr H has just rec'd a lot, & uncle Bob had been giving a glowing description to G.) it goes at only \$8 pr lb, & he

had gone up alone, to get some & surprise us I suppose. "but nary bite did he get Mr H say a ¼ will not get enough to put in a hollow tooth. I had only intended a not, but lo, a letter. All are at church or would send love. Hoping to write you a more cheering & cheerful letter in a few days, I subscribe myself ever yours devotedly.

Nannie G Figgat

**Friday, Nov. 27, 1863**

Rob returned home, having been in captivity at Johnson's Island Lake Errie, for 4 months. My little Meade has been quite sick for several days from teething. Monday evening 20th had a spasm after lancing germs, next morn' another after that same operation, used mustard bathe to feet, cold water to head, & mustard to spine. O Father, if best spare my child, Whom knowest; help me to be resigned, be with me in my trial, for my Savior's sake.

**Dec. 5, 1863**

6 o'clock, A.M. My very dear Husband:

I cannot sleep & have done but little during the night, tho' I have been in bed, & so no mail does to-morrow I must write you, tho' I no good tidings. [sic] I cannot say there has been any great change in our precious little one, but what is, is for the worse. Hard, hard it is to tell you, hard for me to think it, but I cannot see that there is any hope for his recovery. His dear little frame has been convulsed every few minutes during the night, yet they are short, & not very hard. Yet strange to say, his consciousness still remains & he knows his dear Ma-ma when he rouses, up, & sucks very heartily, every few hours. Sometimes he grasps my hand, & looks so imploringly in my face, as if he wished me to help him, but sad thought I can do nothing. The medicine has no effect no him, & since Tuesday night there has been no action on his bowels. I don't know whether to wish you here or not, to witness the seemingly great sufferings of our little darling, but you know I can't help wanting you, oh my dear Charlie to help me bear, & that I may help you, this first sorrow of our married life. I scarcely know what to write or say, or how I feel. I trust I can say "it is well." O God give me that faith which does not murmur show me the brightness of thy presence, & make me

feel the preciousness of a Savior. I don't know whether the Dr thinks there is no hope, I have not asked him, but others do not. Your Ma & Mrs Spears have sat up all night, & your ma bids me prepare you for the worst. O God, grant that our fears may not be realized, yet Thou knowest best, & doeth all things well. O that I could say something to comfort my dear Charlie, for well I know with what deep grief this letter will be read. I do not know where you are, & did I think you were near a telegraph line, w'd let you know so that if possible you might come to us, but I suppose it is impossible. I am very well & have lost but little sleep at least I feel so, but this morning my head aches a little, & my hearts aches too, but I sometimes feel strangely calm I don't know how to describe my feelings, but my dear I must stop, & mail this letter. Godwin is up & pestering me, to see me "wite to dear Papa, & shakes me tho' he says not. Poor little innocent little he knows, the sorrow around him. Good-bye my dear fond husband pray for your sorrowing wife, & remember the sympathy of the devoted partner of your joys & sorrows.

Nannie

**Monday, Dec. 7, 1863**

At 10 o'clock & 10 min this night the spirit of my darling babe took to flight to the bosom of his Savior. O could his dear Papa have been with him & me, but God knoweth what is best, & I will cast all my cares on Him. He seemed to suffer greatly. The clammy sweat of death came on at 3 o'clock P.M. & he was almost constantly convulsed About 7 I thought him dying, but 3 long hours elapsed ere he was released. Not a sound had he uttered for several days, but in the agonies of death, his moans were to me so distressing. It seemed as if he must cry out, & those teeth (oh they cost him his life) ground together, so as to almost drive me from Him. But at the last, he was calm, and we scarcely knew when he ceased to breathe. I held his hand thro all his struggles & with my own hands I closed his eyes on earth forever, tho I do not think he could see for sometime before he died more than 24 hrs. As long as he could only a few hrs before his death he would open his sweet mouth to kiss me. At 1 o'clock the night before he such sucked heartily. Next day several times he \_\_\_\_\_ a cup & did it between 3 & 4 o'clock that after-

noon. We buried him at 4 o'clock Tuesday eve 8th near his dear Aunt Jennie, who will have him "all to herself now." His four mules carried him to the grave by my request. There sleep sweetly my dear child until at the resurrection morn I can again claim thee as my own. Oh God thou knowest the bitterness of a mother's grief & will thou not forgive it. I would not now have him back, yet sweet recollections of him will bring tears, while I can say "Thy will be done." Dear little Charlie Meade's sweet smile will never more greet me. his happy cheerful face w'h every one noticed will never again make glad our hearts, but in his Savior's bosom, he is happy, & needs no longer a mother's care, & sympathy in sickness & suffering. Assist me Savior to live nearer to the, & to keep the resolutions I have formed, to live so that I may meet my darling in Heaven. Amen. Heard to-day of Mrs Dr Dove's death w'h occurred Friday Dec 4th 1863.

*Dec. 11, 1863*

*Charlie received \$22.50 "for commutation of rations while on detached duty" at Orange Court House.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1863**

Aroused this morning before 4 o'clock with the startling intelligence that the Yanks were rapidly advancing on F[incastle] & would be here in a few hours. This proved a mistake they went to Salem burnt Gov stores &c, & returned to find their rapid retreat cut off by swollen streams. Cit[izen]s of this place kept in suspense & dread until Sunday Gen Fitz'Lee with part of his (Cav) Division passed thro' amid the cheers & smiles of the inhabitants, accompanied by str\_\_\_\_ as proof of their hospitality in shape of bread & meat. But their efforts were all in vain the enemy have escaped, then with great loss

**Thursday, Dec. 17, 1863**

James returned on short furlough from the Army

**Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1863**

Rob left for the Army. Sent C a vest & socks.

*Daily Dispatch: Dec, 25, 1863*

*Richmond Dispatch*

The Averill raid.

In crossing Craig's creek<sup>121</sup> the enemy lost about 30 of their men by drowning, besides

121. Circa 30 miles from Fincastle, Craig's Creek rises in Giles and Montgomery Counties and falls into James River in Botetourt County. 1854 U. S. Gazetteer, C, p. 287.

nearly all their wagons and ammunition. Their artillery was pulled across with ropes. A prisoner captured near Fincastle says that the main object of the raid was the destruction of the salt works, and that a portion of Averill's command have gone in another direction. This prisoner says that the plan was, that after the destruction of the Government stores at Salem, the two divisions were to meet at Christiansburg, Montgomery county, and move on to the salt works.

Dec. 26, 1863

My very dear Husband

I had intended writing to you yesterday, but was prevented by persons coming in & I take the first hours of this day, (that is after breakfast) to spend in a little chat with you. Yesterday was a sad day to me tho I think it was rather dull to all, yet I felt a quiet pleasure because of the day. I paid a visit to our little one's grave, & took Godwin with me, but the ground was thawing & was so wet & cold I could not remain long, & G seemed more concerned about the mud on his feet than anything else. He took a beautiful little bunch of winter flowers & laid them on "little buddies grave." I said to him, "don't you wish you & mama could see little brother". "Yes & papa too." I had not spoken of you at all, so you see he doesn't forget you, & wishes you to share his pleasures. The hard rains have beaten down the earth, & the grave is very much sunken already, & I feel so sad that it looks so neglected, I covered it over with brush to keep the cows off it, as Dr. C's are in the lot, Pa had a rude enclosure put now at Jennie's but there has been no one since whom we could get to enlarge it, but I will soon. I suppose by this time Rob is with you & has given you all the news, & you have no doubt enjoyed it very much. I read your letter, & was so sorry you were kept so long in a state of suspense, & when you did get my letter, you were not relieved, because we were still in doubt, but thanks to God, we are still safe, & I pray that he may grant we still continue to be so.

Sunday eve. It has been a cold rainy day, yet it has not been long or dull to me I got up dressed G, made up my bed & cleaned my room before breakfast, then after sat down & read some & G said his letters, as he does very often when I read, & knows several if he will fix

his mind on them. Then I talked to him of you & little brother & "little Samuel," & he kneels down like the picture of him but I can't persuade him to say his prayers, or to learn anything sacred. I have tried to teach him verses in the Bible & hymns too, but he won't repeat a word, tho he can say anything funny, several of *Mother Gooses* melodies &c by prompting a little. I don't know why it is, unless he sees something in the countenance more serious than usual. Once when I asked him why he wouldn't pray to God, & he said "God is too big." I reckon it will be best not to force him, or tease him too much about it.

I think he is a very good child now, & I scarcely ever have any difficulty in getting him to obey me. The boys tease him a good deal, but I reckon it can't be helped. I think he is a good deal like his Grandpa G [i.e., his namesake, Nannie's father, Thomas G. Godwin] when he takes a notion that he don't want to do anything no coaxing will get him to do it. I think it is a mistake that persuading is the better plan with him. He will do anything a great deal sooner for me when I command him. God grant that I may be able to teach him obedience while young & that I may have strength & firmness, & also lead him by example, in the way w'h leads to Holiness, & God. Otherwise, rather let me lay him beside the other dear little one, hard tho' the trial would be

Would that he could also have the training of his dear father & his example, but I pray & hope that it will be granted him in after years, when it will be even more needed than now. I will trust & wait. You know I have never been low-spirited or cast down during the war that is, as to the result, but it seems to me that now is the darkest hour we have ever had. (O that it may be one before the dawn.) It is not reverses or a distrust of our ability so much, as the terrible spirit of gain &c w'h is abroad in the land. I do not think the North ever had a fanaticism equal to it, in regard to its being so general. Yes, that "love of money wh's is the root of all evil" seems to have taken such firm hold of the people that I have a fear & dread that it will prove our ruin. O that Providence would intervene & cause it to cease, & that our people wd' see the error of their ways & turn & repent & pray earnestly & importunately

that God would have mercy upon us. I digressed from my first subject & will return.

We all went to Presbyterian church as Mr McG[uire] did not make his appearance to-day, & there was quite a good congregaton when we came out it was raining quite fast, & a great many were without umbrellas, but I think all got home right well, as those that had were neighborly. A little while after we came from church Pa proposed a Bible-class, & I've had a very pleasant lesson, just among ourselves.

We dine between 3 & 4. The evening I spent in reding & at twilight we sung a little, immediately after w'h I came to my own room, to think of & talk to my dear one. I wonder how he has spent the day? & I expect his thoughts are now on his dear home & the loved ones there. I left G playing round the room in his gown with his sweet ways every now & then causing a laugh. Do you have preaching regularly now, you never speak of it, & do you get the churchman? Is Mr Lacy still at hd'qrs My paper the *[Southern] Episcopalian* has ceased coming some months since, I do not know why Ma has been quite unwell, confined to the bed almost for two days, but is much better now & has been up yesterday & to day. It was severe cold. Annie is just getting over her cold, & looks right badly. Julie is as fat as there is any need to be. The rest are well, I saw them yesterday. Ella was there in the evening said your Ma had rec'd a letter from Mollie, the first time they had been heard from since we left there except accidentally. She said Wm had been suffering with a felen on his finger [see Culinary History] she had been very busy, as they had moved to [J. H.] Guggenheimer's house [in Christiansburg] (his wife has gone north) had a sick soldier in the house & also a lady boarder, so I reckon she has her hands full. The 2d Cav Reg was disbanded while here for thirty days, so all the boys are at home. They are to meet in Lynchburg on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan. I reckon this order caused a thrill of joy to many a sad heart, & of pain to some, that their dear ones could not come with them. Poor Sallie Spears was here the day the 2d Cav passed thro' & she wept so bitterly & your Ma said Mrs Peck<sup>122</sup> was

122. Lumina, Mrs. William Peck, mother of Rufus H. Peck [b. 1838 Fincastle]

at her house, & felt it so much too. Oh it was so sad, & I compared their sorrow with mine, & felt how much greater it was. I am very well now, & spirits very good, & I have been busy sewing for Ma & girls. Haddie & I made her an linsey dress in a day & half to wear Xmas. Ma's linsey is so pretty. I wish I had one. I have not made my mousline<sup>123</sup> yet

This letter is not exactly what one for Sunday might have been, yet I hope it has not been wholly unprofitable. I send you some verses Mrs Williams sent me, but you must send them back, as I wish to keep them. I think them very pretty, & so applicable to our dear little boy. In the note she sent with it, she used the lines, "O it will be sweet With those we loved & love on earth below Around the throne of God above to meet." Is it not true? And I know if we are so happy as to get there we wil see our dear babe, tho I must confess I am not a very firm believer in "recognition in Heaven." At least I do not think we have very good grounds for it, yet it is full of comfort to sorrowing ones on earth. But I think it is one of those things that we have no right to decide or concern ourselves about. I have an idea that our enjoyment there will be so differet from earthly pleasures & that we cannot conceive of it.

But, O, I pray that we may all arrive there at last, & unite with dear ones who have gone before, in singing everlasting praises to the Lamb forever. I do hope our friend Mrs Estill has not been called on to give up her darling boy, for it will be so hard for her. He was her favorite we all told her but I am sure she will bear it with the resignation of a Christian Let me know if he dies & Dr. Leyburn too. He was from what I heard such an estimable man. Can it be that all the noble of that place are to be taken? I did not know there were half so many there until now as one by one have been taken. Insemtable are the ways of Providence. The dear ones send love. And many kisses & much love from those dearer than all beside, your darling boy, &

ever devoted wife. N G Figgat.

I wrote to your uncle not to let Capt H have anything when the year was unless he had rented

123. Mousline was similar to a delicate muslin.

for a longer time. Can't find out when it is out. I think he ought to be turned out any how, for offering only \$1000 so you wrote it, either you made a mistake or the man is beside himself you valued them at \$2000 when we came away.

*Dec. 31, 1863*

*Charlie received \$15.25 "for extra duty pay while on detached service as clerk..." at Orange Court House.*

**Friday, Jan. 8, 1864**

The Bot[etourt] Dragoons have recd 30 days furlough the cit[izen]s gave them a dinner at C H [Botetourt Court House] a large audience address by Col Munford of the Reg. Wm Gilmore, Mr Etchison & others

**Monday, Jan. 18, 1864**

The company left from Lynchburg where they had a supper & ball, then rec'd extension of furlough, & all returned 22d remained until Feb 1st & left again. Dec 20th J W died a prisoner of war at Pt Lookout<sup>124</sup> Allen returned from there the next week.

**Jan. 27, 1864**

Bessie McD died. Helen Moffet came up Jany 7th returned Feb 9<sup>th</sup>

*Feb. 1, 1864*

*Charlie received forage for his horse at Orange Court House.*

*Feb. 13, 1864*

*Charlie received \$184.53 [pay for Nov.-Dec. \$24.00; "use & risk of horse" \$24.40; one year's clothing (Oct. 1862-Oct. 1863) \$136.13] at Orange Court House.*

*Charlie received \$15.25 for "extra duty pay on detached service as clerk..." (25¢/day)*

**Feb. 13, 1864**

Old Aunt Ginnie<sup>125</sup> at Mr [J. M.] Figgat's died.

**Feb. 23, 1864**

Tom started to army with provisions for Rob

**Feb. 24, 1864**

Heard of Charles Banks death, killed at Cumberland Sep 22.

124. Maryland peninsula formed at the junction of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

125. 90 year old slave listed in the 1860 slave schedule.

*March 1, 1864*

*Charlie received forage for his horse at Orange Court House.*

**Fincastle, March 17, 1864**

My dear Husband.

Yours of 13<sup>th</sup> was received & I can't say it was unexpected, for Mrs Logan had been here in the morning & informed me that Mat had written the same you did about furloughs, & a man who is here for the purpose of hurrying off supplies to the Army told Pa pretty much the same thing, so I feared to see the mail come, contrary to my usual feelings I did not want to see a letter in the well known hand-writing. To say I am disappointed would be useless, yet after the worst was over, I thought more of yourself. Unselfish as ever, you do not say what a blow it was to your hopes, yet I think I can see you as you try to look as if it was all right, yet feeling almost as if it were not. I felt quite rebellious at first, but th\_\_\_\_\_ I can now look at it right calmly, & know that it is all right, tho' I am not quite so brave as you try to think me for that is a thing more easily talked of than practices. I feel like laying the blame on James F[iggat] for I think may-be you would have gotten off sooner had it not been for him, & he writes that he hasn't heard from the young lady, so that his plans are all frustrated, & doesn't know when he can get a furlough. Well as Allen Robinson wrote when he didn't receive a box with the others, "I reckon I can starve as easily as anybody else. I don't care if you don't send me any" (Tho' his Ma had sent one & he failed to get it) I reckon I can grieve & lose spirits & appetite & as well as anybody else, & then according to some people's taste I will look all the more interesting. I had a styne on that same eye oh w'h the boil was, last week, & Saturday & Sunday suffered a good deal but it is well now, & I hope indeed I shall have no more. My eyes were not quite so much weakened by it as the boil, & I can sew this week. Joe Robinson bro't the buggy up for me Monday but I didn't feel like going so sent Ella. But don't think I am needlessly grieving for my spirits are as god as usual this morning, & I shall try to be as brave as you would have me, for I know how many more poor women are worse off than am I,

& it would not have been so hard on one if I had not so often expected you I should much rather not know you are coming, if it were not that you have to have some conveyance from the depot. If you go to C[hristiansburg] as you come, it would be better to send a note from the Depot as you go up so there may be some certainty. Mollie [pregnant] w'd much rather you would come there first as she thinks she is rather better looking now than she will be after a while. The last few days have been quite cold, but to-day seems warmer, & the sun shines so brightly that I had intended going out & enjoying it this morning, but company came in. Ma & I are going to spend this evening with Mrs Hannah by our own invitation. Godwin annoys me very much playing with a pet chicken Henry has here in Ma's room, about as big as your thumb. He keeps me squalling at him nearly all the time, for fear he should squeeze it to death. Now he hits it with the big ball, now \_\_\_\_\_ round it making me think he is jumping on it every minute, & laughing as he has scarcely ever done since his dear bro' died for he plays with it in the same way. Yesterday he picked up my scissors & when I looked up he was clipping at the chicken's legs & toes. I threaten the extermination of the bird but reckon I'll have to grin & endure it. He has taken quite a fancy to Thomas who is still here. Grandpa says he fancies everyone but him. He said he was mightly sorry Papa couldn't get a furlough, as if he knew all about what it meant, & he has a piece of candy put away for you that his uncle Tommy bro't him. He has gone out now to dig some worms for the chicken, say he knows where some is, but he has returned saying there ain't any worms in the holes. At his earnest solicitation I have allowed him to write this much to say but he isn't satisfied so I have promised to let him have a separate paper. Perhaps you have heard that James & the other boys got their boxes safely, & Mr Stevens says the shouts & chers that rent the air, (when tired, sleepy, & hungry they rode into camp late at night, having been 8 days out) were loud & long, Pa tho't he would rather have been there than at the hanging last Friday, & don't you think there was a boy condemned on Monday to be hung on the 15<sup>th</sup> of next month for barn burning He belongs to Capt

Breckenridge, & was hired at Sam Noftsinger's whose barn he bur't. Some persons think not intentionally, but unfortunately for himself he denied taking any fire towards the barn w'h was proved the he did I understand there is a petition getting up to commute the punishment. I shall be sorry if he is hung here for I think it has a bad effect when a community becomes so familiar with such horrible things. I am glad you are able to get to church or rather preaching now, I know it will be pleasant for you & I pray profitable to your souls, & pray also my dear Charlie that I may not hew out for myself a broken cistern w'h will hold no water. The ministers here of the different denominations are going to hold weekly union prayer-meetings the first to be held at Methodist ch on Friday afternoon. O that it may please God in mercy to hear the prayers of his people w'h I pray may ascend as incense thro the whole South induced by his Holy Spirit offered thro the merits of a divine Redeemer, that he would deliver us, bring to naught the efforts of our enemies, & give us the victory. This is my last sheet of paper, so I reckon I can't write any more until you bring me some. I expect if you would ask Col Pendle[ton] tonight pretty he would get Mr See or Mr Ewell to make a "special Order" in your case, & send you home in a hurry. Tell Col. P, I say please intercede, or give you permission himself for you have waited so patiently, & may-be some day he will know what a very great favor he will confer on you & me he has not been married long enough yet to realize it. Now my dearest one write soon to repay me for your absence.

Yours ever affectionately Nannie

**March 18, 1864**

Tommie Woodson was buried in F[incastle], died in Amelia Co of Typhoid fever, aged 11 yrs.

*April 1, 1864*

*Charlie received forage for his horse at Orange Court House.*

**Monday, April 20, 1864**

My dear C came home after an absence of near 6 mos. Remained three weeks & returned April 11th God grant that ere long we may be united not soon again to be separated.

April 21, 1864

Charlie received 50 lbs of corn for "requisition for forage for one private horse in the service of C M Figgat Company Clerk..." at Cook's Headquarters.

**Hd Qrs 2d Army Corps, April 25, 1864**

My dear Wife

Your most welcome & interesting letter was received on Saturday tho *time* it was expected, and I was indeed glad to hear from home as it seemed a long time since I left and tho there is not that homesickness which usually follows when first separated from dear ones, but are indescribable longing for *renewal* and continuance of the pleasant days spent in the society of those most dear, but I will try and not complain, but be patient and trustful, looking to God the giver of all, as the only one who can help and give us peace in the land once more, and thus restore unto us the attendant blessings, and among them that reunion which to none will be more sweet, than to us for tho not separated for so long a time as some others, yet I am persuaded that none feel the true affection and appreciate the connection of the married life more than we, and thus are not able to enjoy its blessings and priveleges to a greater extent; and the thought that we have been now married long enough to thoroughly understand each other the mutual affection; felt at first has not as in too many instances diminished, but on my part has but steadily grown and am fully assured that the same is true of my darling; and so may it ever be into lifes end, and at its close my earnest prayer is that more closely drawn near to God, in perfect favor with Him. I may have been the means of contributing much to the happiness of her who has nothing but happiness for me.

We are still in our old quarters, and it begins to seem like home we have been here so long; but would not be surprised, at leaving any hour as every thing indicates an early campaign thoug [sic] it may be that some weeks may pass in the same situation, and there is some probability that the great battle or battles will not be at this place, but lower down, that is if we wait for an attack. We are having very fine weather, had delightful rain last night, and to day sunshine & quite warm, tho it has been quite cool since I

came back. Yesterday was a good day and Col P[endleton] and myself went to town to hear Dr Murray rode preach; and well indeed were we paid for the ride, for we could have heard a sermon here but not such I think as the Dr's from the text "We disciples were first Called Christian in Antioch and O it was made so plain, and applied personally so comforting, and full of warning and sound teaching. I wish I could hear such oftener, and that I could be in a like state of mind and heart desiring to hear and receive instruction and feeling a desire to draw closer to God tho Christ and ever to feel His presence and taste His love, and grow in grace that always I may desire to be more like Him and seek less after the word.

After church I had to wait for the mail and thought I would ride out to see James Godwin & the rest of the boys but as I learned before I left town that only a squadron was on picket of course it had to be that company; and they had just come out that morning, so consequently missed seeing them – but wait over to my own company and spent a short time, found all well saw James F[iggat]. He was well & has stood it without being laid up again notwithstanding Ma's & Grandma's awful crime which they committed in letting a three year old soldier go out in the rain. I found Jno Laird in the Co, also saw W. McCorkle, the boys say he gets a letter every day from his wife & that Jno Laird gets two if they are answered they must have more time than me & more to write about, for I am certain that I could not get these up that fast; Jno Graham was here the other day to get a leave of absence to go home to meet his heirs as Mary is expecting one about this time. I hope it may have a safe arrival. I saw Rob this morning. He is on picket again, very well. Has not been able to get a horse as yet, he was much put out at Archie N having sold the one he expected to get from him & at Dr. not answering his letter & telegram.

I saw Mattie & Sallie Woods at the Depot and gave them the trunk sent by Mrs E, there was no expense on it & as nothing to pay I am glad James received an extension of his leave and hope he will go to see Wm if he has not already done so. We learn that [William Woods]

Averill is on an other raid if so [Thomas L.] Rosser may find something to do while up there I would not be surprised if we are attacked all round about the same time, but hope our success in N.C. will admit of our withdrawing. A good many troops from there to strengthen both Johnson & Lee. The plan is to capture Washington & Newlson. Plymouth was the begining [sic] & hope the other may be as successful, as there is an other lone boat up the Neuse [River in North Carolina] to cooperate with the one which operated at P. May the Lord give us continued success, and show to all that in Him alone is power, -- that unto Him be all the glory.

Now dear it is getting late, and I have been interrupted several times, and know that I have left out something I wanted to say – but must close. Remember me to Mrs Brugh & tell her I wanted to come out again before I left, had it not been for the rain & you must say the same to your Aunt M. Give much love to all at both homes, many Kisses for you and G dear little one & tell him I want to hear him sing Hail. I hope he is a good boy & obeys his ma. Much love to my darling, wishing you a pleasant nights rest – happiness here & eternal rest in heaven.

Yours devotedly Charlie

**Tuesday, May 3, 1864**

James Figgat left for the Army, at home 5 wks

**Thursday, May 5, 1864**

Commenced the battles in the A. N. Va Gen J. E. B. Stuart, Col Clay Pate, & many other officers killed also Capt W. Williams killed.

**Sunday, May 22, 1864**

Much snow & rain followed by quite a deep snow. Snowed & rained alternately for near three wk roads exceedingly bad.

**Wednesday, May 25, 1864**

Charlie came home very unexpectedly, & quite sick, from fatigue &c was better in a few days, & we had several pleasant visits together

May 31, 1864

Charlie received corn "requisition for forage for one private horse in the service of C M Figgat Company Clerk..." at Cook's Headquarters.

**Wednesday, June 8, 1864**

returned & found the Army on the eve of marching.

**Saturday/Sunday, June 11 or 12, 1864**

Our armed foe reached Lexington, & burned the V.M.I. shelled the town without any notice & did much injury They came on up the road after McCausland's command skirmishing with them, & at B[uchanan, burned residences including Gov. Letcher's.] Gen McC had the bridge burnt to retard their progress.

**Tuesday, June 14, 1864**

A force of 200 cavalry came into Fincastle alarming me very much but doing little mischief.

**Saturday, June 18, 1864**

A large wagon train passed thro' with a good many prisoners, large number of negroes, & about 700 guard. They also did no damage to the town & evidently were afraid of being fired on. Tuesday 14, Mt Joy house was burnt.<sup>126</sup> The army went on to Lynchburg, & there met resistance they did not expect, so retreated. They were commanded by Averill Crook & [David] Hunter & followed by Gens Early's Breckenridge divs near Salem. From Bonsack's depot Rob & Charlie both left & came home. The first staid until Saturday the last only two nights & a day & others had to leave [&, or" me again and \_\_\_\_] join the army in their march down the Valley. The enemy retreated to Kanawaha V. completely demoralized. Numbers suffering from starvation Early pressed on down the Valley crossed the Potomac in M'd, threatened Washington cut off communication with the North Burnt the Gov's house in retaliation for Letcher's bro't out [i.e., stole] an immense quantity of horses grain, &c & are once more on VA soil

**Tuesday, July 12, 1864**

Pa, Ma Henry & I came to Stone Castle they returned Saturday 23d

July 18, 1864

Charlie received \$15.25 for "extra duty pay while on detached service at a clerk in the A. A. G. Office 2d Corps A. N. Va," (25¢/day) Darksville.

**Stone Castle, July 19, 1864**

126. John Thomas Anderson's (wife, Cassandra Shanks Patton) house, Mt. Joy, was destroyed on the orders of Union Gen. David Hunter.

Not more than ten days have elapsed my dearest Charlie since I rec'd an epistle from you, but it is 19 since it was written, & oh it seems so long since. I expected one yesterday eve, forwarded from F[incastle] but was disappointed, & must wait, it may be for some days yet for I doubt if you were able to write for you must have been very busy in the last two wks. I hope your fears as to the good accomplished by your movements were not realized, & that the news we heard this morning, tho rumor may be true viz That you were again south of the Potomac in Loudon, with large supplies of captured stores, & besides have filled Washington & surrounding country with apprehension, & I hope scared them as much as they deserved to be. I wrote you a week since my arrival here, & hope you are in receipt of it. Of course I think a great deal about you, my dear husband, & pray that you will all our brave men will be safely bro't thro' all dangers to w'h you may be exposed. Many dear ones may have found graves on a (now lie on) foreign soil, oh that it my have been with a hope of meeting their loved ones in that bright home where they may have laid their armor down with the plaudit, "Well done," thou hast fought the good fight thou has kept the faith, hence forth there is laid up for thee a crown, bright, & immortal. Oh! glorious approval will it not far \_\_\_ pay the hardest labors of the road. I hope my Charlie has indeed been well, & that the close of this trip will not find him, as much broke down as is usually the case with you. We do not get any late newspapers here, generally several days old, I hope from day to day to get news from you, & hope I may soon. Is Rob safe & well? Much love when you see him, hope he has gotten some fat on him getting good fare in "my Maryland." Wonder if you all like it any better than before. We have been having a nice gentle rain today, & hope it has done much good, tho we haven't had enough to be as much as we need. Ma & Aunt are spending the day with M. Dr. Houston. I am going up soon, was not certain Mollie<sup>127</sup> was at home to-day as she has been in L. We all went to Highbridge Sunday, heard Mr Heart preach Mr Hugh Bradford's funeral sermon. Joe Walker preaches next

127. Her sister-in-law, William's wife.

Sunday. Well Charlie the flies bite me so intolerably, I can't write, so will have to wait until morning. The fleas have seemed to day to have satiated their thirst for my blood, somewhat, but before this I have been persecuted, no little.

Wednesday morning. Have an opportunity of sending my letter directly & so must hurry. I am well this morning tho tired, as our dear G is not at all well, & I was up 5 or 6 times with him during the night, tho I very little sleep. Strange to say, this morning his looks as bright as ever, & says "I feel better." Is very anxious to write you, but says he hasn't time this morning. I wish I had something of interest to write, but have not. So I will have to conclude in a hurry. Many sweet kisses from your darlings. (Oh I am just "suffering" for one) Cheerfully hoping to hear from you very soon, I am so

ever your devoted wife. Nannie G. Figgat.

**Friday, Aug. 12, 1864**

Went to Lexington remained a week & returned Fri 18th Had some trouble attending my business, but a pleasant time with friends. Visited our "hero Jackson's" grave. The ground around it was like the street so many persons had trodden it.

Had a pleasant & long visit to Stone-Castle [Natural Bridge] with Misses Atkinson from Alexandria, boarders at my Aunts, refugees from their homes. Visited at Dr. H[ouston]'s Miss Goldsboro, a banished refugee from Baltimore, for holding correspondence with & in many ways aiding rebel prisoners Jinnie & Gus went up to Dagger's Springs [18 miles north of Fincastle] & remained near three weeks.

**Sunday, Aug. 21, 1864**

I started home Aunt sending me to Joe Robinson's where I had a pleasant visit until morning Pa & Mary came down in a wagon for me. I walk up to Beaver Dam, found Mrs McG there, had been very ill but slowly recovering. Mr Andrew Boyd died

**Saturday, Aug. 27, 1864**

On my way home got a box from Charlie at B[lue] Ridge Hotel.<sup>128</sup>

128. 5 miles from Fincastle at junction of the Southwest Turnpike and Kanawha Turnpike (Fincastle and Blue Ridge Turnpike). *Botetourt County Virginia Heritage*, p.14.

Sept. 1, 1864

Charlie received \$45.50 "for extra duty pay while on detached service as clerk in A. A. G. Office Hd Qrs 2d Corps A. N. Va."

**Thursday, Sept. 15, 1864**

A Nelson & family went home

**Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1864**

Rec'd a large bundle from the same, containing very valuable articles, viz woolen goods. Got letter from C, rather sad & apprehensive of what may befall us ere the close of this much war.

**Fincastle, Sept. 20, 1864**

My dearest Charlie:

Yesterday I rec'd yours of the 14<sup>th</sup> & right glad was I to get it so soon after the other. I hope you have ere this rec'd my answers to your former one. I have gotten all your letters after so long a time, but now they come in 5 days, (quite reasonable) I am sorry to see that you are still some what gloomy, yet do not wonder at it, strange you have never been so before, but you certainly I think have more reasons now to be, yet my dear be not overmuch cast down, for has He not said, "I will be with you in six troubles, & in the seventh I will not forsake you," & do we not know that this has so often been verified, & let us not let our faith fail now, or be too much disturbed for to-morrow, for "the morrow" &c. Do not think I rebuke you, for I think your trust seems to be very strong, & is a lesson to me, in the purity of your trust in Him who doeth all things well Yes I think we have peculiar reason to trust & praise him for his goodness & mercy. As I have so often heard you say that you had been made happy in the one great aim of your life, as to this worlds happiness, you have prospered in business very fairly, & better still have gained the confidence & esteem of your fellow-men, so that your wife is often proud of her husband, & for many years you have tried to serve your God, & he has ever been *walking* & ready to serve you. Your wife has been blessed thro' all her life with a happy home, without a sorrow or a care, & then on leaving that was taken to one than w'h I venture to say none is more happy or unclouded, then this cruel war came on, & there began to sup somewhat of the

sorrows of it, but in no other way than separation, until at last, a merciful Father, seeing perhaps that we too lightly appreciated our numerous blessings stretched out his hand & took unto himself one of the lambs entrusted to his care, & cannot you dear Charlie rejoice in this even tho' there was so much to sadden us. So you see we can still count our blessings & hope they may be continued, & we appreciate them, then let us never give up. It is true, & I know it is hard that our nation may have much suffering in store, & so may we as individuals, but we will suffer & be strong, thro' him who rules above, & pray for the dawning of the day. Let us look into our hearts, & see if we are not selfish somewhat in that we who looked forward to so much pleasure in our married life should now be so much disappointed. Were we not thinking too much of this worlds happiness, & not trusting to that w'h reaches beyond the grave to repay us for all our trials here. So now my dear one let us keep a stout heart, don't be too much troubled about me for can I not be strong thro' Him who strengthens us & what e'er betides us, I will try to follow our own brave country women's example, & bear what ever comes, even if our own beloved Virginia has to be given up to our vandal foe, & oh dread thought, that I sh'd be deprived the pleasures of those dear letters. But now here it is again looking too far & as Mr Shaker says, "Crashing the bridge, before we got to it."

Wednesday. I wanted to get my letter in this morning's mail, but had Carrie Pettus to spend the day with me yesterday, & was prevented from writing. First of all I must tell you that your valuable bundle is safe at hand, & eagerly opened, & its contents inspected, by all at once, it was even worse than when you were here last summer. Ella & Hatte claiming numerous skirts of the flannel, Bob shouldered the roll of cloth, & called to Tom to come on & find Ben. Godwin seemed as if he w'd take leave of his senses entirely, rolling & tumbling in every direction, thro' yarn & cloth, telling each one that his Papa sent this, & claiming the twine with w'h it was served up, by the bye Hatte allowed you must have intended it to stay sewed it seemed as if her eager fingers w'd never get it unloosed I had to sit & look on, content to see everything

claimed but I had the assurance that all was mine at last. This may seem foolish, but I just wanted you to try & imagine the enthusiasm with w'h it was rec'd. And now I must give you my many thanks, my dear husband, for your selection of such articles as will make your dear friends so comfortable, & they are by me much more prized than silks or such things w'h are all unnecessary I forgot to say that Pa was present also at the opening, but had nought to say except to take a look at the cloth, pronouncing it very good, it was after night, I told him he s'd have it made as soon as he was ready I reckon it will make three suits without vests. Do you not want the rest reserved for yourself? The yarn is excellent, tho' not very fine, & will make prime socks. Your Pa has not been to see them yet. I told him yesterday he must come down, & see it. Mr Johnson's Lewis [servant?] bro't the bundle up to Blue Ridge hotel on Saturday but we c'd not send that evening, & your Pa got Mr Henry Anderson to bring it Tuesday. Lewis says Mr J has been more unwell since I was there, tho' not confined to bed suffers so much with his cough. He & Sallie are going to Florida as soon as the weather gets cold. We were so glad you could tell us something of James have been & still are quite uneasy about him, hope he will soon get back. We have been drying damsons this week, & I am going to put up some for you to *eat* next winter. Godwin & the "old gray hen" had quite a sharp encounter yesterday. She thought he was after her brood, tho' for a wonder he wasn't, & flew upon him inflicting a slight scratch entirely across his forehead & a slight one on the nose. The by-standers say he beat a retreat, but valiant fellow that he was, with his face to the foe, preferring to see all that was going on, with hands extended he c'd do nought but squall until his Grandma ran to the rescue. He says tell you, "I go to Mr Davis' with Grandma & Grandpa to call on the bride, & if you come here, I'll give you my apple Will Little gave me." I reckon you want to know who the bride is Well Mr Davis was married last Thursday morning in Lynchburg to Miss Thurman, a lady of uncertain age, somewhere over 40 I believe.

Mr Grasty married them, & they came on home that evening. Yesterday Pa took Ma to call,

& I gave my seat to Mrs Price & G. \_\_\_ when they arrived the bride & some ladies who came with her were at Joe Robinson's having gone down the day before & left Mr Davis at home. I hear this morning that he sent for them yesterday & the horses ran off breaking the carriage & hurting Mrs D[avis] either straining or breaking her shoulder. Quite a sad accident.

Godwin says he does love you & wants to see you too, & Grandma & pa too. He has almost forgotten his letters, & I determined to learn him again, tho' he objected very much. I sat him down on that cushion & a little while bro't him too & he got up & went to saying letters on that cloth the bundle came in with out being told. I hope I'll get him after a while that he will be more easily controlled.

You say my dear, that you have given a ch'k on me for \$100 & I have nothing to pay it. I have given you an acct of the way in w'h I spent the money I got in Lan wool & cotton. Its true I will not now have use for all of it, & will sell some of it, but am going to make me a linsey dress, w'h I very much need, & I fear it will take near all I sell to pay for dye-stuffs to color it with they are so worn \_\_\_\_ If you have an opportunity & want to speculate just buy some & send it home to sell. Logwood & bluestone \$6 piece for instance. I reckon you'll have to borrow money if you buy a horse. I went up to see Mr McCreery this morning if there were any interest on the Confed Bond. It was due in July, but he says a draft from you is necessary, & if you want it just send it to me, & he will draw it, or if you choose, let it remain until Jan. I have about \$40, w'h will be enough for me now Will it not do, for your uncle R to try to collect that money fro Dr C but for articles missing & pay himself as far as it will go, w'h ought to be right far, for most of the things missing were with him.

What do you think of my interling my paper. I fear it will not be so easily decipher but my paper is getting so low. I fell on this plan to make it last. Can't you come home & bring me some more?

Oh I have just heard of the death of our noble general R[obert] E. Rhodes I have not

been so shocked since our Jackson's death, & we can hear nothing more, but that he is dead. Who will take his place?

Now I must close. Godwin is smothering me with kisses for you, & a great big hug. Heaven's choicest blessing on my husband, & grant he may soon return to

his ever fond & true Nannie.

P.S. How will you do for bed-clothes this winter? Let me know how you are provided for. How sad that you have to lie down without even a *grim*-cloth to keep the rain off, Oh Charlie it is hard to bear, but God grant it may soon be over.  
"Darling"

**Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1864**

A letter from C giving an acc't of Early's disgraceful defeat at Fisher's Hill on Thursday 22d & oh the sad acct' of the mortally wounding of our esteemed friend Col Pendleton, A. A. G. It is hard to be resigned to this stroke, but God in his infinite wisdom knew best. It does seem tho' as if he had forsaken, but oh that it may be for a "small moment."

**Fincastle, Dec. 28, 1864**

My own dear Husband:

I hope ere this reaches you, you will be gladdened, by seeing a messenger from us in Town, & a more tangible proof of our thoughts of you than mere words can express in the shape of a box &c., & as I wrote you on last Friday, it with Tom, would arrive hope you were there to meet him. He will give you reasons for my not writing by him, & tell you all the news, & what we have been doing, how busy etc: Moreover he will tell you what a state of uncertainty & anxiety I have been in concerning you, not hearing from you, & consequently not knowing at all where you were, but my troubles have been put an end to this evening by receiving a long sweet letter from my dear Charlie, & I see from it (date 26<sup>th</sup>) that I have missed getting your last letter, as you say "you are in the same place from w'h you last wrote," & the 1st I rec'd was written at N. M. date 12<sup>th</sup>. But tho Tom may tell you of the disappointment about the box, or rather my perplexity, he can't tell you of my sad & longings during the last week, for some word, or the

presence of my life, my joy, my all in this world. It seems to me sometimes as if your letters were a part of my existence; And during the last week; my heart was filled with so many sad memories & thoughts, & I was perplexed to know what to do, & every little thing troubled me, & it seemed to me as if all the time my heart was so swelled with emotion choked down, trying to hide it, & yet my countenance w'd sometimes betray me, & tears w'd almost overflow & I longed for some one to whose breast I could lean & take a long sweet cry. Ah you have fully described my feelings in your own on Sunday evening. Sometimes I can't help believing in some mysterious, communion of souls, for so often I have noticed it in connection with those I love, that we have the same feelings at certain times. This feeling of mine was increased Saturday night by Nannie McD[owell]. Who commenced telling me, of how jealous she felt, & couldn't help (tho' she knew it was wrong), to see others coming home, & their dear ones so happy, & how she had cried that evening until she couldn't cry any more, & in the presence of others. Oh I felt everything she said so acutely, & my heart was so full I couldn't speak. Tho' I don't think I have that jealous feeling, but am glad to see others enjoy what I cannot, all tho' my heart may bleed. Then too I was worried about not being able to get more to put in your box. You haven't got such a wife as Jim McD[owell] has, Nan runs round, & gathers up this & that & sends him box anytime, but poor me, I sit & expect things to come to me I reckon. But it seems to me I don't have the opportunities, or know so many people to get things from as she does, & then she has plenty of money that one thing needful. It makes me feel a little envious, not my dear Charlie for my own self, except the pleasure it gives me, to contribute to the comfort, & pleasure of my darling husband. I think if I know my own heart, it is not for myself that I wish it, but the pleasure I might give to others. Oh how I did wish on Xmas morning that I had about \$100 just to distribute good things to those who had so much less of the good things of life than I have, for I do not wish for more and I hope my dear Charlie you do not think me complaining. Far be it from me, only confiding to you my thoughts, & feelings,



& I know you sometimes have the same, but you may say “thinks I to myself”, I am not so egotistical. So I will refrain from this, & tell you of the kindness of our dear parents, whom it gives pleasure to contribute to their dear ones happiness. So do not speak of your wives having sent you a box of eatables but as my Ma said, Mrs F’s [i.e., Charlie’s mother, Susan W. Figgat] box & your Pa said it was his, so you will have to determine, when I tell you the contributors. The sausage, pudding, butter, potatoes, beans, dried apples, (in the paper bag) apple-butter, apples, (except about a doz Nannie McD sent you, dividing what had been given James; with me, for you) were sent by your dear parents. My Ma sent the rest of the dried apples, the small jar of pickle, cakes & bottle of molasses. I don’t remember anything else. She bids me tell you that if she had known, you w’d get the box as soon as no doubt you will, she w’d have contributed some chickens & eggs also, & Godwin had a “creepy rooster” w’h he was going to send you, too, but we feared you might be too long getting it, & thus all be spoiled. Godwin sent you a pony w’h “Christmas Hinkle” put in his haversack, up at Grandma Figgats. Mary says its for you to come home on, but he says no, its for you to eat. He was so delighted to get his stockings both filled here, with all sorts of Confed doings, but pleased him all the same. Ran down to Ma’s room in the morning, & got them & ran back to get in bed & look at his treasures. His Grandma F. sent down for something, & he sent his haversack, & got raisins, filberts, almonds, & candy in it, but I tell you in small quantities, having been saved from our wedding party, 5 yrs since, & contributed to Kris Kringle ever since. To return to that box. Your Pa made it so nicely, & your “little darlin wife,” only put in the jars of peach pickle w’h I made for you last summer, & sealed, & have not looked at since, but hope you will find them good. The dried damsons I also put up for you. In the pocket of your coat, you will find a pr of socks, two collars, & pr of gloves, w’h last will I hope fit you, & are what you desired as I had only to guess that your hand was probably about the size of Pa’s. I have the vanity to think they are right nice for the first trial, & hope my dear Charlie will wear them, with the pleasure I had

in making them & remember that his wishes, & wants are always prior with me to those of others, & also that I have time for both, & can never neglect his comfort for that of others, whose first tho’t is always for others. The ½ cheese was sent you by Mrs Rebecca Gray. She divided one between Nan McD[owell] & Myself, w’h was very kind but I begged her for something to send you. Ella told me to tell you she put a bundle of love in one corner of the box, & w’d \_\_\_ if Henry says he wouldn’t care if you w’d bring him some powder that he has to take a heap of letters to the P.O. for me, & helped Bob to bring all these things down here to put in that box, & he has been suffering for squibs [i.e., lacking bullets] this Xmas, but had a little powder to substitute for it. Ma says she knows you will write to me, not to waste so much paper in letters. Thank you for what you sent me.

What do you mean by speaking of Tom’s bringing you blankets? You have I suppose written about them in the letter I have missed. Your Pa says the blankets James had of yours were left at Mrs Harman’s Ah if I had gotten this letter of yours, & if I had the money, couldn’t I so nicely have gone down with Tom to see you?

Wouldn’t it have been splendid? Oh it makes me ache all over to think what a pleasure it w’d have been to have seen your look of surprise to hand me out of the [train] cars. But ah this is an airy castle, dashed down before completed. Jesus help me to be patient & submissive as thou wert.

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 1865**

Ell Jean Robinson<sup>129</sup> married. The week before Mr S. Davis died.

**Friday, Jan. 20, 1865**

My dear Charlie got home, walked in all unexpected having walked from Depot, had a delightful re-union, but oh so short, only 11 days at home, spent an evening at Maj Wilson’s & dined at Dr Wms.

**Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1865**

Left again. Next week Dr. Grant died, from Carbuncle.

129. Nannie’s cousin, Eleanor Jean, daughter of John M. Robinson and Mary Ferguson Robinson.

Feb. 9, 1865

[Nannie noted in her ledger] Cash on hand \$45.08

**Friday, Feb. 11, 1865**

Rob got home, bringing his friend Dr. Singletary of La. A very pleasant gentleman & very grateful for the kindness shown him

**Hd Qrs, V D [Valentine’s Day], Feb. 13, 1865**

My ever precious wife

Your letter closed last thursday was received last night, and most welcome was it for it had begun to appear so long since I had seen or heard from my darling, and from it I fear that my letter written the Saturday after I arrived has not reached you, as you ought to have gotten it on Monday last. I as much regret this for tho it was not a long one yet I wanted you to hear from me as soon as it was possible for one to write. And now if you have not heard I will feel so badly. After I left I thought so much of you and our parting and knew you were hiding the deep feelings of your loving heart and that after I left you would have a long cry and feelings wh’ could not be long suppressed would show themselves when I was away, and only kept back lest they would make me more sad. O how great a blessing I have in such a fond devoted wife whose greatest pleasure it is to give one happiness and whose live [sic] if necessary would be devoted to any comfort and tho I know all this I cannot bring myself to feel tho I ought to have such love bestowed upon me, because I do not feel worthy of it and am unable to repay it as I would wish, and cannot return the value of such a priceless gift for I always feel that my darling deserves so much more than I can bestow, and that I will never be able to repay her for the happiness wh it is my delight to have in the knowledge of her love. And I always wish to be doing something to add to your pleasure, to make life more happy, and am always feeling so helpless and unable to do that wh I would wish. But there my darling one, it is not the things of this life which true happiness is to be found, and often when looking *round* & anxious to devise plans for life I am forcibly reminded of the variety of all things earthly and the uncertainty of life itself; and then I turn my thoughts to

heaven, and seek to be content in that sphere in wh it has pleased God to place me and when thinking of myself I really do not care but for my precious darlings only do I ever wish for the things of this life. It is thus about my promotion in the Army for as for myself I would rather remain as I am, but at the same time I think it would be a pleasure to darling and in after life would give her more prominent place in society and thus I feel as if I ought to do something to attain this \_\_\_d. But above all from the bottom of my heart, and I feel that in this I am fully\_ joined by you would I rather get that pearl of great price and have the ornaments for \_\_\_\_\_ quiet spirit a more consecrated heart to God, and an a\_\_\_ing child like faith in His promises, laying hold of them as my only hope and looking unto His, with that trust and love which we would have our own dear child look to us. O darling one pray for your devoted husband that God may reveal himself more & more unto me, that I may be enabled to live near his side and in my life glorify Him in all my ways not expecting to find on earth that for wh the heart craves, but by a heart wholly consecrated to Him, far from sin, and filled with love I may so pass my sojourn here than where called hence it may be to lay down the cares of life to take up the crown after laying down the cross, to be clothed in white and made worthy to dwell with angels; not of ourselves darling not of ourselves but all of Christ all of Christ O is he not a precious Savior, has he not opened wide the gates of the new Jerusalem, that we ever we might enter; O the bliss of heaven the glories of those unrevealed \_\_\_\_\_ where God the Son forever reigns. Shall we deny ourselves these unspeakable glories, will we live for life and lose heaven, O would not this be cruel death to ourselves and ingratitude unspeakable, to Him who suffered all things, that earth could heap upon him for us and there for us to deny Him, O darling let us anew consecrate ourselves in Him let us devote all our lives to His service and strive to bring up our dear boy in His \_\_\_\_ Your Charlie your devoted Charlie will ever pray for you that your faith fail not, and if I never return to you again, wh may God in mercy forbid, unto Him who alone can give comfort and sustain you, may you go in

humble trust, and find that this with all things is done in love, O I know this is hard to feel, but “\_\_\_\_\_ is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us,” O amazing grace that he should stoop so low; to praise us so high and shall we refuse, shall we neglect His gracious gift, God forbid but may all our life be devoted to His service that the death should come an unwelcome visitor, even in these dark days of sorrow, it were well founded that we should not have any more fighting but I wished that it might not be so but this is out of the question now, and we are to have another, if possible more bloody year than any before, but I am hopeful and ever confident, if the people at home only do their duty Our hopes of success now all lie upon the people who do not have to go in the army; upon the women & old men -- this is a great responsibility but they cannot get rid of it upon them and none else be the degradation the sorrow the servitude the hopeless misery of unborn generations, if we do not succeed, the army has and will do its part has and will make all sacrifices even unto death, but if those at home cannot suffer some too, I do not men the poor & needy men but those who have never felt it if they cannot give their money, their produce, time energy all all for a few short months, stop saying they will not do this or that because the government does wrong as they think, because they cannot get the biggest price for everything, and will not plant & sew and give and that now & freely, and send to the army all skulkers then I say not upon us not upon the loved ones who have suffered every privation & even death, not upon these will rest the guilt of having sacrificed their country, their children, their aged parents and loved ones upon whom must come misery untold, and but for my darlings to try in some measure to shield them from it, I would rather die, than see my God in His very great wisdom to all not alone in those authority for they are not alone the ones who need guidance, but to those at home who have not been able to see across a Confederate bill, worthless as they consider it and who in their blindness and indifference have been the cause of no little of our many disasters. O for guidance now, wisdom for all, and with strong c\_\_\_\_\_te Him who alone can help commit

ourselves to Him who with an assured will not turn from those who seek in sincerity—O that the \_\_\_\_\_ could feel this and if they can do nothing we let them prey let them ascribe themselves together and cease not day nor night until we receive the blessings. We have no cause to falter now—only let the hearts and arms of those who have been so long from home be strengthened by encouraging words and \_\_\_\_\_ sympathy, with renewed assurances of thought and affection; and now that Gen Lee has opened the way for those absent to action, let nothing be left undone to get all back and then with our returned prisoners, needs the blessing of God all will be well and ere another spring comes we will see the desire of our hearts upon the suffering land and those who are left will be permitted to return to loved & tho this land be stripped of everything and be poor alike we will have the comfort to know that we are free and that the chains and disgrace & deepest misery which they hoped to fasten upon us have in the mercy of God been averted and our loved ones saved *the* fate of having Yankees for their masters. Well darling love I have written every so much & what have I written, not that I fear wh’ will give my darling as much pleasure as yours did me, which was so sweet and full of love, and tender affection, and breathing prayer for guidance and for closer communion, and a life nearer her Fathers side and O may all your desires be realized and your life be sweet because of the presence of the Holy Spirit ever in your heart.

Tom came up Saturday and spent yesterday with me, had a pleasant time attending church together, morning & night, he is well and anxiously looking for a letter from home. No doubt you have been made glad by Rob presence as he came upon the train with Col *Harman* and I suppose reached home last Friday and I know you all are having a pleasant time. I am glad Ella had a sleigh ride but am surprised that it is the first; I could not help thinking of a ride I took with a certain young lady once myself and wished I could have another such but want; and we may yet be happy together. I am sure you might tell Mrs Logan that had she not been ill I certain see would not have failed to call this of course

was the only cause and before she will not think otherwise. How comes one my little boy am glad he has his shoes, and hope by this time he can st\_\_\_\_\_ . I failed to bring his measure, send it to me again & I will try to have him some shoes made. I wonder if he has begun to say his prayers yet as he promised he would do if not hope it will not be long. O I wish I could be with you and together teach him as we would like to have him grow up; to hear his tales and experiences; his mishaps and hopes and thus teach him to be thoughtful and remember what is happening a [tear] help \_\_\_\_\_ to grow this *reward for* after life; and O may I become consecrated to God and given to his service. I enclose a piece of plaster for James hope by the time this is gone he will be well, and able to return to his command. Now darling one my precious wife, good night; O how I wish to be with you how much I can never tell, can only feel it in my heart often aching heart; but God’s will be done. Much love to all at both homes, and many kisses for my darling wife & boy with continued prayers for God’s richest blessing upon; for safety from all harm in this terrible time & for everlasting life with all your love ones

Devotedly, your own Charlie

**Monday, Feb. 21, 1865**

Rob & Dr [Singletary of Louisiana] left. Next week sent a box to Bob

**Monday, March 5, 1865**

J Price died without a struggle.

**Wednesday, March 7, 1865**

was buried. In afternoon while all were seated round the fire my dear Husband walked in. Oh how joyful are such unexpected meetings. But this was sad too, for he had the week previous been captured, by the Yanks with almost the whole of Early’s little army. The Gen himself barely escaping. This was March 1<sup>st</sup> My dear Charlie wandered in the mountains, until Sunday when he got to Stanton, there procured a horse & came home. Thus has a merciful God again protected & delivered him. Oh may I never doubt Him. Charlie was much broken down, & sad, but oh! how affectionate & devoted, & was so loth to leave, but stern duty called him.

**Tuesday, March 14, 1865**

after getting fitted up, the Yanks having taken all he had, he started for Salem, to find out Gen E’s h’d qrs’, & if possible to get to him. The enemy threatened Lburg, & then the S. S. [Sunday School] Road, where they will stop we can’t tell. Oh! merciful God, preserve & guide those near & dear to me & grant unto them a speedy return in peace, sweet peace. O for thy name’s sake, for thy honor & glory may this be.

**Salem, March 23, 1865**

Darling Wife

You will no doubt be a little surprised to see the heading of my letter, as I am here instead of Richmond this morning. When I reached L[ynchburg]. I was so fortunate as to meet Genl E[arely] on his way to Staunton he kept me with him as there was none of his staff along, & yesterday he received dispatch from Echols who caused him to go to Wytheville<sup>130</sup>, & the train having left, we took an engine, & alone on it he & I came in a hurry to Lennys when we overtook a train of soldiers going west I reached this place about 10 o’ck. I could not get in at the hotel & went to Mrs R’s & found they had retired & though I disliked to do so woke them & spent the night. I am on my way to Staunton with orders for Genl Lomax & tho I do not like to pass so near my Darling without seeing her I must keep on the stage wh yours Inn this morning. The Genl will return to the Valley after awhile, the movements of the enemy in turn calling him that way. Thomas is reported at Knoxville & repairing the RR this way & no doubt advancing, how far they have come I do not know but for another advance in this section is being made of this however you all will learn for sure I fear. How did Taylor [his brother, Montais Taylor Figgat] get home, I thought so much of him & feared he did not get an overcoat and any way must have been thoroughly soaked as it proved to be a terrible day, and I take it for granted your Ma did not get home as I feared when I got that far. James wanted me to get him trimmings for a coat in R[ichmond] but I did not get that far. I

130. Capital of Wythe County population 12,305, 18% slaves, 1860. On the main road from Baltimore to Nashville, 156 miles from Staunton; Wytheville population ~900. *1854 U. S. Gazetteer*, X, p. 1318.

enquired the price of Va staff button in L. price \$4 a piece. I intended to make an investment in a small way in spool cotton as I could have bought it at \$70 a Doz (Coats 200 yds) & understood it was selling at \$25 a spool in F[incastle] & thought to buy a few doz & take home & make enough to pay expenses. I saw it offered single spool for \$8 & cannot see why it is so high in F. Was I not fortunate in meeting the Genl in L. How good & kind providence is to me & host. I was truly thankful that night when in pleasant quarters with Genl E & had seen so many poor fellows who had I suppose no place to stay & no money. What am I that I should be so highly faired O! that all these things may draw me close to him & I feel it does & may he give me strength to continue in his service & grow in grace & live unto Him all my days. Now lastly I started this to let you know where I was & when going, and am glad that I got back this way. All well at Mr R have not seen Ann E. yet am going back now and will then go to see Aunt H. before I leave. The seats on the stage are taken for well ahead, but having a special order from the Genl room was made for me to go on. Love to all at home, both homes, many kisses for my Darlings. And prayers for their health & happiness from their

Devoted husband & father Charlie

Sedges mule threw him on his way to his Regt in Charlotte C I think & broke his arm. do not think he has gotten home, I will go to see about Tom as soon as I can after getting to S. let you know.

*For a very brief period following the Civil War the Fincastle Presbyterian Church rented pews. Nannie's brothers were listed among the renters: Dr. Godwin--\$10, R. K. Godwin--\$5, James Godwin--\$3.<sup>131</sup>*

**[Fincastle, March 27, 1867]<sup>132</sup>**

doing in the spring and he might cum home, give my love to him and tel him that I would have written to him but it is so hard for me to write it is not because I do not think about him and want to se him if I only could stop in and se you all sum night how glad I would be.

131. Holladay, *Partial History*, p. 34.

132. Fragment we dated 1867 based the death of Capt. Breckenridge, March 25, 1867.

Wednesday [March] 27 [1867] Cpt Breckenridge was buried today, died Tuesday was only confined a few days had no disease, just a general giving away of his sistem your pa was to se him on Sunday he could only talk in a very low whisper and only a few words. He knew his situation Mr Mc preached his funaral and red the service at the grave after which the masens buryed him. The day was so unfavorable I did not go, there was no ladais from town there Mrs Price is quite unwell looks badly, but is going about. Mrs Mary Wilson has been sick for too weeks but is better now, had Eryspelas<sup>133</sup> Barbara Fellers is not expected to live many days.

Haddy had gon out to the too Mr Ammens with Vena to stay til Friday went Monday. I am afraid we cannot send for E friday the roads are so bad. I got a letter from James [Godwin] ten days since, or more, no other news than he gave you. I am so glad he has got a situation, he thinks. I might write to him well I will try someday it will be something for him to laugh at as you will at this but I don't care. You will not complain of length as I am not done yet. It is getting so dark I cannot write more now

[attributed to Martha Mary Godwin]

**Fincastle, Nov. 18, 1885**

My dear children

I have wanted to write to you ever since I came home but I have many hinderences beside the dificulty I have in writeing. Must be my excuse Mary, I am sory that you and Mr T[yree]<sup>134</sup> are so unwell, but hope you both will soon be better. I will send the patches first chance.

Ann I thank you for your advice about the curtains but I am afraid they will make the room too dark for winter. I will send the measure for the windows in dineing room and a dark blew one for the back window up stairs

Wel, had to stop for callers Eliza and Em Breckenridge E's and Mrs Julia are going to Baltamore in a few days to consult a docter about Es helth. Emma [Rob's wife] drove in for

133. Erysipelas: fever accompanied by diffused inflammation of the skin, producing a deep red colour; often called St. Anthony's fire, or 'the rose'. *OED*

134. Charles W. Tyree, the husband of Nannie's youngest sister, Mary; married Oct. 24, 1876.

me last Saturday and I staid all night had such a plesent visit. Mrs B[reckenridge]. sent much love to you both, she is so active and smart it makes me ashamed, she was sewing after night on a dress for herself.

Ann, James & Mary have bee[n] very much exercised about a cloke he wrote to you about. Cassy sent one but it did not suit, he sent it back. Marys old one would be much too short for Lew. Ann Bowyer has been here a week sewing, for the children making aprons & a dress for Ella<sup>135</sup>

The aprons are made of brown linen James got at oction I like it better than aneything else Jane was with me too or thre days last week, promased to come and stay longer this week. I am sorry to hear that Godwin is out of business. Tel him he might pay us a visit now. Charly promised he would come up this month. Tel Bob I receved his card and was glad to know I had a son living in Lexington. I hope his helth is better.

Please ask Mr T to let me know what pork is selling at it is offered here at 6<sup>ct</sup> have not heerd of aney sales O aint it strainge that I have to think of such things. Do not worry about me I a getting along prettey well the boys are very kind.

Emma is not atal well I feel very anxious about her she has not been here since I came home Ella sais she wants to se you all mighty bad, and she is so sorry her little roosters leg got broke. She came home from playing with Camel the other day and told that he got into mischeaf when his ma was away. I had acasion to leve her alone a few minets, and told her not to get into mischeaf she said o no I am not that sort of a girl. Cumpany came in and I could not finish my letter so now I am writeing by lamp light. Mary<sup>136</sup> is geting her lessen Ella is playing on the flore Henry siting by me reading. now I must bid you good night. May God bless you all is the prayer of your mother

Don't forget to write to your lonely old mother

135. Ella, five-year-old daughter of James J. and Ann Eliza Ammen Godwin.

136. Mary, ten-year-old daughter of James and Ann Eliza Godwin.

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