

Raleigh N.C. April 29/65\*

Dear Cousin

It is a long time since I received a letter from you. so long that I begin to think it is my turn to write. though to tell the truth I have forgotten whether I answered your last or not. but think I did. for I most always answer my letters before I destroy them. and I have destroyed your last. I received a letter from Cousin Josie. since we arrived at this city. I think I received it on the Nov 16th. have not answered it yet. I attempted it yesterday. but was so lazy that I failed to accomplish any thing. I feel a little better to day. but am quite lazy yet. I do not know what makes me so dull. Perhaps you will say because it is natural.

I sent you a paper a few days ago. which I hope you has reached you or will reach you in close time. I forget whether it was the Standard or Progress please inform me in your answer. that I may be enabled thereby to send you the one you have not seen.

Josie's letter was mailed at North Shore. from which circumstance I infer that she was at your house. or you at hers. now which was it? Well. here I have been writing a lot of nonsense without thinking that you might like to hear some thing about Raleigh. and what fine a time I had getting here. so "here goes." We took up our line of march for the "front" on the 8th inst. and marched 12 miles that day. The next day we marched 28 miles when we might have made the point with 20 simply because our Brig. Commr. lost his way. thereby giving us an "extra" of 8 miles. Such extras I do not fancy much. but no matter now. since the war is over. Well we averaged from this day about 15 miles per day. we marched seven days. making Raleigh on the evening of the 14th. About noon on the 12th while we were marching. a courier brought a dispatch from Sherman. to the effect that General Lee had surrendered to Grant. As soon as the dispatch was read we gave not merely three rousing cheers, but three times of three. I assure you. that although the weather was very warm. yet after receiving this glorious news we did not mind the weather but continued our march with a will.

On the 15th inst. we went into Camp about two miles east of the City. where we remained for a few days. when we again broke camp. and came into town where we are encamped. and the most of our Regt are on Safeguard. which is a very easy. not to say pleasant duty. as for Raleigh. I think. it is the most beautiful place in all the South. I will not except Beaufort S.C. which you know I thought a very pretty place. I cannot begin to describe its beauty with my pen, but if I live until next Sept. I hope to be able to tell you something about it

Genl Jos Johnson Surrendered to Genl Sherman on the 27th Inst. Official – How sad to lose our much loved President just as the war was about closing – and worst of all in such a dreadful manner.  
Yours Affectionately Milton

\*Notes: Lincoln was assassinated April 14, 1865.

General Johnson surrendered to General Sherman April 26, 1865

Milton died July 4, 1865 of typhoid fever, so did not live to see his cousin.