

Williams W. Hays
Aug 6th 1864

Dear Mother

It is with pleasure that
I sit down to write you
a few lines. I hope
I hope this will find
you well I am not
very well at just now.
I have not been able
to do duty for a few
t nights I guess you
have all forgotten me
I have been to the
front every day for
the last five weeks
but I have been disappoi
nted every time oh if
you knew with what
joy a soldier received

a letter and with what
sorrow he returns to
his tent when he is
answered in the negative
That little word I see
I have written you three
or four letters but
have not received an
answer I have written
one to Sally Ann but
have received no answer
I have written one to
Keller but have not
received an answer written
one to Sarah have received
no answer I must lie
down for a few minutes
they had a pretty
sharp fight up the
river today before
yesterday The rebels
had a battery planted

There was a gun boat
a going up she discovered
it and she opened on
it we could see the
smoke from the gun
and see the bombs
burst in the air it
lasted a bout an hour
when the gun boat drove
them back you need not
worry a bout me because
if I am any worse I
will let you know
I dont know but you
have wrote to me but
it is curious that I dont
get any of them for all
the rest gets their letters
I dont know how long
we shall stay there in
six company of the 14th

