

Fort Fisher South of Petersburg Va

March the 5th 1865

My Dear Mother

having just received
a letter from Ann written February the
26th in answer to the one that I wrote to
you some time ago I hasten to pen you
a few lines to inform you that my
health is good & I hope this will find
you in good health also I was glad to
hear that Seth had been home on furlow
for he has been away a long time from
home & he wanted to see you & the rest
of the folks & so do I & perhaps I can
in the course of a few months more
I say perhaps but if the Lord spares
my life until my term of service
expires I shall visit Saratoga that
is only six months & three days more

& I mean to see my friends as soon as
I can for I have been a soldier long
enough to satisfy me I know what they
have to endure but I have had it
very easy for a soldier although
We have been in the field most of
of the time for the past year & have
been in two hard fought battles but
the Lord has brought me through
thus far all right & how thankful
I am for it here We are in sight of
the rebels camps & when out on
picket some times We are only a few
rods from their lines near enough
to talk with each other & they come
& we chop our wood that we burn
on the picket lines together they
are friendly & want to have this
cruel War come to a close they are
deserting & ~~com~~ coming into our
lines every day some times 15 or 20
at a time the other day they drove

in a six mule team there was six
men ~~in~~ five in the Wagon & one
on the mules driving they made
as though they got scared & could
not stop them until they got inside
of our picket lines the Johnneys
stood & looked as though they were
amazed to see them & never fired
a gun at them We have all of the
duty to do that they can stick on
us We are on duty every day guard
picket or fatigue We come off one
morning & go on duty again the
next morning.

I have not seen
Christopher in four or five days but
he was well then I have not heard
from the other boys Seth dont
write I wrote to him the day that
Christopher started for home
but he dont answer it John
has not written in a long time

I want to hear from him so we
may know where he is

The Weather
is very good here now but we
have had a good deal of rain
for the last week but it is
not muddy here for the soil
is sandy & the rain soaks up
quick

Now I dont know as I
have any thing more to write
this time I will bring my
letter to a close by Bidding
you Good Bye for the present
hoping to hear from you soon

I remain your ever
Affectionate Son
Erastus. J. Hill