Station:
Camp Near Brandy va.
Feby 19th

My Dear Wife,

I have just received your Welcome letter and I was glad to hear that you and our little ones were well. I am well at present and I hope that when this reaches you that you may be the same. Toby has got well again. He did not like me sending word that he was sick and I won't do it soon again. I did not think there was any harm in me sending word that he was sick.

We are having some cold weather down here at present. The coldest that we have had this winter. But we have good houses to live in. I am writing tonight by a good hot fire. You tell me in your letter that some of the folks down in Maryland hinted to you about sending me a box. I would like to know who they were that said anything about it for it.

Don't think that it's anybody's business if I wanted a box. I would send for one. But I can get along on Uncle Sam's grub very well and I send my money home for my family to live on. I am glad that old Mr. Yerks takes such care of our things and if it lay in my power to do for him a favor I will do it for him. You say in your letter that you dreamt about me and that I would not sleep in the same bed with you. I think that I would have to have one night before I got that mad at you and then I would think about what.

...
i woud Doo the next Night  tell Duello [Kershaw] that i Say that the next one that i get will Beat Lew [son Lewis] all to pieces  i am going to make the next one on an improved plan  tell her that i will make her one like Lew's for her and toby if She Says So when i get home  i want you to let me know when Amos comes Back  Bill Thompson got a letter from home tonight  thay are all well  Mary Says the Mill will Start about the first of April  thay are going to give our reigement a chance to reenlist in a Day or two  But thay cant catch me  a great many of the Boys will take the Bounty and furlough  it is a Big thing  But i cant See it  But i think this Summer will end the war  But thare will Be Some hard fighting on Both Sides

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i got the Stamps that you Sent me and give that note to toby  i have not much more to tell you this time  the next time that i rite i may have more to tell you  tell will [son William H.] that he must Be a good Boy and learn his lessons and tell ema [daughter Mary Emma] that She must learn hers to[o] and i will Send them Some money when i get paid off the next time  give my love to all as i must close  So no more at present from your loving husband.

James F Stepter
To his Wife Amand[a]
F Stptper