

1862

Burkettville Va 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mother

I recieved your long looked for kind and  
 welcome letter this afternoon and with what  
 joy did I read those cheering words therein contained  
 but I expected to hear that you were moved  
 before this. yesterday it snowed here (right smart as  
 the seersh says) but as I would call it. It snowed like  
 split the first snow we have seen in Maryland  
 you wished to know what I ment from H to E  
 well I will tete you when we first came here  
 there was 14 diferent hospitals in this place every  
 old hut was used for one and as you must know  
 there had to be same regulation and so all the  
 hospitals were lettered from A to O. in the first  
 place I was in I then H there I was taken sick  
 and then I was taken to E where I now am  
 but I am as well now as ever and ready for  
 duty any time I am called upon to day I weighed  
 myself and I weighed 133 lbs by that I have gained  
 since I left home just 11 lbs. that is not so bad  
 don you think it is yesterday I reported for duty but  
 the clerk told me he had nothine for me to do and  
 told me to stay on the sick list till I  
 got perfectly tough and hearty

Mother I have no doubt but you think  
of me but above all things do not worry  
yourself about me for that will kill you and  
if I ever return home I want above all things  
to find my mother there without her it would  
never seem like home and I shall try to take  
good care of myself to the best of my ability  
I have not felt so bad no time since I enlisted  
as I did when I heard that Jonathan was going  
to leave you I never once dreamt of your giving  
your consent to his going into the army, then  
for the first time I felt as if I had ought  
to be at home it must look dreadful  
lonesome about home without the first child  
to speak to but you must try and keep up  
good courage and live in hopes of meeting  
us all some day and the sooner the better  
for me. last Tuesday I received a letter from  
Jonathan and to night Ellen got one from  
him and one from Henry they say that  
they are in good health and like it first  
rate and I am glad they do dont write anything  
discouraging to them to make them homesick for  
that is just what killed Helen Parsons it is the  
worst disease a soldier can have you wished me  
write what I thought about the war now that  
is the hardest subject I have to write about

but this much I do know that if there is  
not some kind of a settlement this winter  
that those that are left of us will have a hard  
time of it next summer. I should think that  
William Gissums falks must be pretty near sewd  
up by this time if Almira sews as fast as she used  
to. Mary writes about her being almost crazy now  
now dont never let such thoughts enter your mind  
nor let her talk affect you for if you begin to mourn  
after your boys your life will not be a very happy  
one just look on the best side of house and when  
gloomy thoughts enter your mind banish them at  
once that is the way that I do and that is the only  
way to keep in good spirits but matter above all things  
live in peace with Almira dont for the love of your  
sams have any hardness nor harsh words between you  
for I think if Allen and I had to stay together  
five years as we are away from home that neither of  
us would utter one cross word to the other  
I never could appreciate what company a brother was  
untill I left home a I wished Janathan was with  
us. I am glad you have things about straightened up  
and I hope you are satesfide with what you have done  
I think that Capt Noe Hanson had ought to have  
paid the taxes yet and it would have been about  
fair but if you are satesfide I be. I must close my  
letters by saying keep up good courage above all things els  
and I remain your faithful and affectionate Sam John