

Fort Fisher.

Jan. the 31st 1863

Dear Sister Charisa

I again seat myself to drop you a few lines, though I am some what at a loss for something to write. I have no particular news that I know to be true but I will tell you all that I know, let it be true or false. I will first tell you of the fleet that is to attack us shortly. I understand that there are eighty four transports and eight iron clads, including two Monitors. There is two guns on each of the Monitors, that carries four hundred and twenty six pound balls. The Troops coming with the fleet number fifty two thousand. That is a large number for five hundred men to fight, but if they come we shall have it to do if we are not reinforced. We have been looking for the Yankees here a long time, but we have had tolerably bad weather lately, and I heard that they were going to await for better. There is no excuse for them now, the weather is beautiful and none too cool to fight. If we have got to fight here at all, I don't know but what I had as live fight to day as to morrow. I heard something about Capt. Whitford getting in to another scrape with the Yankees and taking Sixty prisoners. I expect you know more about that than I do. So I won't say any more.

Sister I want you to answer this letter as soon as you get it and give me all the news. I have not heard from Harvey and yourself in a long time. I can't even remember when I did hear, I have written to you a time or two not long since but I have never heard from you since. I would be very glad indeed to see you, but I don't much expect to do it till the war ends. I am getting along very well here since I got use to the place. I have fattened up considerably lately. I now weigh about two hundred and ten pounds. This is a very healthy place indeed. But I am very sorry to tell you of the death of our brother in arms Sergt. Tho^s. B. Latham

He died in the hospital at Camp Wyatt on ^{day} wednes
the 28th of this inst. his complaint was sore throat
poor fellow he suffered a great deal. he never eat any thing
from the time he was first taken till he died
and I think he was sick twenty days. he was nursed
as well as any one could be in camp. he had three brothers
in law to wait on him Barterus Jones W. S. Korman &
J. M. Korman. the officers tried to get a transportation for
him to go home. but I dont know whether they suc-
ceeded or not. they carried to Wilmington this morning.
Give my best respects to F. S. Arthur and ask him if he
ever got the letter ^{I sent him} or not. tell Harvey & Guilbert to write
to me soon and write your self and give me all the news
excuse bad writing and mistakes if you please for I hardly can
content myself long enough to write a letter. good bye.

Your ever true Brother

J. A. E. Tipton

P.S. give my best respects to Mr. & Mrs. Michael Arthur and
tell them that I have not forgotten them. also to Mr. Mrs. and
Miss Sind Whitford. I will be very much pleased to hear
from any of you at anytime

P.S.c

Boat accident just happened

Alfred Campaigns - A young man in Capt. Greig's company
has just been crushed to death by the fall of the light house.
he was at work on the light house trying to fix to throw it down
when a large portion of it fell and he with it, crushing him to death
poor fellow. he is now gone to try the realities of another world.
Aaron Cox also got hurt at the same time. but not dangerously.
Campaigns was a son of preacher Campaigns from Lower House
Creek, Beaufort County. I think I have heard Harvey speak
of him. This young man was a true and brave Southern Rights man