

Pa says he is coming down to meet you, and to send word when you can come out, I wish I could go with Mary, and stop to see the boys I want to write more but have not time as the boy is waiting to go to town. Call for me in warmest love to you all. Hoping to hear from you soon I am your devoted
Daughter
Mary.

Best July 28th 1863

Pa and I have just returned from cousin Wm's and the first thing I saw after I got in Aunt Joe's room was a letter from Mary yours enclosed, joy and delight exceed description at the sight of your dear hand writing and to hear from you all once more, for I get so troubled not hearing, as well as not seeing you all that my feelings both ways, are beyond description, for I had to take a hearty cry to relieve my feelings, then to dinner, now to answer you dear letter if I can collect my brains to write any way that you can read with understanding. Pa came last Saturday week, left for Raleigh the next Monday to see Baddie, didn't know he was there when he passed through he is "drill master" at the camp. Pa returned last Wednesday, cousin William met him in Louisburg carried him home with him, I was there, went home with cousin Wm the day Pa left. Cousin Tom brought me here Saturday evening to get some clean clothes, we returned as cousin Mary wanted me to go with her at the Trinity church about four miles from there, we went and heard Mr. Biceord preach. Cousin Tom looks as if he will have another attack of fever this summer he has been complaining for more than a week, they sent for the Dr, Sunday, gave him some blue mass, to day his skin looks like a greenish yellow color the whites of his eyes are perfectly yellow, this is about the time he was taken last summer, and just in the same way

when he came from Fla in May he weighed ~~220~~ 220 lbs
Pa is looking thin he has had a dreadful cold and cough
is getting some what over it it now, every body else is tot-
erably well. Cousin Bet left this morning for Raleigh
with Mr Eaton to have her teeth fixed. Cousin T is well.
Pa and Cousin William left here before dinner for
town, I have let them all read your letter; aunt Joe
says come she will share the last bread with you, the
crops are dreadful this year. Mag wants me to go down
to Goldsboro to see them, in every letter nearly she gives
me pressing invitations to go down, and in this one
also she says they all want to see me very much.
when pa comes from town I am going to beg him to
let me go when he goes, he says he is going down to
Kinston to see what he can do for you, and go to New-
Burn under a flag of truce if he can. I hope he will
let me go I want to see some of my old people again
It would do me so much good. Aunt Joe says she saw
Mrs Roberts in church Sunday, did not get a chance to
speak to her said she looked sad. I received the bag
and shoes they fit very nicely indeed, am so much
obliged to you. Daddie received the boots, but has not
heard anything from the boy. Pa is needing clothes as
badly as I am if any thing worse, he tried to get some
home-spun cloth a few days ago the price was \$1.00
yard did not get it. Cousin Rosa says she often think
of you and wish she could see you, sends her love
to you all. Yes, the Yankees came up and found
our people not prepared for them they have done
a great deal of damage about Warboro. Cousin Bettie
and children were well when I heard from them.

They are doing right well as well as most refugees I suppose
she is glad she came away, if she did without anything.
The people about Louisburg are troubled about their friends
who were in the battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, a good
many were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. I do hope
my dear brother will be spared us. I am going to write
to him to-morrow, pa said he was looking well. Mag said
he went to see them when he passed through Goldsboro
from Wilmington to Raleigh. I do hope and pray you
can come, you cannot fare any worse up here than you
do there and besides your mind would not be so much
troubled, cheer up my dear mother, I know it is dreadful
living there with such wicked people, I feel it as much
as if I were there in reality - suffering all those troubles you
are, but hope on for a brighter day and I trust all will
go on well in the end. We hardly know what fair
weather is this summer, we have had so much rain
for the last two months. There is no fruit worth talking
about now, I hadn't seen a watermelon this summer.
Cousin Cassie came last Saturday, cousin Joe Towns also
they left on Wednesday, she is mighty fat, they have no child.
Cousin Julia is living in her log cabins, they are finished
off very nicely, her children have had the whooping cough
are getting better now. Cousin Rosa says please bring Cousin
Norwood's likenesses with you if you can, I do hope to see
you all very soon please try your best to come, I am
as anxious ^{for you} to leave as you all are yourselves. Please try
not to disappoint me this time, I have been disappointed
so many many times, if you do this time, I shall give up
almost in despair, how can they be so wicked? I am well
and as fat as ever weigh only 130 lbs.

My Dear Sister

July 29th 1863

I write you a few lines to tell you how much we all are troubled about you, and how anxiously we have looked and prayed that you might escape safely and come to us, for we are all willing to divide ⁱⁿ and do for you all we can, I hope you may be able now to get away safely, and the sooner the better. As soon as you get out of their lines send us a letter and probably when you will get to Grant's quarters, that we may send for you I should not be surprised if they refuse to let you come. They are making raids all between Thompson and Belvoir Forts, have been to Garbore and burned the Depot but not the town and our people are after them now have overtaken some of them, killed some and wounded some, and ^{taken} some prisoners, and much stolen plunder, they take all the negroes they can, a great many ^{negroes} have escaped and returned. If they should refuse to let you come, be patient, and prudent and after their raids are over, perhaps you may get out, I do hope you may, keep a good heart and never despair, this matter must shortly come to an end, I hope we may prevail, but if not, we must all do the best we can, God rules over all and His ways are unsearchable and past finding out. Give my love to every member of your family and tell them I pray for all and trust in God and I hope you all will. He is our only refuge in time of trouble, Give my love to ~~my~~ dear cousin Dretz and tell her if she ever gets away divide with her I never can forget her kindness to me and shall always love her like a Mother. Our friends at Hillsboro were well a short time, John Norwood was at Vicksburg. Oliver was in Pennsylvania with General Lee's army. William is in bad health, he have heard nothing from them since the battles at Vicksburg, and Gettysburg, but Norwood's Michle was killed, cousin Glebe's son, Bush Branch was wounded slightly and is in service again, Washington Bunge's cousin Elias son has not been heard from many of our finest and noblest youths have fallen it is too sad but let us hope for the best. Good bye my dear sister may our Heavenly Father bless and keep you all in His constant prayer of your sister