

Father Mother and  
sister send their  
kindest  
regards to you  
with much  
love to you  
and each  
member  
of your  
family  
of class,  
yours  
affectionate  
Aunt Bogart,  
Washington, N.C.  
Jan 8<sup>th</sup>/65

Since writing this  
we have received  
intelligence of the death  
of a young person  
belated to my father  
husband, was killed  
near Savannah,

As a direct opportunity  
offers for sending a letter North, I felt  
disposed to communicate with my  
Northern friends again. Perhaps it  
may be the last time, for the mail  
communications are very irregular  
and uncertain, and it is but  
seldom now that a private indi-  
vidual is allowed the privilege  
of going on. I felt anxious to hear  
from you all, fearing that a year  
has wrought many changes. I earnestly  
hope that your two sons are still  
unhurt, and will be spared to see  
the end of this fierce contest, Mrs.  
Martin a friend of mine received  
intelligence a few days since from  
a letter which was written in June

of the death of her cousin Mr Jacob  
Wyckoff of your city, she came to tell  
us of it, as I formed the acquaintance  
of his sister, who spent a winter here  
several years ago, the same letter also  
mentioned that you sent your regards  
to our family, and would like to  
hear from us, this induced me to  
write, We are living again without  
a Garrison, after the destruction of  
the Albemarle, and the fall of Plymouth  
our troops who had been occupying  
this place for the last six months  
evacuated immediately, and we  
have the most desolate time imagi-  
nable, the Southern pickets ride in  
every day or two, and the Federal  
Boats from Newbern visit us occa-  
sionally, but we are under no rule  
now either civil or military, and  
almost cut off from the world,

provisions are scarce and high, and  
specie generally demanded, so at  
times we are reduced almost to  
a state of want, tis a hard struggle  
but I trust God who is so kind  
to his creatures, will give us strength  
to surmount it, My dear Aunt with  
a saddened heart I must inform  
you that our dear home once the  
abode of peace and plenty is now  
despoiled, and laid in ashes, on  
that memorable, and never to be  
forgotten day, the 9<sup>th</sup> of May last, the  
second terrific fire which  
occured in this place swept from  
us that cottage, which was endeared  
to us all by so many tender associa-  
tions, my beautiful flower garden  
that I had cultivated with so  
much care, and bestowed so many  
years of labor upon was all destroyed

and made desolate, we lost our valuable  
and handsome Library, containing so  
many interesting works, which have  
been the companions of my own and  
my father's life, this we estimate our  
most serious loss, a great deal of our  
bed-room furniture was burned, also  
everything belonging to the kitchen,  
dining-room and wash-room, not  
an article was saved, the fire broke  
out at 11 O'clock in the morning a  
whole block from us, and at 2  
we were homeless and without even  
the common conveniences of life,  
the flames were sublime and  
awful to look upon, and then the  
sad result, it rolled from house  
to house, and street to street till  
nearly half the town was consumed,  
and the first fire which occurred  
a week before destroyed nearly

the whole of the upper part of the town,  
parts are still standing, but the once  
beautiful little town of Washington  
is now nothing more than a mass  
of crumbling ruins, the chimneys &  
burnt trees stand as monuments of  
the past, it is useless to try and  
describe the desolating scenes through  
which we have passed, nothing but  
such experience could tell the tale  
of our suffering & privations, I sincerely  
trust my dear Aunt that you may  
never be called upon to endure  
the same, we now occupy a pleasant  
residence furnished us by a friend,  
more comfortable & desirable than  
our own was, but it has not the  
charm of our cozy little cottage,  
the house is very pleasantly situated  
the river is before us, and in the  
summer there was a battery erected

on a small island just opposite our  
front door, we spent a delightful  
summer, were sailing & riding made  
every day, the young Ladies made  
good use of the Officers & soldiers  
while here, as the Fall approached,  
sickness came with it, and pleasures  
were given up, chills & fevers prevailed  
in every family, and not a member  
escaped, it was owing to the woods having  
been cut down for so many miles  
around Town, fortunately I escaped  
a friend (Lady) & myself undertook  
a journey to Greenboro alone, and  
under many disadvantages succeeded  
admirably, we left home about the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sept, in a government Wagon for  
Sartoro, under the care of two gentle-  
men, the novelty of the ride was  
very amusing, at Sartoro we again  
met with a young soldier friend who

took charge of us a part of the way, and  
then we met with kind friends at every  
Place and Station, along the road  
refugees from the Eastern Coast are living  
all along the line of R. Road from Sartoro  
to Charlotte extending clear across the  
State, my brother William & his wife  
met me at the depot in Greenboro,  
and I had a most delightful  
time, he was married on the 20<sup>th</sup> April  
last, and has a sweet, amiable wife,  
they are keeping house very snugly, I  
was perfectly charmed with the scenery  
up the country, it is so wild & picturesque,  
the original forest oaks are still  
standing in the Towns, which give them  
an ancient and venerable appearance,  
I love to visit and admire such  
a hilly and romantic country, but  
I much prefer living in the lowlands  
of Eastern Carolina, I was honoured

with an introduction to Gen Beauregard  
and also President Davis, listened to  
an address from each of them, the session  
of Synod also met during my stay  
the meeting was interesting and well  
attended, I spent two months, and  
then returned home to my hard work,  
my brother William is exempted from  
the Army on account of ill health.  
But David just 17 is a noble soldier  
boy. he at first volunteered and joined  
the garrison at Salisbury to guard the  
Military Prison, was faithful to his  
duty and highly appreciated by his  
officers, who complimented him by  
saying he was the best sentinel in  
the garrison, he was then offered  
a desirable position in the Salisbury  
Brass Band, of which he is now a  
member, he is an excellent musician  
and also druggist, he has lately been

up side down, till everything is now  
thread bare, we have our own gloves  
to manufacture, and also handkerchiefs,  
and now we wear homespun dresses &  
palmetto hats, they give us a droll  
appearance, I will send you a sample  
of homespun made in this State, it sells  
at 75¢ per yd, Aunt Mag sent me  
a beautiful Palmetto this summer  
which I am now wearing, she is doing  
very well I believe, is very ingenious  
and inventive, and is making all  
kinds of domestic things, I have not heard  
from Uncle William in some time, I imagine  
he is in distress at this time, I have  
never heard whether John Henry has  
been released or not, he has been a  
prisoner about 18 months, unless lately  
exchanged, we hear nothing from Uncle  
Neil either. Douglass is in Hood's Army,  
I am expecting a letter daily from Aunt  
Mag, I hope you will answer this

offered a situation in the Wilson Hospital, as Ma expressed a wish for him to accept, he rather unwillingly applied for a transfer when his Capt & officers without an exception protested against it.

Father's health is I think considerably improved, necessity has driven him to hard work, he exercises a great deal, and we all know it has benefited him, if you could take a peep at us sometimes, you would laugh amid all our difficulties, Ma takes the cooking for her part, & the washing & ironing, Father & John being water prepare the wood for burning, and besides all this, we have so much repairing & mending of old clothes to do, that we are kept busy from morn till eve, our wardrobes which we had in the days of the old Republic have been turned wrong side out and