

Near Fredericksburg Nov 25 1862

Dear Mother

I have just got yours and Sommers letters and also the bundle of Tobacco. The letters did me a great deal of good but I think the tobacco will do me more good than the letters for it is the first that I have had in several days. Tobacco is a verry scarce article here and sells for twenty five cents a chew readily. I have not paid as high as that yet but I presume I should if I had had the money. I hope you will send me more right away. We have not had anything to eat for the last ten days but just pork and crackers and coffee. The rail road has not been put in order yet from Acquia Creek. As soon as it is I presume we shall get some thing else to eat. Our regt camped near a farm house Saturday night and during the night the company next to ours brought in three bee hives pretty well filled with honey. They woke our company up and divided with us. That is the only good thing that we have had in some time. I am glad that Footes regt is getting some of the sweets of soldiering. I dont think that it will hurt them a bit. I wish our regiment was going to Texas in their place. It would just suit the whole of us. Sommers said in his letter that he would send me some of Old Lath drild. I hope we shall get in quarters pretty soon so that I can get it. I do not think it would be of any use to send a box yet, but I will let you know when I want it sent. The weather is verry cold now and it freezes hard every night. We have large fires and have to sit by them about half the time to keep from freezing. I have not received any letter from Aunt Lib nor Mrs Maynard. We do not get any news papers now and do not know what is going on in the world. We are lying near the rail road about three miles from Fredericksburg. As near as I can learn the enemy is in pretty large force on the other side of the river. I do not think we shall have a fight right away but hope we shall for I think we could chase the rebs out now if ever we can. I will answer Sommers and Gust's letters right away. Benajah Church is with the regt but is driving team he is all right and fat as a bear his folks need not worry for him any. I would like verry well to take a Thanksgiving dinner with you this week but guess I will put it off for another year. I am quite happy now to think that I have only got two years more to stay. My fingers are getting pretty cold and I must stop. Don't forget to send some Tobacco to me right away.

Your Aff Son

CJ Hardaway