

Near Berryville Va Sept 18th 1864

Dear Mother

I got your letter of the 5th saying that you had got home again. I was going to answer it right away but something prevented me from doing it then so I shall try & make up now. There is not much going on here now. We have been lying here in this Camp just two weeks & have been expecting numerous battles but have not had any yet & I guess we shant while we are in this vally. This is the finest farming county that I have ever seen & I should like a nice farm here in times of peace, but I would not give much for one at the present time. We are having quite a nice time here for we have plenty of fruit such as apples pears & peaches & then we have cool evenings & big fires to sit by and by telling stories cracking jokes &c the time passes off very pleasantly. But I expect that our fun is nearly done with for the present for Genl Grant came up yesterday to see Sheridan & there will be a move now pretty quick. I hope they will take us down to Petersburg or back to La. Politics are running rather high here just now but they are all on one side in this regt. There is only one democrat in the regt besides me & we have to take it on all sides. I wrote home to Mr. Gaskill last week to make me a pair of boots & when he gets them done I would like to have them sent on by Express together with a good comforter or quilt if you can send me one. I will give you more instructions when I write again. We have not had any pay now in Six months & I begin to think that a little money would look good, but I guess I can stick it out. When we get into winter quarters I am going to run a mess for about a half a dozen of the officers & I want some of your fall butter. If there is any such thing I would like to have a small keg of 50 or 60 pounds put up this fall & then I can send for it at any time. I will pay the highest market price for it. Tell Gust that I have never seen a photograph of his Betsy yet, but I would like to very well. Please remember me to all the good people & write soon

Your Affectionate Son  
CJ Hardaway