

# Lt. Colonel William Henry Chapman Society

Greensboro, N.C.

Jan 12th 1865

It is a week today darling since you left me and Oh you don't know how I miss you, and how very hard I struggle not to feel desolate and heartsick, lonely I must feel, and always am when you are away, but I look forward with so much pleasure to the time when you will come back to me again. I know you want to see me don't you, for my own heart tells me so, and I feel that this letter will be welcomed gladly, though 'tis written hurriedly for Mr. Richardson will leave for Westmoreland in the morning, so I am writing by candle light for Willis to take it to him soon Write to me soon dearest & tell me all about yourself, and how you enjoyed your trip to Richmond. I am so glad you went that way instead of going with the command for I heard today that two companies were captured on their way down is it so, I hope not, and do not believe it, still I would have suffered a thousand fears(?) if you had been with them. I heard also that two brigades of Yankees had been down on the Neck and burned all the forage, so you all would be compelled to return, & a number of other reports

I sent over to Mrs. Shacklete's this morning, to see if Lient Talaifero had returned from Richmond, so that I might hear something from you but he had not come, and Oh I implore everyone to try and let me hear from you, for even that would be pleasure through I cannot see you, but would you come back soon to see me. I know that Mamma loves me, that kind and loving hands would wait upon me were I sick, and earnest prayers are offered for us both at nightfall, yet how can I feel this same intense love for any human creature save yourself, it is the strongest feeling I have and if it could be forbidden me to love you I would pray that I might die But we both know we love each then, and must not think, so much about our separation, but of the time when we may meet again I think of that so often, and almost begin to look for you already, Is there any talk of peace where you are we hear that the emancipation bill has passed the house, and the majority of the people seem to think, if it is so that peace is dawning – God grant it may be so I think if the war was only over and you & I might be together for the rest of our lives I would be perfectly happy. No matter how humble might be our lot, but I wonder if everyone would be contented even then, and if some wouldn't still cry our, not satisfied not satisfied, for it is the cry of every human soul, that expect from the world perfect happiness

The Yankees have not been in here since you left – though they are encamped at Lovetsville, The men went on a raid today for the first time since you left – I have not seen of Mosby's men except - cousin Phil it is a very lonely hear, come back soon to see your devoted little wife

J M Chapman