

Lt. Colonel William Henry Chapman Society

Greensboro, N.C.

The Hague Jan 25th 1865

I received your letter of 12 & 15th __
__ (?) yesterday while on my way to Northumberland and Lancaster Co. & have so rejoiced was I to get it that I have postponed my life there to write & send this to you tomorrow. You may well imagine how eager I was to read it when I tell it was the first I had heard from you since I left you expecting that you were visiting when McCue came from there. So not let an opportunity pass without writing for you don't know what a disappointment it is when any one come from there without a letter from you. The first question is "did you bring a letter for me" if the answer is "no" I invariably scold them for not calling at your house. I am always certain the fault is not yours. The nice letter card came safely to here(?) I think it is very pretty & will always think of my "dear little wife" when I see it. Though no memento is needed to assure you to make me think of you. It seems that every thing around me at all times reminds me of my lovely one at home. Oh how I feel if I would like to pour out my whole soul to you & wish that I had the language. This it seems would bring us nearer together & then I feel so much happiness. I am going on Thursday to F.(?) R. Stuart's which is about forty miles from where I am staying, & see how they are fixed. Mr. Foote told me they would be anxious to see you, & if I am pleased I will send to(?) come up for you with a carriage. So if you have not gone to Luray & they do not send for you I want you (& your Mommy & Mother too if she will) to hold yourselves in readiness. I will let you know in time & if you can stand the trip you can come to Warrenton & rest a day or two & from there you can come to St. Lochern(?) where I will meet or at somewhere on the road. I want you to ask your Ma's & Mother's advice if they think you will be well enough. We can wait until the road & weather get better. I think this country is perfectly healthy & safe from the Yankees. No Yankees have been on the Neck except since seven who landed to deliver a letter & left very soon after. I like this country very much & know you would like it also & the people are very kind. Let me know what arrangement you & your Ma can make. I have just heard about the running glass(?) (which _ _ _ _ _) of my Jersey wagon, one of the boys told me he saw it in John Scott's woods in the right hand side of the road heading from Upperville to Jno. Cass's. I will get Mr. Russel to attend to it for me & have it brought to your Uncle Johns & you can get him to send you to Warrenton in it & I can send the horses to meet you there. I do not want you to undertake the journey unless if it can be done without injury to your health. Write soon & let me know all I will enclose a note on Phill Smith which he said he would pay you. The wagon I offered for \$300 in Confederate money you may sell if you could, for also if you can't get that, you had better keep the hire for Will. You may have some use for it. I need but little money here. I have not told you where I am writing. It is at the home of Mr Henry Beale where there are six boys talking all the time & frequently calling on me to know what they say, so you must excuse my disconnected way of writing. Yesterday Wilson, Puseas, McCue & myself went on the river oystering caught but few as they wind was cold & blowing high. We saw an old steamer as we thought coming toward us & you ought to have seen us wheel about for the shore but she passed us without stopping(?)