

For Penelope Isler Gregory,

So Glad to get acquainted  
with you -

Suzanne Davis Bunn

Mrs Donald Bunn  
PO Box 141  
Whittier NC 28789-0141

In memory of the lady who received these letters and her daughter  
and granddaughter who helped preserve them through the years.

Catharine Rachel Speight Darden Isler

Salem College 1862-1865

b. 1-15-1848 d. 5-13-1919

Harriette Rachel Isler Davis

Salem College 1895-1897

b. 2-4-1877 d. 12-31-1933

Catharine Rachel Sarah Rebecca Speight Darden Davis  
(Dr. Rachel Darden Davis)

Salem College 1922-1926

b. 9-24-1905 d. 10-10-1979

## FORWARD

These letters have belonged to the Darden-Isler-Davis families for over 100 years. By publishing them family members, as well as others who have an interest in the 1860's, will be able to glimpse three years of this family's concerns, heartaches and woes.

Most letters were in readable condition. Where there was doubt it is noted. Spelling appears just as it was in the original. There was a range of penmanship from exquisite to careless with a noticeable decline in the letters received from the front. The letters were written on very nice stationery, scraps of paper and one on a Confederate monthly company report form. They were all written in ink. The letters were addressed to: Miss Kate R.S. Darden, Salem, N.C., in care of Rev. R. de Schweinitz. Rev. Schweinitz was principal of Salem Female Academy from 1853 to 1866. Not many of the envelopes remain. A few of the remaining envelopes have stamps or show evidence of stamps having been affixed but many were hand delivered by family, friends or neighbors. The trunk that Kate took to Salem and used for storing these letters is still in the family as are the letters themselves.

These letters now belong to Harriette Elizabeth Davis Wilde.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Many thanks to:

Harriette Wilde who made these letters available for copy and publishing,

and to Donald Bunn whose assistance made it possible for these letters to be published.



Kittrell's Female College, N. C.  
January 12th 1861

Dear Kate,

Enclosed you will find a circular of our school. I am more than pleased with the school. I think it equaled by few and surpassed by none.

I would be very much pleased to have you come. If you conclude to come let me know soon. My love to Kate Adams and tell her to write to me.

Excuse brevity,  
Your true friend,  
Bedie Cox.

Potomac Defences Va.  
Battery No. 1  
October 21st, 61

Dear Cousin Kate,

I have not written to you since I left, but today I will drop you a few lines.

The news here is unimportant, though it may interest you, as the girls are fond of hearing news.

This morning they are firing at Evansport at some of the steamers though I think they have done very little damage.

Katie, you have no idea how "us soldiers" get along. At daybreak we have roll call then we have to cook our rations by 8 o'clock, march till 12M. At 2 o'clock we go on Battalion Drill and stay until 5 o'clock, then Supper, Roll Call at 8, extinguish lights at 8 1/2 o'clock. This is an dailly routine of duty. I think I can cook as nice beefsteak as any cook we have at home, though I hate to cook. Abe is lazier than I am & never cooks if he can help it. We have plenty of blankets and clothes now & we live well to what we did when we first come to Va. We can get good lb. cake by paying 50 cts. per lb. for it. and a good deal of my money goes for it.

I have not seen but very few ladies since I left home, & I tell you I would be glad to see & be with them a while. I wrote to Nannie(?) the other day & she has not written to me yet. Tell Nan I guess she thinks I will never get back to Carolina, but just tell her, for me, that I will get back there just before she knows it & tell of it. Nan and Kate have always been very punctual in answering my letters but they are getting rather negligent. I have to be punctual is the reason I think others must be too. Yet I get a scolding once in a while.

Tis Sunday & I expect there is preaching at Old Tabernacle and if I were only there today how glad I would be. I have not been to church since I left Goldsboro, & I begin to feel the need of preaching.

Katie I cannot give any excuse for not writing at earlier day, only negligence though I hope you will excuse me. Tell Aler I would like to hear from him.

Give my love to Aunt Rachel and the family and to my relative and reserve a portion for yourself. Tell Nan & Kate I know they recd. my letters & I expect an answer, though they have been quite dilatory.

I Am Your Affectionate  
Cousin,  
A.W. Speight

To K.R.S. Darden



Army at Richmond, Right Wing  
Maj. Genl. Longstreet, Comdg.  
3rd No. Ca. Troops  
June 10th 1862

Dear Cousin Katie,

It is with pleasure I seize this opportunity of giving you the news though it may not interest you very little.

First I will give you a brief sketch of trip from Goldsboro this place. Left Goldsboro on Thursday morning & arrived at Petersburg on Friday at 6 o'clock A.M. Pitched our tents & were ready for living when we rec'd orders to march to Richmond which we did on Sunday morning, arriving there about 9 o'clock. We marched through the City hatted & stacked Arms\_ awaited further orders which arrived about noon. They were for us to march on the fields & if needed would be called for. We were not called into action as the fighting had nearly ceased when we arrived. We returned to Camp about 4 miles from the field & rested that night till noon next when we recd. orders to march on or near the Battlefield. It rained that night & we could not half sleep\_ next morning we went on Picket Duty under the Charge of Maj. Savage. The bushes were wet we had to take thins, & if I ever took a wetting it was that day. It rained nearly all night\_ We were on Duty\_ could not move as we expected every minute that the Yankees would shoot us. Some of the boys nearly freezed. I used to think I knew something of Picket Duty, but I must confess that I did not know anything of it.

We came off on Wednesday & it still continued to rain. I begun to think it would never quit. I stayed wet as I could be for more than 48 hours; if I built a fire the rain would put it out. I thought to myself if every one was as well satisfied with Picket Duty as I was that they would soon stop. For 3 days it stayed clear & yesterday morning we were prison duty & came off this morning & not a drop of rain fell, a most excellent time to show our "spunk". Soon after we were stationed five Yankee casually came within range of our guns & we brought one down (a private) & another fell off (a Lieut.)

The former was wounded in the knee & fell about 150 yds. from our line. He remained there for 1/2 hour when Col. DeRopette ordered us forward to the wounded man, which we did without any further casutility? About sunset the Lieut. came from his hiding place & no sooner had he shown himself than were 4 balls sent after him. He fell

as if he was mortally wounded, but to our astonishment he was not hurt at all. I guess he saw our Pickets & knew it was useless for him to try to escape. After we had taken him & he became reconciled to his fate he told us that McClenlere (McClellan) said he would eat dinner in Richmond on Sunday next. The Col. only remarked that he would have a warm time he guessed. After we had been relieved by the 1st NC the Yankees reinforced their pickets & compelled the 1st NC to fall back to our entrenchments. We reinforced our pickets & drove them to their line again. We still hold our line though I assume it is a dangerous post. It looks cruel to see men watching each other & trying to kill him, but when I see a parcel of man trying to kill me it is a pleasure for me to knock one over whenever an opportunity may offer.

So more of picket Duty\_ now as Capt. Best is going to Richmond & I wish him to take it to the office.

Give my love to the family & tell them to write me once in a while.

Katie I am very well & fell as if I could stand Picket again in a few days & if possible kill a Yankee.

My love to all enquiring relatives & friends. Accept a portion for yourself,

I am as ever

Your Affectionate Cousin,

A.W.Speight



Camp near Richmond, Va.  
3rd NC  
July 27th 1862

Dear Cousin,

Your very kind & interesting letter came to hand, a few days since, & it was highly gratifying to me to hear from one, that is so near my birthplace & so closely related.

Admidst all the scenes that have transpired for the last few weeks. I have pleasantly thought of home its enjoyments & my relatives, yet I have not applied for a furlough, for this reason; that there were so many unfortunate wounded men to go, that I knew it was impossible for one, no sicker than I was, to try the Physicians. And besides, very soon after the Battles were over, orders came from Hd. Dn. prohibiting the Surg. from even allowing the sick men to go to the Richmond Hosp. but advised that all men who were fortunate enough to have their families near them, to procure private houses, which a great many have done.

Katie, if you could see the sick of this Regt. it would shock you & cause you to weep at the suffering. It is well enough that our loved ones at home cannot see all, as it would have a bad effect. Notwithstanding, we never doubt your devotion to our cause.

It is said that we lost more from disease than in battle, & I believe it. Take our Co. or Regt. & in either case, we have lost more from disease than balls. In our Co. we have had 7 to die. & only 5 killed. Regt. more than 100 have died & only sixty killed. I give this as an esample to you, that you may form your idea as to what hapens our Army.

It has been said that Genl. Scott informed Lincoln that it took gentlemen to make soldiers & he was right. A man must be stimulated & the best stimulant, in time of battle, is to think of his sweetheart. For what does a man prize not to be ridiculed by the world, but to be with those he loves, & honors. For a man to go in a fight & prove a traitor or coward, would be worse than death, but for a man to be in battle & prove a brave man, inspires him & makes him sleep with the honored in after years. if he should be lucky enough to survive the war.

Aftertimes, a man thinks of his intended or betrothed if should be fortunate enough to have one. & the thought inspires him with new zeal & to God & of honor. Nothing has more influence over stubborn man than the loving smiles of woman. Her "facinating smile" will cause a man to quit-claim the universe, save her. Many a Young & loving heart

has been saddened by the startling intelligence that her love was wounded or taken to his long rest as many a brave Southson was in the late battle of Richmond. We lost many a brave man but we gained the day. Tho Yanks too, lost a great many, but I could not vouch for their bravery if they had given us a hard fight at Cold Harbor. That was the hardest & longest contest that we had, but it was not so destructive as the last at Malvern Hills.

In conclusion I have to say that I feel grateful to the Ruler above for protecting me in that service of battles, for which I promise him in future to be a better man if possible & I am certain there is room for grat improvement. No more,

Write soon to your absent & affectionate Cousin.

A.W.Speight

To Cousin Katie

You will perseive that I send you a Yankee envelope, under the circumstances - the best I could.

A.W.S.

Note:

After this letter from Art Speight, his company stood picket duty on the Williamburg Road and was in skirmishes including Seven Pines, Chickahominy bridge, Mechanicsville and Malvern Hill. He was promoted to 3rd. Lieutenant on August 7, 1862.



H.M.A. Aug 23rd, /62

Dear Sister ,

According to prommis I take my seat to write you a few lines to let you now that I hav not forgotton you. Sister excuse me for not writing sooner. we have eighty seven boys in school now, and they are comeing in every day. Uncle Arther came up Saturday morning and he carried Arch back home with him and he was glad to go bac. I have only three studies, French Aritmetic and Grammar. I recon that you would like to now why Arch was carried back it was because he thought that he could not keep up with the classes and it is a hard task for me to do. Sam and myself are in different rooms but I hav got three of the best room mates in school. I have not got my clothes yet but I expect to guet them soon. I hanot herd from home yet. Sister we have to study hard to learn our lessons for they give us such long lessons. Study hard and learn your lessons and try to improve your time to the best advantage. and brake no roul. So I must bring my letter to a close by saying a few more words . I am verry much worried at the present for I hav just come off of inspection and Sam fainted and we had to toat him up to his room. Sister give my best respects to Marthia and tell her that I have found one of her old acquaces hear his name is Mr. William C. Pearce of high point. I must bring my letter to a close by saying I still remain your affectionate Brother.

Abram Darden

PS Write soon and tell me how to direct my letters to you. excuse bad writing and spelling.

Abram L. Darden was born Dec. 7, 1844.

Kate Darden was born Jan. 13, 1848.

H.M.A Sept th 1862

Dear Sister,

I now take the oppertunity of answering your letter that I receaved about a week ago, I would have written sooner but I have not had time, so you must escuse me this time, newse is verry scearse about hear, infact we guet scearcely no newse hear, but when we do guet it it is of the wright kind. We heard hear that washington citty had been captured by the confederates and that we had routted the whole of the lincln army and driven them north in bull run stile, but awl of this needs conformation but I hope that It may awl come to bea so. Sister I have just got acquainttted with the most of the boys and now we have fine times, but when I first came I wanted to leave some of the worst. We have for breakfast two roles and a little beefe hash and corn bread and baked beefe just dun enough for the bluddy worter to run out of it and for supper we have bread and molasses, and that is what we live apon and our deasert is baked apple, but we have not had them but twice since I have been hear. Sister, Sam says that you must write to him, Sister I have moved since wrote to you last. I am rooming now with Applewhite Sam and blow from Greenville. I must come to a close for hines is bothering me, for the table legs one longer than the other and he is rocking the table, so I must come to a close by saying excuse bad writing and spelling. Write soon, give my best respects to awl enquireing friends and receive a large purtion for your self,

your brother,  
Abram Darden



Home Sept 24th 1862

Dear Kate:

I have had it in contemplation to write you ever since you left home but my time has been so much occupied since then that I have scarcely had time for anything. I staid four weeks at Kittrells and think I was very much improved. Willie was quite sick while I was there and is very unwell yet, he is poorer than you ever saw him! The family is very unwell have had several cases of Diphtheria, Hattie had it before I returned home, but is nearly well now. She is at Aunt Martha's tonight. There has been considerable sickness in the neighborhood, mostly the throat disease, Sarah Norman has lost her baby, it was buried the day I returned home.

I met my friend Mrs. Mangum at the Springs, she was very much surprised to see me and very glad too I think, it was a great pleasure to me to be with her. I met with several of my old schoolmates there, which made my stay much pleasanter than it would otherwise have been.

I miss you very much since I returned home we have very still times now. I hope you are satisfied and doing well. You must take care of yourself and try to keep well and devote yourself to your books and other duties, We shall expect you to be very much improved when you return home.

We heard from Abram last week, he was well but does not like Hillsboro. I expect the fare is very bad there. I hear very great complaint of it. I expect by this time you have become acquainted with the girls and are getting along very well. Kate Adams has written to you she says but has not received any answer, you must write to her.

Ma wants to know if you have received any letter from home, you must let us know if they are not directed right, ought they not to be directed to the care of some person. You must write every week or two. Ma sends her love to you. It is getting late so I must bid you good-night. Give my love to Martha Speight and tell her she must not let you get homesick. Write soon.

Your affectionate cousin.  
Sarah C. Darden

Sarah C. Darden was the daughter of Rachel Speight Moye and the wife of William A. Darden, Captain, Company F, 61st regiment, North Carolina Troops. William's father (William August Darden) was an older brother of Kate and Abram's father (Willis Joseph Lafayette Darden)

Sept 26th, 1862

Dear sister,

I now seat myself to answer your verry kind and affectionate letter that I receaved about a week ago. I would have answered it sooner but I have not had time to write and so you must excuse me this time and I will try and do better next time. Sister I have not heard from home since I left. and I cant see what is the matter with them at home that they dont write. I have written home four times and I have not receaved answers yet. So I cant tell you any thing about home yet and I dont now when I shal bea able to tell you any thing about home. but I am going to write tame to morrow, we have had verry blustry times har for the last few days and about twenty five of the boyes have been sent home for the last week and awl of these boys wer sent home on account of the meanness of one of the boys. but we have got upwards of eighty boys now and they are comeing in every day. Sister I have to study verry heard to learn the long lessons that they give ous and we have so menny military duties to perform that we have but verry little time to guet ower lessons. We have not got ower uniforms yet but we will have them in about three weeks. we have to drill one hour every day and we doublequick every evening untell we nearly fawl. I have not got onely one quilt and two sheats and they are so narrow that they doant cover but one sid at the time. I have not heard any newse from the war lately. Sister you must write to me and let me now how you guet along inn your studies. give my love to awl enquireing friends and give my love to Cousin Martha Heppie and Ava and awl enquireing friends. Sister I recan that I will come up thear Christmas if not before. Sister I saw that you said that you had a secreat to tell me. and I should like to now what the secreat that you waunt to tell me. I receaved a letter from Cousin Nannie May and she said that she was well. and she said that Arch was going to Wilson. Excuse bad writing and spelling. So I must bring my short and uninteresting letter by saying I still remain your brother Good bye.

Abram Darden

P.S. Direct your litters to

Cadet Abram Darden  
Hillsborough M. A.  
Hillsborough  
N. C.

A. Darden



Hillsborough N.C.  
Oct the 3 1862

My Dear Cousin

thinking that you would like to hear from me I will take the pleasure of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time Cousin Abe is well and I hope these few lines may find you the same eye received a letter from an they were all well it brought me sad news Brother Abram wrote home to father that Brother Arthur was shot in the Battle of the 17 of sept over in Meriland. Brother Abram wrote to father that he saw Brother Arhtur leg taken of and he soon fell in the sleep of death an soon died. he was brother Abram says it would be improbable to get his body home father says if brother Abram lives he will get his body home and I hope they will succeed in getting it home. I hope he died in a glorious cause eye intend to reveng the revenge the death of my Brother. we both send our love to you Cousin Abram says you must write to him excuse bad writing an spelling I will bring these few lines to a close by saying write soon

Samuel Speight

Arthur (A.W. ) Speight was killed at Sharpsburg, Maryland September 17, 1862. In his regiment 46 were killed and 207 wounded during the Maryland Campaign.

Abram, Arthur and Samuel Speight were brothers. Their father was Uncle Abner Speight.

Hillsborough M.A. Oct 7th 1862

Dear Sister.

Thinking that you had not received my letter or you would have answered my letter before now. I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying good health. I have not heard from home since I wrote to you last. and I have not heard from home but onest since I have been hear. and that was not from Aunt Rachel it was from Uncle Bill. I wrote to Uncle Arther last week and I asked him if I might go to see you next Christmas that is if you are going to stay a year before you go home. I recon that Sam told you about Arther beaing killed. The boys are more quiat hear now than they have been Inn some time. Colonel Tew was killed at the same time that Art was and Major Gordon had gone to Verginnia I recon for his remains. I have now newse of importance about the war so I must write you a short letter this time for the want of words. I am rooming in the same room yet and we have the best room in barracks. We have to scour every first satterday in the month. last satterday after we had scoured Lieutenant Wells visited he give us the prise for having such a nice room. I think that it aut to been nice for I worked so hard toating water we had to toat the water about a hundred yards. Sister I have not got but five demerits since I have been hear. I must come to a close by saying give my love to awl inquireing friends and receive a portion for your self.

Write soon to your brother.  
Abram Darden

P.S. To direct your letter to

Cadet Abram Darden  
Hillsborough M.A.  
Hillsborough  
N.C.



Bivauc near Whlinchester Va.  
Oct 9th 1862

Highly esteemed Cousin.

I take this opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am still numbered with the living, and at this time very well satisfied in Camp but my heart is sad. It has pleased the Lord to take Brother Arthur from me, and it grieved me much. I feel lonely, sad and forsaken. He was killed by a bomb at Sharpsburg, Maryland. the largest fight\_ ever recorded in the annals of History. and it was there that we lost our best men. I enjoyed the morning contest very much, because I felt like fighting, and would have liked to have been in the evening contest had not brother got shot down in about a quarter of a mile from the scene of action, consequently I dropped out and bare him to the hospital, where he afterwards expired. The people at home have no idea what soldiers have to undergo. They can read of our adventures but cannot form a correct idea of what our independence will cost. It has cost thousands of lives and may cost many more but I cannot believe it. Our prospects at this time are bright\_ and flatening. Katie, we are camping at this time without a tent, and half of the men without blankets and shoes, but we fare well, very well at least we are contented with our lot. My health at this time is very good, and I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Give my love to Cousin Martha Speight, Cousin Nefa (G) Srimsern and Cousin Amy Taylor and receive a large portion for yourself. I should like to come ( ) to Salem if an opportunity should offer, between now and Christmas. I think I should call at Greensboro. I must close by asking you to write soon. Excuse bad writing and spelling. Orders are coming so at this time to move I hope.

\_\_\_\_ Your Aff. Cousin till death,  
Abram L Speight

Abram L Speight  
Co. A 3rd Regt. NC Troops

Hillsboro Military Academy Oct. 21, 1862

Dear Sister

I now take the present opportunity of answering your verry kind and interesting letter that I received about a week ago. I have no newse of importance to tell. I heard from home last friday and they wer awl well. Uncle Abner was up hear last friday to see we boys and stayed awl night with ous. and brant ous some pervisions and he brant a letter from Aunt Rachel. She said that they wer awl well as common except the sore throat and that Uncl Bill had been down with it but was getting better when she wrote. You said Uncle Arther was going to stop and see me but he did not stop. Sister I received a letter from Kate Adams last week and she said that she had written to you and you had not answered her letter yet, and she told me to tell you to write to her. We got ower winter clothes last friday morning and now we have to ware them awl the time and I think that they will bea worn out before Christmas. Uncl Abner said that he thought that he would send Sam hear next year. Maj. Gordan has reterned from Virginia. Sister I would have written to you before now but I have not had time. Sam sends his best respects to you and says that you must write to him. I must bring my short letter to a close by saying give my best respects to Mattie Heppie and Sule and receive a large portion for your self. Write soon to your brother.

A. Darden

Let no one see this.



Speights Bridge, N Car  
October 25th, 1862

Dearest Katie,

Your very kind letter arrived home about two weeks ago, and the pleasure I realized in reading a letter from one I love so dearly, and have not seen in such a long long time, is unexpressible. Katie you know not the many times I have wished to see the absent one, but I wished in vain, if we both live I hope we shall meet soon. Darling Katie I have nothing but sad news to tell you, and I guess you have plenty of that where you are. There is a great deal of sickness in this neighborhood. I have attended several funerals since you left. I attended one day before yesterday, it was Cousin Arthur Price's youngest son, and I have heard since then that Mary was very sick. Ma's family is well except some of the negroes and Buddie has had the sore throat for the last week, and Ma has the sore throat today. I have escaped thus far. Sister and Brother William were well the last time I saw them. I left Aunt Rachel's this morning, her family is not well, but all up. Uncle Billie has just left here he has been sick but is better. Cousin Billie is at home now looking clothing for the dear good Soldiers. Aunts negroes told me to tell you that she would have sent you a box last Monday but she did not know that anyone was going up that way, she said she would send it at the next opportunity. Katie I guess you will want to know the reason I have not written to you earlier, I will tell you we have had a protracted meeting down here, and you know it is always a busy time then, and I have had so many other things to do since then I could not take time to write. I have seen Uncle Arthur since. I received your letter and I told him what you requested me to, OK, Kate. Victory has just brought in our new homespun dresses and you ought to see them, they are beautiful. I received a letter from Abe last week he was well. Well Kate I guess you will get tired reading this long letter so I will make haste and finish. Ma, Buddie Sister and Brother all sends their best love to you and says please write. Kate please answer immediately. give my love to all inquiring friends and receive a portion for yourself. I must close, Goodbye but I hope not forever.

Katie S. Adams

I guess you will forget this name Katie  
Write soon soon soon

Oak Grove Oct. 29th 1862

My dear Kate;

Thinking you would like to hear from home I will write you a few lines tonight. we are all as well as usual. Uncle Bill has had sore but is well. We have had considerable diphtheria through this section of the county. Arthur Price's youngest child died with it last week and Mary is very sick with it now. I dont think there is much chance for her to recover.

William was home last week, he was sent home on detached service for the Regiment and was us a week. He is looking very well and his health is very good. Hattie is fat as she can be and Willie is getting fat and looks well.

Katie I think you ought to be reconciled to being up the country now, we have so much sickness down here and there is great uneasiness felt on account of the war. A great many from this part of the State are looking homes up the country. I hope you are well and well satisfied and learning fast.

Ma would have sent you a box by Uncle Arthur but did not know he was going up until he came by on his way up.

Have you worn your homespun dresses yet. Every body is run over with wearing down here, people having to make their cloth keeps them very busy.

Celia Derring sends her love to you and says you must write to her. Ma says to write to her how you are getting on what you are studying and all about yourself. You must take good care of yourself and try to keep well.

We heard from Abram Monday night; he was well. I dont know of any other news to write that would be interesting. I suppose you do not hear much said about the war up there. I should be rejoiced if the war could end. It is distressing to think of the sorrow and distress it has caused in our once happy land. It is a great trial to me to be deprived of the society and protection of my husband, and the thought of his falling far away from home is almost more than I can bear, but there is one consolation I know he is prepared either for life or death. I was deeply grieved to hear of Arthur Speight's death. It is a severe affliction to his parents. He must have suffered intensely both legs were broken, one was amputated, he survived but a short time after the operation, it was performed by his request as the surgeon had no



hope of his recovery. Abram was with him he started back to his Regt but never overtook them until they reached Frederick Md. Dear Arthur he is gone but while we sorrow of account of his early death we can but feel proud of his brave and chivilous conduct which prompted him to sacrifice every thing for his native home,his beautiful and glorious southern home. Surely our cause must triumph when the lives of so many brave and noble ones are lost to defend our homes and our rights.

Give my love to Martha Speight. All join me in love to you. Write soon to your affectionate cousin

Sarah C. Darden

Oak Grove was near Speight's Bridge in the eastern part of Green County on State Road 1344.

William's father (William Augustus Darden) was an older brother of Kate and Abram's father (Willis Joseph Lafayette Darden)

Mr Abe Speight is flying around Puss Wooten

Chimborays Hospital  
Richmond Virginia  
Nov 13th 1862

Highly Esteemed Cousin,

I again seat myself for the purpose of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I have not yet forgotten you, if I am far away. I am unwell at this time, not so sick but I can walk about where I please. This is a very nice place for a sick man to stay at. Katie I think I shall be at Salem by Christmas and stop and see Mollie too if I have time, have you heard from her lately? if you have, please tell me how she is getting along. Did you give my love to Cousin Martha and Cousin Neffie? As I told you to do. I am on my way home at this time, and expect to be there in about two weeks from today . I am today 19 yrs of age and cannot see my sweetheart\_\_\_\_\_ HOW MISERABLE I FEEL that I shall not see her before Christmas .

You must not be alarmed to see me at any time in the Parlor at College. Have you heard from Y.S. Adams lately? I expect she has a sweetheart by this time. Katie have you seen Theodore since you have been at Salem? Poor little boy I expect you will break his heart yet\_\_\_\_\_ I begin to want to go home very much at this time as it is very lonely for me in this time of trial, you must write to me as soon as you receive this short and badly written epistle, give my love to Cousins Martha and Neffie for me, if you please. Excuse bad writing and spelling. I must bring this letter to a close as I am very much fatigued. Write soon.

I am as ever, Your Aff. Cousin  
Abrams L Speight

Hillsboro Military Academy  
Nov 14th/62

Dear Sister.

I take the present opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am well and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. Sister I received your letter a few days ago and now I attempt to answer it. Sister I had received your letter but I have had so much to do that I have not had time, I would of answered when I first received it but I was sick. I had been sick a week besides arising that I had on my foot so that I could not wear my shoe. Sister I have not heard from home now in three weeks. Sis I can't tell you any thing about it, Sister I received a letter from I. Derring yesterday and he said that the Yankees had got up as far as Carborough and Meets. Cousin Billie had been in a fight but they had not heard from him since battle I hope that he is not hurt they have come up as far as Greenville in their boats. and they have taken several of the inhabitants. Sister John said that they had had a snow down there from fore to six inches deep, and we have not had a particle hear. Sister you told me that the next time that I wrote to Nannie to tell her that you felt your self slighted. Sister the first thing that I have got to say about it is that I should like to now what Nannie it is. Sister if you will tell me what Nannie it is then I will tell her. Sister I should like to now who you meant by Nannie. Sister I must come to a close by saying write soon to your brother.

A. Darden

A. Darden      A. Darden

A. Darden

Just Before the Battle Sister

Just before the battle Sister  
I am thinking most of you  
While upon the field we're marching  
With the enemy in view  
Comrades brave around me lying  
Filled with thoughts of home and God  
For well they know that on the morrow  
That some will sleep beneath the sod.

Chorus

Fare well Sister you may never  
Press me to your heart again  
But Oh! you'll not forget me Sister  
If I'm numbered with the slain

Oh! I long to see you Sister  
And the loving ones at home  
But Oh; I'll never leave our banner  
Till in honor I can come  
Tell to traitors all around you  
That their cruel words we know  
In every battle kill our soldiers  
By the help they give the foe.

Chorus

Hark I hear the bugle sounding  
Tis the signal for the fight  
Now may God protect us Sister  
As he ever does the right  
Hear the battle cry of freedom  
How it swells upon the air  
Oh; yes we'll rally round the standard  
Or we'll perish nobly there.

This was found on the battle field on a dead Yankee



Oak Grove Dec. 7th 1862

Dear Kate:

I will write you a short letter this morning to let you hear how we all are. I am very unwell at this time with a cold and cough, the rest of the family are well as usual. Hattie and Willie were well pleased with the presents you sent them. Kate Adams is here this morning she is complaining at you because she has not received any answer to her letter, you must write to her.

I believe there is no news of any interest in the neighborhood. Every thing is very quiet through here now and I dont think there is much danger of the Yankees getting through here. I have not heard from Abram in two or three weeks they have two months vacation. Marsellas' family have moved up the country. Julia is now in Raleigh, she has another daughter.

If you need any clothes you must get them up there I cant get any down here. Your vacation is so short I reckon you cant come home this winter, but I dont know whether your uncle Arthur will go after you or not. We have very cold weather now, have had one snow this fall. I am afraid we are going to have a very severe winter.

I want you to write me what you are studying and what board is a month. Kate sends her love and says you must write to her. You must write to me be a good girl and take care of yourself.

Your aff Aunt, R. Moyer

When Kate and Abe Darden were orphaned in 1858, Aunt Rachel Moyer and Uncles Abner and Arthur Speight raised them. Rachel Speight Moyer was a sister of Kate's mother, Sarah Eason Speight Darden.

H.M.A. Dec 11, 62

Dear Sister,

I take the present opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am well and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister I hope that you will pardon me for not writing sooner but I have been very busy and have not had time. I have no newse of importance to tell you but I will try to tell you some thing if I can. Sister Sam receive a letter from Jack Dannel the other day and he was well and was at Greenville he said that cousin William was well. Sister it will soon be time for me to leave this place and when you write to me let me now whether you are going home or not and if you are not going home I will try and come and see you if I can that is if I can guet the meanes in time. Sister Sam received a letter the other day from Abe Speight and he said that he was improving. he has been very sick. I received a letter from the other day and he said that Nelly and Beag wer bothe well and as pretty as ever (so you my tell them the next tim that I think [this phrase was marked out but legible]) Sister Sam says that you must give his love Bealie and he wants to now how to adress a letter to her. Sister you must wright Sam. I have not heard from him in about three weeks. I must come to a close by saying write soon. Sister you said I had and to now who Nannie was Sister I asked you who it was and I want to tell me. Write soon to your brother.

A.Darden



Oak Grove Dec. 13th 1862

Dear Kate

I will write you a few lines this evening just to let you hear from us. We are all well. We have rather bad news now, the Yankees have attacked Kinston, they have been fighting there three days but we do not know the result, we have been hearing the cannon even since early this morning. Your cousin William is there and you know we feel very anxious about him. A man passed the road this morning (moving) and sent up a message that he was there fighting, we suppose from that he was not wounded. I think it best for you to remain where you are this winter I dont know how soon we may have to leave home. I continue to hope though that this part of the state will not be overrun. You must not feel uneasy about us we will try to get away if the vandals do come, if they regarded the usages of civilized warfare we could remain at home but they have no regard for anything human.

I will send you a box next week if I can meet with anyone to send it by. You must be try to be contented and learn all you can. I hope we shall have better times soon. I cant write any more this evening as I want to write to Abram.

Write to me often, your aff aunt  
R. Moyer

There were skirmishes on the Kinston Road December 11 and 12, 1862. Also there were skirmishes at South West Creek on December 13 and 14 with another engagement in Kinston on December 14, 1862

Oak Grove Jan 11th 1863

Dear Kate:

I will write you a short letter this morning just to let you hear from us as I am too unwell to write much. I have been sick a week have not set up much until today. Your Aunt Rachel is very unwell with a cold and cough, the rest of the family are well. I suppose you had a very pleasant time Christmas and enjoyed yourself very much. Hattie was well pleased with the book you sent her. Willie likes to look at the pictures very much too. Aunt Martha has been very sick of diphtheria but is much better now, nearly well I believe. Abram has been home nearly three weeks but has been staying down at his place most of the time, I dont know whether he is going back to school or not.

William is now at Wilmington, he was at home little more than a week ago, he is very well and fatter than you ever saw him.

The Yankees didn't run us away when they were fighting at Kinston, we did not know at one time but what we should have to leave though. As long as they can be kept away from the R. Road we feel safe through this section, if we do not have to run away I expect you will get home next summer. I suppose you will want to come by that time.

Ma says write to her how you look, how you are getting along, what you are studying, whether you have got enough clothes or not, and all about yourself. Write to me often.

Your affectionate cousin.  
Sarah C. Darden



Oak Grove Feb 8th 1863

Dear Kate:

As Abram is going to see you tomorrow I will write you a short letter and send by him. I had not heard from you in so long a time & feared you were sick but Hattie received a letter last night saying that you were well. I hope that you are contented and satisfied with your school, you know that we sent you there for your improvement and benefit and not to get rid of you, and I hope you take this view of it and will improve yourself and you will have one great means of happiness, I know that you have a mind capable of improvement and that you may be an ornament to society and a blessing to your friends if you will make a right use of your talents. If times are quiet you may expect to come home next summer, I sincerely hope they will be and that we will soon have peace. We have been blessed with victory in all our engagements for seven months and I hope victory will continue to crown our arms. It is said the enemy are concentrating a large force to attack Charlestown, but I hope we shall be prepared to meet and repulse them.

I havent room to tell you any news but will leave it for Abe to tell you as it will no doubt be pleasanter to hear it than to read it.

Write to me often,

Your aff aunt

R Moyer

P.S. Dear Kate if you can get any crewel like you worked my collar with I want you to send me some an ounce or so of several colors S.C.D.

Spelights Bridge

Feb 8th 1863

Dearest Cousin,

I think I wrote to you last and you think you did, I do not want to be contrary so I will write to you and then see if you will answer it. You said in your note that I was to mean to write but I intend to show you that I am not. Kate when you write please tell me how many letters you have received from me since you left home. I have received only one from you and I have written to you twice, Katie. I am here all alone, I wish you were here to stay with me, we could have such nice times. Ma has gone down to Sisters today and I cant tell you when she will return. Brother and Sis have gone off house keeping and if you were only here to go down there with me, we could see so much fun. I wish for you every time I go there to stay with me. Sis is getting to be an old woman now. I wish you could see her. Kate have you had any snow. I was caught down at Sisters and had to come home through it. I tell you it was one cold ride. Oh! Kate I heard from Bunt the other day I expect I had better not tell you of it for fear you will cry because you did not see him. I must close write soon to

Your absent Cos,

I expect you will forget there ever was such a name as this K.A.



Dear Kate

I havent received a letter from you since Abram came home I want you to write to me often you must get all you want up there and have it made & hat or bonnet which you want If you havent money enough to get what you want write to your Uncle Art to sent you some. The isent any thing down hear to get and what little there is hear, they ask fivetimes as much as it is worth, I have been talking to Art about going after you when the session is out he said if times was quiet he would go it is reported the Yankes are coming by thousands to Newbern if they get through hear I do not know what we shall do I do not want to stay hear, I do not now where to go to, but I hope they never will get any nearer than they have bin, Kate have you got the Itch if you have do cure it before you leave there Abram had it when he come home. I would not have for nothing in the world if I could help it, Kate Abram is gone to the war to fight for his contry you must pray for his safty I hope he will live to get back uninjurd he joind the company William is in, Kate learn fast take care of yourself we are all up at preasant, give my love to Martha, I remain your affectionate Aunt

R M

(James Island,SC) March 15th 1863

Dear Sister.

I take the present oppertunity of writing you a few lines to let you now that I am well at this time and hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. Sister I am now on James Island near Charleston S.C. and we have been hear every since I have been hear. and we are looking for an attack every houer at least every day. Sister I would have written to you before but I thought that I would wate until I got to my new home before I wrote. and I hope that you will excuse me for not writeing soonner. Sister you must not exspect me to write you a very long letter as I am in camp amd have no chance to write. give my love to cousin marthia and awl the rest of the girls. Sister as it is nearly time for dinner I will come to a close please write soon for my own benefit. excuse bad writing and spelling. write Soon to your brother

A.Darden



Speights Bridge, N Car  
March 21st, 1863

Dear Kate,

I have taken my seat this dreary rainy evening for the purpose of answering your short but sweet epistle, which was handed to me about two weeks ago, tongue or pen cant express the joy I realised on opening your letter and finding that it was from my Cousin, who is now far away from me, but I hope the time will soon come when we shall meet again. This leaves Ma and family well, I believe. Buddie has had a very severe attack of Typhoid pneumonia, but he is well again. I hope this letter may find you enjoying fine health. Kate I must tell you something about my little Nephew, he is the prettiest sweetest and best little boy you ever saw, I know you will say so when you see him, he is six weeks old. Sis has been staying with us all the week, you cant guess what his name is so I will tell you, it is Richard. You know he is sweet and pretty by his name. Aunt Louisa has a fine daughter she is not half as pretty as Richard. Cousin Betsy Price has a little boy too. I tell you Kate there is not anything down here but babies hardly and Sisters is the sweetest of all. Kate Speight has been staying with me nearly all the week she went home this morning. Kate I am sitting here at the window looking at the Soldiers. They have been going to and fro all day. There has been a great many stationed down here near your place for the last month. They left once, but they have returned again and a great many more with them. I have been down to see them perform once. Kate if you were only home I could tell you a great deal more than I can write for one reason. You said in Aunt Rachel's letters that you did not think I was alone from what you had been hearing. I wish you would tell me what it was, then I could tell you whether it was false or not. but I guess it is untrue, anyway, I was very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Mattie's father. I sympathize with her very much, for I know what the loss of a Father is. give my best love to her, although we have not had the opportunity of meeting each other for a great while, but I guess she has not forgotten when we lived in Pitt Co. and we used to be at her Grandma's together. I guess you will get tired reading, but I will soon close. Ma and Bud joins me in much love to you. Kate please answer this letter immediately and write longer letters. I guess I must close I have two more letters to answer now.

I remain your ever true and affectionate Cousin,

Katie Speight Adams

Do not forget me, please

Oak Grove March 22nd, 1863

Dear Kate

I will write you a few lines this morning just to let you hear from home. We are all well now. We have not had any letter from you since Abram went up there. He is now at Charleston, he went when William returned and joined the same company he is in. I received a letter from William last thursday he says Abram is very satisfied. I think the 3rd Regt. is at Fredericksburg Va. There are several Regiments of Cavalry quartered below here, between here and Snowhill.

I believe there is no news of interest in the neighborhood, All your relatives are well so far as I know. Nannie has been up at her mothers a week she has a nice boy. I have not seen Uncle Art since Abram and William left. He says if everything is quiet he will go after you next summer.

Hattie sends her love to you and wants to see you very much. Write to us often.

Your Aff. Cousin, S.C.Darden



Camp Near Kenansville N.C.  
March 26th / 67

Dear Cousin,

Thinking that you would like to hear from me I will take this opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well & in fine spirits & I hope these few lines may find you & the rest of the young ladies enjoying good health. Cousin don't think hard of me for not writing sooner. Give my love to all of the young Ladies & Sister Katie & Julia & Cousin Mollie Suggs & Apple & also receive a portion for yourself. Cousin Katie Eye baked some Biscuit this morning that you might shoot them like Marbles they were just as hard as you ever saw. Well this is no use in talking about Biscuits. Cousin I have been Home one time since I have to Kenansville N.C.

I must bring this short letter to a close. Write soon & tell the wrost to write.

I remain

Your Beloved Cousin

till death

S. Speight

C.G.C.6 Regt M.

Kenansville, N.C.

Oak Grove April 4th 1863

Dear Kate.

I will write you a short letter tonight to let you know how we all are. We are very well, Hattie inquires every day or two when cousin Katie is coming home, and says she will be very glad when you come.

We heard from Abram last week, he is well and satisfied. I forgot to tell you in my last letter where to direct a letter to him but expected he would write to you. Abram Speight is at home now, his health has not improved much.

Kate Adams has been at Nan's all the week, she is very proud of her little nephew, he is a very sweet child. Celia Derring sends her love to you, it is getting late and I am tired writing as I have already written one letter tonight, write soon,

Your aff. cousin, Sarah Darden



Oak Grove, April 28/63

Dear Kate: It has been several week since we received a letter from you and I really think you deserve a scolding for not writing to us oftener. We are all very well at this time. I heard from Abram last night . he is well except the mumps. I was very much in hopes they would be returned to this state but there is no probability of it now. They have had a very hard time in South Carolina.

I suppose you are looking with many bright anticipations to the time for you to come home. We all want to see you very much Hattie asks me almost every day when will May come. I believe there is no news of interest in the neighborhood. Our section of the county was visited by a severe hail storm last thursday. The hail fell about fifteen minutes and the stones were larger than a hen egg. Nearly every window glass in the west end of our house was broken. The oldest citizens say they never saw any thing to equal it, and I hope I shall never see any thing like it again. You had better get all the things you need up there, you cannot get any thing at all here so if you can get things up there, do it, do not wait expecting to get them at home.

What day of the month does your school close you have never written. We have a very cool spring have not had any warm weather yet scarcely, the nights are quite cool, and I suppose it is still cooler where you are.

We have had a good many soldiers quartered below here but they are nearly all gone now. Mary Joyner is in the neighborhood now. I expect she will stay till you return. Celia Dering sends her love to you. Give our love to Martha Speight. It is getting late and I haven't time to write any more. Write soon. Ma sends her love, Your Aff. cousin

Sarah C. Darden

Oak Grove May 10th 1863

Dear Kate:

I received your letter last thursday and was glad to hear from you, it had been several weeks since I heard from you. We are all as well as usual. It has been about a fortnight since I heard from Abram, he had the mumps but was improving. They are now in this state near Wilmington, so if you write to him direct to that place.

I do not want you to get the shoes for myself and Hattie. I thought you would be able to get them cheaper up there, but as you cannot I dont want you to get them at all.

Mary Joyner and Celia Derring were here last week they send their love to you. Julia Speight and Emma and Mollie staid here last night.

I dont know that there is any news in the neighborhood to write. They had a Picnic at the saw mill the first day of May, but none of the young people from this neighborhood went, they seemed to think it did not suit the times unless they were giving it to a company of soldiers, and there were none there.

The papers say we have had another big battle in Va. in which the Southern arms were victorious, but we had a great many men killed and wounded. Sarah and the children send their love to you.

Write soon your aff. aunt.

Rachel Moyer



Oak Grove,  
May 11th 186 ,

My Dear Kate

Your most interesting letter came to me a few weeks ago, and I humbly ask pardon for not answering it, I will confess, Kate that I have treated you wrong but let me tell you my excuse for not writing before I go any farther and then perhaps you will not get angry with me. Tis this, I have not had any stamps for a good while, so you know I could not write letters to any one. You are not the only one that I owe a letter. Ma's family are all well at present. hope this missive will find you in good health, The health of the neighborhood is good. I suppose Kate you asked me something about my Nephews, I tell you they are two the sweetest little Boys you most ever saw, but Kate I love Richard better than I do Willie, but perhaps when W. becomes as large as R. I will love him just as well, Sis spent this week with us last week, I tell you Kate I begin to feel quite old. You know yourself that I am almost an old maid. Kate I intended when I wrote to you to write four or six Pages but I havent time to night, Kate you must burn this just as soon as you read it, and never let anyone see this letter for my sake, Aunt will inclose a note in this, Please write soon, Good night, Eitak,

Camp 61st Regt. Sullervans Island near Charleston, S.C  
July 11th /63

Dear Sister,

I take the present oppertunity of answering your verry kind letter that I receaved a few days ago. Sister this leaves me enjoying verry good helth at the present and I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister I would have written sooner but I have not had but two nights rest since we left Wilmington. and we are with our tents and every thing else. and I got every thing that I had just as wet as warter could make it when we came from wilmington and we had to throw ower napsacks awl in a pile and nearly every thing that I have got ruined and I should like to have one or two pare of pants. Sister we are hear whare we can guet awl of the sea breeze thar is sterring. and write before the Yankey Fleet that numbers upwards of therty vessels and Iron sides. I have been in onely one fight since we have been hear but I do not now how soon it will bea before we will have to go in to another one. About midnight we wer wake up and the regament formed and marched off and you could hear every man asking each other where are we going, and no one new but at last we reached ower destiny, we wer drawn up in a line about a quarter of a mile from three gun boats and ordered to charge and we charged down in about one hundread and fifty yards of the gun boats and there we lay and let them shell ous for about a half of an hower and there was onely one man killed in the Regament and one slightly wounded and that was Arch Davis killed and Bill McKeel slightly in the hand. You said that my little sweet heart was going to Greensboro but I thank you my sweet heart is not one of your little ones. I think that she is plenty large for me. Sister give my love to awl enquireing friends and receive a portion for your self. give my love to Aunt Rachel and Cousin Sarah and kiss Hattie and Willie for me. Cousin Billie is well. So I must come to a close by saying write soon to your Brother.

A. Darden

Abram Darden was in Company F, 61st Regiment. The 61st was stationed on James, Morris and Sullivans Islands in defense of Charleston, SC. On July 11 and 18, there were assaults by Federal Troops on Battery Wagner, Morris Island.



Sullervans Island S.C.  
Aug 9th /63

Dear Sister,

I take the present opportunity of answering your verry kind letter that came to hand yesterday and which I was verry glad to receave. Sister I scearcely feel like writeing but I will try and write you a few lines if I can. Sister Since I wrote you last we have seen the hardest times that I ever saw in my life and I hope that I never may See Such times any more dureing the war but I recon that we will have to try it again if we awl live and that not long first. We got back from Morris island yesterday morning and I have not got finally over it yet, for when we first went there we had to work night and day and before we left the yankies bumed ous awl day and we had to work awl night. Sister I never saw such times in my life be fore and I hope that I never may any more but I think that we come out first rate considering the regament onely lost three men killed in the whole six days and I dont now the exact number of woundead but ower Company did not guet the first man heart and I think that we wer verry luckey, but I exspected that we would loose a grait many men. but the god of battle was with ous and he protected ous. I was verry Sorry to hear that the Yankies had served Uncle Arther so bad .it cant bea helped but I think that if ouer regament had of been there that the yankies would not have come up as high as they did, and I cant tell what awl of them men they have got there could of been doing to let the Yankies go where they please. I just wish that I was there and I do beleave that I could fight with a better hart there at home than I can at this whole. Sister I recon that you will bea tiard of reading such foolishnes so I must come to a close give my love to awl enquireing friends and receave a larger portion for your self. Kiss Hattie and Willie for me and give my love to awl of the girls and tell them that I hope that I will come home some time. Sister I onely want one pare of pants instead of two. write soon to your brother.

A.Darden

Dear Kate:

As there is a letter here to send you from Abe, that came thursday night, I will write a few lines and enclose with it. We are all about as we were when you left home. The weather still continues very warm. I think you trip must have been everything but pleasant, the weather is so extremely warm.

It is right lonely since you went away, we miss you very much, Willie says he wont send you any message because he is mad because you went away. He very often says he wants Katie.

Kate Adams is at Nan's, I dont think Bill is much better from what I hear.

I hope you will get along kindly with all the girls, at least do your part, be kind, treat all well, attend to your studies, and you will succeed.

I dont know that there is any news at all in the neighborhood, all quiet from the Yankees, so far as we know and I hope will remain so.

I received a letter from William thursday night, he says Abe is standing the service remarkably well and makes as good a soldier as there is in the Confederacy. I think you have cause to feel very proud of him, you must let him have cause to feel equally as proud of you. You can perform the duties belonging to your station and your situation in such a manner as to merit equally as much praise.

Ma sends her love, give my love to all the girls from down here. Write soon, your affectionate cousin.

Sarah



August 16th 1863

Dear Katie:

Your letter was received last Thursday, I was very sorry to hear that you had not received either of your trunks. I hope by this time you have both of them, your keys are not here and I dont think you left them. I am very certain that you started with them, you must have lost them on the way. You will have to get new locks if you have got your trunks. Times are quiet here yet and I hope will remain so, I think you are as safe there as you would be here. Hattie was right sick this morning but seems to be much better this evening. Your uncle Arthur has been sick two or three days but is able to be up today. Write to me and let me know whether you have received your trunks or not. Sarah sends her love. Give my love to the girls that went with you.

Your aff. aunt.

R. MOYE

Sullervans Island S.C.

Aug. 31st /63

Dear Sister.

I take the present oppertunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am well and that I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister I would have answered your letter before now but we wer fixing to start to Sullervans Island when I receaved yours. but I will and answer it now but I hardly feele like writing. Sister we have been having very good luck with our company. untell the last time that we went over on Morris Island the last time and then we did not guet anyone killed but we got four wounded Captain Moore and Jack Danniell and John W. Owens and John Owens. Capt. Moore was wounded in the right arm in the joint & Jack in the right hand with a piece of shell J.W. Owens in face and John Owens in neck and arm and some think that John Owens is wounded seriously. Sister I cant see for my life how any of ous escape being killed or wounded the shell and shot did come so thick it seems to me that if I wer to hold my head above the battery that it would be a pearced by thousand bullets but I did stand up there owers at a time and never got shot. I have taken several shots at a Yankey and they at me but they have not got me yet and I think that I did come verry near one of them if I did not guet him. The Yankies and ower we have been a bout twenty yards a part for several days untill the Yankies charged them and tuck about eighty of ower regmend and now they are about seventy yards apart & are fighting every day as hard as they can. Cousin Billie receaved the newse of Cousin Sara's death day before yesterday, and he's trying to guet home if he can. So I must close give my love to awl of the girls and receive a large portion for your self. write soon to your brother

A.Darden

During August 25 and 26, Morris Island was assaulted by Federal forces and the Confederate rifle pits were captured.



Sept 1st, 1863

My dear Cousin

As I have a few moments to spend this morning I thought I could not do it more pleasantly than in writing to an aff. and absent cousin.

No doubt but you heard of the death of our loving and affectionate Cousin Sarah Darden. she died this night one week ago. She had a sweet little babe it is a boy it is living and doing well. Melia nurses it. she died very sudenly Cousin Billie was not at home nor did not know any thing about it. her little babe is like Cousin Billie he has dark eyes , poor little Willie and Hattie it almost killed them and poor Aunt Rachel I can never get over it. Kate how can any of us get over the death of that sweet and loving woman how badly we shall miss her. but we must endure it\_the lord knows best. please write soon and often. Sister is here staying with us she has got Richard here on the cart making him just as bad as he can be she sends her love to you. Billie is improving sends his love write soon

Your affectionate cousin  
Nannie Moye

Speights Bridge N C.  
Sept 3rd, 1863

My dear Neice,

Thinking that you would like to hear from home, I will take my seat to drop you a few lines, to inform you of the death of my only darling child. Katie since you left us I have had to part with my kind and loving daughter. It was hard, hard for me to give up and to think of her kind husband and these dear little children it seems still worse, she died on the 25 of last month at 11 oclock that night. She had her baby soon in the morning and I thought she was doing well, when she was taken with Fits at 12 Oclock and it gain worse and worse until she died. She suffered more than tounge can tell while she lived, then Jesus called her away and she went home to Heaven. Her little son is living and is growing some, it is a very pretty child. Katie if I do not live to see you any more, I want to make one request of you, that is to be an assistent Mother to these poor little Motherless children when you are home from school. Katie I wish you could have been at home, to have seen the last moments of your kind and loving Cousin. They did not send after William. (missing) useless. It has been over a week since (missing) from William and your Brother (missing) both well the last news we had (missing) May is improving slowly the rest (missing) well. I do not feel very well (missing) had a cold and the rest are all well. Katie you must write soon and often and tell me all the news. All of the family joins with me in love to you. Remember me Katie as your kind and affectionate Aunt.

Rachel Moye.

Write soon

PS Kate William reached home this evening after this letter was written, he says your brother was very well when he left.



Speights Bridge, N.C.  
Sept. 9th 1863.

Dearest Katie,

I assume my seat this evening for the purpose of dropping you a few lines to inform you that we are all well except Bud Billie he is improving rapidly he says when he gets well he is going to see you all at Salem. Katie news is very scarce down here. I guess you have heard of the death of old Mrs. Beaman. It really seems to me as if every one in this neighborhood is sick or dead one. I tell you I never spent such a lonesome time in all my life. I made out very well untill our beloved Cousin Sarah was taken from us. but the Lord knows best in all things. Aunt Rachel is up but not very well she came over to see us this morning. she sends her love to you and says that you must not wait for her to write to you but you must write to her often. The children are all well. The baby has been a little sick but he is getting well. Cousin Billie has been home but has returned to camp again. Aunt heard from him and Abe last night\_he said they were both well, Kate I have been sitting up for two weeks and it is nearly night again. I sit up all night last night and you know I do not feel much like writing long letters so you must excuse me this time. Ma and family joines me in much love to you all, tell them all to write to me. Answer immediately, I must close. Please write soon to your

Affectionate Cos,  
Kitsie

P.S. Please tell Kate Speight\_I will answer her letter before very long.

Yours lovingly  
Katie S. Adams.  
At Home

Speights Bridge, N. Car  
September 1863

Dear Kate,

As I have a few idle moments to spend this evening, I did not think I could spend them better than in writing to my absent Cos who is now far from home. You know I promised you when you were home to write you two letters instead of one at the time, do you not? but really Kate I do not know whether I can hold out to write two or not. News is very scarce down here and what there is is sad news to all of us, for I do not believe I ever will get over the death of our beloved Cousin Sarah. Kate I would have answered your notes before now but really I have not had time. It came to Aunt Rachels the night before Cousin Sarah was taken sick and I did not receive it in two weeks after that. Aunt forgot to give it to me. I was shown in, Arth's Mother also was with me, we went down on Monday evening on Tuesday they came after us stating that Cos. Sarah was very sick and also Victoria. I had no idea Cousin was dangerous at all, we started from Brother Williams at sunset. You may guess what time we arrived home. We did not get down at home but kept on to Aunt Rachel's OK Kate what I witnessed after I entered her room she was dying, she lasted about an hour after we arrived, Kate shes to pure for earth, she had gone to heaven where troubles and trials are no more. What she suffered is not known by mortal man, Kate I wish you could have seen her after she was dressed she was beautiful. She looked as if she was smiling and had gone to sleep, poor Aunt Rachel I do not think she will ever get over it. Willie would run about there the next morning and say Katie my Muddle is sleep dont you wake her up, but after she was buried neither of the children would mention her name. You cant get Hettie to mention her name, I have heard Willie say once my Muddle is sick she is going to get well and come back. Presently tears blind my eyes my heart is full. Kate it will not do to remain on sad subjects so long. Kate Brother William and Sister has been here for the last two weeks Brother W. has been very sick since he came home but is improving now. Kate I could tell you a thousand things that I can not write if only I could see you. I guess you have heard that P.D. and A.J.D. were at home. They have both been very sick but are improving. I heard the girls were teasing you about A.J.D. but Kate I tell you it is time you were realizing for I heard the other night that he was engaged to be married. You may guess the lady's name if you will guess right I will tell you in my next letter. Richard is as sweet and as pretty as ever if anything prettier. He has two little teeth. Oh! Kate I have so many secrets to tell you I must make haste and finish this piece of scratched up paper for that is all it can be called. I have several letters to answer. Kate you must not fail to write me a long letter and please for my sake do not wait long before you write for I am very anxious to hear from you all. I tell you I feel like one forsaken nearly all the while only once in a while I get a letter from some of my relations that cheer me up, I must close write soon. I have not written near all I want to tell you, I must make haste and go down and see how the sick is.

Goodbye until we meet again,



Camp 3rd NC, Infy.  
Sept. 14th, 1863

Cousin Katie.

You will be surprised to receive a letter from me at this time, as you have doubtless heard of my coming to Virginia, I am here sure enough, and have first-rate quarters, or least such as Soldiers call "first rate" the flooring is made of bark from the Poplar, and the floor is from necessity used as beds, our chairs, tables, and all other necessities are arranged in front of our magnificent Mansion, when the Company is formed, the left of the same, rests upon our parlor, chairs, tables & which must be very large to hold such a company of gentlemen. Of course we have a higher chap of Gentry whose abode is not O.S. I was pained to learn that our highly esteemed cousin had departed this life, also to learn that our friend and School mate A. I. Daniel was wounded in head.

Your Aff. Cousin  
Speight A L

Abram Speight was with the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee withdrew to the Rapidan River in defense of Richmond during August.

(this letter in very poor condition)

Sept 20th (1863?)

Dear

I onest more take the oppertunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am wel and that I hope that these few lines may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister I would have written to you before now but I have not had time to write to no one for the last week and I have not eaven had time to sleep. Cousin Billie has been home on an eighteen days furlo and we are looking for him back every day and they have commenced giveing furlowes to the Company for ten days but I dont now how long it will continue so we have not been in no fight Since I wrote you last but we have had verry hard duty for the last fortnit. the yankies are building batteries on Morris Island to \_\_\_\_\_duce Moltre Biklely Johnston and other batteries \_\_\_\_\_ton and we are exspeting them to open every \_\_\_\_\_ty as they are going to have sharp times \_\_\_\_\_n for awhile. Sister I am at a loss what to write \_\_\_\_\_to come to a close. Give my love to awl enquireing \_\_\_\_\_ a large portion for your self. Excuse bad \_\_\_\_\_pelling. Write soon to your brother.

A.Darden



Edgeworth F. S.  
Oct. 7th 1863

Dear Kate

I will avail myself of a few moments in writing to you- in recalling to your mind sweet recollections of this past, when we were school-mates together. Little did we think in those happy days of our child hood, that times would bring forth with her the dark and dreadful cloud, that overhangs our country at this present. Oh! to think of the many gallant and noble sons that have perished by the rude and ravaging hand of wild war. How often do we see the gentle mother and the lovely sister with a drooping head and sorrowing heart, caused by the absence of the loved ones from home. But we must hope, and look forward to the time when peace shall reign throughout our land, which I hope is not far off.

There is a revival going on through out the army, and I hope our soldiers will profit much by the teachings of the Gospel, in fact, there are revivals going on every where now, and I think it is time for those to get religion who think the millennium is at hand. Oh! Kate dont you remember the revival at Wilson, those days will never be forgotten by me. I dont believe there is a single one of those girls a member of the church now.

How do you like your new home? from what I have heard, I dont suppose you are very badly smitten with it. I like Edgeworth very well, but I must say, my first two or three weeks here I thought it was one of the dulllest places I ever was at in my life. I must stop, as I guess you are tired of reading this, but I hope you will not look upon this as a condescension on your part to answer it, for letters from you would be highly appreciated by me. I was most agreeably surprised this morning by a visit from my Father, but he did not say anything of your family, but I suppose they are all well. Maggie Adams & Carrie Smith sends their love to you. You must excuse all mistakes and answer soon

Affectionate friend

Sallie Rynum

P.S. Direct your letter to Edgeworth F.S. in the care of Mr. Sterling, Greensboro, N.C. You must excuse this ink, and remember it is hard times,

Affectionately your's  
Sallie R.

Oak Grove  
October 7th 1863

My dear Neice

I received a letter from you last week, was very glad to hear you were well I hope this will find you the same, this leaves us all up but not well my cough is very troublesome Hatty & Willey are very well, the baby has been sick I think he some better. I tried to have some one to nurse him but Mealy brest roase it is very bad yet broke in two places, I sent and got another woman & she got sick I sent her home today now I have to use the bottle I do not know whether It will agree with the babe or not. Kate I wish you could see my child some say It favors My dear child that is gone to heaven. I try to do the best I can but some times It all most killed me you know she was all I lived for, but the Lord has taken her & left her three little motherless children. You know I have my heart and hands full but with the help of God I will try to do my duty by these little ones. I do not feel competent of the task I am old & unhealthy but I will do what I can. It is so hard to give up my only child, Kate I am trying to write you a few lines but I hardly know what I am doing you must not think hard of my not writing to you, you know I do not feel like doing anything. I have ast the girls to write to you, I want to hear from you often, a letter come from William this week he said Ab was well. Kate you must not think hard of me for not sending you a box I knew nothing about his going untill about sunset before he started next day, I had company & the babe & myself was sick, I will send you something as I can, Kate your letter & presants are just handed to me. Cousin Jimmy overtook Larer along the road sent them to me I was glad to hear you were well & much obliged to you for them. give my love the girles that went up with you and receive a large potion for yourself. My prair is the Lord bless you guide and protect you & keep you from all harm an danger

R Moye



Speights Bridge  
Oct. 25th 1863.

Dearest Katie,

I ask your pardon for such a long delay, Katie I would have written to you earlier but really it does not seem to me that I have had time. I tell you I have been quite sick since I wrote to you last. The health of the neighborhood is very good at this time, Ma's family are all well except herself she is not very well. aunt Rachel's family are all as well as common. Hattie is here today. I went over there this morning and she came home with me. We have just come from church and Kate guess who I saw there. I shant tell you. Kate I am almost worried out of my life with one certain person. I guess you know very well who I am alluding to, do you not? Oh; Kate if you were only home it would take me one month to tell you all I have to tell you. Kate when did you hear from Abe? It has been a good while since we heard from him. He wont pretend to write to me, I am very certain I answered his last letter. Hattie and Ma are in the other room eating nuts. Hattie told me to tell you to bring her a doll and some candy. The children are all well and growing very fast. The little babe gets sick once in a while, he is very pretty. I know you want to see him. Kate when you write please tell me the price of shoes in Salem. It seems to me the people are going crazy putting such high prices on every thing. Calico is five and six dollars a yard down here. Is it so up there? Kate if I were to send you money to purchase some things for me could you do it? Kate I hear there are going to be several people married down here. Their names are to numerous to mention. Kate had you heard of Thedie Deems death? I guess you have he has been dead some time. He was wounded. That young man I saw this evening was wounded he had his hand in a swing. Kate you must excuse this badly written letter for it is getting so late I think I shall postpone until next mail day. I shant tell you to whom. Tell Kate Speight she had better answer my letter give my love to her and the rest of my friends and relations, and do not forget to receive a large share for yourself. Ma and Hattie send their love to you. Bud came home last Saturday he was well except a cold. Three of his school mates came with him. Mr. Bill Drounthon, Jimmie Cob and Seth Speight. Kate I guess you do not want to receive letters often from me, I write such long ones It will make you lose a good long space of time to read them, if I were to take pattern by your letter I should write very short ones. Kate I guess I must close. Ma is calling me to supper Please write to me immediately. Good night. I remain yours truly,

Katie S. Adams

Sullervans Island S.C.  
Nov 22nd /63

Dear Sister.

Your letter came to hand a few days ago, and I was glad to learn that you wer well. but I am sorry to now that you are in such bad spirrits. Sister you said that you wer not satisfied at school But I think that you had better try and make yourself contented if you can and try to improve your time for you now not how long you have got to stay. & the Yankies may serve ous like they did Uncle Arther and if they do then you will have to stop school. but I hope that they never will. Sister I recon that I will come to see you when the war ends if it ever does and I live. Sister we have very exsiting times hear now for we ar exspecting the Yankies every day but I dont hardly think that they will. Sister I wish that I could tell you awl that I have seene since I have bein to Charleston. but that would take me a whole day and so I will pospone that untill I see you. The Yankies made another assault on Sumter the other night but they wer driven back as before. I have not hear the number that was hert but I recon that some of them wer hert by the fireing. They commenced about two hours and a half before day and lasted about thirty minutes & the yankies still keep shooting Sumter yet but they say that Sumter is just as strong to day as she was when they first fired on her, and if any thing she is Stronger than ever. So I think that the Yankies might as well give up Charleston as a bad job and leave for I want to leave hear home of the marsh. Sister it is rumered In camp that our brigade is ordered to North Carolinas. & awl that I have got to say about is that I am in hopes that it may be so. Sister give my love to awl of the girls and tell them that I hope that they wont be disappointed always.

Sister I have not received a letter from hame in a weak. This leaves me in very good health and awl of the company. Cousin Billy is wel and sends his respects to you awl. Give my love to Sally when you write. I must come to a close write soon.

A. Darden

On November 16, 1863 the U.S. Monitor fired on Sullivans Island Batteries and later on November 19, 20, there was boat fire on Fort Sumpter.



Speights Bridge  
December 28th 1863

My dear Kate,

Pardon me for not writing to you earlier. I have been thinking I would write to you for some time but I have so much to do and think about I have not had time. You know very well that I do not have time to write to you often, but because I do not write to you often do not think I do not want to hear from you, for I say I am pleased to hear from you at any time. It has been two weeks since I heard from you and I hope I shall receive a letter from you soon. I am as well as common the rest of the family are all well. Hattie and Willie grow very fast the Babe is well and grows very fast and I hope this letter if a letter it can be called will find you enjoying that great blessing which is health. The health of the neighborhood is good so far as I knows. Well Kate the news about this neighborhood is so scarce I hardly know what to write, how did you spend your Christmas. I tell you it was dull times down here. I hardly knew that it was Christmas. Kate Adams received a letter from you not long ago and said she intended to have answered it before now but she went down in Pitt and did not do it. she says that she is going to write to you before many days and that she is going to write you a long letter six pages long. Hattie and Willie are out in the porch laughing and talking about their playtoys. They are very lively they speak of you very often and want to see you very much. Kate have you heard from Abe lately. I guess you knew they had gone to Virginia did you not? William was home not very long ago and said he was well. Kate if I had known that you wanted buttons before I sent that bundle to you I would have sent you some, be sure to write soon and often all join me in love to you, I remain as ever your affectionate Aunt.

R. Moye

Cerry Co. Va  
Bivnac at Wawls Bridge  
Jan 1st /64

Dear Sister

I take the present oppertunity to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well and that I hope that this may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister it has been a right smart while Since I wrote to you & I thought that you would bea glad to hear from me. We are doing Picket duty at Wawls Bridge Cerry County Va & have been hear for the last two weeks & I exspect that we will remain hear for a month or two at least. I would have written to you before now but I have not ritten but one letter since I left Charleston & I have not receaved but one Sister we have had an awful time since we left Charleston when we left there it was raneing and every time that we have we have got as wet as water could make ous but scince we have been hear we have had a very nice time, there is some verry nice ladies around hear and some verry kind neighbors to for they let ous have things at very moderate prices & some times they give ous Pervisions. Sister we have had a verry nice time since we got fixed. We had some eggnog for Christmas and we had a verry nice time for the last weak. Jack & Parrot are both with me at this post & we run Jack high some times about Beadie but he denies It awl. I receaved a letter from Kate Adams the other day and she was well. Sister I want you to tell me who it was that sent there love to Jack. Parrots Sweetheart is going to school there & I think that her name is Miss Nealy Pervis if I am not mistaken & I hardly think that I am & I think that he thinks a great deal of her. Sister I hated to come by home verry bad but it coulnot bea healped. Sister I recon that you will guet tiard of reading my mess & so I will come to a close. We are about 45 miles from Petersberg on the Norflk Road twelve miles from Ivor Station on black Water River. Sister give my love to awl of the girls and receive a larger portion for yourself. Write Soon to your brother.

A.Darden

Direct your letter to

A. Darden

Co. F. 61Regt NC T Clingman Brigade  
PeatersBerg Va.



Speights Bridge  
Jan. 4th 1864

Dearest Katie,

Nearly three weeks has elapsed since I received your very short but sweet and interesting letter, and I do most humbly beg pardon for not answering it sooner, I have been thinking that I would write to you by every mail day but something would take place so I could not, but Katie if I were to take pattern by you I would not answer them in four months after I receive them. Kate I have so much to tell you I do not know what to begin with first, I tell you I have been enjoying myself finely for the last week. Last Thursday night the 62nd Georgia band was down at Mr. Coxes and he gave a nice supper invited several people to attend and I was among the number and I tell you I did enjoy myself nicely, The band played splendidly, they left soon friday morning, Bedie came home with me and stayed until saturday evening, I have not been home any since before today, OK Kate if I could see you I could tell you so much more than I can write, Kate I want to make one request of you will you grant it? I want you to write me how you heard those reports you have been writing to me about and I wish you would connect such reports. I thought Sis had written to you lately but she said that she had not, he did come here but he did not come to see me. I assure you and as for the one you spoke of in your letter about bringing my letter from the office he did not bring it, he brought my paper that night tis true, I will tell you why he did not bring my letter. I received a letter from a certain person that night and it was broken open and he was afraid to bring it, he thought that I would think he did it. And I tell you Kate he took the correct thought for one time, certain for he brought me one letter from the office that had been broken open, I did not talk quite in plain english that night but I tell you I should if he had brought that one, he has not been here since that night he is so mad with me he will not speak to me only when he meets me he very slightly says, Good Morning or evening and I dont care if he never does speak to me again, Kate I tell you I cant bear him, he is so hateful, and please never mention his name to me again. What I tell you Kate I want kept a profound secret if I thought you would tell what I write to you or show my letters I would never write to you any more, and for my sake burn this letter after reading it. Kate do not be frightened about my getting married for you know I always told you I was the old maid of the Adams family. Someone tried to make me promise to live single till he

came from the war, but I tell you I did not promise. I cant tell his name now. Well Kate I want to change subjects, how did you spend your Christmas? It was quite a dull time down here, In the morning is old Christmas. I wish I could be with you on that day. I expect to go up to Wilson before long to spend some time and I am going to have my ugliness taken if I can find anyone to take it but I shant tell you what I am going to do with it. I want you to have your prettiness taken and bring it to me when you come home if you please. Kate did K. Speight ever receive a letter from me? I wish you would ask her and tell her I shant write to her any more until she writes to me if she has. I think they have all forgotten that there even was such a being living as K. Adams, but I have not forgotten them, they know I told them I should not write to them until they wrote to me and I intend to fulfill my word. Kate wrote to me and I answered her letter but I have not received a line from her since, I am very much oblige to you for that sweet little present you sent me in your letter, I intend to keep it for your sake. Well Kate I cant think what to write next, but I tell you if any one wishes to see this letter I want you to tell them it is a private letter and it was my orders for this letter not to be read by anyone except yourself. I want you to burn immediately, excuse bad writing if you please for I am ingreat hurry and it is night, so I guess I must close. I remain as ever your true and loving Cousin. Love ones call me this name,

Katiedid



Oak Grove  
Jan. 9th 1864

Dear Kate,

I received your very kind letter last thursday was very much pleased to know that you were well. This leaves my family as well as common. The children are all very well and grow very fast. I hope that this epistle may find you enjoying that great blessing which is health. Kate news is very scarce in this neighborhood. I have nothing new of importance to write you only it has been snowing down here and we have had some of the coldest weather I believe I most ever felt. Have you had any snow up there? did you have a nice time Christmas, I assure you we had dull times down here. The health of the neighborhood is very good so far as I know, Hattie and Willie were — very much pleased with their little boy and girl. Kate you had such a short vacation your Uncle Arthur thought that you had better stay up there until next summer. You may come home then certain if nothing prevents. The little Babe is as fat as a little pig and is very pretty, I guess you would like to know his name. It is Elbert Arthur dont you think he has a pretty name? I have seen Kate since I received your letter, she said that she had just sent off a letter to you, she says you are mistaken about ( it seems as if the lower portion of the letter has been cut off) well, Well Kate I do not know else to write so I guess I shall soon close, the Children join me in much love to you, I remain as ever your

Aff Aunt  
R. Moyer

Speights Bridge N.C.  
Jan 17th, 1864

Dear Kate,

Thinking that you had almost forgotten you had a Cos down in old Greene, I take my pen with pleasure to drop you a few lines to remind you of her, and to ask if you please not forget her finily. Kate did you not know that you were in debt? I think if I mistake not you owe me a letter. Aunt Rachel delivered your message but I think you are vastly mistaken, I presume that you Jude me by yourself. Kate you must not expect a long letter from me. I know you would not if you only knew how sick I am. There is preaching down hear today but I did not feel a bit like attending so I did not attend, I am sitting here scribling to you with one hand and holding my poor head up with the other. Kate dont you pity poor me? I know you do, the rest of Ma's family are well. Aunt's family are all well, as common, Aunt's cough bothers her a great deal sometimes. Well Kate news is so scarce I do not know what to fill up blank lines with. The health of the neighborhood is good I believe. dinner is ready and I guess I must go and dine then come back and finish. Oh Kate I do wish that you were here to dine with us today. Ma is calling me I must obey. I went down in Pitt yesterday. Sis was not well but up, and Richard is one of the worst children you ever saw, he has been petted just to death he can almost walk, and it seems to me that he can almost say Auntie, Hattie and Willie are as bad as ever. Bertie is the sweetest little Babe I just wish you that you could see him. Kate I want you to learn to play, When this cruel war is over, and Daisy Bell, and bring the notes home with you. These are my favorite pieces. I guess I have written most enough please excuse this badly written and composed letter I mus close by asking you to write soon very soon to your true and sincere Cos, All join me in love to you.

Kate S. Adams  
At Home



Camp at Wawls Bridge Surry Co. Va.  
Jan 26th /64

Dear Sister.

I take the present oppertunity of answering your verry kind letter that came to hand a few days ago. I was glad to learn that you wer well & enjoying your self finely. I would of written before now but I have not had an oppertunity to send it off. We cant send off ower male hear but onest in every five days by the man that brings over rations to ous. I receaved a letter from Aunt Rachel the other day and she & family wer awl well & the neighbors generly. Sister you ask me to send you my type. I will the first oppertunity I can guet to have to have it taken. Sister I do think that this is the best place that I ever saw in my life, we are liveing as well as soldiers could exspect to live these hard times. And there is some of the nicest ladies about hear that you ever saw in your life. & we have some verry comefortable quarters now we have just made ous a floale to ower house & we have some verry good bunks to sleepe on & we are enjoying ower selvs verry well doing nothing. If I go back to PeatersBurg any more I will send you some music if You will tell me what kind you want, if you want any. I want you to give me the peaces that you want. I receaved a letter from Sam Speight the other day and he was well, & at Wilmington yet but I exspect that he will have to go to Charleston before it is long, & if he does he will have a hard time I think. That is if the Yankies try to take the citty as hard as they did when I was there. Give my love to awl of the girles & tell Net that her sweete heart is a verry sorry fellow & tell her that if he was my swet heart that I would not own it. I would like verry much to see them awl onest more but I dont exspect to see them untill the war ends if then. & tell them that I have got me a sweete heart in Virginia & one at home to & so I am not at a loss for sweete hearts. so I must close write & orphan to your brother.

A.L.Darden

Dont forget to give my love to awl of the girls if you please

Dear Kate

I havent received a letter from you since Abram came home I want you to write to me often you must get all you want up there and have it made & hat or bonnet which you want If you havent money enough to get what you want write to your Uncle Art to sent you some. The isent any thing down hear to get and what little there is hear, they ask fivetimes as much as it is worth, I have been talking to Art about going after you when the session is out he said if times was quiet he would go it is reported the Yankes are coming by thousands to Newbern if they get through hear I do not know what we shall do I do not want to stay hear, I do not now where to go to, but I hope they never will get any nearer than they have bin, Kate have you got the Itch if you have do cure it before you leave there Abram had it when he come home. I would not have for nothing in the world if I could help it, Kate Abram is gone to the war to fight for his contry you must pray for his safty I hope he will live to get back uninjurd he joind the company William is in, Kate learn fast take care of yourself we are all up at preasant, give my love to Martha, I remain your affectionate Aunt R M



Speights Bridge  
Feb 9th, 1864

My dear Kate,

I know that you that you have looked for a reply to your kind letter long before now, and I thought I would answer it immediately, but Buddie was taken sick day after I received it and really Kate I have not had time to write to any one. He has had the Bilious Pneumonia and I assure you he has been very sick indeed, but he is improving rapidly now. Today is the first time that he has been out of the house in two weeks. The rest of Ma's family are well except some of the negroes. I hope this letter may find you in good health, I heard from Aunt Rachel this morning, she is as well as common. The children are all very well, and grow very fast indeed. The health of the neighborhood is very so far as I know. Kate, May is most here, I guess you will almost count the days from now untill then. There is a full school down here at this time. The teacher's name is Dr. Whittiker he has 35 pupils. Aunt requested me to tell you that is very anxious to hear from you, she has not had any letters from you since the one Mr. Sugg brought. I saw Sis and family last Sunday. Sis was not well but up. Richard can almost walk, he can bring two or three steps at a time and then he falls down. Well Kate we have some very cold weather down here and I guess you have some up there, do you not? I heard from your Brother day before I received your letter he was very well. I have not answered his letter yet but I intend to do by next mail day. Kate why dont you write me long letters? I always write you long letters I think. Kate I have four more letters to answer and I must soon close did you receive my last letter? I wrote to you before I received yours. Ma and Bud sends their love to you Give my love to all inquiring friends and receive a large share for yourself. Please excuse bad writing for this is such mean writing paper I can scarcely write on it. burn after reading if you please. Kate please write immediately after reading this scribble. I must close. I remain as ever your

Aff Cos,  
Katie,

Oak Grove,  
Feb 23rd 1864

My Dear Kate,

Thinking that you would like to hear from home and relatives I will assume my seat for the express purpose of writing you a short letter which I ought to have done long before now, but I have felt so bad for the last week I did not feel like doing anything. The health of the family is good except my self, I am as well as common. The children are all very well and grow very fast. The health of the neighborhood is very good so far as I know. I hope this letter may find you enjoying good health, I heard from your brother last Monday, he said his health was very good, Kate I think that you had better keep your money and get yourself what you need, you had better get something to nourish you and not get the children so many toys, you may get Willie a little spelling book that has pictures in it something like the one you bought Hattie, and bring it to him when you come home. Kate requested me to say to you that she received your letter and that she will answer it next week she sends her best love to you and says please write to her. Please excuse this badly written and composed letter for I am in a great hurry to finish, give my love to all inquiring friends and receive a large portion for yourself. Please burn this uninteresting letter after reading, Write to me soon and often for I am always pleased to hear from you. I must close, I remain as ever your loving Aunt

R. Moye



Wawls Bridge, Surry Co. Va.  
(Feb.) 24th /64

Speights Bridge, N. C.  
March 9th, 1864

Dear Sister

Your verry kind letter came to hand last night and I was glad to learn that you wer well & enjoying your self. Sister you said that I had lost Nett but I recon not for I dont serpose that she ever was found by me. Sister had written to you but had not sent it off & so I opened it put in some more. So I must close . Write soon & orphan to your Brother

A Darden

Give my best respects to Mollie Wooten & tell Katie \_\_\_\_\_ that she must not guet married untel the war ends.

A.Darden

This poem is on the same paper and with the same type paper and would seem to be with the above letter

Like crowded forest trees we stand,  
And some are marked to fall;  
The ax will smite at God's command,  
And soon shall smite us all.

Green as the bay tree, evergreen,  
With its new foliage on,  
The gag, the thoughtless, have I seen,  
I passed & they were gone.

Read ye, that run, the awful truth,  
With which I charge my page;  
A worm is in the bud of youths :  
And at the road of ages

Dearest Kate,

Long has been my suspense in looking for a letter from you, but it seems as if I am entirely forgotten by my absent Cos, though she will never be forgotten by me, Kate I was very much hurt when I heard that you had been sick, I sincerely hope by the time this feeble letter of mine reaches you that you will be entirely well. Ma and family are all very well, Aunt's family are all as well as common, Cousin Billie is at home now he has a two weeks furlough. Kate I would have written to you by last mail, but I went down to Mr. Cox's to sit up with the remains of his youngest Son, he died up at Clayton and was brought down home last Saturday. Mr. Mahoney preached his funeral. Kate do you know how near the time is here for us to meet again if nothing prevents? When does your school close? Kate I went out to Miss Whitleys this morning and bought home with me one among the prettiest dresses you most ever saw, I know if you could see it you would think so. I have not heard from Pitt since last Tuesday, they were all well then and I tell you I begin to want to see Richard very bad, bless his sweet little heart. You ought to see him walking, you could not help from laughing. Kate news is so very scarce I do not know anything that is worth communicating. I received a letter from your brother last Monday he was very well, he said that he heard from his sweetheart very often, I guess you know who that is. Had you heard that Miss Nannie Taylor was married? Give my love to all the girls and tell Mollie to write to me and I will take great pleasure in answering her letters, receive a large portion for yourself. Ma and Bud send their love to you and says please write. Please burn after reading. I must close by beseeching and entreating you to write soon very soon to your Loving Cos.

Kate Adams.

Miss Kate R. S.Darden,  
At Salem



I will send you that piece of music you wrote to me for.

Oak Grove,  
March 11th 1864

My Dear Neice,

Thinking that you would like to hear from home, and relatives, I have this evening taken my pen in hand for the express purpose of writing you a short letter though I hardly know what to proceed with, Kate I am not well but a great deal better than I have been, the rest of my family are all well. The children are as well or as fat as ever. William is at home at present, but the time will soon come for him to return to his Regiment. He had two weeks furlough. He said the last time that he saw Abe he was well and as fat as ever. Well Kate the time will soon be here for you to come home. I should be very glad to see you, I know you want to come home and if nothing prevents you shall come in May. Abner had received a letter stating that Kate was sick, and I am going to send you some provisions, I send you a ham a piece of raw beef, some sausages, bread biscuits cakes potatoes, I cant send you much for he told me I must send it in his trunk with his daughters, Hattie and Willie say they sent you a bird, Kate Adams wrote to you and did not send it off and she is going to send it with mine, Kate you must write soon and often to me, I have not heard from you since Mr. Shepherd came from up there, Bertie was very proud of his shoes, he wanted to put them in his mouth the first thing. The children send a kiss, I remain your Aunt,

R. Moye

Speights Bridge  
March 16th 1864

My Dear Kate,

I received your very kind letter last night and I was glad to hear that you were well Kate, My health is not good, The children are all well. Kate I guess you knew long before this day that my house is burned down to ashes it happened on the 13th, but saved the most of my furniture, Nearly every thing up stairs was burned except the beds. Everything down stairs was saved except a few. I am now living in the workhouse. I was sick lying down when my house caught on fire. it caught from a spark that flew from my south Chimney. Kate I dont want you to let this call your mind from your studies. May will soon be here and then you can come home and see all. Oh Kate you cant imagine how bad I felt and do feel now. Well Kate I do not know what to fill up these blank lines with, the health of the neighborhood is good so far as I know. William's furlough is out next Sunday and I shall be so lonely when he goes away. Kate you must not expect a long letter for my pen is so mean it will not hardly make a mark. You must excuse this badly written for I am in a hurry write immediately I must close. I remain your Aunt,

R. Moye



Baleysburg, Va.  
March 16th /64

Dear Sister.

Thinking that you had not received my last letter or you would have answered it before now, I will try & write you a short letter to let you know that I am well & that I am getting along very well as usual & I am living in hopes that I will get a furlough about next June or not long after\_ but I hope that it won't be very long before I can come home to stay, but I am afraid that it will be a year or two now, before I can come to stay, for I don't expect to come home to stay until the war ends. Sister I have not had a chance to get you that music yet but I will get it the first opportunity. I am now at the same place that I was when I wrote to you last. Capt. Moore has come back to the company but he can't use his arm yet & Jack's hand is about the same. Cousin Billie is at home at a twenty-five days furlough. This makes four times that he has been home since I came from home. I have not seen home since I left the third of this month, twelve months ago. Give my best love to all of the Girls & tell them that I want to see them very badly & tell Net that she must wait until the war ends before she gets married. I will close write soon & often to your brother.

A.L. Darden

Direct your letter thus A.L.Darden

Baleysburg

M. is M..... Surry Co.

Let me know what day Va.  
the session will close.

Baileysburg Va.  
March 18th /64

Dear Sister.

As I have an opportunity this morning I will endeavor to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well, Sister I would like to now what is the matter that you don't write to me no orphaner than you do, I have written to you several times since I have received a letter from you. I have come to the conclusion that I will write to you every male day until I hear from you. I reckon that you have written to me but the letter has been misplaced. I have not got much time to write to morning & I have not got much news to write. Every thing seems to be a very quiet now. I will close as soon as possible write soon & orphan to your brother Give my love to all of the girls & tell them that I want to see them very bad.

A.L.Darden



Speights Bridge, N. C.  
March 26th, 1864.

My Darling,

Why do you neglect your absent Cos so much, I have looked nay looked for a letter from you, but Oh: how sadly I have been disappointed, I may be intruding by writing this letter but how can I refrain from writing to you any longer to the one I so fondly love, Katie you know not the many times I think of you and wish to receive a letter from you, but you have so many other correspondence you never can take time to write to me. In the last two or three letters that Aunt has received from you stated that you were going to write to Kate and Oh: how eagerly I have watched the mail to see if it did not bring me a letter from you, but nay it has not brought me one in a great while. This letter leaves Ma and family all well except myself and I am sick because you do not even think enough of your absent Cos to write to her. I guess Aunt's family are as well as common. Ma has gone over to see her this evening and I am all alone I guess Aunt feels quite lonely now. Cousin Billie left this morning, She and the children came to see us yesterday. Kate let me tell you something new, Sis has another fine Son. We intend going down to see them in the morning. I left there last Tuesday in that hard snow, Kate I know if it is as cold up there as it is here you almost freeze, and I guess it is a great deal colder. Kate dont you pity the dear soldiers out in such cold bad weather, I saw several pass while it was snowing. They were sitting with their backs to their horses to prevent the snow from going in their faces. Ma and Bud join me in a great deal of love to you. Kate I will ask you one more time to write soon very soon to your absent Cousin, Please burn after reading. I remain yours truly,

Katie

Oak Grove  
April 4th 1864

Dear Katy

I received your very kind letter not long ago, and did think I would have answered it long before now, but I have not felt like writing to any one. Kate I can not send you any money to get any thing for me. I saved enough to use and to wear and I do not need any thing but what I can do without, I want you to study hard and learn fast and learn how to do every thing. Every thing in my Clothes press was burned. Your Beauró and every thing in it was burnt and Sarah's also. I just saved enough to live on and I do not care about buying anything at the present prices Kate I have a shelter to stay under if you can afford to stay in it when you come home. If you need any thing for yourself you had better get it up there. My health is very bad yet but I can keep up. The Children are all very well and grow very fast. The little Babe is as fat as a little pig. Kate when you write tell me when your school closes. You must write to me soon and often. Kate told me to tell you to write to her soon if you please. She joins me in much love to you. Also the children, Please excuse bad writing as I am in a great hurry to finish. I must close. I remain as ever your

Aff Aunt

R. Moye

Burn after reading



Baileysburg, Va  
April 11th /64

Dear Sister.

As I have a leasure hower this morning I will endeavor to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well & that we are at the same place & enjoying verry good times. Sister I want you to write to me orphon enough to let me no that you are alive, I have not receaved but one letter from you in nearly two months. I recon that you have found some one that you had rather write to than me, I should think that you would write to me onest a weak at any rate, I think that you will wanting to stop school before verry long but I think that you had better remane at school a while longer. It is nearly time for the male to leave so I will have to write you a short letter this time. Give my love to awl of the girls & receive a larger portion for yourself. Tell Kate Speight that she had better mind or some boddy will cut her out. So I will close write soon & orphan to your brother.

A.L.Darden

Co.F 61 Regt NC

Brightly as flows the placid stream  
May lifes current smoothly roll on with

Baileysburg Va  
April 22nd /64

Dear Sister.

Your letter was surely receaved & respected & I was very glad to learn that you were well & I was very glad to learn that all of the girls were well. Sister I have not heard from home now in nearly two weeks but I am looking for a letter to day from home. You said that the Session would be out the 20th of May & should be very glad to be there then but I recon that it is impossible for me to get a furlough untill about July or August if then but I hope that I will . We are at the same place yet but I cant tell how long we will stay hear, but I would be very well satisfied to stay hear a while longer. We are fareing very well hear as usual. Sister the Yankeys have made a raid on Isle of Wite County & they did commit some very bad depredations on some of the citizens. They destroyed about fifty-thousand dollars worth of property for a widow woman. They took all of her negros & burnt nearly every thing that she had. Sis five of the thieves were brought by hear & stayed with ous one night. one of them had the prettyest little wound that you ever saw. he was shot throug the thigh. Sister reckon from what I can hear that we will go to North Carolina before very long. & if we do I will guet a chance to go by home if I can. Cousin Billie was well the last time that I heard from him. I am now about twenty miles from him. & tell Kate that Granny was well, I recon that I have written enough so I will close. Give my love to all of the girls & receive a large portion for yourself. this leaves me in rather ably good helth except a bad cold. Write soon & often to your brother.

A.L.Darden

Co. F. 61 Regt. NC

Baileyburg

Surry Co Va



Camp at plymouth, NC  
April 28th. /64

Dear cousin,

Yours very welcome letter was recieved last week & I now hasten to respond although I have nothing of very great importance to communicate with you. Cousin Kate it hasent been very long since I was home every thing was quite about their cousin Just as soon as I came from home we had orders to cook up rations & start for Plymouth but before we got their the Yankeys surrendered the place and we have taken 2500 hundred prisners & our loss surposed to have Been about one thousan Killed wounded & missen And know it is Reported that our forces are marching on Washington & if we are successfull in taking Washington. Newburn will be (town) to fall in our hands in time. Give My love to all of the young Leadies & allso to Sister Katie & julia & allso recieve a portion for yourself. Write soon an tell Sisters to write to me. Tell Affafeis that Allen is well & hearty.

This leaves me well & harty & in fine spirits & I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying good health.

I will send you this letter in a Yankey Envelop. Excuse this badly writen & spelt letter As my pen an paper is very sorry I remain  
Yours Beloved Cousin,  
S. Speight

Oak Grove  
May 11th 1964

Dear Niece,

Thinking that you would like to hear from home and friends I will make an attempt to write you a few lines, though miserable what to pen, the reason I have not written to you before is this, my family has been very unwell for the last two weeks, the Children have been sick with bad colds and coughs. The little Babe has been quite sick, I had the Physisian with him and I have been nearly down with my cold and cough, Kate the time has almost arrived for you to come home. I guess you are looking for them to come after you daily are you not? Kate if you want to go back there to school I do not think it is necessary to bring all of your clothes home, if not why you will have to bring them if you can. You can judge for yourself which you think best, do as you think proper. I received a letter from Abe not long since stating that he was very well. I guess you have heard of John Cox's marriage, he married Miss Pattie Poole of Clayton, Kate you must burn this badly written letter as soon as you read it and never let any one see it. Please excuse this badly written and composed letter for it is nearly bedtime, I must close by asking you to write soon very soon to your true and

Affectionate Aunt,  
R. Moya

Good Night



May 24th 1864

Dear Kate

Your uncle Art was about to start after you but news came to him after he was getting ready that he had to look after. Kate take care of yourself & things. I did not think of writing to you, If Art had went he is gone to see who will go in his place. I shant know untill he comes back. I have sent you something to eat. I do not know how I shall send it yet. I hope you will come safe & your things, bill, May and Art was going. If he could of got of. Art said I could (but it William May carpet bag rather than have box to cary) I hope to see you soon. I can not hear from you I havent had a letter in six weeks. I remain yours R.

In line of battle near Bermnder Hundready

May 25th/64

Dear Sister,

As I have oppertunity this eavening I will endeavor to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping that this feeble letter of mine may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister I would of written to you before now but I have not had the oppertunity. Since I wrote to you last we have had a very hard time, we have been in several hard fights & have lost several men. We have lost nine men killed & wounded in ower company since the fighting commenced, John Caraway, William Friar & Richard Baker wer killed & John Williams, Jess Caraway, Davis Ruffin, Willie Howard, Dick Ruff & Noah Rogers wer wounded. Sister before I left my post the Yankeys comme & run me off & tuck awl of my cloths so I am clothesless but I guess that after this excitement is over I can guet some clothes. Sister we gave the Yankeys a verry decent whipping the other day and have driven them back several miles I expect that we will have a big fight before verry many days. I guess that you have herd of Sam Speights deth, I \_\_\_\_\_ he was shot through the right Breast & I saw him berried. he died from the affect of one of ower owne bullets.

Tell Aunt Rachel to write me.

Sister I have not receaved a letter from you in a great while but I hope thet you have not forgotten me yet for I hope that you will bea the last one to forguet me. You cant tell how it does cher a poor soldier up when he recieves a letter from his relation when he is on the battle field. We are hear now in about betwene 1/2 & 3/4 of a mile from Yankey batteries & they have some verry strong batteries we drove the Yankeys from this place on the twentyeth & we have been hear every since we have to be behind ower works awl of the time to keepe the Yankeys from shooting ous they have killed one man hear today. I guess that I will guet a chance to come home when the war ends, if I dont guet cut down & i f I do I will bea dying for my contry, I saw Mr. Fcawcet hear today & he is well. he sends his best respects to you & Kate Adams & says that he would like to see you awl. Sister please tell Kate Adams to write to me for I would like verry well to hear from her. Direct your letters to Petersburg & tell Kate where to direct hers. Give my best respects to awl enquireing friends & recieve a larger portion for your self. Kiss the children for me. So I close nothin more from your brother. Cousin Billie is Captain of ower company now,

A.L. Darden

(this was written on a Prisoner of war form)



Oak Grove,  
June 1st, 1864

Dear Aunt,

I have concluded to write to Uncle Bill and I do not know where to write and I want you to send me his address. By granting this request you will oblige your neice. Tell Kate to come tonight.

Katie Adams

Cold Harber Va.  
June 7th /64

Dear Sister.

Your letter was received a few days ago & I was more than glad to learn that you & the rest of the family well & I hope that this feeble letter of mine may find you still well. Sister since I wrote to you last we have been in several fights & have lost some men but I can tell you we did cut the yankees down like wheat if you were here you might see them lying on the field as thick as stumps in a new ground. I think that the yankees are the crelest people that I ever saw. they do let there wounded ly on the field & cry for the want of attention. the other night I was on picket & we lay out on the field & the wounded Yankeys herd ous walking & they would cawl ous to come & help they & ask for water but the yankeys would not let ous go to them. they had been lying there for two days & nights without attention & as many a one lies there & died for the want of attention. they have made several verry seveal assaults on ower works but they have been left on the field a great maney of them & the rest was driven back. I think that Grant had just as well give out the idear of going to Richmong. I think that if he has to guet as many men killed in perpotion to the distance that by the time he guets there he want have men enough to garrison the place. I saw Willie Anderson the other nigh & he was well. he was with ouer comp the other evening in the fight & he acted as brave as a lion. We lost eight men killed & wounded out of ouer company since I wrote. W.G. McKeel & Stephen Coaltrane wer killed & Ben Owens, Frank, Yelton, E. Peden, Y. Boice, James Mercer wer woundead. We have lost seventeen men killed & woundead since the fight commenced five killed & twelve woundead. we are now lying in sand holes to keepe the Yankey sharpshooters from shooting ous, the barols bark over verry orptian but they have hurt no one to day, So I will come to a close. Give my best respects to awl enquireing friends & receive a larger portion for your self so nothing more from your brother.

A.L. Darden

( this letter was included on the back page)

My Dear little Cousin Hattie

I received your message & I will conply with your request. Cousin



Hattie I was verry glad to learn that you wer well & I hope that this will find you well. I want to see my little cousin verry bad & talk with her, tell Buddie Willie that I want to see him verry bad. Papa is well. Kiss Grand Ma & Buddie & the Babie for me. Give my love to Aunt Pollie & Archey & Katie & tell they to write to me. So I will close write soon to your cousin Abe. Direct your letter to Clingmans Brigade & Hokes Division. leave out the corps I dont now whether we belong to any corps or not.

A.L. Darden

Co. F, 61 N.C.T.

Petersburg Va.

June 20th /64

Dear Sister.

Thinking that you would bea verry glad to hear from me I onest more take the oppertunity & pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you now that I am still among the living & I am in verry good helth considering the experence that we have to go through, we have been in several fights since I wrote to you last & we are now in front of Petersburg & the enemy in ower front. We are now wateing for the Yankeys to come on ous to whip them we will bea hare & whip them when they come. I have not had a shift of clothes since we came to Petersburg the first time, & I guess that You can give some idear what fix we are in. If you will just imagine yourself to not have a shift of clothes in two months, lying in the dert & not washed your face in a weak & a plenty of the real old boddy guard crawling awl over me, I dont feel like writing but I will try and write occasionally. Give my love to awl enquireing friends & receave a large portion for yourself. Excuse this short letter & I will try and do better next time, tell Kate Adams to write to me Kiss awl of the children for me & tell Aunt to write. So I will close. Nothing more from your brother.

A.L. Darden

Direct your letter to Petersburg, Clingmans Brigade, Hokes Division

Note:

The 61st. regiment was ordered from the seige to Petersburg, Virgina. The 61st. was one of the regiments used to stop General Butler's advance on Petersburg. Petersburg and Richmond remained under seige from June 19 until July 31, 1864



(letter written on army form for number of men on duty)

Petersburg Va. July 6th /64

Dear Sister,

Thinking that you would like to hear from me, I onest more take the oppertunity of writding you a few lines to let you now that I am well hoping that this feeble letter of mine may find you enjoying the same good blessing. Sister I am happy to say that I have been spaired thus far & I hope that I may bea spaired to see this war end. I guess that you thought that the yankey had ous cut finally of that communication has been opened & I hope that it will bea kept open awl of the time, Sister I have not herd from you in a right smart while but I hope that you & awl the rest are well & harty. Sister I beleave that I want to come home worse than I ever did before in awl of my life but there is no chance for a fellow to guet home from hear now but I hope that this campagne will soon end & then there may bea some prospects of gueting home. I guess that the yankeys will abandon the seage & go some where else, as they have found out that they cant do any thin hear. Sister I am at a loss to now what to write but I will try and do better next time, Sister tell Kate Abrams to write to me & give my love to awl enqulrein friends & receave a larger portion for yourself, Tell Arch that I want him not to think hard of me for not writteing to him for I have not got time scarecly to write at al. Kiss awl of the children for me & tell them that I want to see them verry bad. I will close so write soon & orphan to your brother,

A. L. Darden

Petersburg and Richmond remained under siege from June 19 until July 31, 1864

At Home, July 11th 1864

Katie will you please lend me the notes of "All quiet along the Potomac tonight" I will return it as soon as I learn it. I have tried to get it at several places. but could not get it. You can send it to Sarah and she will send it to me, or send it by your Uncle Arthur the next time he passes going to Black Creek. Also tell Mrs. Moyer she can send the measure of Hattie's and Willie's head. Mrs. Yelverton said she had rather have the measure.

Truly

( the signature had been cut out)



Petersburg Va  
July 14th /64

Dear Sister

Thinking that you would like to hear from me onest more I will take the present oppertunity of dropping you a few lines to let you now that I am still among the living & I hope that I ever will be preserved. Sister I receaved your letter that you sent by Frank Yelton, & I was very glad to hear that you and the rest of the family wer well, Sister I have written to you several times but I guess that none of them have gone through but I hope that they will awl go through, we are hear in the trenches hear near the Yankeys & we cant hold ower heads clear of the breast works for the yankey sharpshooters shooting at ous, & it is very disagreeable to live in such a \_\_\_ place, the clothes wer receaved with great pleasure, Sister I am at a loss what to write so I will put off writing a verry long letter this time. Tell Kate that I want her to tell me who her sweet heart is before I can tell him what she said & tell Willie to save me some good apple & I will come & guet them some time this fawl if I can, Give my love to awl enquireeing friends & receave a larger portion for your self. So I will close write soon & often to your brother

A,L.Darden

Petersburg Va. Aug 9th 1864

My Dear Sister,

I onest more take the present oppertunity to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well hoping that this feeble letter of mine may find you well. Sister I was verry sorry that you herd such bad newse. I am happy to say that I am improveing verry fast & I hope I will bea well in a few days. I was struck verry slightly in the left rist & the same hand I cut my coat sleeve. I would bea glad if I could come home but I cant tell wen it will ever will bea. I am staying at the hospital but I exspect to return to duty in a few days. Capt. is verry unwell yet. Give my best rerespects to awl enquireing & tell them to write. Kiss awl of the children for me. Sister you must write soon & orphan to your brother.

A.L.Darden

Co.F, 61 N. C.

Petersburg, Va.



Petersburg Va. Aug 13th /64

Dear Sister.

I onest more seat myself to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well hopeing that this may find you in good helth. Sister I wrote to you the other day but I sent it home thinking that you wer there but I receaved your letter last night & I proud to hear that you wer well. Sister I am trying to guet a delate to go home for a few days & if I do guet it & have time I will try & come by & see you , but I dont much exspect to guet more than four or five days if I guet any & I dont much exspect that I will guet any at awl, Every thing seems to bea verry quiet about Petersburg for the present but verry little fireing of any kind. Capt has got better & has gone to the trenches. I exspect to go by verry many days. I saw Abe Speight the other day & he was verry well & sends his best respects. I want to now who of the girls went back with you & whether Kate and Julia went or not, for I have not herd a word from them in I cant tell when, Give my respects to awl enquireing friends & receave a larger portion for yourself. Write soon to your Brother.

A.L.D.

August 13th 1864

My Dear Kate

Your Uncle Art has got back & says you all got there safe. I was very glad to hear it. I hope you will keep well & learn fast you must be very smart & do the very best you can, you must not be homesick you must be cherful and lively, you must not take things to much to heart that you can not prevent it is time enough to trouble when it comes, I received a letter from William last mail. He & Abe are improving he said Abe would not get a furlough he is nearly well. Parot Dannel is at home I do not know how he is, Kate Adams came home last Wednesday & they all staid here wednesday night they were surprised at your being gone, I do not know any thing new to tell you, we are all as well as common. You must write soon and often give my love to the girles & recieve a large totion for your self. I am your aff aunt

R.

Tell the girls to write to me  
(on the back of the above letter)

Oak Grove

Dearest Kate,

I have a few leisure moments to spend this evening and I do not think I could spend them better than in writing you a few lines. Kate I was very sorry I could not see you again before you left. I expected to find you at home when I returned but I was sadly disappointed. but the next time you sta- I will try to be at home, I hope you will not think hard of me for leaving. I can not write much this evening. Aunt was writing and asked me if I did not want to write to you and I thought I would scribe a few lines, Please excuse and never never let anyone see it please write soon to your Cos

K. - A.



Maysville Pitt Co N.C.  
Aug 28th 1864

My Dear Cousin

As I have a few leisure moments to spare this beautiful morning I thought I could not spend them more pleasantly than writing to an aff and absent cousin who will ever be remembered by me.

Dear Kate the news about this place is very scarce indeed there is nothing stirring to excite one curiosity. We can hear all kinds of rumors from the army but I believe that a great many of them are passed by unnoticed. Your Brother was at home a few days ago but I did not go to see him. I was very anxious to see him indeed. I did not hear that he was at home untill Saturday and he left on the next Monday. and at that time there was a great revival going on at Antioch and I attended every day and I had a great deal of company all the time during the meeting so that is my excuse for not going to see Abe. The meeting was protracted eight days there was a great many joined.

Kate Sallie Bynum stayed with me during the meeting she is the same old Sack and a great many others to numerous to mention. My Sister, Brother and Cousin Betsy Price stayed with me last Fryday and Saturday and I went up there on Sunday but I was so unwell that I did not enjoy myself at all. I could not sit up any all day and Sister came home with me Sunday and stays untill Tuesday. I am now as well as I generally am. There is early meeting at orders creek next Sunday. I guess I shall go if nothing prevents. Well Kate I expect you will go almost to sleep reading this uninteresting letter. Billie and the children joins me in love to you. Kate Julia and Nellie tell them all to write to me. Kate please answer this immediately.

I remain Your Cousin  
Nannie C. Moyer

(on the back of this letter)

From Mrs. Nannie May my cousin

I am very much afraid you are very much mistaken

Kate Adams

May you gain a home beyond the dark vales.

Killies

R.P.L.Darden

Corpl Jack and Kate A.

Petersburg Va.  
Aug. 28th /64

Dear Sister.

According to prommis I will proceade to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well. I got hear night before last after a long days & nights travel. Sister I found awl of the boys in verry good helth. & in fine spirrets. We have got a verry nice place hear where we are now, Sister Some helgawell rogue had to steal awl of my butter & honey. Ouer companey did not loose a man in the last fight but they captured about one hundread & twenty-five yankeys & ouer brigade captured about three thousand & there was about one thousand in ouer brigade so they captured about three Yankeys a peace. Tell Net & Miss Shepherd that Alph May said that they must write to him & tell Net that I said that she ned not cry if her Johnney is a shoe marker. The yankeys hold the Weldon road yet. but ouer men have captured ten thousand of them since they have been there. Sister give my best respects to awl of the girls & tell them that I am coming to see them about Christmas. Capt is well. I have no newse to write so I will come to a close. write Soon & orphan to your Brother

A.L. Darden



Kate I want you to let me know how you are getting a long. & how you are treated by you know who, I havent chance to get any thing to you. I espect something is sent to the girls that went with you, I know nothing that is going on I am confined at home with a sick babe & my cough is very bad, why I think something is sent Abe said this morning his folks had sent to Mr. Feltons after somethings they were making for them & ast me if I had any thing for you & in short time I saw Mr. Wotton going by. I espected he was caring something to them, they treat me as they allways do dont let me know on time to do anything if I could, Kate I have to get a long as I can, & you must do the best you can for yourself I trust the Lord will provide and take care of us. If we do not have as much of this worlds goods we shall be as well of in the world to come, Kate, I want you to have what you want and need do not think because your cosins has a farther to do for them and they have so much that you are forsaken, you once had a farther & mother. If they live they may feel what you so, may god keep you in the hollow of his hand, do not be discouraged learn and be a good girl — send you a box when I can know when any one is going in time to fix it buy you something to —, have you any money I want to send you some you think you could get it by letter I am afraid you deprived your self buying so much for us get what you want If you cant get it there let me know I will try to get it hear if you get in dificulty let me now you said you wanted some stamps I have just got some I will send you some I remain aff Aunt write soon let no one see this burn as soon as you read do not say a word about what I have wrote.

(back of page)

NOTICEI

NOTICEI

The Subscriber having quallied as Administrator on the Estate of Wm Casanas), dead, at the Nov. Term of the Court of Please and Quarter Sessions for Green County

Let no on see this

Petersburg Va.

Sept /64

Dear Sister.

Your letter come to hand a few days ago & I was more than glad to learn that you & the rest of the girls wer well & I hope that this feeble letter of mine may find you awl enjoying the best of helth. This leaves me in good helth & Capt & awl of the boys are in verry good helth except some few that have been haveing chills. we have been out of the ditches now for nearly a weak but we are lying about 1/2 of a mile from the line in reserve & we are fareing some better than we did in the ditch. we have had onely one man verry slightly wounmded since I have been back. Ower cavelry has been round in the rear of the Yankeys & captured twenty-five hundred head of cattle & three hundred prisners & a great many guns & horses & other valuables & the beauty of it is that they went in four miles of the Yankey headqairters. If they dont mind old Lee will have them by the heels & drag them out of therer beds. I saw Lnens the other day & he was well. Give my best respects to awl of the girls & tell them that I want to see them verry bad. So I will close write soon to your brother.

A.L.Darden



Dear Kate

I have sent you a trunk of vituals some ham chicken pound cake, spunge Cake gingercakes & cookes & c biskets, you can keep the trunk if you want to keep your something to eat in it you must not make your self sick If you are not allready Sick I am very uneasy about you why do you not write to me are you mad with me If so I think I ought to be the last one for you to be mad with, I can not account for your silence unless you are sick or mad I hope you are not ether I have not receaved a letter from you in six weeks the other girles write so often and you do not write me or Kate Adams pleas let me know if all is rite with you oh I forgot to send you two belts and a hood if you will weare them. Mr. Sheperd is going to take the trunk to you I am writing in my lap. Willy is on my foot riding grandma I want what is it he want some cookes he cant remember he says give me some kises, Kate I send you 20 dollars I expect you spent your money for the children. I am very unwell, the two oldest children are well & as bad as they can bee the babe is allways sick I think he groes some I got a letter from your brother last mail says he is well I had preaching hear last Sunday. Several of your darkeys were here they are all well I am going to put your key in the letter, I remain your aff

R Moyer

burn or tare this up as soon as read It is do badly done

Hattie and Willie send you a ——

Speights Bridge, No Car.  
Sept 7th 1864

My Esteemed Katie,

It has been several days since I wrote to you, and I have been waiting very impatiently for an answer, and seeing that you do not intend to write to me, I will again attend to pen you a few lines though misirable what to write, This leaves Ma's family well. Aunt's family are all well at this time. Kate why dont you write to me, have you forgotten your absent Cos. Aunt has not received a line from you since you left and she is very uneasy about you. Abe is going up to Salem and I am going to send this by him, and I am going to write to some of the rest of the Girls and put in with yours. Please hand these notes to them. Kate June is fast approaching, I guess you remember what you told Hattie, do you not? Please write soon to your Cos, burn after reading. Do not show. I have not seen Little and Westly in a long time. I expect to see him next Sunday. Dont tell any one for my sake\_ write soon very soon

Katie



Oak Grove  
Sept 16th 1864

Dear Kate,

Your letter came to hand last night, and I was pleased to hear from you, I began to think that you did not intend to write to me, it is the first line I have received from you since you left home. You said you gave your Brother one to me to mail but I assure you I never received it. My health is tolerable good, Hattie and Willie are both very well and grow fast. Bertie is improving, he has been cutting more teeth and it made him sick. The health of the neighborhood is good I believe except Shade Wooten, he is improving slowly. he arrived home last Wednesday, he has a very bad wound; I have not received but one letter from Abe since he left home, he said in that letter that he was well. I will tell Art what you requested me to when I see him, He has gone down in Lenoir. Kate received your letter last night and she says that she will answer it next week; she sends her best love to you and says for her sake to write to her. Please excuse this badly written letter. Please burn after reading . Give my love to inquiring friends and receive a portion for yourself. The children send their love and a kiss, Please write soon very soon to your Affectionate Aunt,

R. Moye

Petersburg Va  
Sept 18th /64

Dear Sister.

Thinking that you would be glad to hear from the seat of action, I will attempt to drop you a few lines to let you now that I am well & that I hope this feeble letter of min may find you & the rest of the girls in good helth. Sister I hardly now what to write but I will try & see if I can write. I have not receive a letter from home since I left, but I am expecting one every day but I cant tell when it will come to hand. We are staying here in the trenches yet & the boys are in very good helth, Capt. is in very good helth & I have been in better helth than I have had in six month. & I hope that I will keep in good helth.

The Yankeys are reinforcing hear & we are expecting to have a very heavy fight before very many days. & I expect that we will have the chance of seeing them run onest more. Sister you must write to me orphner than you do for you cant tell how much good it does me to hear from you. I have written awl that I now that is worth communicating so I will come to a close. Give my best respects to awl of the girls & tell them that I want to see them very bad. So nothing more from your brother.

A.L.Darden

From Brother, A.L. Darden



Kate A sends her love to you and says that she is going to write to you before many days. The children send their love and a kiss. Please excuse burn after reading.

Oak Grove  
Oct 12th 1864

My Dear Kate;

I have been thinking for several days that I would write to you and I now take my pen in hand for that express purpose. This leaves me and my family in bad health; I am feeling rather bad today, the children have all had very bad colds, but they are improving, The health of the neighborhood is good so as I know and I hope this letter is such it can be called will find you in good health and fine spirits, Kate I guess that you have heard of the sad news long before now for it seems as if we \_\_\_\_\_ hear nothing but sad news now your Arthur received a letter from Lient Belcher of the 61st Regt. stating that Abe was wounded but not mortally, he is at Richmond, Abner is going to start to see him next Friday when I hear more from him I will write to you, Kate you must bear up under this the best you can, and continue your studies, I do not think it will do you any good to come home you know Kate that other peoples Brothers get wounded as well as yours and you must try and be reconciled, dont take it to heart any more than you can help, I heard that William was captured at the same time. I have not heard from him since Just as soon as I hear from them I will write to you, Lt. Daniel was killed at the same time. Kate if I had known that any one was going to Salem I would have sent you something to eat but I did not know it. You must answer immediately. I remain your Aunt,

R. Moyer

Abram Darden was wounded September 30, 1864 at Fort Harrison, Virginia.

William Darden (Hattie, Willie and Elbert's father) was captured at Fort Harrison, Virginia September 30, 1864. As a prisoner of war he was held at Dove Hill Farm, Virginia, then was transfered to Fort Delaware. He was released on June 10, 1865.

Speights Bridge, N.C.  
October 15, 1864

My Dear Niece,

Presuming that you have heard of your brother's misfortune in the battle of 30th Sept. last I drop you these few lines to let you know the last news I have from him which was from Col. Radcliffe the 4th Inst. He says the wounds in the neck & face are not so severe as th wound in the foot\_ None of them dangerous but a part of the foot had to be amputated, but saving the heel which will enable him to walk very well if he can recover with it and will not destroy his usefulness. I very much regret that my situation is such that I cannot go to see him having broken my ankle some 20 days ago and am not yet able to walk on my foot or I would have been to him immediately after he was wounded and done for him what I could.

Col. Radcliffe also said that he was bearing with his wounds manfully\_ If I do not get able to go Brother Abram will go after him when his condition will allow of his coming home\_ You must bear up under his misfortune and be thankful that it is not worse for such is the causaltiy of War that we cannot tell at what moment our brothers and friends may be stricken down even to death.

Yours affectionately  
s/A.D. Speight

Roland Bowden Davis told of hearing stories of his Great Uncle Fete who walked with a limp.



Oak Grove  
Oct 19th 1864

My Dear Niece,

I have not heard from you since Jimmie Speight was up there and I have written to you since but have not received any answer I have not had but three letters from you since you left home and I am anxious to hear from you and I am going to write to you again, and see if I can hear from you, this leaves my family in tolerably good health I hope it may find you well. When I wrote to you last week I told you that Abner was going to see Abe, he did not go, he said that he would wait and bring him home just as soon as he was able to travel, Jack Daniel started to see him this morning, I hope that he will be able to come home with him, if he is not Abner will go after him. Col. Radcliffe wrote to Art and said that he was getting along very well. Jack carried John to Abe to wait on him, Kate just as soon as I hear from him I will write to you again. Jack is going to bring his Brother's remains home if he can, The Children send their love and a kiss. Shade and Sarah have moved down home to live, Give my love to all friends and receive a portion for yourself, Please excuse this badly written and composed letter, Kate if you write to me I cant tell what goes with your letters they must not leave Salem. I have not received but one letter from you by mail, I must close by asking you to write soon very soon to your Affectionate Aunt,

R. Moyer

Oak Grove  
November 13th 1864

My Dear Kate,

It has been almost two months since I received any letter from you, only one that was written in August, that came last week, and I cant tell for my life why it is I cant get your letters We are all well as common, Abe reached home yesterday. he is improving, he is much better than I expected to see him his foot is doing very well now. It is healing up very fast, his other wounds are healing very fast, I think he will soon be able to get about. he says he thinks that he will soon be able to come to see you. Kate I do not want you to be at all uneasy about him, for I think that he is getting along just as well as could be expected, he says that he is going to write to you In a few days, he sends his best love to you and says study hard and learn fast. Kate A. requested me to tell you that she is going to write to you by next mail, She and the children join me in much love to you. Please excuse this badly written letter as I am in great haste. Please write soon very soon to your most

Affectionate Aunt  
R. Moyer



Speights Bridge No Car  
Nov 27th 1864

My Dearest Katie,

Pardon if you please my negligence, I could render several excuses for such a long delay in answering your very kind but short letter which I thankfully received about two weeks ago but I do not suppose they would avail much, would they Katie? if they will I will let you hear my excuse. There was a revival going on at Tabernacle when I received your letter. It lasted almost two weeks as I did not have time to write letters then. There were 45 persons that joined the Church White and Colored, I tell you Kate we had a glorious time, and since then it seemed like I could not take time to write letters. This leaves Ma and family in good health, Richard is staying with us at this time. He has been with us almost one month. Kate I guess you have received Aunt Rachel's letter stating that Abe had reached home, he is improving rapidly, his foot is almost well his other wounds are healing very fast indeed. Abe is in fine spirits he is very lively just as bad as ever. I was over to see him last evening and intend to go over again this evening if nothing prevents Aunt is as well as common. Hattie and Willie are well and growing fast, Bertie was a little sick last evening, but I hope he will soon be well again. Kate have you had any cold weather up there? I assure you we have had some very severe weather, we had have had a little snow. Oh; Kate if I could only see you I could tell you so much that I can not write. Give my love to all inquiring friends and receive a larger portion for yourself. Please excuse this badly written and disconnected letter. Please write soon and often to your absent Cos ,

Katie R.S.

Salem

Katie Sinada

I havent time to say more let no one see this

December 7th 1864

Dear Kate

I received your letter last week was glad to hear you were well we are all up your brother is improving he has bin riding about some he has been to his place. I think his foot is rising again. You said we did not want to see you you were so much trouble, Kate I cant see what makes you talk so I thought you went to school for your own benefit as for my part you can come home Christmas that as you pleas, but if I was you and come home I should fetch all my bags and stay if I did not want to go to school any longer you would have such a short time to stay, I now you want to see Abe. If you think you will be as safe hear as there you can do as you pleas, you must write Just as soon as you get this I do not now whether Kate Speight is coming or not now. If you say come home write rite strait I will try to get your uncle Art to come after you Just do as you think best.

Your Aff

R.

Salem College records indicate Kate Darden remained until June 1865.



Oak Grove Jan 22nd /65

Dear Sister.

Your letter came to hand a few days ago & I was more than glad to learn that you wer well & I hope that this will find you quite well. I have been to the army & back since I wrote to you I was at Wilmington when Fort Fisher fell. I dont recon that I will come to see you any time son so you will find fifty dollars enclosed in this letter. Aunt Rachel & family are awl up but not well. Arch Adams is down with the Reumatisim. but he is better today. Give my love to awl of the girls & receave a large portion for yourself. I remane forever your brother.

A.L. Darden

The 61st. NC Regiment had been sent from Virginia to Wilmington in late fall. On January 13-15, Fort Fisher was bombarded by Union Fleet. On January 15, Fort Fisher was captured.

Stantonsburg, N.C.

June 16th 1866.

The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicted at a party to be given at "Hopewell Academy" on Friday evening the 22nd inst.

/or F. W. Moyer

/or T. L. Applewhite

T. W. Barnes

I. S. Barnes

N. E. Wellon

& others



May 6th 1873  
Miss Kate Darden

My Dear Cousin

I am indeed glad you have not forgotten me. It was the greatest treat I have had for sometime to receive a letter from you - my heart was longing for some token of remembrance from our dear relatives in the old North State. Oh how I wish I could see you all. sometimes I think it was a bad move when pa left there; for I believe we would have done as well there as we have in these muddy places, but we ought to be contented; for we dont deserve more then God has given us, not so much.

Is it possible you are determined to be an old maid. You say I gave you Elli and then let him marry, but it is all your fault; for you would not answer my letter and he took it as a denial, he was afraid to go see you, so far, on uncertainty. Revenge is sometimes sweet, but I would be afraid yours would be bitter if I were to take your old widower; for I know he is your intended, you would not give him to me if you thought there was any chance for me to get him. you had better hold on to him.

If I were able to go to your wedding I would be dying my grey hair, and filling the wrinkles in my face with tallow, and put on bloom of youth buy me a fine dress and go time enough to cut you out, but as this is impossible you need not be uneasy about me. I wish you would come to see us but I can't promise and nice sweethearts; for nice young men are scarce in this country, and more girls than you can shake a stick at. enough nonsense

We are getting on tolerably well with our prospect for a crop. no one to work but Fred - he has 13 acres in corn planted 4 or 5 cotton and a nice potato patch set out. I think we will make enough to live next year, but I reckon I will have to stop Della from school, I hate to do it, for she is studying hard and learning so fast. if she could go two more years she would graduate. I sometimes wish I had some of the money I spent in my young days to spend on her, but if I had saved it then it would have gone as the other did. negroes would have been bought with it and they gone so I guess it is all right. Fred is still afflicted with rheumatism. Oscar and Abram are helthy and grow fast. I have been sick a great deal the past winter and this Spring. Sometimes I think I will no live long, still I may live to be very old.

Mothers health is not very good. Sammie and family are very well and getting on finely. She has one of the best husbands in the world.

he has been a good brother to me. it seems to me we could not get along at all without him. in fact our relatives have been very kind to us. one of Della's Uncles made her a present of \$50.00 on her schooling last year. We have had a hard time learning how to get on without slaves, but I feel like there are better days ahead for Fred will soon be old enough to manage business, and he and the two ones can carry on a large farm in a few years.

I will try to fulfill my promise about the photographs as soon as I can, but please send me yours, tell Abram I would be so glad to have his and family. Now Kate you are young and can go to town any time and have yours taken for me, and if you knew how glad I would be to get it you would send it as soon as possible. Tell Aunt Rachael and Aunt Martha to send me theirs. I would be so glad to have them. Give my love to all of my relatives and friends. Uncle Art I suppose is still an old bachelor I am surprised at him for staying alone while there are so many pretty girls in the world, that would be glad to wait on him and call him honey. old bachelors ought to be miserable, but I wont say anything about old maids - but cousin dont let the old widower slip. dont get mad at my foolishness for it is all in fun. I love you my dear Cate and have ever since I first saw you. I often think of you a sweet little blue eyed girl, and I know you are pretty yet, this is not flattery - send me your picture and let me see if it is not so. If I had time, I would write more, but this is so badly written I am ashamed of it. Sammie and Mother send love.

The next time you go to Tabernacle to attend services remember me when you bow in prayer - how I would like to be with you. With much love your

Affectionate Cousin  
Kate T. Carr

Note:

Kate Tarrt Speight Carr and Kate Darden were first cousins. Kate Tarrt Speight Carr's father, Abner Speight, was a brother to Sarah Speight Darden (Kate Darden's Mother). The location of Kate Carr when this letter was written is unknown.



Speights Bridge  
Feb. 10th 1879.

Dear Cousin,

I reached home safely on last Tues. and true to a promise made you, I have now seated myself, for the purpose of writing to you. I enjoyed the ride right much, was not sick one bit, but of course you have heard ere now that I was terribly disappointed. Mr. C. K. did not bring me, owing to sickness in the family, his brother Claude was very sick, so Mr. L. Wooten brought me home. They all teased or tried to, me very much about it, and that is why I wrote terribly disappointed. I haven't been sick since I came home, not of any consequence. Found all very well at home Hope you all are well by this time. How is Eliza & the babies, and have you been sick any? You must write soon, for I have been & am still anxious to hear from you. I am afraid you have been sick too. Katie I certainly appreciate your kindness to me while with you & maybe I can some day return the kindness. You were all certainly good to me, it is bad to be sick from home, & have other people to trouble with you, as you did me, but I certainly appreciate it, & it made me think you all thought something of me. My cold has been bad since, nothing more, haven't been troubled but very little with my bowels. No news of any consequence in the neighborhood. All want you to come & everyone I have seen the first question is when is Kate coming. Tell Coz. J. Papa's first question was when did Mr. Isler say he was coming. I told them all what Coz. J. said so we will all look for you certainly now, until we see you. Make haste get well & come. Katie please write soon & let us hear how you all are. We are anxious to hear from you. Excuse writing &c. Do not show, Destroy Immediately. With much love but in great haste I remain yours even the same.

Hattie Darden

Love to all the family save a double portion for yourself. All send love. Kiss the babies ever so many times for me but give Hattie just one more for me. Lovingly,

H. D.

Kate Darden married John William Isler on April 17, 1873. Their farm was between LaGrange and Goldsboro on US 70. Hattie Darden is the little girl referred to by her grandmother, Rachel Moye in her letters. Kate Darden Isler later lived in LaGrange at 302 Railroad Street.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE of Representatives

Raleigh NC Nov. 16th, 1874

Raleigh

Mrs. K R Isler

Dearest Kate I have passed for Legislator 1 day of my life. It is so new that I cannot tell how I like it. There is so much to direct my thoughts from you and home but they will come back every now and then how are you getting on without me I am doing well now\_ but how long I cannot tell have rooms at the Exchange Hotel and a nice view Dr. Smith and myself room together I have much good company here and hope it will improve the House has not organized fully yet\_ will complete our organization tomorrow I recon. I find many strangers here I have to pay 31 3/4 dollars per month but have plenty something good to eat if I had you to sleep with I would be all right. I cannot tell when I will come home but I am getting home sick already. did you get the Anderson girl? How — am Martha getting I paid my life insurance up today. Have seen C. Brogden and many from every part of the state I will look for Miss Eta after a while. You must write to about once a week tell me everything that passes at Home and in the neighborhood

If anything goes wrong with me I will write or get some friend to do it for me so be easy about me and enjoy your self best you can until I come Kiss Katie for me and ALL THE children

Your Devoted Husband until death

J.W.Isler



Raleigh N C Nov. 19, 1874

Mrs. Kate Isler

Dear Katie

I have just returned from the Post office and I find no letter from you. I wish I could see you now\_ it seems to me like I had been from home a month all ready. We have just got to work today in session I have seen the messenger from Goldsboro today it is really interesting to see and hear what is done and said here and how it is done, you must write to Carol and Hatie to direct their letters to me in this way. J.W. Isler House of Representatives and it will be sent to me every day as soon as the mails are open you do it in same way. I saw Uncle Art the day I left Goldsboro and he said that he should meet me at my house on the first Saturday I will try to come home then any how our comitees have not been arrange yet. and then I can tell more about coming home I would come home on Saturday but it would be in the night when I got to Goldsboro and I would have to go back to Goldsboro by half past two o'clock on Sunday. I saw Captain Darden sometime did Uncle Arte he said all was well It is dark in here so I will stop now.

Katie If you have my Horse and Buggy at Goldsboro Saturday (which is 21) by 4 o'clock in the evening I will try to meet it and come home then send Joe Howell with it and tell him not to drive hard start soon enough for the Horses to rest by the time the Train gets there make him bring my blankets I will come down on the Frelgh be sure to take care of the house about fire.

Keep my most and everlasting love for you and kiss the letter ———  
— for papa

Your devoted husband until death do part

J.W. Isler

Raleigh NC Jan 21st 1875

Mrs. Kate Isler

My Dearest one

I am concluded to write you a few lines tonight as all the rest of my company are at the meeting of the Executive Committee I have gone back to my same old room and Dr. Smith is my roommate again he sais his physians advise him to quit drinking strong drinks so we will not drink much whiskey as usual Stanford and Masley are both here too the old folks were glad to see us back and reduced our board some 2 1/2 dols. per month there is nothing much except the Probate Judge rote me today that my - uvd a-es was not rite and I would have to do my work all over Stephen Isler is up here attending the Supreme Cort and informs me that Brother Sims Land case that I was witness in will have to be tried over that Gudger Clark had lost the other one so I will have to go to Jones County to Cort again about it it is a grate deal of trouble always comes in a bad time Maybe you can go with me sometime when I go you stay at Uncle Bectons while I go to cort My health is about the same I am taking Dr. Pierse and Golden descary but I have received no benefit that I know of but I feel very min anyhow I will be down on Saturday next will go to Lagrange so send after me then an there if you all fine me trouble about this time. I donot think I will write to you any more when I am coming I will not expect an answer to this until I see you but I doo expect a letter from you about thursday or fryday anyhow Miss Eta's health is bad now so I hear.

So I take you and the children are well kiss them for me all of them keep one long good one for yourself

Your devoted old man

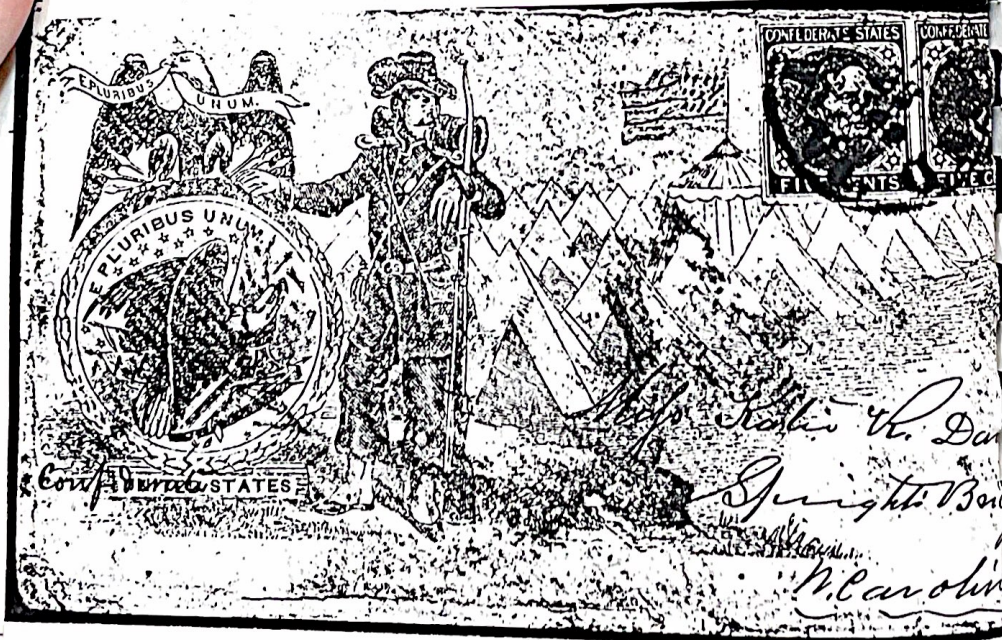
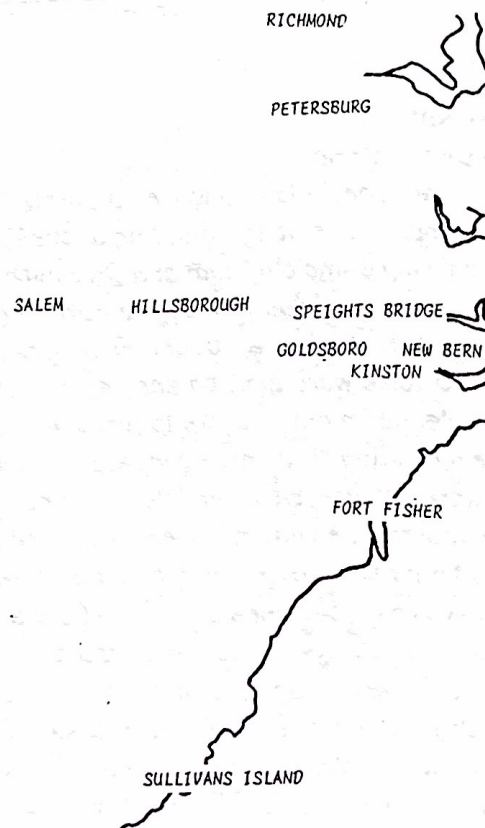
J.W. Isler

PS

let old man Billy know when I will be home and the tripp Boys if sim has come back



Places Mentioned  
in  
Letters to Kate



These references were used to correlate places, dates and family information.

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