

To M J & S E Titus [Melville J & Samantha E. Titus]

Camp near Brandy Station. Va.
Jan 1st 1864

Dear Brother & Sister

I take my pen in hand to
write you a few lines to let
you know that I am well &
have not forgotten you although
it has been some time since I
have written to you I suppose
you are all enjoying yourself
well to day eating nicknacks & c
well that's all right we are doing
the same here trying to enjoy
ourselves as well as circumstances
will admit we had some splendid
hard tack for breakfast & other
rations accordingly I feel thankful
that I have good health & a plenty
of hard tack I was off on fategue
duty yesterday we was making
Corderoy roads it commenced to

Rain just as we left camp we
had to go 3 miles through the mud
& rain it kept raining harder &
faster till about noon then
they dismissed us it rained till
dark you can guess about how
dry we was when we got to camp
I had only got in from 3 days
picket the afternoon before & expect
to go out on picket tomorrow
again as long I am well I can
stand it but there is a good many
getting sick going around through
the mud & rain so much it is quite
pleasant over head to day
we mustered for pay yesterday
there is nothing new going on
in Camp there is lots of old troops
relisting & going home on 30 days
furlough our duty is going to be
pretty hard this winter our
man that went home on furlough
is due to day **Sergt Sutton** is

the next to have furlough I
believe if they keep going hom

I may possibly get achance
towards spring but don't expect
to, we have Sutlers here with us
now but they charge such an
enormous price for things that
aprivate cant go there more than
once or twice butter xx (scratched out) 50,cts
cheese 40 cts per lbs fruit quart xx (scratched out)
cans one dollar apples 5 cts apiece
Hannah [Hannah J. Holt, Square's wife] wrote to me that they
wanted to send a box of things
well I guess we could handle abox
pretty well if we had it here
?? tell Hannah I want shes to get
me apiece of dried beef if she can
& send Jan 6th well Mell I didn't
get my letter done the day I commenced
it had to go on picket the next
day got back to camp yesterday
afternoon tierd & sleepy did not
feel like writing to I done my washing

some poliece duty & now sit
down to finish this well it turnd
cold newyear night hubs was about
knee high in the morning we
had apretty cold time on picket
it snowed all day the 4th & was
most as bad as rain I am well
Byron is better than he has
been for some time he received
yours in due time I was glad
to hear from you, you need
not expect to see us home this
winter I don't think there will
be any more furloughs granted
I think if we keep up good courage
put our trust in God that he
will bring us safe home by &
by I must close this & write some
to Hannah write often as you
can & I will do the same I got
that paper all right thank
you for it no more at present
from your Brother S Holt