Okolona, Miss. Sept. 26 1872

Mrs. Anderson,

I saw the announcement of Gen. Anderson's death a few days ago and have felt ever since that I wanted to write to you. But what can I say, which would mitigate your grief for the loss of such a husband? I can only give you assurance of my heartfelt sympathy for your irreparable loss, and mingle my tears with yours. A true patriot, a gallant soldier, and a great man has fallen. The world must say this, for his merits demand such a tribute. To you and me, he was more. We would have loved him if the whole world had denounced him. He was my friend, tried and true, and to you, a husband around whom all your woman's affections were turned. Why could not the blow have fallen on someone who could have been better spared? God knows best. Let us bow in humble submission to His will, and trust His grace for strength to support you in your afflictions.

Your friend,
W.F. Tucker

A Col. & then Brig Genl. who followed him from Shiloh to the close of the war & has now joined him on the other shore. He was wounded first in his right arm, after in his left, & returned to the Army when he held his bridal [bridle] in his mouth. We had no truer or more gallant soldier.

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.