

[Different handwriting on top]  
Mailed at Port Royal  
No 232 April 16  
Recd Apr. 22

[Letter]  
Jacksonville, Florida  
April 6, 1864

Dear Father

Seated by the table in my tent, alone at present but shall not be long, for if Capt. Jones does not come in some one of the officers of the line will to see me. But, I will make the best of the short time I shall have before tattoo [in] writing to you. The very pretty cloth which you sent me graces the table. The two candle-sticks bearing my lighted candles are before me on the table, bright as gold thanks to my boy "James" (a new one). Among other articles on the table are some of the books which you sent, Army Regulations, "Tactics," my little Testament, given to me by you I think when I first inlisted [enlisted], lots of company papers, and just by my side laying on my bed (which by the way looks good and comfortable, having Mothers sheets etc. So white I dread to have them get dirty for they will never look quite so pure again) are a lot of letters, from you, Mother, Carrie, James Gilman, etc. These I have been reading over as I do often.

Here comes Capt J. and two three other jolly fellows—shall have to stop for present. They would never give me any peace were I to try to continue while they were here.

Monday last 4<sup>th</sup> inst our mail arrived. I received letters from you Mch 20-22 & 24 Nos 253-254 & 255. Also one from Sister Emma. All of which gave me great pleasure.

How singular it seems to hear you speak of snow. I have not seen one flake since the winter of 62. By this time it must be all gone, the river opened, and operations commenced there. Almost a new life began.

I receive the Journals regularly and am very much interested. I received the two Advertisers which you sent. The Harpers do not come very regular—have received April.

I shall probably remain in Co. "D" for the present at least at Capt. Jones's request. I am mustered as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. [Lieutenant] in Co. "F," Capt. J. being senior. Captain has a good deal of influence, and as Lieut. Emerson is detailed as ordinance officer at Beaufort S.C. the Col. Allowed me to remain with Capt. J., so there will be no change at present.

Uncle Gould is very kind to remember "the boys." Please to give my kind regards to him.

Do you hear from Mr. Lincoln "Gould & Lincoln?" I supposed you do. I should like to be remembered to him when you write—and please ask him if he received a piece of

shell which I sent from Morris Isld. to him. Was [a] piece [of] shell thrown from Sumter before her guns were silenced and before “Wagner” was ours.

I wrote letter to Freem [Freeman] last evening—he is foolish to give up to the blues or to be worried as to getting employment when out of the army.

You are right—tis unwise to trouble ourselves about the morrow. I dont like it at all that Freem refers so often in your letters about me as the only smart one, that he is glad there is one smart enough to be an Officer, etc. I shall not admit (and I’m ashamed of him if he does) that theres one Duren not smart enough to get along in this world, if not in one way or another.

Should Freem be so fortunate as to get out of the Army next July and be successful in getting into business—I shall consider he is not only fortunate but smart. Exertion & action are the words. There will be no difficulty.

Love to all  
Am Your Affc Son  
C.M. Duren

P.S. You are kind to think of me again. The package I shall look for with interest.

C.M.D.

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2008.