

[On captured paper, with heading already started in another hand]  
Folley Island, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863  
Sunday, Noon 12 O[‘clock]]  
Miss Nellie M. Martin  
Kiawah

In the Trenches, August 18<sup>th</sup> [1864?]

Dear Mother

I received your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of August a day or so ago. I am very glad that you have got heard from me at last. I am sorry you did not get my long letter for [that?] gave you a history of our trip for a long time, that I could not send any letters off on account of the R.R. [railroad] being cut by the Yanks and also on account of our fight with the Yankee Raiders & how we whipped them handsomely and I also wrote another letter before I wrote the one you got. I hope you will yet get them. I really don't know what would be the best for you to do if the Yanks come to Gainesville. As you say, "you have no place to go to" unless you go to Ala. [Alabama?] and I don't know as that would do much good for the Yanks may come there also, and it would be too late to [wait?] until the Yanks come to Gainesville to start but I am in hopes they will not come there, but we hear rumors of E. Fla. [East Florida] being given up but I don't put much faith in them. Still it makes rather uneasy for you all but if the Yanks do take E. Fla. I am afraid you will fare badly. They will take all the negroes, and I expect all your provisions too, for [illegible] these days if the papers tell the truth and I am afraid that Fla. will be no exception to the Rule. What is Judge Dawkins going to do? You had better ask him what is the best for you to do, and do as he advises. I am very much in hopes you will not be bothered with the Yanks this [times?] and that we will be able to drive them back to Jacksonville again. I am very sorry to hear that Charley has lost Mack. I had rather he had lost his own horse and another one too rather than to have lost Mack. I hope you are mistaken about his loosing him. I wanted to keep Mack until he died of old age.

Things are pretty quiet here in our front, but they have been fighting up about Richmond again. This morning our batteries opened on the Yanks but quit after a while. The Yanks only replied with an occasional shot. No damage was done that I have heard of. Write soon. Oh yes, they had a little skirmish today on the R.R. [railroad] with some Yankee Cav. [cavalry] but I have not heard the particulars. Write often.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.O. Bailey [Cosmo O. Bailey]

This is some of Mr. Yanks doing that I captured this paper from

Item 49860. Transcribed by Nicole Milano, University of Florida, 2008