

Taylor Farm Suwannee Co.  
July the 30<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Own Darling Husband,

Your dear precious letters dated the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> have been received by your Dolly. Oh! Sweet one—I was so happy to hear from you and happy to know that you My Darling were enjoying good health, may it continue to be so. Darling last week this time I thought that you would be with [me] by now, and you would of my Darling, had Col. Dilworth [Colonel William S. Dilworth] not acted so meanly towards you. I think that it is very low and mean in Col. Dilworth to act towards you and other east Florida Officers as he has. But never mind he will be richly rewarded for his meanness he won't allways [*sic*] be Col. Dilworth. I don't think that such a man ought to command a Regiment. And Darling I believe that it was all his doings that your Regiment left Florida. Darling you and Mr. Irvine Drysdale must watch him closely, but Sweet One I need not tell you that for I know that you and Mr. Drysdale will not let one fault pass without your notice. I hope you will be successful and break him of his commission, he deserves to be broken. I cannot imagine Sweet One why he treats you in such a manner. I know my Darling that you are not deserving such treatment. I am still in hopes that your resignation will be excepted [accepted] in Richmond, but I fear that it will not if you cannot get your resignation it is your last chance my Darling untill [*sic*] the war ends unless you can break Dilworth of his commission, and I do hope that will be soon. Oh! Darling how disappointed I was when you told that it was impossible for you to visit your Dolly. I have been expecting ever since you left me that you Sweet One would visit me in July or August, and now July has come and to know that you cannot come home oh! Darling how disappointed I am and I know that you are too. Darling it was just three months yesterday since you left me at the Oat field, oh! Darling I can see you[r] sad, sweet face with the tears rolling down your face, just as though it was before me now, Darling how can I help but be sad away from such a dear precious Husband. What a long three months these have three have [*sic*]. I hope sweet one that it will not be three months more before we meet, but I am affraid [*sic*] that it will be a long, long time before we can see each other. How I wish that it was today that we could meet to part no more while we live. I am so sorry that Carter lost those things that you sent me by him. I know that I would like my dress so much. Father has just got back from Jacksonville last night, he say[s] that the people there don't think that Carter lost his things, they say that he had a good deal of money that the men sent to their wives, and now he say[s] that it was all lost in his trunk but they don't believe him they say that he is a grand rogue. I hope that [they] judge him [w]rongfully, and I hope that you will get your boy again but I am affraid that it is lost. I am so sorry that it was lost, I know that my dress was a nice one for you my Darling only gets nice things for your Dolly. Father was gone just a week and last night he came, he rode up from Lake City, he has bought two horses, and rode home, he say[s] that there was no news from St. Augustine. There is three Gun boats in the St. Johns and he could not get down home but he went to Mr. Tombs, there was no one there but young Tombs, old Mr. Tombs and all the rest of the family except young Tombs and old Mrs. Tombs, and she (Mrs. Tombs) is up to Tallahassee seeing if Col. Hately [Colonel John C. Hately] had the power to order them to leave, and young Tombs

is at home, everything is just as you left them with the exceptions of your [boat] and she is all cut to pieces, Col. Hately had it done, Darling every body hates Col. Hately he acted so mean. They were glad when he left Jacksonville. He issued an order that he was going to cut up every boat on the St. Johns and a great many persons thought that they would save these boats by carrying them to him and put them under his guard, but that even did not save them, he would haul [haul] them right and cut them up, he had Father's big boat to sail up and down the river and cut boats up he went to Tombs and cut yours up, oh— Darling it was shameful the way he and his men acted, he just allowed them to do everything, let them crop the river and go in to the corn fields and take just as much as they wanted. Father was going to bring your boat to Jacksonville and put her up in some stow, but she was all cut up so he left her. Father say[s] that while he was at Tombs's the Gun boat came up to Charlie Brower's house you know where it is don't you, and fired Six shots at it and hit it with one— they fired shell, the last one hit the house and went through and bursted about a hundred feet the other side. Father say[s] that they are sending cannon and some companies down to Jacksonville to try and take the gun boats. I hope that they will succede [*sic*]. Father Mother, Sister, and Freddie all send a great many kisses to you, and wishes to be remembered to Mr. Irvine Drysdale, Darling you and Mr. Drysdale must watch Col. Dilworth, close and trip him up. Give much love to Uncle John and William. When Uncle Robert got to Jacksonville depot last Tuesday he met Grand Mother there just on her way out here to see what was the matter that he staid [stayed] so long, and Darling he was only here two weeks, when he came she wrote to me by him saying that I must not let him stay but a week. Father say[s] that they are all well, Darling you asked me to tell you who it was told me about about [*sic*] that fuss between Father and Mr. Garnie, it was Maggie Darling who told me, and the other day when Uncle Robert was up here, Sister was telling him what old Mr. Saunders had told us about Father and Garnie, and he thought that that [*sic*] she knew it and he then told her all about it, so we all know it now but Mother, and Darling I think that she ought to know it, sometimes I think I will tell her. What do you think I will not tell her untill [*sic*] I hear from you. I think that she ought to know it don't you, now Darling don't you think that a wife should know what concerns a Husband, good or bad? Darling I did make a mistake when I told you that Freddie loved you more than I did, what I intended to say my pet was that I believed that Freddie loved you more than she (Freddie) loved me, not that she loved you more than I did, for I know my Darling that no living person loves you as I do, or could they love as I do, oh! Darling I would not want to live without you. Darling if it is God's will to take you first from this world, and from me- I do pray that I may live no longer but be laid in the same grave with you and the same time, these Darling are my earnest wishes. How could I live without you, oh! Darling I hope this desperation will not last much longer, just for a moment think what a meeting ours will be. Remember me kindly to Mr. Irvine Drysdale, and tell him that I would be happy to see you and him any day that you and he could make it convenient to come. I will now stop sweet one as it is time to send to the office.

I am Darling One, your ever Devoted Wife.  
Sallie A. Mickler

Darling I wrote to you the 26<sup>th</sup>, with one enclosed from Sister.

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2009