

Trout Creek, Florida
April 27th 1864

My Darling Wife

I received a long letter from you yesterday and Oh Darling how rejoiced I am to hear from you, Emma and home. I write to you often my Darling Wife— Once and twice a week— the difficulty is Darling I have to send my letters by courier [*sic*] and I expect they neglect often to mail my letters. I am station[ed] here permently [*sic*] that is as long as the Yankees remain in Jacksonville— It is one of the most important post[s] in the army (so says Genl. Anderson [General James Patton Anderson]) Darling and I am proud I have charge of it. From here Darling I can see all the Yankee movements on the river. I will tell you what a narrow escape we ran on the night of the 25th. In the last letter I wrote to you Darling I believe I mentioned that Capt. [Captain] Bryant was going to put torpedoes somewhere below Jacksonville. He arrived here Darling on the evening of the 25th with two Boats, twelve torpedoes, and fifty men expecting to have every thing prepared the next day so that on the night of the 26th he would set his torpedoes. Judge my surprise [*sic*] Darling on what is more astonishing how quick the Yankees can get there [*sic*] information. The very evening that Capt. Bryant got here the Yankees landed some two or three hundred strong in the night and marched from here to Yellow Bluff. I Darling with my party of scouts seven in number warned Capt. Bryant and his party of their danger. They left with wagons torpedoes and all, he told me he would get them in the river when they lest expect it. The Yankees landed Darling not over a hundred yards from where we were encamped and march[ed] close by me. I thought Darling my horse was gone that night [for] certain, the night was dark we could here [*sic*] them talking as the[y] marched by. I can tell you Darling after they get by we got out of this Neck in a hurry and have returned here today. I am sorry I was not on the river yesterday as the day before two verry [*sic*] large transports propellers went up and I know they must have went down yesterday loaded with troops. A verry large propeller transport has just gone up light and a large schooner came down this morning loaded. They are leaving Jacksonville fast. I sometimes think Darling they will leave a Gun boat or two there with negroe [*sic*] troops, but time will tell. Your Uncle Lewis and Robert Houston were of the party with Capt. Bryant. If Emma should forget me Darling while away on my return she will to know me again. Remember me to all my precious ones. Kiss my Darling little one for me. It is the Battalion Darling that our company is placed into and not the Reg. on Parole. Good bye my sweet one.

Your husband
J. E. Mickler

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