

Camp Fenigan [Finegan], Fla.
May 2nd 1864

My Darling Wife

I received two letters from you today one dated the 22nd and the other the 24th. You complain of not receiving letters from me often— I don't know why Darling for I write you often— I expect it is in the carelessness of the couriers. I have written Darling so often to you that it is impossible for me to name the number. Between here and Broward's Neck where I scout there is couriers [*sic*] every six or seven miles apart and the last Darling might neglect to mail my letter to you. I came here today to see about my getting rations and forage sent down to Broward's Neck in future. I expect Darling to return tomorrow morning. Judge my supprise [*sic*] Darling on my arrival here today to hear that Ma is here and going through tomorrow with flag of truce. I have not seen her yet but expect to go in a few minutes to see her. She is staying at Mrs. Price[']s] about a half mile from here. On my return Darling I will finish this letter. While in Broward's Neck Darling I see a great many Steamers and Schooners go up and down the St. Johns for the last two or three days. I have seen no troops go out. I have heard that the Yankees have Six Regiments in Jacksonville. I expect Darling they will remain there some time. The other day a pickett [*sic*] on Trout Creek [with] myself and two more men I discovered a boat crossing the St. Johns comming [*sic*] up Trout Creek. I followed them untill [*sic*] I they got near and hail[ed] them to come ashore or I would shoot them. The first thing they said was caught again by God— they thought we were Yankees. They were Darling Capt. [Captain] Cable of the Steamer St. Marys and Capt. Tumlin or the Steamer Sumter. They were captured on Lake George. When we caught them Darling they were making their escape from the Yankees at Jacksonville. Oh how rejoiced they was to see us Darling. We have got 12 torpedoes on Cedar Creek and expect to put them in the St. Johns tomorrow night. It is my opinion Darling that will make them leave Jacksonville. The next letter will be from there. I am now going to see Ma. I have not gone to see Ma yet— the train is going now and I will mail this to you my Darling. Remember me to all. Kiss Emma for me. I expect they were all glad to see Ruffee. I will write to you from Broward's Neck in a few days. Darling, good bye.

Your husband
J. E. Mickler

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