

Camp near Petersburg, Dec. 25, 1864 [?]\*

Dear Mother,

Today is Christmas and A very dull one it is too. I did intend to go and hear Mr. Little preach today but it was too cold out of doors for me to go, though he preached.

My dinner today was a good deal plainer than it was the Christmas I spent in Tenn. [Tennessee]. We only had some rice boiled with a little fresh meat and a few dumplin[g]s thrown in and all boiled together, rather a poor dinner don't you think so? Mrs. Reed sent our brigade a few chickens and other things from Richmond cooked today but not enough to do any good. I will tell you what our company got for 25 men. We got half of a duck, 5 small biscuit[s], a little piece of bacon, a few stewed apples, and [illegible] little apple pies and a few pickles, so you may guess [?] that after that was divided among 25 men one man could [?] not get more than [?] scarcely a taste. We have just drawn ours and eat it, they say we [?] will get more new year's day [?]. I hope so or none at all. It has been pretty cold the last few days but it is not as cold as it was a day [?] or so past. Neither Mr. Puliston [illegible] nor Lieut. Taylor have arrived [?] I have about given Puliston up [?]. I heard last night that Sav. [Savannah] had been evacuated, I hope Lieut. Taylor will come on now as I guess they have been keeping him at Sav. I have not heard from you since your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup>. I wrote to you a few days ago and sent it by hand. I have drawn a pair of shoes at last. Write often.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. O. Bailey

Heard [?] that Sherman has Sav. I am afraid your [?] letters will be very irregular but write often maybe they will come after a while.

\*The contents of this letter indicate that it was written in December, 1864.

Transcribed by John Freund and Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2009