Dear Father & Mother:

It is with sorrow that I attempt to write you a few lines for I have just heard of Cyrus being killed & wounded and I have just written to Wm. Lynch to know if he can tell me anything about him. I have requested him to let me know where the fight took place also to know if he has heard anything of him since he was shot.

I see in the letter that Pete received from his Grandpa that Wm. Lynch was also reported to be missing but he came in for I saw him myself he & Reel Kennedy were together—They came to our camp while we were in Ala. and stayed several hours. He had been off on a pass to get his horse and could not get to his command until after the report that was published was made out.

There is but little news of importance in this or the Va. department. About the only news that I know of is the expedition of our brigade to the Rio, River during Christmas and new year for the purpose of cropping cotton to Gen. Smith's army. It was the coldest weather ever known in this to the old
Citizens say and the boys had to cross the river during the night and work in the mud and water until their feet were frost bit. It was the worst expedition the Brig has ever been on. John now Tuck was not on it John went to the sunflower on the west side of the Apazzoo river and was left there as picket until the command returned and I was off from them getting me some clothes at Dr. Holicoff's and did not know that the command was gone until it had been gone several days.

Perhaps you have not heard of the fight at Moscow on the Memphis & Charleston R.R. It took place on the 4th of last month. The regiments engaged on our side were the 1st Miss. and the 6th Depas on the side of the yeanks was the 6th 7th & 9th Ills. & the 2nd Iowa. The 1st Miss. engaging the 7th Ills. & 2nd Iowa while the 6th Depas engaged the 6th 7th & 9th Ills.

We whipped them very bad killing wounding capturing about 150 of them & killing downing and capturing about 200 horses.

We at one time had possession of all the horses of the 6th & 7th Ills. but might have brought them off if we had commenced as soon as we got possession of them. But instead of that some came out with horses whilst others were fighting & I was one of those that continued to fight so that I got no horse. The result is I have had to
by one of those that were captured.
Instead of bringing off a horse I brought out 4 prisoners and came very near losing my life for as I was coming out a shell struck the ground in about 2 feet of me and came very near knocking me down with the dirt, but fortunately it did not burst or I believe it would have killed me.
After going about 10 steps further a shell bursted some 10 or 12 feet above my head and a piece of it came within a half foot of hitting me on the head. It struck the ground in 6 or 8 inches of my hat. The yanks prisoners begged me to let them lie down behind logs but I told them that they had as good a chance to escape as I had and they must go on. And now while I am speaking about the battle and horses it reminds me that I bought the horse from Frank Jackson a son of old Marshall Jackson I agreed to pay him in cows and cals to be delivered to his father next spring.
The reason I done it was because I was off my horse having died about 2 weeks since and the money we get will hardly keep us in tobacco so that it is nearly impossible for us to get clothes for the citizens on this side of the river but we have to pay enormous prices for everything we get we have generally made out for clothing this winter but I dont
know what we are to do next winter for our money is going down every day while the price of everything is going up so that if James remains at the present price it would cost us $200 for a suit of James. To say nothing of shoes, shirts, & drawers. I promised to let Jackson have 7 coins to color for the horse. I thought I could do him.

I will have to close for I have nothing else to write.

Give my love to all the family and relations and all enquiring friends. With these few lines I remain yours with filial regard.

Sam Loy