Camp 54th Ala Regt - Petersburg
July 9th 1864. 5½ o'clock a.m.

ALA. STATE ARCHIVES & HISTORY
MSS

Dear Laura

Bolling passes through here at about 7 o'clock this morning en route home, so I have gotten up to write you & go to the depot to see him. Won't you be glad to see him? We expected a big fight here yesterday evening. Our reg. was ordered to form & be ready to move off in a minute. But we did not move. Genl Beauregard thought the enemy had evacuated our front & left only a line of skirmishers to deceive us, so he ordered all of our artillery to open upon the yank line & at the same time for the line of infantry to raise the Confederate yell, & fire a few volleys at the enemy from our works. This was in order to make

The Yanks think we were going to charge them & thus draw them out so that their force might be ascertained. The plan was successful. The enemy immediately replied from their works & they were found to be still in force along their entire lines. If any weak point had been discovered there our men were to charge there at that point. The army is in fine spirits. I should like to know who that young lady is that you wrote me, cousin Sallie said was well & loved me as well as ever. I cannot make out the name. It looks like Betty Lowe. But I have never heard of any one by that name and cannot imagine who it can be. You did not write the name distinctly. Write it again. I have not time to write more. Bolling can give the news.

Your affect brother
Pla Hall