

In Camp Six miles north Vicksburg
March 21st, 1863.

My dear Wife,

We moved our Camp yesterday to this place, in consequence of the Yankees moving a large part of their force up the River. About light this morning we heard heavy & rapid firing north of us. It was a long way off - probably 25 or 30 miles. We do not know the cause. The health of the regiment is about as usual. The small pox has not spread in the Camp. And it is now most probable that we will have no more new cases.

I wrote to you of the Sickness of St. Spencer of our Regt. He has had a long spell of dysphoid fever; but is now recovering. He was staying at the house of Mr. Finney and was well cared for. On the first of this month I went to see him & found him in very low spirits. I tried to cheer him up, but to no effect. He finally told me that he did not care to live as his wife was dead. When I returned to Camp, I enquired about his wife & found that the idea of her death was a mere fancy. Next day I saw him again & he again mentioned the death of his wife as a fact. I assured him that his wife was not dead, but it seemed to have no effect on him. Two days afterwards his brother arrived in Camp directly from Perry Co, where he had seen Mrs. Spencer. He had been on the way about a week. The brother talked with the sick man, told him he was just from his home - had seen his

wife & that she was not dead. This assurance did not shake his confidence in the assertion that his wife was dead. For ten days he has been improving & his mind seemed clear, but he adhered to the idea that his wife was dead. A few days since, by Hugh Davis just from Perry Co, we learn the marvelous fact that Mr. Spencer did the first of this month. Truly -

"There are more things in this world, Horatio, than are dreamt of in our philosophy!"

I had a letter yesterday from Edw. Patten Jr, my gallant young kinsman, who may justly be considered a veteran in the service of his Country. He was in excellent health & spirits. He is near Fort Dick Kelson on the Rappahannock, with the 12th Ala Regt.

My health is good. Give much love to our dear children. Write often..

Most affectionately,

Your husband,

Edw. W. Patten.

C-o-p-y

In Camp Six Miles North Vicksburg
March 21st, 1863

My dear Wife,

We moved our Camp yesterday to this place, in consequence of the Yankees moving a large part of their forces up the River. About light this morning we heard heavy and rapid firing north of us. It was a long way off, probably 25 or 30 miles. We do not know the cause. The health of the regiment is about as usual. The smallpox has not spread in the Camp. And it is now most probable that we will have no more new cases.

I wrote to you of the sickness of Lt. Spencer of our Regt. He has had a long spell of typhoid fever; but is now recovering. He was staying at the house of Mr. Finney and was well cared for. On the first of this month I went to see him and found him in very low spirits. I tried to cheer him up, but to no effect. He finally told me that he did not care to live as his wife was dead. When I returned to Camp, I enquired about his wife and found that the idea of her death was a mere fancy. Next day I saw him again and he again mentioned the death of his wife as a fact. I assured him that his wife was not dead, but it seemed to have no effect on him. Two days afterwards his brother arrived in Camp directly from Piny Co, where he had seen Mrs. Spencer. He had been on the way about a week. The brother talked with the sick man, told him he was just from his home - had seen his wife and that she was not dead. This assurance did not shake his confidence in the assertion that his wife was dead. For ten days he has been improving and his mind seemed clear, but he adhered to the idea that his wife was dead. A few days since, by Hugh Davis just from Piny Co, we have the marvelous fact that Mrs. Spencer died the first of this month. Verily -

"There are more things in this world, Horatio,
Than are dreamed of in our philosophy."

I had a letter yesterday from E.W.Pettus, Jr., my gallant young kinsman, who may justly be considered a veteran in the service of his Country. He was in excellent health and spirits. He is near Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock, with the 12th Ala. Regt.

My health is good. Give much love to our dear children.
Write often.

Most affectionately,

Yours husband,

Edmd. W. Pettus.