Near Richmond Va June 25-62

My Dear Mother

thinking that you would like to hear from me, and I being idle I will write you a few lines to let you know the state of affairs as here thought I am so not very well are this you have received the sad tidings of brother William I need say but little on the subject, what is hardest to me I could not go to see him, I often went to town last monday but could not get none of his effects, he had with him $63 in money and the note on Capt Jewell of which he could hear nothing of, dont grieve tho he is better off through his hard to loose him, you may have more to grieve for than him before this war ends, they are fighting here this evening, the wounded are passing our camp continually my regt is on the battle field now but have not been fighting any yet I expect you will says why am I not with them, I am detached for cooking, myself and two others cook for the whole company and therefore when the regt is off we have to cook and carry to them. Lewis on the ambulance corps, that is to carry the wounded off the field it is not a desirable position, he stands a chance to be shot and cannot retaliate, there goes three more wounded boys, the yankee villians are shelling our hospital near the line, there is nothing more dishonorable in civil war so our boys are not in it yet but to-morrow I expect will be a busy day with us

four companies up have employed one Mr Williams, to bring us things from home I expect he will be at the Springs by the time this letter gets there if so I nor Lewis dont need any clothing at present; we are moving so often if we have much we would loose them; there is one thing I would like to have and that is a hat, but I fear they are not to be had in your country for they are not to be had here,, the shells keeps poping but tis most night now, the ball will soon close for today but I expect will open with renewed vigor in the morning there is a great deal of sickness in camp now mostly dysentery I have had it for three weeks but I think I am gitting better Lewis and John are well,
Ma while we weep we might rejoice for I believe that William is with Jesus and his angels Gold grant we all may meet him there, the next news may bring tidings of the death of another beloved son, if so may he die on the battle field I prefer dieing that way I am very sorry to hear that you are in bad health I must close tell Pa to write to me soon, I wrote to him a few days ago good bys Dear Mother

your affectionate and dutiful son
Jim Branscom

P. S. the boys may stay on the battle field all night if so I will have to go down soon in the morning to carry them something to eat