

[Transcribed on 8/6/2022]

February the 23d 1864

Dear Wife I take this opportunity to inform you that the paymaster is in Camp and is going to pay us two months pay tonight or in the morning and then I will send you sum money as soon as I can get a chance to Express it it has been so long since we drew our last pay that I have been obliged to get in debt sum so I cannot send you as much as I could if they had payed us as soon as it was due us tell our folkes that Charles is well tell Mother that Benjamin was down here today and made us a visset he is well he braught the likeness of his famely and Dorcas down to sho to Charles and me they looked very natureal

[2]

his Regiment has not been payed yet I think it is rather imoseing upon the soldiers to wate untill three or four days before there is four months pay their due and then slipin and turn them off with only two months pay but never mind there is a day a cuming when they will have a fineal settlement to make thanks be to good luck I have surved half of my time out and they cannot holde me over one year and a half longer whether the war closes or not the worst of

Soldiering is we are more slaves to  
Officers than to our Country  
the paymasters are makeing a great  
fortune out of the money that is  
put in their hands to pay off  
the poor Soldiers with if one  
paymaster only has one Brigade

[3]

to pay off he can work it to  
let out two months pay for the  
whole Brigade on intrist and fool  
us along by wateing untill just  
before there is four months pay our  
due and then slipin and pay us  
only two months pay the intrist  
on five thousand mens wages for  
two months pay for one year  
amounts to a big thing 26 dollars  
on every private and offisers from  
28 dollars to one thousand I haven  
time to Sipper it up to kno how  
much it would amount to but it  
is enough to make any man rich  
in three years time I doe not  
cair any thing about it on my  
oane acount but my famely needs  
my wages as fast as I can send  
it to them aspeshely this time  
of year when you have to buy hay  
and bread D Hall

[4]