

Ft Federal Hill  
July 1864

Dear Mother

I received your letter this morning and was right glad to get it. I wrote to Steve on last Sunday morning. And that afternoon I started to Washington as a guard to Strglers. [stragglers] They were picked up in Baltimore and sent in here. And we took them to Washington. It was not my turn to go but one of the men said he would sell his chance so I bought it for a small sum and went. When it comes my turn I will wait until they get up a squad to some other place. To day a squad went to Wilmington Del. And one to Harpers Ferry.

I would sooner go to Washington than any place I know of It would take too long to narrate what I saw. I was in the White House in the much talked of East room. Then through the treasury Dept. Patent office P.O. Smithsonian Institute Navy Yard & Capitol. Willie Phelps and I got a pass together and we saw everything of interest. George Phillip went to Wilmington Del. to day. The sun is very hot. Col Lowe came over to day and took command again.

I suppose I will have to ask you to send me \$10.00 As I expect to go to Ft Monroe or to Philadelphia as my turn will come next or very soon any how. My trip to Washington including everything was \$5.00 I got my money's worth. Perhaps I will get to go to New York. It is doubtful though as there are so few stragglers to go there and so many want it but I stand a good chance of going either there or to Ft Monroe or Harpers Ferry. You need not send my citizens clothes as I can go to places without them. Bedbugs are plenty. I just caught one on me. We expect to get home in about a month from now. Some of the boys are looking forward to it even now. What is the matter with Ramsey that he could not pay his rent I guess he could not have had a very good crop. You can hear all the boys complaining about being deprived of fruit they miss that more than anything else. Well I guess I must quit as it is nearly supper time. Write soon.

From Your Son  
John