

H
July 31 1862

Dear Bella

I take the pleasure in writing these few lines to you informing you that I am in first rate health and I hope you are the same. Thanks be to God for all his kindness I wish you to know that it will be no trouble for you to draw your relief money after this I will send you money in letters without sending with Adams Express so no one will know any thing of it we are getting new clothes I got a Dress Coat pair of pants I have as much as I can carry we are looking for a fight every day it will come on perhaps before night we were under arms this morning before it was light it wont belong we are preparing for it and ready at a minutes notice we have a good place and a good chance here for battle but sum of us mist die I have escape so far and I may come out safe this time if God pleases so my dear wife pray for me and I pray my self Colonel Swewell is shot dead when taking a buggy ride one evening with a nother Gentleman and his Boy was killed at Redbank Alleghainy River below the Western Iron Works there came four letters to this Regt stating the fact of Swewell's ant I am sorry for you that you are homesick at Mercers when I read your letter I could not help to laugh but my Dear Bell thank