

(Something apparently happened in 1879. On this letter there is an arithmetic calculation subtracting 1865 from 1879 to get 14 years)

January the 2, 1865
Chapin Farm

My deare Wife,

Yours of the 28 came safe to hand Sunday and glad to hear that you was well. I am not well at present. I was taken last night vomitin and cold chills but I don't think it will last long.

We was 23 days on water and most of the time out sight of land, and no place to sleep; only on deck in all the storms. On the 21 of December the sea was very rough; so rough that we had to throw 7 horses overboard. A man could not stand on his feet.

We came back to camp Friday night last. I was glad to git back in camp. It has froze quite hard here and is cold. Saturday morning I got the box you sent me and all the trappins in it came in a good time for I felt as though I could eat a good meal. For dinner today I had a good cup of tea and berry.

We went to North Caroline and we land on the shore below Fort Fisher. About three miles from the fort the gun boat poured in the shells about 20 minutes. We shot off their flag staff. It fell on the fort and one of our boys went up and got it. It was a nice flag. Then we marched up to the fort in line of battle. The Johnny crawl in thare burn (proof). We took two 280 prisoners. I never saw such a poor loot (lot) of boys. They look as if they came out of a coal mine.

I want you to send me some postage stamps. Those that I have got wet and all stick together. Send me 12 stamps in your next. Write as soon as you can.

I want to give that auger to Jake Walker. It belong to him. We will git paid off this month and then I will send it to you.

Just as soon as they pay me off I will send it to you. Write as often as you can. I will write more some other time. Be sure and return that auger.

James L. Christman