

yes by Friday  
last Mr. Mason's house  
in Winchester - you  
know about shades  
of the seat of air  
I procure several  
inserts paper I will  
send to you the first  
opportunity.

I intended  
to send the  
with today  
but started  
in too big a  
hurry  
and did  
not get to  
see him.  
He will be  
home perhaps  
before this  
reaches you  
and coal.

Shenandoah Va.  
April 6<sup>th</sup> 1862.

I intended to write  
you again before I left Winchester, but  
when I got up this morning I found  
left first at the hotel just going to  
start for the Reg. so for the sake of his  
company I packed up immediately and  
came along with him - he belongs to Co.  
and is the man went through Cambridge  
last Monday night. I was tired staying  
in Winchester at 200 per day with nothing  
to eat - so I started with him on foot to  
bring myself in, intending if gave out to  
get into an army wagon, with which  
the road is full, and go back - but we  
had it soon far till we were overtaken  
by a hay-wagon and got on - rode till  
we got tired and then walked awhile,  
at noon stopped in a little town on the  
road.

road for dinner - seeing hotels open I  
looked around - saw a little house by  
the side of the street - took Capt. Heist's  
I'd bet we could get dinner there - went  
to the door - found two old people, very  
nice looking poor people - asked for dinner  
in about 15 minutes - sat down to the  
best dinner since I have left home.  
I ate heartily - for which we paid 50  
cents a piece - the old lady was tickled  
mightily with our generosity - saying the  
soldiers were not in the habit of paying  
any thing - they proved to be miners here.  
we got on here middle of afternoon and  
concluded to stay all night again and  
rest - I feel first-rate after my travel  
I walked about 8 miles, there are plenty  
of troops here - I met one Genl. from Ill.  
with I scraped a relationship - but it  
was very remote - I have also just been  
talking with a Md. Capt. who is personally  
acquainted with your uncle - Mr. <sup>Daniel</sup> Vance  
in Marshall's office - he speaks very highly of

him - of course I told him of my dear wife  
my trip thus far has been very fine - I  
have had splendid weather ever since I  
left home. Cherry went with Bee's Abbott  
home yesterday he is decease - like any  
body else in this country - but harmless  
now that the scepter is passing away from  
them - One Reg. is about 12 miles steep  
above here. The road is guarded very  
strong all along - we see little else now  
but blue coats. The decease uniform is  
a light drab - coarse and ugly as usual.  
The country along here is very fine and rich  
the valley is about 15 or 20 miles wide  
high mountains on each side, splendid  
farm house - full of niggers. Winchester is  
chuck full of Darkies - of all shades, you  
can hardly tell when the line of demarcation  
is - I wrote you the next morning after we  
got to Winchester, I do hope you have got  
it, dear, our pay master is within the  
lines paying off the Regiments - I will get  
18 oars before they are paid. I had

hoped to meet with our sister, or  
get some money to send you before  
this - but will have to await till  
Friday. as I learn that the sister  
and all the Reg - are straggled. so  
dear you must try and get along as  
well as you can till I can get it  
to send, which I hope won't be many  
days - I am a little tired, dear Rhoda  
and my good wife will have to excuse  
this hasty, short and uninteresting letter  
as I stand by the counter in all old  
bar room crowded with soldiers,  
talking all around me - but they don't  
bother me much after all for my thoughts  
are with you and the rest of its loved  
ones at home - and my trust in that  
Higher power which you, dear wife,  
have so often wished me to, and who I trust  
will take care of me and you and ours.  
Now my dear I will go to bed, I think I  
will enjoy my sleep well after my walk.  
The mail facilities are so poor I fear  
you won't get my letters any promptly - but  
I will strive writ frequently. Truly & affectionately  
yours Milton B.