

Hd Qus 47 Pa

Summit Point, Va

April 17, 1865

Dear friends,

Your favor of the 8th inst. was received a few days ago. I was very glad to hear from you again and to learn of your continued health. I hope Abbie may soon recover again and enjoy good health. We here are in excellent health but terribly excited. The murder of President Lincoln has aroused the army to a pitch hitherto unknown. The desire for vengeance pervades every rank and class and this not only applies to Rebels but Northern Copperheads as well to whose nefarious teachings this diabolical outrage is attributed to. Such a villainous, cowardly deed has no parallel since the days of Henry the fourth of France. We want no more surrenders now but to fight it out until no vestige of such a race of miserable scoundrels disgrace God's earth. Hell's deepest recesses contain better men than these conspirators against Freedom and Freedom's representative. I cannot describe to you the effect the news had upon the Army. Hardy, sunburnt faces accustomed to peril in every form turned pale - teeth were clenched and tears started from eyes to which they had been strangers for years. Vengeance deep, dire and terrible is the cry of all, and it seems to me as if each man grasps his rifle more firmly while the gleam of his countenance betokens anything but mercy to the perpetrators of this murder or their abettors. God's curses rest upon them all.

The surrender of all the forces in Virginia leaves us lying here without any object. Some of our Regiments have been sent around to [unreadable] places. I don't suppose we will have any more fighting to do here unless a little with guerillas and we will soon clear them out. As soon as I am satisfied the war is over I will come home, I think. Unless there is some fighting to do I get restless somehow.

The weather has been rough but is improving. The nights are pretty cold but today is fine. Love to Grandmother and all friends. Write soon.

Yours,

J. P. Shindel Gobin