July the 10th 1862
Harrisons Landing
James River near Richmond

Dear Father and Mother,

I took myself this morning to answer your letter which came to hand yesterday. 

You may have heard of the 4th of July ride at Oakland

I found me in good health and in a letter from you some days ago said I hope you got it. 

The letter that you got and came to Fortress Monroe and from there went to 

James River to Harrisons Landing got off and came 5 miles towards Richmond 

and are within 18 miles of Richmond where there has been skirmishing nearly every day. 

We came here until yesterday and to-day there hasn't any Rebels to be seen. It is reported that they have gone back to Richmond for they were afraid and as word came in on the other side the distance from here to the mouth of James River is 70 miles and from Fortress Monroe to Alexandria is 180 miles. 

I think from this home is about 100 miles. 

[Signature]
You need not be uneasy about me deserting. But there is one thing I am afraid the slave questions had to much to do with the cause, but when ever they want us union soldiers to fill the gaps we will gladly lay down our arms and give up the ghost. I would then consider it anew to not do so, but I hope that question will never come up before us but for me deserting you need not fear that I am glad that my dear Uncle arrived safe home, I was glad to hear from my uncle uncle Hill took sick the day we left Raleigh and was left at the hospital. John hardy is well the weather here is about as warm as it is in Preston. I hope that Mr. and Mrs. Colen's is getting along fine I should be happy to see all my friends again and I believe I will it seems to me that I will live to see this war ended and will come back to old Preston County again. I hear that the Company at Oaklands think they have very hard times from the fact they have so much sending to do, but I tell you they know
Nothing about Soldiering if they had to march all day in the summer time with their Kilopocks on their back and at night whether it rains or dry just take your blanket and lay down on the ground to sleep that are heavy done around at night but in hand Disheartening us any yet we are yet willing to fight for the union and will fight for it so long as the Cause is union and I hope the good lord will protect us in every good deed and preserve our lives things this warfare I hear cursing and swearing every day but nevertheless it don't induce me to swear in the least and Caras is thing I never did play nor never will now you may rest assured of that as my paper is going short I must close So nenow & Present & I am your son

William E. Jeffers

Amos and Elisabeth Jeffers