[23 March 1862]

Dear Mother Pape,

There is one thing that I almost forgot and the most important, and that is the Officers say we will get paid Monday and that is to Monday March 24th, 1862, P.S. And then I will send it all to you but I forget P.S. And Charlemil got sick at the same time Mother when you go to New York don't you go around in the city alone and will you if you do I shall worry my self to pieces you tell me in your next letter if you won't have some one go with you because you will get lost have some one go with you don't forget.
Mother answer this letter as soon as you get it and tell me every thing in your next letter. I have asked you in this and I will Write to you again Thursday and you will get it Saturday go to the Post Office New Brother. I have sent you a Paper it was good Paper when you go then enquire for it. What Letter and Paper go from here at the same time so when you get this you ask for the Paper. Don't forget to Write. S. C. Allen.
First Letter

April 2nd, 1862

Dear Mother, & Sister & Carrie,

I am well and hope you all are the same. Dear Mother, I don't know what camp this is but I am at either Shirley, Pence or New York. Know about you. Under new home we left Washington about last Sunday and reached Alexandria, Virginia about 10 o'clock in the morning and stayed there the next day and started away from there Sunday afternoon about dusk further you must know that we don't live by day down here because we don't want any of the citizens see our or any service done by night.
we are within two miles of rebel works we are 12 miles from fort buff and are the rebels have got that we were are 28 miles from fort Poc Tann and 5 miles from Great Bethel we only got here to day where we are encamped rundom speaking when i ne was coming this here we got on the wrong line road and was within sound of the rebel camp and the other officers were found that we had got nere the enemy Road and he they came up in great heat and told our blood and where we was and he agan was scared so that he live and red white he did not tell us of the mistake
Another I saw one of the greatest sights last night that I ever saw or ever expected to see and I hope that I never will see again. As we were marching last night we passed through the city of Hampton, Virginia and the rebels before they left it burned every house to ashes the most of the houses were built of brick and it was laid at the head of the road they blockaded the road by driving large posts in the ground and then throwing log ten feet deep then the dirt threw up against