

Boston Mass
April 23 1864

My dear Mrs Harris -

I was delighted to receive your very kind note of April 17th with those very acceptable Photographs of your dear Husband & Mr Colston, and will hasten to reply - in the first ^{place} will say your Husbands is very good, but not as good looking as he is, Mr Colston is very perfect - I thank you very much for them they shall occupy a nice place in my Album - I wish I could have seen Mr Harris while at home - and I do not blame you one might for feeling so sad to have him go again into the service I think the "Soldiers wives" generally have ~~endured~~ ^{endured} their three years separation bravely and it is a cruel thing that the war must continue - I do hope our Regt may be as mercifully preserved as they have been in the previous campaign - I wanted to go with them, and had a summons and urgent request from Col Bell to return mercifully preserved as they have been in the previous campaign - I wanted to go

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with them, and had a summons and
urgent request from Col Bell to return
with them, made my arrangements and

operations accordingly but a few days before they were to start an order was issued that no Mutations were allowed in the field and I could not be with my Regt - I did not care to go into a General Hospital and consequently did not go at all but I would willingly have gone and done them all the good I could I am quite sure it would have been the voice of the Regt to have had me with them They were all good and respectful to me always, God Bless & preserve them -

Mr Harris will recollect of my speaking oftentimes of a dear Brother who has been some years at the South and when the rebellion commenced could not get away but after trying every means in his power succeeded at last in escaping by running the blockade and came to us last November a few weeks of such rest & joy as we had only ourselves known when he was stricken with Malaria fever and hemorrhage of the bowels and after most intense suffering ^{of three weeks} passed away never more to return - Our anxiety for him while he was at the South was so great that we never thought that if he came to us he could die, "But God ways are not our ways" and we must submit but it does seem that we are ^{was} so great that we never thought that if he came to us he could die "But God

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taken
of our family
thirteen dear members near & dear within
the short space of 7 years

I think it must have been very hard
for the Soldiers to have you back after
their visit home and I think they are
homesick now -

When I decided not to go into Hospital
again I ~~decided~~ ^{accepted} the situation I have now
been as saleswoman in "S. N. Gaults Store
474 Washington St" - have been here
three weeks and like my business much

Mr Harris will recollect I used to have
the Chills & fever while at Beaufort, well
I have them yet at regular intervals
and they make me suffer much I tell
you - and as I am having a Chill today
you will excuse this disjointed epistle
for I feel quite ill - I want to tell you

Mrs Harris that you do not seem a
stranger to me for your husband used
to talk so much of you and the dear
Babe that I am acquainted, and hope
to have a speaking acquaintance yet

I would like very much to have your
Photograph to put in my Album beside
your husband I shall write to Mr
Harris soon and I would be happy
to hear from you often - will always
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taken thirteen dear Members of our family near & dear within the short space of 7 years

I think it must have been very hard for the Soldiers to have gone back after their visit home and I think they are homesick now -

When I decided not to go into Hospital again I ~~decide~~ ^{accepted} the situation I have now here as saleswoman in "S.N. Gauts Store 474 Washington St" - have been here three weeks and like my business much

Mr Harris will recolect I used to have the Chills & fever while at Beaufort, [well*] I have them yet at regular intervals and they make me suffer much I tell you - and as I am having a Chill today you will excuse this disjointed epistle for I feel quite ill - I want to tell you Mrs Harris that you do not seem a stranger to me for your Husband used to talk so much of you and the dear babes that I am acquainted, and hope to have a speaking acquaintance yet

I would like very much to have your Photograph to put in my Album beside your Husband I shall write to Mr Harris soon and I would be happy to hear from you often - will always answer at the earliest opportunity

Transcription:

I had a visit from Mr & Mrs Haynes while he was at home - Perhaps you know he has not reenlisted again consequently he will be at home next Sept if he lives

I am sorry that your health is ~~able~~ feeble for I know you cannot bear as much as though you were strong but you must lean firm on the "Almighty Arm" and rest all your sorrows and weakness there - you are never forsaken or alone - but will be cared for tenderly though you are smitten

I hope the term of service will expire much sooner than they have enlisted for and all be made happy again Be assured My dear Mrs Harris I shall ever remember you and family & especially your Husband for his kindness & respect, ^{to me} and all the regiment I shall ever respect for their goodness - when I began this I did not expect to write as much but you will pardon - Please tell Mr Harris when you write that I calculated and expected to have gone back but for the new order issued - Hope to hear from you soon
J A Sawyer (Boston)
G N Gauts 474 Washington St