

Grundy Buchan [sic] County Va

July the 16<sup>th</sup> 1861.  
Miss Jane Ratliff

My dear and most affectionate lover I seat myself this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the same notion that I was when I left you. I intend if ever I am lucky enough to get back alive you will be my wife if you are willing. Dear Jinnia I hated to start and leave you verry [sic] badly but you know that we was all compelled to go. I tell you my dear Jinnia that it was worse than death for me to leave you but it had to be done. Dear Jinnia you may think I am trying to flatter you but god knows that I love you better than all others on earth. Oh Jinnia I love you more than life more than happiness and may the god of heaven bless and protect you till I return and if I never return I want you to do the best you can so forget me not forget me never till younders [sic] sun shal [sic] rise and set forever. I will rite [sic] again soon if I live. Tell your mother farewell. Tell her if I never se [sic] her on earth any more I hope to meet her in heaven when we shall never part. Farewell my dear Jane till I se [sic] you again Jane Ratliff I want to meet you in heaven.

George Ward