

April 9<sup>th</sup> 162  
Camp near Lees Mills  
Virginia

Mother

I'm other of yours  
welcome letters come to hand  
last night it found me as  
usual you say you have not  
heard from me in these weeks  
it is rather hard but I think  
I am not to blame for I mailed  
a letter to you the first I  
was at Newport they are  
15 miles up the James river  
two miles from the Rebels  
Forts at Lees Mills I was with  
in half a mile of those Forts  
yesterday or picked them  
is a large body of them & they  
are strongly fortified for  
seven miles in extent from