Camp 11th Ohio Infantry
near Hokeville Rd.
March 21st 1863

Dear Sarah,

I left Washington on Tuesday morning at 9a.m.
and arrived at Calhoun, Ga. about 2 o'clock. There I
got a horse and rode to the Camp of the 11th Infantry
where I found everything very much as I anticipated
before I left home.

Think if every thing was a God forsaken place, this
must be the one, being right on the wilderness as
we are and no troops (except patrols) stationed within
four miles of us.
Think if I was ever inclined to be homesick I have reason to be now.

Think dear Sarah, it was treated not kindly at home, which adds much perhaps to the gloominess of the place.

Had you given me a blanket, and made me sleep upon the floor, I would not have felt the change so severely, but shall soon get accustomed to the soft side of a pine board. Although it seemed as if it had grown harder among my absence the first night in camp I caught a severe cold which has given me a slight cough of the Rheumatism but it will not last long.

I am inclined to think we got the blues (Don't think it is anything more) and I think they were brought on by going home, for I can hardly keep from thinking how pleasantly times passed, and my comparing it with Camp life in a gloomy place like this, it's no wonder that I have the rheumatism.

I have your picture open before me, and I'll give you my dear Sarah, although I cannot speak yet I like great pleasure in looking at it. It is a comfort to know I have at least one friend outside of family connections who is true and loyal.
One to whom I can entrust my heart's fondest wishes
and feel that they are safe as with myself.

Yes, dear Sarah, I have no reason to regret coming home, except to be that I seemingly lost about two weeks of my life, which I shall charge to your account for it does not seem as if I was at home more than a week whereas it was three, and three weeks of enjoyment passed off so quickly that it seems quite as much like a dream as it does like a reality.

I have often asked myself the question and now I ask you. Cannot we be as happy through life?
Now I will tell you what we are doing in camp. The whole regiment was turned out today to police and arrange the camp. We have been cutting the brush and building an adobe all around the camp for our protection. Also cutting away the brush to try and make it look a little more cheerful. I think we have made quite an improvement in our camp, but we have only began what will result in a very satisfactory manner if no unforeseen events take place. It will probably be a week before the camp will be completed, as we want to see it.
We are all looking forward anxiously to see how this army of the Potomac is to be reorganized, and to learn what is to be done with the 14th. Probably we shall know by the 1st of May.

Remember me to all your friends and write soon.

Affectionately,

[Signature]

Emma.