Victoria Texas Oct 13th 1868

Dear Mother and family,

It is again with the greatest of pleasure that I feel myself to write you all a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am well and hearty as there was in my life and live in hopes that if those few lines ever come to your hands that they may find you all in the same state of health. I received a letter from home on last Friday and I was glad to hear that you were all well. It was dated Sept 10th it was 33 days on the way the sad news came to John Mr. Dew this morning announcing the death of Rollie. I was so sorry to hear of it but it is a debt that we all owe and will have to pay sooner or later but it is a consolation to die at home no what it is in the army but Mrs. Chen why John got the letter she is getting well.
well I must tell you about the election in 
our regiment-it came off on the 15th of this mo-
well you all as well as myself have heard how 
the soldiers have no vote well the commissioners 
came here and the brought but one kind of 
tickets with him-they were Republican to be 
sure. The Capt was ordered to have the men 
to vote well says the Major it is a one sided 
affair there is but one kind of tickets there 
and if the men want to vote they can do 
well some of the boys got to gather and elected 
3 judges and 2 clerks and went to work 
The democrat boys would not vote because 
they did not bring tickets if the thing 
had been done right it would have been equal 
The captain told me no write out some 
Democrat tickets I wrote two or three and 
I handed one to a fellow and he slapped 
it in as the election closed 10 Republican 
+ 1 democrat let me tell you that if this 
had been tickets printed and gave to 
the boys you would of seen how they 
would of voted
I have been in Uncle Sam's service 8 months this day, and she has not made me change my opinion on politics yet, and I am still as white as ever in principal, but a little sunburnt in the face. I have got a satisfaction about the way the soldiers get to vote. There are negro troops around here. The citizens say they want my white troops to stay until the negroes are all unarmed. For they say that they cannot trust a negro. They are quite mean, they want to get rid of them. Day before yesterday I was talking to an old man on this subject, and he said for his part that he was tired of them and was advising them to go North. I told him that we would kill them if they would come up here. Mother I must tell you that I heard one of your kind of preaching the other day, arguing with a Presbyterian. Let me tell you he proved things clearly more so than I ever heard in all my life. Let me tell you that he could find Scripture to prove this doctrine.
he was to preach to-day 3 miles from here.
I would of liked to hear to him. he was a
going to preach on baptism. I could
listen to a man like him all day he
preaches sound doctrine and no one
can deny it with out they deny the
word of God he argued on baptism.
and proved it out by scripture. he says
that the man or woman that is not baptized
in the way that it is set down before them
is not worthy to eat and drink of his meat
he is constantly baptizing presbyterian.
methodist and sinners. I know that
you would like to hear him.
our Colonel came back this week he
says that we will be at home by christmas
he was at home in Pittsburg. I think so
my self. i am the firm to day I will be
a free man again that will be to
the end of these thing we are.

close my love to all. so remaine
your son until death. from

John J. Duncan

May 17th 1863

Victoria Setae

tell Sony that I keep that 3 cent piece
that he sent me auntie yesterday and that I
bought a pair of socks for my daughter with it.