Camp 17th U.S. Infy
near Cottara, Ga. 

January 13th 1864

Dear Sarah

I almost see poverty looking me in the face, for I shall feel poor indeed when my most paper is gone, and this is my last sheet, or really the last whole sheet I have in the world. I'm in hopes that Uncle Samuel will do a little something for me in that line pretty soon. Have worked very hard both night and day for the past week, and have got every thing in any of
Reports & Returns for 1869 off my hands now I feel something like a free man. They had been sadly neglected by previous officers I have about given up the idea of getting a Leave of Absence Col. Greene has gone and Capt. Pease who now Commands will leave in a few days, then this Command will be turned over to one and it will be impossible for one to get away it will be a responsible position but not burled with labor so I think I will live through it at least there is nothing left one but to try my hand & wait the result
We have six small companies here and are
out on the Rail-road about
1 mile distant guarding
a bridge that has been
blown up by Guerrillas
several times.

We are surrounded by
the Guerrillas and have

To keep a sharp lookout

Three of our officers
went out side of our lines
To Cattite house a few
Days ago and the arrived
there in a friendly way To
return, saying he wished
they might remain in safety
but thought it was dangerous.
He comes to Camp every
Day or nearly every Day.

The house is about one
half mile distant, in plain sight.
Before the War he was very rich and aristocratic. Now poor as poverty. You cannot possibly judge how some of those people have suffered and do suffer still.

The poorest person in Hillsborough is far better off than they. Cotton people seem very strong Union, but it is quite hard to decide who is, and who is not Union, in these times. It is very comfortable here now, but we have had some extremely cold days, yet I have not been uncomfortable.

Have you had opportunity to try these skillets yet? If so write what success.
Wish I could come and give instruction, that is if I thought you needed. Don’t think I will have much good of mine this winter, but will help them stored for future use.

Geo. Robbins came to see me yesterday but did not stop long enough for me to mention Rif Green.

Dear Sarah, I was invited out this evening and have just returned. Thought before writing I would close my letter for tomorrow’s mail.

We are having as good times as could be expected; although very much confined as we are not allowed to leave camp except upon special occasions.