

Camp Vance Hamilton
March 14, 1863

Dear Friend,

Your kind letter came to hand in due time I was greatly delighted to hear from yo & Mrs C. The Book has not yet come but have no doubt it will come in a few days Thereby increasing my obligation & gratitude to you , my ever steadfast friend.

You ask information which I forbore to give, ie home matters The Yank's have mad sad, sad work there & complete destruction of almost everything. The furniture, The Buffs (Pg 2) have in great measure divided among themselves. Mr Warren Ambrose it is said, has furnished his house to a most extravagant sate. They have taken away all the horses, mules, cattle, hogs, & sheep except very few. Mr Eli Woodley is from whom all any information is derived, says there is one bay mare left. Bartholomew the Yankee commander went there a short time since & told the negroes they were free & could do as they pleased & that Spruill had no more authority (Pg 3) over them. Thereupon they all refused to do any thing except he should hire them for example, the miller refused to attend the mill unless Spruill should pay him seventeen dollars per month, he refused & the mill was stopped in consequence. It appears that an abundance of corn has been left for the support of the negroes. There, the "yanks" have had three hog killing days down there, taking the greater part of the pork themselves Many of the Country people have (Pg 4) supplied themselves with corn from your plantation & several of the young horses have not gone far from home. The whole place according to the account I heave just received presents a melancholy scene, the house maliciously abused. The garden once so beautiful torn & trampled down, Everything changed; The libraries were carted away to Plymouth & from thence Transferred to Yankee town. Spruill still issues rations to the women & children. This meagre account is the best I can get.

Yours Truly

Girard W. Phelps\

This account is from Eli Woodley who is just from up Country.

Therefore is named fort _____Branch There are no obstructions in the river. The passage is open Remember me to Mrs Collins.