

Home July 6th 1864

Oh my darling

What a time we've
had these days - Monday night I
went down to the office with Sadie
Gofland who I met on the way, I got
no letter but as we came up we
met the old Col at Noble's corner.
He said "well Rhoda did you get
no letter" - I said "no" - then he said
so feelingly "Barnes is wounded!"
I felt as if I was turned to stone -
I said "where - how" is ^{he} in Rebel hands?
He said the paper gave no particu-
lars but he thought you were with
your own men, he said go home
& see your paper - he and Sadie came
up to the next corner - & then I
came on home - Oh Mother I cannot

tell you how I felt. I feared it was
worse than he told me - when I
reached home I found the boy had
brought the paper - Mother said
Will Rhoda we've got some bad
news - I said oh what does it
say - She said your name was
under the list of "Severely wound-
ed" - that was our first news of Uncle
Joe & it made us more fearful -
Meliss had come up as soon as
she heard it & Mrs Thomsen &
Meland - they seemed very kind -
I was so sick every few minutes
that Mrs T. said we'd better not
stay alone so she sent old Sarah
up - I was glad even of her -

I got a little kind of wakeful
sleep & the excitement was worn
off a little in the morning - but
spent a day of dreadful suspense -
almost fearing to hear the news
in the evening - I made no pro-

vision - I no one knew how I was
suffering - Mary Allison came
up that morning, and after ex-
pressing a few words of pretended
sympathy - gave me a harangue
about Meliss & Jim - Oh my dear
how hard it was for me at that
time to have to listen - when all my
thoughts were far away - long-
ing to know of my poor suffering husband -
How unrefined some folks are
in their feelings - Mrs McCrack-
in & Nell Reed came in the eve-
ning & staid until I got the
glorious good news in your own
dear hand writing that you
were doing so well - they seemed
like friends - Mother still says
that you were too much excited
then to know how badly you felt -
We were both disappointed that
you thought you wouldn't get
home - Oh come anyway darling

if can possibly get off - take
some rest - wont you dear.
Oh if I could only be with you -
I felt jealous of the Major's good
fortune when Annie brought one
of your letters & one of his from Wash-
ville - saying he'd be home all
Summer & fall - Well! well! I
dare not complain when you've been
so kindly spared to me - Let us
try to be thankful - Sue Burslan
came in last evening - & I did 'not
get this finished for the mail - &
now I am in such a hurry to take
it down this evening (Thursday)
that I can't write half what I
want - I'll try to write to your folks tomorrow
The old Col. complimented your bravery
very much - I will tell you again
more particulars how folks did
& said & who seemed anxious next
time I write - Sergeant Potter called
to see us - I was sorry I had not had
a letter to send by him, he seems like
a nice little fellow - I tell you more about
his call next time - Good bye darling
I hope to hear from you to write again