

Lt. Colonel William Henry Chapman Society

Greensboro, N.C.

War Dept. Richmond Va

Jan 9th 1865

My Darling Wife

This the commencement of our correspondence. Few can say so much of so little as you dear wife to style it, after being married twelve months; but I am glad it was not necessary and would be more happy now if we could communicate our thought face to face than by letter, but since by letter is so much better than not at all, then let us be content with our lot. We arrived here on Saturday night, spent two night at C. C. H. very pleasantly at Miss Jones'. We had in our party Meres. Phil Smith and Shipley and Lt Thompson and Taliaferro. All gay and happy at the prospect of spending a short furlough in Richmond. I am now writing in the office of Mr. Chapman¹ Disbursing Office of the War Dept. who is a relative and is very kind to me. I just had an interview with the Sect. Of War, his office is so crowded that I had only a few minutes conversation with him he was very courteous. It is now 1 o'clock and at three I'll start for Petersburg to Gen. Lees Hd. Qts. I have often wished that you were here with me though I cannot say that there is any particular attraction for stranger, here now Misses A and F Lucan are here I call to see them last night with the Mosby delegation they were glad to see us went to hear Rev Wm Minesgrove (MiniGrode)². They are on their way to Brunswick³ will start tomorrow morning. The Gent who is to take this letter will meet me at the Shotswood (Spotswood) Hotel at two o'clock so I cannot write all I wish to. I sent for the ---- --- will not get there before Wednesday and will send to you as soon as possible. I have had an invitation extended to me to a large party given by Miss Crenshaw on Thursday night, do not know whether I will stay or not. I will write as soon as I return from Gen Lees Hd. Qts. Give my love to your Ma, mother and Uncle John. I which I had not been so hurried but the gent just told me that he would start in an hour and I have disturbed while writing. Now my darling remember to write me everything. I know you will write every opportunity. Once more give my love to all, and reserving a large share for yourself.

Your devoted husband

W. H. Chapman

I call to see Mr. Foote but he left the city about three weeks W.H.C.

- 1 Peter Brown was able to locate an Alfred Chapman, who was a Disbursing Clerk, War Department, on 10-8-64.
- 2 Minesgrove or MiniGrode was Minister of a Church near the Capital
- 3 Brunswick is a county about 50-60 miles southwest of Richmond.