

The logo for the Chattanooga History Center, featuring the words "CHATTANOOGA HISTORY CENTER" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font on an orange rectangular background.

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2015.049.024 transcription

2015.049.024(1)

Chattanooga, Tenn

Jany 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Dearest Mattie,

Your kind favor of the 22<sup>nd</sup> came to hand yesterday and I can assure you it was a welcome visitor, this is New Years day and it has been a cold disagreeable day it has been the coldest day we have had this winter and I believe that it is colder than any day we had last winter.

I have not been out of my tent but two or three times to day and I came near freezing every time I went out I am in hopes dear that by this night one month from now I may be at your house either in furlough or else be there for good I will either apply for a leave of absence or else I will offer my resignation in next week after the coming one I do not know which but I expect I will apply

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for a leave of absence.

and I think they might Grant me it for I have been in the service now for near two years and a half and have never asked them for a days leave yet Capt. Waller Just rec'd his leave for Twenty days this morning and Starts for home tomorrow and I am going to try and be ready to start for home as soon as he comes back.

I am in hopes dear that you had the pleasure of going to the city on Christmas and that you enjoyed yourself. I wish that I could have been there to have went with you but circumstances were so that I could not .well Dear Mattie I wish that this war was over so that when I come home dear we could be married as we have never Set any time for being married yet it would probably be better for us to set sometime So we could both be preparing for it. Dear I will leave it to you to set the time if you say this Spring I am willing if you say this Summer I am willing if you say next fall I am willing but I

think it would not do to put it off any longer than fall plus tell me when you answer this letter. what time will suit you the best.

I am in hopes dear that when I come home it will be to remain there but I expect if I come it will only be for a Short time.

There is no news here at all and it is so cold that I can hardly write so I will close for the foresent (?) give my love to all and believe me dear Mattie as ever your truly devoted and affectionate

John H D

P.S. I rec'd the cedar and Dear Mattie I can Sey in return that I live only for the [thee] and no one else.

Your truly devoted

John

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I soiled my paper here a little I must excuse it as I have the letter finished

JHD