Camp of the 20th New York Vol. in the trench near Petersburg, Va.
July 17th 1863
My Dear Sister,

I read your kind letter of the 4th and was so happy to hear from you my health is good at present and I hope that these few lines will find you the same. The weather is very warm here at present the rebels and our boys have a terribly devil of a morn they had yesterday morning that wonder two out of 60 I one with a solid shot and the other with shell. I have read five dollars in all you wanted to know if I wanted you to hear in this place I don't. I should like to have a home where you can send one we have advanced our lines some ten or fifteen rods these last now pitched fire
in front of us hear every thing is quiet hear this morning I should like to be at home this summer but if God spare my life it won't be long Helen tel Mathew and the rest of the women that if they haveanything to give the sick and wounded soldiers to give it to them in person not give it to the Sanitary Corp for the needy don't get it where they send it to the boys in the field they don't get it the Officers help themselves to what they want and the soldiers get the rest if there is any to get Helen I suppose that you have seen in the papers what a sort of jubilee dinner we got I will let you what we got for 27 men one can of Chickin one of Tomatoes seven Cucumbers pickles and can of Milk for the bowl there was aough to sent to us but
We don't get what is sent to us Helen give my love to all inquiring friends have wrote all that think of at present give my love to little Faith and tell her to remember Yet Helen Peter is all right so I must close for this time

So good by from your Brother Sylvester P

Mrs. Helen M. Baker
Bingham, Maine