

Easton Feb 14 1863

My Dear Daughter

As I have an opportunity I cannot think of letting it pass without writing a few lines knowing you are allways anxious to hear from home, we have had quite an excited time in the last few days the yankees have been to Weathersville two Regiments of Infantry land from a steamer at Dr Smiths last Friday on a stealing expedition they remained untill the next day two o'clock they have rob Dr Smith of every thing except two old negroes who are a dead expence Mrs Smith give all of her silver plate and Jewelry to one of her trusty servants to take care of as soon as they landed she give it to them and went with them they left Mrs Smith three peices of meat. one horse that day week they had lost their only skills they carried Dr Smith away with them I ~~deeply~~ feel for Mrs Smith away from all of her friends they went to Sack Brents took all of his horses and raw cotton, to Capt Harding got eight horses all of his pork seven men all the raw cotton they sent three old horses back to him they told Capt Harding they had a warrant <sup>to arrest</sup> for him but seeing his helpless condition if he would take the oath or give his word not to leave his house they would parole him he told the wretches he would do nothing the kind he was in



their power and they would have to take him if some farther talk they  
<sup>left</sup> him Mrs Lallie Bayre lost four servants they went in search of Coln  
blayhook but did not get him took good many horses and mules from  
him they got ~~Tout~~ Cox put him on a mule without a saddle  
we had been looking for the yankee cavalry for several days they  
have not come yet we are still look for them they are in Westmore  
land stealing all the horses they can lay their hands on they have taken  
Mr Atwell fine carriage horses and two young horses from your  
uncle William he sent his other horses down to your Pa to take care of  
I think they are in a great danger here, tell ginnie the yankees went  
to her Ma but did not disturb any thing they got all of Mr John  
D Betts horses they were hid in the woods the yankees call'd up the  
hosler and put a pistol to his head and told him if he did not show them  
where the horses were they would kill him they also got Capt Betts  
horses your Brother carried prince with him I am very glad he is not  
here I should dislike for the yankees to get him the yankees to the  
people at Weathersville the were western men and gentlemen but  
when the cavalry come we might look out the were eastern men  
we have not heard from Maggie but once since she left Bettie  
send her love to you she did not say anything of writing to you Joe  
has not time to write to any one but Sanford my health is  
improving a little Miss Betsey is here making my soap I got one dollar  
per pound for my butter I want to get you a dress with the money  
if I can or <sup>if</sup> you prefer it I will send it to you it is twenty five  
dollars can you get a dress for that those of the servants are sick  
with colds I have not heard from your Brother since he left  
I spent the day at Mr Payne last week Mrs Payne and Annie

much love to you and ginnie too of the children were sick with  
colds Eddie wants to know if I am witen to his sis, it getting dark  
and I shall have to bring my badly written letter to a close you must  
excuse all mistakes good bye my dear dear Child may <sup>god</sup> watch over  
and take care of you write soon

your devoted mother

Harriell

Dear Billie

your Mother has left a space and  
said I must fill it up, as she has give  
you all the news as I expect, but do not think  
as she said I must not mad her sick & I  
have not as I am getting by her, you can  
- not expect me to write much, but just  
to tell you that I love you more than  
I ever did, and far that when you  
do come home shall complete what  
I have already nearly done, that is  
to completely spoil you, and you aff-  
- aid that I will, I hope the mail  
communication will soon be open when  
I shall write you Mr Davis, sincerely  
your Father E. Brown



**Broun, Harriet. Edwin and Harriet Broun to Bettie Broun,  
Northumberland County, VA, February 16, 1863.**

FileName: ua24-19\_cw1\_18630216

Handwritten letter from Harriet Broun to her daughter Bettie Broun. Northumberland County, Virginia. February 16, 1863. 1 page[s]. Also includes brief post script from her father, Edwin Broun. 3 pages on 4 sheets of paper.

**Subjects:**

American Civil War (1861-1865); Broun, Bettie Lee, 1846-1927; Broun, Edwin, 1819-1904; Broun, Harriet C. Johnson, 1824-1908; Personal correspondence; Pillage; Slavery; Virginia--Heathsville; Virginia--Northumberland County; Virginia--Petersburg;

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Easton Feb 16 1863

My Dear Daughter

As I have an opportunity I cannot think of letting it pass without a few lines knowing you are always anxious to hear from home, we have had quite an excited time in the last few days. The Yankees have been to Heathsville two regiments of infantry land from a steamer at Dr. Smith's last Friday in a stealing expedition. They remained until the next day two o'clock they have robbed Dr. Smith of everything except two old Negroes who are added expense. Mrs. Smith give all of her silver plate and jewelry to one of her trusty servants to take care of as soon as they landed she give it to them and went with them. They left Mrs. Smith three pieces of meat, one horse that day week they had lost their only child. They carried Dr. Smith a way with them I feel for Mrs. Smith away from all of her friends They went to Jack Brent's took all of his horses and raw cotton, to Capt. Harding got eight horses all of his pork seven men all the raw cotton they sent three old horses back to him. They told Capt. Harding they had a warrant to arrest him but seeing his helpless condition if he would take the oath or give his word not to leave his house they would parole him he told the wretches he would do nothing the kind he was in...

[pg.01]

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... their power and they would have to take him of some farther talk they left him. Mrs. Sallie Bayse lost four servants they went in search of John Claybook but did not get him took good many horses and mules from him. They got [Lou?] Cox [past?] him an a mule without a saddle we had been looking for. The Yankee calvary for several days [they?] have not come yet we are still look for them they are in Westmoreland stealing all the horses they can lay their hands on They have taken Mr. Atwell fine carriage horses and two young horses from your uncle William. He sent his other horses down to your Pa to take care of. I think they are in great danger here. Tell Ginnie the Yankees went to her Ma but did not disturb anything. They got all of Mr. John [D Betts?] homes they were hid in the woods. The Yankees called up the hostler and put a pistol to his head and told him if he did not show them where the horses were they would kill him. They also got Capt. Bett's horses your Brother carried Prince with him. I am very glad he is not here. I should dislike for the Yankees to get him. The Yankees to the people at Heathsville they were western men and gentlemen but when the calvary came we might look out thy were eastern men. We have not heard from Maggie but once since she left. Bettie send her love to you she did not say anything of writing to you. [She?] has not time to write to anyone but Landford. My health is improving a

little Miss Betsey is here making my soap. I got one dollar per pound for my butter. I want to get you a dress with the money if I can and if you prefer it I will sent it to you it is twenty five dollars can you get a dress for that [?]. Three of the servants are sick with colds. I have not heard from your Brother since he left. I spent the day at Mr. Payne last week. Mrs. Payne and Annie...

[pg.02]

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... much love to you and Ginnie too [if?] the children were sick with colds. Eddie wants to know if I am writing to his sissy. It is getting dark and I shall have to bring my badly written letter to a close. You must excuse all the mistakes. Good bye my dear dear child. May god watch over and take care of you. Write soon.

You devoted mother,

Harriet.

[Different Writing by Edwin Broun]

Dear Bettie,

Your mother has left a space and said I could fill it up as she has given you all the news as I expect. But do not [?] [?] she said I must not mail her letter & I have not as I am sitting by her. You cannot expect me to write [?] but just to tell you that I love you more than I and fear that when you do come home shall complete what I have a already nearly done. That is to completely spoil you and you [afraid?] that I will. I hope the [quite?] communication will serve [to?] [open?] [when?] I shall [write?] Mr. Davis.

Sincerely your Father E. Broun.

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##Notes [?] - Illegible or questionable words in transcription.

1. Heathsville, Virginia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heathsville,\\_Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heathsville,_Virginia)
2. Easton: Local place name? "Easton Farm"? Family Cemetery: 37.831151, -76.418461.