

Civil War, May 12, 1861
Ohio / Ky.

Branch Hill May 12 1861

Dear Cousin Dhebe

I received your letter just as I was leaving Munda for this place the 20 of April last. I read it while on the road & thought I would answer it as soon as convenient after arriving at my new home, but my mind was much occupied with duties present till the freshness of your much prized letter passed out of my mind & I measure, but not to be forever gone, not long since I was looking over my unanswered letters and found this of yours & ashamed of my negligence I resolved it should be the first answered of any. I found my Brothers family all I could wish, but the object of my coming was removed by death when I had been here but three months & sweet little babe six months old unknown to me died and my lap after but 13 hours illness, which was of great loss to me, I brought my little Walter with me which I found of great comfort to me, here among strangers. but that was not to last the 20 of March his Father came for him. I let him go as I

thought it best, but I feel lonely without him, hardly know how to remain here. I was home on a visit last September saw Uncle's folks. Jenny at her house sick in bed, had a good visit at home saw Lydia but not her garden. by the way hope I never shall. I don't like the name much less the person I fear. I think they told me at home Lydia's dates had gone to California please say when you write, give me the news generally of our relatives. for I do not wish to forget nor ^{be} forgotten. Give my very best respects to your Mother, trust Martha also. I entertain much respect for them. I visited Rochester, Niagara and other places upon my tour East had a desire to see you and your place but time was much limited on account of my nephew who was with Brother and myself. his school commenced ^{ing} the 13 of September. Have you any excitement of War in your place. its very exciting times here we have some twenty thousand men in camp but two miles from our house by Rail. I shall go to see them this week same time. there is much fear of

Cincinnati being burned by the Secessionists from the adjoining hills of Kentucky that ~~the~~ State has not seceded yet but they have a secessionist Governor, who takes pretty hard. I want to go to Penna this Summer to see Walter. would like to come down to your place and see all my relatives there but the times are too hard. I would like to see your brothers, have them write me.

Excuse this act of negligence of mine and write me soon, as I wish to hear from you all. My love to all, yourself the greatest share

M. S. DeCamp

Direct to Cincinnati
Ohio