

7-9-1863

## Letter from Thomas Kirby (Fort Gray, N.C.) to his aunt, Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, July 9, 1863

Thomas Kirby

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Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Fort Gray N.C.

Dear Aunt

I received your  
welcome letter last night  
and was glad to hear that  
you was all well this leaves  
me rather anxious I have  
been sick about three weeks  
but am in hopes I shall  
get along without another  
pullback I have been so I  
could not help myself at  
all but I can get around  
pretty well now Aunt I  
wrote to Helen a short  
time ago but have not  
heard from her yet I dont  
know whether she got it or  
not but I will write to  
all your folks whether it  
pleases them or not I dont care

Aunt I will bother you  
all as much as I can with  
my writing if you dont like it  
wede not eat quite so much  
of it Aunt you talk about  
your Strawberry shortcakes but  
what are they compard with  
our government bord we have  
hard bread and bacon and the  
bread is hard to you would  
not be able to brake it with  
a hammer and what is worse  
than all the rest it is full  
of worms but fresh meat scope  
is pretty fare eating when a  
fellow is drove to eat it I  
dont write this to complain  
of our fare for it is good  
enough for any man that  
is fool enough to risk his  
life for an negroe Aunt  
if I was a fighting for my



Country I would fight  
with good courage but this  
risking a white mans life  
for so free negroes is not  
what is cracked up to be  
in my opinion I would not  
loose one finger for all the  
negroes in the south I wish  
all negroe lovers had a chance  
to see how they would like  
them to stay with a while  
you may use one well and he  
will cut your Throte in a short  
time all the way you can get  
along with them is to knock  
one or two of their heads off  
with your gun and then they  
will kepe their distance I would  
as soone shoot one as a dog  
it is nothing strange to hear  
one call a souldier a sun  
of a bitch if one calls me that  
he dont live an hour

Aunt ab I write what I  
cant not to you must excuse  
me for I feel just about as  
bad as I write it looks hard  
to see a white man killed for  
the sake of a negro you may  
think it hard of me but when  
any one sees the hardships I have  
if it dont change there mind  
some I will grieve up that I  
am in the salt Aunt Tell  
Uncle Lancel I think I shall  
be able to stand to my post  
until my time is out I would  
rather be shot than be called  
a coward give me death before  
dishonor I am glad to hear that  
I have got a boy that can go in as  
good company as any of them he  
shall never be disgrast by me  
I would rather suffer death than  
see him harmed but I must close  
for this time give my love to all  
the friends I sent Sarah some  
money the other day not much  
but it will get a few things  
for her and the children & by  
write to your only nephew for this time

Thos Kirby

N.Y.

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Mr. Daniel Shew.

Peru. Clinton Co.

N.Y.

