

JUNIOR HISTORIANS

Equal Pay: J.H.H. Co. A. 54th

Transcript

Morris Island April 23^d 1864

Mr Abraham Linking Preasident of the U S of Amarica you will please Pairdon a humble Soldier for at tempting to addressing you on a subject that is so vitle to him self and thouse that he is assosoated with I now at tempt to seake [speak?] to you in a humble maner a few words in the be half of the fifty fourth Ridgment [regiment] of the Mass. volentures who inlised [enlisted] at Read ville mass. in the ~~you~~ year of eateen hundere & sixty thee for thirteen dollers and reashens and clothing the same as youther [other] ~~south~~ soldiers wair receaving it has bin more then forteen mounth sence som of ous have left our hom, to com out ~~and~~ to riesk our lives for the cause of freedom and the Preaservation of our beloved [country] this we don cherfulley that our cildreun & mite enjoy the blesings of a free [country] and this at a time when it was consederd all most a crim for a colaird man to be seane with a gun moutch more then be allowed him to fight side by sid with the white soldiers we have had a great meney dificulitis to sir monte that youthers have not had we have labered and fought and a great meney of our noumber have bin slane and youthers have bin mad helpis for Life and our ~~and~~ familieas have sufard but not with standing all that we air still com peled to fight and Laber on, witch we ar willing to do if we cold have our writes that wair Promised ous but i ned tell you the sufering our wifes and childreans ~~or~~ air o blidge to under go fur the want of the assistence of thir husbans and fathers we have had no money ~~to them~~ to help them with we came out heir for the purpos to help to free the Slaves for we saw that god wair a bout to open the prisen hous of boundage and let the oprest go free with thees Concider ration we came out ~~#~~ to fight but we mous look to our writs witch god have geaven to all man kind witch we love to[o] may the write tryump and for that we air dhe terment [determined] to labier for ~~or~~ with all of our hart, we

can not duw lest then stend for the write nor can we consider y our selfs contrabands we did not enli[s]t as souch we want to save our famleas from destresed [possibly "destruction"] by our ead [aid?] som way outh we nead our pay to get our childrin out of the pore house and to releav our famaley from want we humboly Preay you to consider our case and great [grant] y our our prar in the name of god and humanity that we may be able ~~thouze that~~ to as sis [assist] thouse we love this we homble pray god may save you and geave you power and be with you throw all of thouze [illegible word] triels that you air oblidge to go though and that may he subdue all of your enemis and Bring this our be loved [Country] through all its thertening and preasent calamitys may she com out of this great Stronger Britter and stronger then She ever was and my god greant that she may rest upon the ~~ret~~ rock Crist you who have don so mouch to kill the monster Slavery you have dun a g great huma[n]ity may god him self will re waird you pleas excuse these few lines no mor from a homble Soldier

J.H.H Co. A. 54th

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