A finely drawn ribbon decorates the outside of the small envelope. The address is written on the ribbon. It is postmarked 'Baltimore Md. Apr 7'. In the upper right hand corner is written " W B Clark, Staff 23 ???" The envelope is stamped " 3 due".

This letter was found at 27 Conant St., Beverly, by Bob Lovett, who owned the house after my Aunt Mabel and Uncle Fred.

Miss Sarah Putnam Newbern, N. C.
March 27 1862

Care of Dr. Wm. Saunders

??No. 5 Buffum St.

Salem Massachusetts

Soldiers Letter

Cousin Sarah,

It is not always the soldiers good fortune to possess a bottle of ink and where he is without it he is obliged to write his letters with a lead pencil. Such is the case with me at this time. Therefore knowing the circumstances, I feel assured that you will excuse the pencil marks and peruse this letter with as much satisfaction as if it was wrote with ink. Last night much to my surprise and gratification I received from my captain the package that you sent to me last Jan (June?) in the box sent to the Salem folks belonging to this reg't. I found every thing there that the letters mentioned and though small the bundle, I was much pleased with its contents. The cookies and the cake I shared with my tents crew and they all gave great praise to the cook and certainly she deserved it, for I can truly say that it is the best article in the shape of cake that I have eaten since leaving home. Those wristers which you sent I shall accept as a birth day present for I am seventeen years old the 30th day of this month and that is Sunday. As the weather is quite different here from what you imagined I shall not need the wristers but I will keep them safe in my knapsack in remembrance of your kind regards for me. Since my last letter to you which was from Roanoke Island we have made another successful move which you no doubt have been informed of through the press long before this. We landed about 15 miles below Newbern on the 13th of this month which was a wet nasty rainy day and we traveled until about 7 oclock at night through mud and water in many places up to our knees at that time we were about 10 miles from our landing and we turned in for the night upon wet grass in a piece of woods alongside of the railroad. After a sleepless night in the wet and cold, we again started on our way. And had gone about 2 miles when we unexpectedly received a shower of shot and shell from the enemy who were within a hundred and fifty yards of us concealed behind breast works and batteries over two miles long with thirty pieces of cannon in opperation against us, which kept up a continual roar

besides a body of Sharpshooters Infantry and Cavalry. The first brigade to which the Mafs 23rd belongs, at the first volley filed of to the left and engaged the enemy's right flank. In the first part of the engagement we lossed our respected and much loved Lieu't Col his loss is deeply felt by the whole Reg't and by order of Col. Kurtz the commissioned officers are to wear black crape on their arm for thirty days in honor of him. After about an hour and a half hard fighting our ammunition was beginning to give out and the order to charge was given. Our boys gave a tremendous cheer and dashed towards the earthworks. A hand to hand conflict of the most desperate character ensued. The enemy not liking the way that our boys handled their cold steel fled toward the city in terror and confusion. The rebels by means of the railroad which runs from Beaufort to Newbern carried off their dead and wounded to a safe distance beyond the city so that we might not know their loss, They were closely pursued by the Yankee boys. In their retreat they threw away nearly every thing and in order to escape they burned a handsome bridge over the Trent river and several buildings in the city. Our troops were thus obliged to cross the river in row boats. The city was almost entirely deserted by everyone but the negroes who welcomed our troops with great glee (.) After searching the city through and through and finding nothing out of the way we immediately took up our quarters in tents evacuated by the rebels upon a camp ground in the outskirts of the western part of the city. During the engagement at the battery I was aiding the wounded and so it kept me a running all over the battle ground. The greater part of the time I was near Burnside and saw him shoot his traitorous guide and I was not a half a dozen yards from him when a shell struck under his horse between his fore and hind legs. As it was a fuse shell it was extinguished by the mud and water into which it fell and which was in that place some two or three inches deep. If it had exploded Burnside in my opinion would have been no more and most likely I should have suffered from some of the broken pieces. As the night shrouded the earth in its veil of darkness it closed a day upon which a victory occurred, which will in future history be recorded as one of the great victories of the present war and due praise and honor will be given to the great and noble Burnside and the gallant troops under his command. I am obliged to close and in so doing I remain as ever your loving Cousin.

Cha's H Webber Drummer

(Give my love to all) Co. G. 23 Mafs Reg't V??