

# Transcription, Letter from John W. Geary To His Wife, Mary, 1865 Geary Family Papers, Collection 2062

*John White Geary (1813-1873) was born near Mount Pleasant in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. In June 1861, he organized an infantry regiment in Philadelphia that he uniformed and equipped at his own expense. In 1865, he participated in the Carolinas campaign and the surrender of the majority of Confederate forces at Raleigh. Geary later served as Pennsylvania's governor from 1867-1873, supporting black suffrage and the adoption of the 15th amendment.*

Raleigh N. C.  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dearest Mary

I have just received your two letters dated 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> inst respectively. I believe I always acknowledge your letters by date, and I regret that you nearly always omit that essential requisite in answering mine. By this omission, I am often left in the dark concerning what letters have reached you, and what ones have failed. A hint to the wise is said be sufficient. I am happy to hear of your health and welfare, and that of our dear children. I also rejoice with you in the grand successes of our arms, and of the innocent hope for Speedy peace, w Which I hope and trust will soon be fully consummated. Our Army is lying still at this place much in the attitude of a tiger couchant, about to spring upon his prey. If Johnston's army surrenders as we now Confidently hope it will, the war will cease and we will return to our loved homes without delay. God grant that moment will soon come – it cannot come too soon for me – But as to going home at this stage of the game, as the phrase goes, we cannot think of it. The game must be played out when it is so near a successful termination.

We have just learned the assassination [sic] of the President, his untimely loss has created a profound sensation in the entire army. And if we have to fight anymore, woe be to Rebeldom! The cowardly assassins are only exhibiting the same phrases which greatly embittered me toward them ever since the Kansas affair, and no one understands better than I their nefarious designs. –

This most dastardly affair meets with decided disapprobation from the citizens of this place. As you will see from the enclosed paper.

Since writing the above I have received official information the negotiations between Gen [.] Sherman and Gen Johnston, are of such a nature as to require the sanctions of the Government at Washington. For that purpose a messenger was sent to that City last night. And I have just received notice to make myself and my command as comfortable a possible for ten days to come. Rumor says the negotiation contains the surrender of the entire remainder of the Rebel force both of the Army in

**Transcription, Letter from John W. Geary  
To His Wife, Mary, 1865  
Geary Family Papers, Collection 2062**

our front, and of that west of the Mississippi in Texas and elsewhere. Thus you observe that peace will be permanent, admitting that all goes well.

I had hoped that Willie's commission would have been here by this time. He is to be commissioned a Lieut in the 33<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Regiment and from that, he's to be detail as Aid de Camp on my staff. So much for him. Give him my love. I will send for him as soon as the Commission arrives. –

Remember me in love to all the children, and kisses . – Also to Capt. See and Mrs. Church and Comfort.

Hoping soon to return home.

I am ever and truly

Your loving and faithful husband

J.W. G.