

**Partial Transcription, Letter from John Gibbon
To his Wife, April 7, 1865
Gibbon Family Papers, Collection 2031**

John Gibbon (1827-1896) was a life-long Army officer. He was in Holmesburg,¹ Pennsylvania. Soon after, his family moved to North Carolina, where he graduated from the United States Military Academy and entered his career in the Army. When the Civil War broke out, several of Gibbon's family members were slaveholders and fought in the Confederate infantry. He decided to remain loyal to the Union. Soon Gibbon was promoted through the ranks, and eventually became a Brigadier General.

Gibbon is writing his wife² from camp near Farmville, sitting in a "damp plowed field" from where he can see "heavy skirmish."

Everything is now going to pieces, and Ewell himself says Lee ought to give up, for it is surrender to continue the contest longer . . . What Lee is going to do is hard to say, as he must now have only a small force and must be scarce of both food and ammunition. Genl Grant talks some of summoning him to surrender to avoid further blood-shed and I sincerely hope he will do so. I think the rebellion is now pretty well used up, and sincerely hope I shall soon be able to be in the arms of my dear little wife and children.

¹ Now part of the City of Philadelphia

² He addressed his wife, Fannie, as Mama in his letters. She and their four children were in Baltimore.
