Dear Sister,

I take up my pen to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and well. and hope these few lines will find you the same.

I have not had a letter from Bary for a good while and I want you to let me know what his long silence means. the paper states that the fourth Iowa Regiment was at the Pea Ridge Fight. it also states that the 4th Iowa suffered great loss. he wrote me last while at Lebanon in Mesouri. I have not got any letter since although I wrote to him as soon as I read his now for something else we are Camped in a very pleasant place on the the banks of Jordies River just at the mouth where it enters into the Ches peak Bay. About 8 miles from Fortress Monroe.
Probaly you heard of the Naval Engagement between the Rebel steamer Kerrimac and the union Sailing Frigates[?] Cumberland and Congress at New Port News[stain] March 8 which terminated in the Merrimacs sinking the Cumberland and burning the Congress it was a hard struggle and many a brave man was laid low the Merrimac was Coated with thick Iron so it was im possible to harm her.. She went Back saturday night to Norpolk and Evry one expected that we were a going to get shelld out and I believe it was their intention to do so but as good luck would have it the Ericson Caterrie came to our rescue just in time to save our Bacon, time and space will not admit to write all the Particulars. the general Opinion in this section of the Country is that the Rebels must soon give up. no more hoping to hear from you soon I Remain your Brother and friend F M Davis To M[stain] Catharine Davis