BRENTVILLE April 11 1859

Dear Husband

I must now write you apology for not writing you before this but I know you will excuse me when I tell you Mrs. Jennings has been very sick she has a baby a little girl. Ben a great sufferer her breast raised and she has had it lanced and I have had to stay with her day and night so you know I had no time to write but she is now better and one of her own servants is now sick. I am well that is of the greatest importance to you. I have no news to write you only the children are all well. I want to see you very much but are looking forward to the promised time of your coming. Oh, dear Dangerfield, come this fall without money or no money. I want to see you so much that is one bright hope I have before me. Nothing more at present but remain your affectionate wife

HARRIETT NEWBY

P S write soon if you please

BRENTVILLE April 22 1859

Dear Husband

I received your letter to day and it give much pleasure to here from you but was sorry to -- of your sickness hope you may be well when you receive this. I wrote to you several weeks ago and directed my letter to Bridge Port but I fear you did not receive it as you said nothing about it in yours. You must give my love to Brother Gabial and tell him I would like to see him very much. I wrote in my last letter that Miss Virginia had a baby a little girl. I had to nurse her day and night. Dear Dangerfield, you can not imagine how much I want to see you. Come as soon as you can for nothing would give me more pleasure than to see you. It is the greatest comfort I have is thinking of the promised time when you will be here. Oh, that bless hour when I shall see you once more. My baby commenced to cry today it is very delicate. Nothing more at present but remain your affectionate wife.

HARRIET NEWBY

P S write soon
BRENTVILLE, August 16, 1859.

Dear Husband,

your kind letter came duly to hand and it gave me much pleasure to here from you and especely to hear you are better of your rhumatism and hope when I here from you again you may be entirely well. I want you to buy me as soon as possible for if you do not get me somebody else will the servents are very disagreeable thay do all thay can to set my mistress againgt me Dear Husband you not the trouble I see the last two years has ben like a trouble dream to me it is said Master is in want of monney if so I know not what time he may sell me an then all my bright hops of the futer are blasted for there has ben one bright hope to cheer me in all my troubles that is to be with you for if I thought I shoul never see you this earth would have no charms for me do all you Can for me witch I have no doubt you will I want to see you so much the Chrildren are all well the baby cannot walk yet all it can step around enny thing by holding on it is very much like Agnes I mus bring my letter to Close as I have no newes to write you mus write soon and say when you think you Can Come.

Your affectionate Wife

HARRIET NEWBY.

Source: Governor’s Message and Reports of the Public Officers of the State, of the Boards of Directors, and of the Visitors, Superintendents, and Other Agents of Public Instruction or Interests of Virginia (Richmond, 1859), 116-117. Special Collections, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.