

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Sallie Griffin to Abraham Lincoln¹, [July 1863]

¹ Sallie Griffin was the wife of General Charles Griffin, a division commander in the 5th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Though undated, this letter was written during the month of July, 1863. Poor health caused General Griffin to miss much of the Gettysburg Campaign and he submitted his resignation (mentioned in the letter below) in July, 1863. Griffin's resignation was accepted, but upon further consideration, Griffin withdrew the letter and its acceptance was canceled.

My dear Mr Lincoln,

My utter distress assures me an appeal to you at present will elicit your sympathy, & attention— I am by the dangerous illness of my only child who I sadly fear will not recover, compelled to leave a crushed, & heart-broken Mother, while I am in the Country to try & save the life of my child, having tasted so recently of the bitter cup of death My husband's health is greatly impaired which is another source of perpetual anxiety & he feels that he wants to serve his Country to the last, & has done so up to this time, all else sacrificed to his Country, but don't you dear Mr Lincoln, think Think he owes a little to his family, & if it can be combined as I know it can, by giving him a station out of the field, at least for a few months we might expect it under the urgent circumstances that would demand his attention to his family— You have been my friend in my happy days, may I not expect it in this hour of gloom & sadness, I feel that you will— As regards his resignation of the other day, let me add the mental, & principal condition of a member of his family required it, as painful as it was— Please don't let my request be fruitless, it is one of charity, & mercy An early answer will be so anxiously looked for—

Sincerely Your friend

Sallie Griffin

Direct

Cor F & 18th Sts—