

**CIVIL WAR LETTERS
OF BROTHERS
EDSON D. AMES,
HOMER A. ("DELL") AMES,
AND JONATHAN M. AMES,
OF THE 154th NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,
AND THEIR COUSIN
EDWIN H. AMES,
OF THE 7th COMPANY, 1st BATTALION,
NEW YORK STATE SHARPSHOOTERS,
FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE POSSESSION OF
CAROLYN AMES SIMONS,
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE.**

Transcribed by Mark H. Dunkelman, Providence, Rhode Island.

EDSON D. AMES--Age 21 years. Enlisted August 28, 1862 at Charlotte, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. F, September 25, 1862; promoted corporal April 1, 1865; mustered out with company June 11, 1865 near Bladensburg, Md.

HOMER A. AMES--Age 20 years. Enrolled August 28, 1862 at Charlotte, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. F, September 25, 1862; promoted sergeant and first sergeant, no dates; wounded slightly in arm and leg in action June 15, 1864 at Lost Mountain, Ga.; mustered in as first lieutenant, Co. A, November 13, 1864; mustered out with company June 11, 1865 near Bladensburg, Md.; captain, N.Y. Vols., by brevet. Commissioned first lieutenant September 16, 1864 with rank from August 6, 1864, vice W.R. Godfrey honorably discharged.

JONATHAN H. AMES--Age 18 years. Enlisted at Yorkshire, to serve one year, and mustered in as private, unassigned, April 14, 1865; mustered out May 15, 1865 at Hart's Island, New York Harbor.

August 10th/63
General Hospital
Gettysburg Adams Co. PA.

Sister Ad

I thought that I wold wright to to let you know that I was well at present and hope this will find you the same. Ad I dont hear from you verry often. I hant heard from you but wonce since the fite. why dont you write to me often I Should think that you mint write wonce in a month if not oftiner. I write to some of you ever week and oftiner than that some times and I dont have ene news to write to you. there is 2,000 wonded men here now I am detailed to the Hospital for the present and I dont know when I will get away from here. I have got a sore eye now so I dont have ene thing to do for a few days. it is verry sore and panfull to. I hope that it will get beter in a few days so that I can go to work. I got a letter from Said Copp the other day she said that she went to the forth but she did not say ho she went with. do you ho it was Ad. She said that she see Mary Clute to maurill to the dance to maurill the forth. is Mary Clute good friends to you or not. ho dos alber wait on now. give my best respects to him and tell him to rite to me and give my best respects to all the rest of the foax and all inquiring friends Ad I dont know as you can read this for I rote it with won eye and I guess you will have to reed it in the same way. now more for this time yours truly and in hast

Edson D. Ames

Ad when you write to me give me your adress so that it will come all right E D A

Edson Ames Ad Ames

henry rice is not well to day I hope he will be beter son

ad do you have to pay for these leters when you tak them out of the office if you do send me some stamps E D Ames

[in another hand]

Federal Wound	456
Confed	382
Fed Attendts	443
Confed Attendants	83

1374

Camp of the 154th Regt
Near Hookers Head Quarters
Lookout Valley Tenn
Jan 31th 1864

Dear Father

I take up my pen in hand to write a few lines to you as I have not heard from you in some time I am well and so is the other boys in Camp Dell & Henry & Sawyer well Pa we have moved around some since I wrote to you before in the first place we moved to Kelleys Fary and it was about five miles and we staid two nites their and just got our Quarters fixed up and had to move back to this Camp and how long we will stay hear I cant tell some say that we are detailed on Hookers Staff and if so we will stay hear as long as he keeps his Head Quarters hear and he may stay hear some time as the 11 & 12 corps are garding the railroads but we cant tell as for that we are hear fro the present time at any rait but how long we will stay hear I cant tell we sent for a box some time ago and are looking for it ever day but it haint come yet we have to buy a good many rations I have borowed some money to buy rations with & so has Dell & Sawyer of some of the boys that did not send their money home the last pay day so if you haint sent me any money you may in your next letter to me as I am goin to have all I want to eat if I can get it & I shall get some money some time I hope out of Uncle Sam so I can send you some in return to what you send me

Tell Mother that we are making grait alotments on the buter & Maple sugar & sasage and dride frute that we will have in the box so tell Mary that I shall expect something in the box from her & Charles to tell Joney & Ad to write to me and not bee so long about it if the do I wont write to them again while I am in the survis for I have got tired to writing and not getting any answer to any of them oh I for got to tell you to send me some Stamps as we cant get any hear so no more this time

From Your Son
E. D. Ames

D. H. Ames

write soon and be sure and send the Stamps

Lookout Valley Tenn
February 1st 1864

Friends at Home

I now seat my once to my desk to write to you once more your letter found us all well and I am in hopes that these few lines will find you all well I recd those pens and Holders all wright and also the tobaco it seems to me the tobaco might be sent cheaper some of the boys gets it for 10 cts a half pound but I dont know as you can send it eny cheaper but we shall expect the box in a few days and then we shall be all wright and I am in hopes that we shall get it wright of you can see by this sheat of paper that it aint worth one dam so if you send me eny more try and send better paper if you can find it for this aint fit to write on Edson recd a letter from you yesterday with two dollars in it but no stamps and that is some thing that we need for we cant buy them here and so I wish that you would send some every time that you write we have moved camp from whare we was when I wrote to you last we went in the first place to Kelles Ferry and stayed three days we went in to an old camp and we had not got it quite cleaned up when we had orders to move again and we moved to whare we are now it was a dirty old camp but we have got it cleaned up so it is quite nice now we are within one half mile of our old camp you see that they lead us a round about so much as they would not be satisfide but there is some talk here in camp that we have not got to go to the front that the 11 Corps and 12 Corps are going to guard the Railroad from Nashville to Chatanoga I hope that is so but I dont know wether it is or not I do know that we are doing it at the present time but when it comes spring we may have to go to the front you wished to know what kind of wether we had in this Country we have nice and pleasent warm wether it is like summer here now we had a few days of cold wether a long the first of Jan and that is all

Feb 2

I recd a letter from you to day with \$2 in it and some stamps it come handy for I was all out of stamps and that was the reason why I did not send this letter yesterday And I recd one from old T I was glad to get them for it seems like home we are all well and in good spirits I dont think that thare will be enny chance for me to get home this winter without I could get home on a sick leave or some other extreme case and I could not do that with out help maby Hank Dake could get Doctor Vanarnam to do some thing for me he is Division Doctor and Hank is acuainted with him and if hank could get him to give me a furlow I might get one but I guess not so I guess that you had better let it run and I will wait until my time is out and then I will come for good send the box as soon as you can for we may not stay here long give my rect to all so good by for this time from your son

Dell Ames
to D H Ames

write soon send all the news

Monday Morning
Feb 1th 1864

Dear Father

I recieved your letter of the 24 Jan with the two dolars in it & glad was I to hear from you & to recieve the money but was sorry not to get any Postage stamps but perhaps you will send some in your next letter to me & some more money as I owed all of this to the other boys that I had borowed of to get some rations with & bee sure and send me some Stamps in the next letter you write and if you have any three or five or tenn cents pieces in Silver send it to me in your next letter to me and I will send you a present in a short time that you will be proud of & always keep Sawyer recieved a leter from his Father last night and he said that they was goin to send the box in a few days so we look for it ever day the wether fine as May or June lieutanant Horton Said give you his best respects he has recieved a Letter from you and has not answered it and he has gone on pickett for 48 ours and he will write as soon as he can we have been moving so much that he haint had eny time to write if you want to send him any thing send him a paper of fine cut about such as you sent Dell and it will pleas him verry much I now

E. D. Ames

write soon and oblige

lieutanant Mitchell sends his best respects to you and often speak about you my love to all I will stop

Dell is well

Camp of the Gallant 154th
Lookout Valley Tenn
April 17th 1864

Dear Father and Mother

I recd that long letter to day that you have promised so long to me and was much pleased to hear from you and that you was all well and getting a long so well I see by your letter that butter is offle high we only have to pay 75 ct a pound for it here but we have to cage it up nights or it will leave us we are having quite an excitement here at Ball play we played with 33 Mass Saturday 70 points for the game they beat us too but our Colnel bet \$200 that we could beat them in one week from that day and I think that we can to.

Pa I thought that had sent this letter untill to day so I will finish it now we are having fine weather warm and pleasent I am a fraid that it is going to be a little to warm for comfort but we have got to get used to or die tring but I am in hopes that we wont have to march much but I guess that we shall see an active campaign this summer but we can all tell better next fall.

Capt Grisowld is verry sick with the infermation on the bowels but I am in hopes that he will get well Edson is cooking for the comishend staff yet he is getting to be a tip top cook I recd a letter to day from Ad she said that Jony had got home tell him to write to me I have not got no more news to write this time Pa if you can I wish that you would send me a good shirt one that is fine and wont prick me these hot days send it by mail if you can and I guess you can give my love to all good by

Dell Ames

Camp of the 154th Regt
Lookout Valley Tenn April 30th/64

Brother Joney

I recd your letter to day and was glad to hear from you after so long a time I began to think you never would write to me again but after so long a time you did find time to write a few lines to me why dont you write oftener to me I would like to hear from you ever week if you could find time to write to me and write all the news about the young folks in Charlotte and Arkwright and Stockton and Gerry and that will do I guess Well what are you goin to do this summer stay at home or work out by the month or are you goin down the river after a while. Well Pa said that the Boar had 20 sows to --- and what dos he get apiece for the survis of the Boar the Boys are all well and are all on Pickett most for three days we was mustered for two months Pay to day that makes four months that they owe us and they will Pay us two or four months in a short time and I think it will be next week or the fore part of the month at any rait and then I will send you \$25.00 or \$50.00 dolars and I dont know how much Dell will send but I think he will send some at best I will try and have him send some we wold not of sent the twenty dolars before if I had not got it of him to make the \$100. dolars and I told him that I would lend him some if he wanted it and so he left me send it to you Well Jony hoo do you wait on at the present time if you want to go with a good girl go with the scool mam this summer for she is a firstrait girl and she will be a good one for you to go with and I presume Watson Pierpont will try to go with her and I want you to cut him out if you can and you can or I wold not ove you for a Brother and if the buggy dont sute you buy another one and I will help you. Pay for it if you only get a good one and you can tell Pa to Pay \$25.00 dolars toards a new Buggy for the old one and then the old one will be his I think you better By a coverd Buggy and a good one at that if you buy any and I guess Pa Will think Best to Buy one this summer and I think Adaline will lik the idea of having a good Buggy to wride in and Mother will like it to she is geting rather old and she has worked hard and out to have a good Buggy to wride well Mary you must go to school and learn all you can for you will have a good School mam and I am much oblige for the blows you sent me

Joney you must write often and all the news so good night and give my respects to all from your Brother

E. D. Ames

Camp of the 154 Regt in
the Field June 22th/64

Dear Father Mother Sisters Brothers

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am still alive and well and at the front and our Brigade has just advanced about 80 rods the 15th 16th June our Regt lost 21 Wounded and 4 killed and Dell was one of them he was slightly wounded and has gone back to the rear and I think he will come home in a short time and make a visit of 30 days and I guess you will be glad to see him I see by your letters that Edwin Ames is Dead Oh how it makes me feel to think that I never will see him more nor his friends how did Fannie Cummings Apier feel When she received the news did she go as mourner or not at his funeral we are having very hard fighting at the Pleasant and every day and it rains all most all the time and very hard I have not had my clothing Dry in 4 days and some of the time I never saw it rain harder in my life and we on the move and we had some hard Places to cross and I saw while crossing one of these Places 5 Horses Mired and the men had to leave them Load and all and in another Place I saw a staff officer riding along as well as he could and all at once his horse went in to a mud hole and went in all over and threw the man off and he went in all over and lost his hat but the horse was a good one and so they got him out and we got over the Place after a long time and as we are advancing I cannot write any more so good By for this time so you must write often and all the news

From your Son E. D. Ames

PS I will send a star and a ring in this letter and I want you to Put them in my trunk and if we can get in camp we will get our pay and then we will have some money Oh have you sent me any I have wrote for some. Ad we did not receive all the stuff you say you sent we did not get the green Apples or but one small Piece of cheese and a quite a number of the things you say you sent the Hors radish we did not get so now you may send me one Pair of socks Cotton socks and that is all from

E. D. Ames

USA General Hospital
Chattanooga Tenn
July 7th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I now seat myself with much pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting A long I am doing first rate my arm is all most well and I am getting as fat as A bear I have not got no letters from you since I was wounded nor for quite a spell before it is all most two months now since I have heard from you but I am in hopes that you are all well Tell Jonny & Ad that I want them to tell me whare they went on the fourth of July as for me I stayed home hoed corn I thought that I would not go anny whare and I did not wasnt I a good boy to stay at home all day I heard that Ed Ames had died of his wounds but I did not get the news as certain I am in hopes that it is not so I am verry ancious to hear from some of you I have not herd from the front since I came back here but I supose that they are still fighting yet no rest for the weary I have no more news to write this time I want you to write to me as soon as you get this and dont forget to write tell Jonny and Adline to write pleas send me a few stamps from your loving son

Dell Ames

Direct U.S.A. General Hospital No. 2
Chattanooga Tenn Ward 17

dont put on the Regt or company onlly just what I have told you to put on good by Dell Ames

Write often dont forget

Dell Ames

General USA Hospital
No. 2 Chattanooga Tenn
July 11th/64

Dear Parents

your letter came to hand to day with much pleasure it found me down at the heal my wound is about well but I have had A sick head ace for A day or too but I am in hopes to be better in A few days my wound was a light felsh wound in the left arm. the ball went through my Haversack & through my tin cup & A piece of the cup went in my leg but it all was slight I think that I was lucky to some of them for I did not loose any limbs I am getting sick of the Hospital & I shall go to my Regt as soon as I am able I have not herd from the front since I came back so I cant tell you how they are getting A long I think that your letter was rather short for one in too months I had not had A letter from you in all most two months untill I got this one & I cant call that one nothing more than A note I wish when you write again that you would tell me all of the paticulars in old Charlotte our Company was verry small when I left onely 9 men left in it for duty & I herd by the by that two more men had got wounded out of it I did not hear who they was. Hawley Green is here in the Convalesence Camp he says that he has got that old complaint Dierreahea & is not able to go to the front Tom Phillips is General field Hosp. A bout one mile from me he is nursing he says that he will go to the front when I do I have no more news to write at present but am in hopes that I shall get A good long letter from you next time give my rect to all & A Kiss to Mary good by from your son

Dell Ames

Direct as before

I recd the mony all wright & it came in time of need tell them all to write to me I get so lonesome here with no news I will answer punctual this side up with Care no more this time

Dell Ames

Send me A few stamps if you pleas for I put on the last one on this letter from your friend

Dell Ames

Rember me in time of need & I will you

Camp of the 154 Regt in Savanah Ga
Dec 25th/64

Dear Father and Friends

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New years we are stationed in Savanah our Division was the first in the Place and the Prospects are good for us to stay hear this winter as the other troops are moving tords Charleston we are doing Provost Duty in the sitty now Dell has not recieved any thing from home yet and he needs some clothes to look as well as the other ofisers Do he has Bought some things But not a nuff he let his money to the sutler and he has not got it back yet and I have let him have \$40.00 and have \$40.00 more that I shall let him have if he Dont get his Pay soon they owe him \$300.00 Dolars now and if he could get that he would have enough and some to send home But I supose you have got your Debts all Paid Befor now that is if you have sold your Butter are you goin to Buy a Bugey or a singel harnes or a cutter or any Buffalos skins if you are I will send the money to Pay for them and then have them when I come home that is if you need them to use if I was in your Place I would have as good as the Best of them tell Mother I would like some stockings verry much and if you can send a Express Box Do so you can find out and you know what to send Dride frute and Butter and some tin chees Honey and just what you are a mind to send and some tobaco and oblige your Son

E D Ames

this in hast write soon

Direct the box Lieut. H A Ames
154th N Y Vols 2 Brigade
2 Division 20 A.C.
Savannah GA.

Camp of the 154 Regt Near
Goldsboro NC March 30th/65

Dear Father and Mother Sisters & Brother

I recieved now mail from home in over two months But Dell has and I was reding a letter from home when the mail came in again and I heard them say that their was one for Lieut Ames and I started at once to hear from home and he was reding the letter and the first word he said was that Charley was Dead Oh can it Bee Posible that he is Dead I cannot make it seam as though I never should see him any more I never had such feelings Before in my life I thought I was Prepared to loose a Brother at any time But litle Did I think it would be him and I find I was not Prepared to loose any of my Friends and it is the sadest time of my life and I wish that I mint come home and see you all Well once more after so long a march and so hard times as we had on the march then to get such Bad news it all most makes me sick we have not recieved the letter that Ad rote and I want to know all the Patickelers about his sickness and Death and what he said and had he recieved the Present that I sent him Oh if I could only seen him once Befor he Died I would givin all I have in the Wourld But I never can see him any more and I must make up my mind to stannet But it seams hard I will send some Confedret Money in this letter four you all have you recieved a cigar Box of things yet that was sent from Savannah or not Charley Brown things was in it and I would like to know whither it came thru all write or not Dell is well except a Bad coff and I am as well as could Bee expected I saw the 112 Regt and they are all well that I know I saw Bill Crain Jim Bellows Stakly Smith Henry trasey and a good many more and they had Been 7 Days with out mail and they thought it was Prety hard and only half rations and I told them that it had Been 70 Days since we had had any mail and that we did not Draw any rations only as we foraged them and they thought that was hard fair and so it was I just got two letters from you and they are of a old date one is Jan 18 and the other Jan 20 so it is old news and how sad it mak me feel when I hear you say all well in both letters and then to know that one of the number is Dead and is no more you say in the letter that you are goin to send the Box in a short time and I want to know if you had sent it or not and if you have sent it send me the Express reciet and then I will send for the Box and hoping to hear from you soon I will close

this from your Son
E. D. Ames