

Baltimore Oct 1 [1862]

Dear Father

I thought I would write to you as I agreed to but I have to write a standing in the street we got in a bout noon all wright but some tyard I dont believe Edson will stand camp life first wrate our hole load will way abot 60 lb I guess and wee had to carry it in Baltimore abot 2 mile and it made us swwet like the old nick we had good cars to Elmira and from there we had frate Cars we was Equipt in elmira we got enfield wrifle they are good ones I guess we shant leave here before day after to morrow they are eight regt here now and they say that they was eight poisoned to death yesterday that is all tell ma and granma and all of the wrest of folks that I send my love to them

I will write when I get to washington

[Homer A. Ames]

Oct the 25th/62  
Fairfax Court House

Dear Father & Mother and Brothers & sisters & Granma

I not being verry well I thought I would write a few lines and let you know how the Chaut boys get a long pa they stand it pretty well except the virginnia quick step that is what ails me they make us drill from 8 to 9 ours a day and it keeps a fellow tierd so he can sleep yet nights if it is on the ground it is verry cold here nights and frostty but warm daytimes we live beter than we did but it dont suit me quite but i am a coming to it a little beter than I did at first you beter believe that I miss the buter the most of anny thing and I bought a pound to day and had to pay 40 ct a pound for it 20 cts for Chees and other things in perposition and it straps me and most of the boys are a geting short of Change and I want you to send me 2 or 3 dol untill we get paid off and I want you to send me some postage stamps to we send about 30 men on picket duty now about 2 mi from Camp they haft say 24 ours and then relieved there was a man died here a few days ago with the infermation on the brain we berred him in military stile he was from Catraugus the mumps and measels are in the camp Edson is well and he sends his rect and best wishes to you all Henry tuff as a bare for him he sends his love to you all find out how much it will cost to send a tub of buter and Chees and dried fruit for when we get in our winter quarters I want it sent to me I want you to try and answer this if you can I have wrote three leters and have not got one yet and I shant write anny more untill I get one tell ma I often think of her & would like to eat at her table once more and I think I will to by spring tell ad I want to write soon kiss marry for me tell Charley I often think of him and I want him to be a good boy & mid his mother it is geting so dark I cant see to write anny more but I will write more next time write as soon as you get this good by to you all write all the news wether you have got your crops in and if they are good how many potatoes from your afectionate son direct as be fore I am 5 corpral

[Homer A. Ames]

[With a two-color printed letterhead depicting female figure holding book inscribed "The Union Forever and Ever," seated on a globe showing the United States of America.]

December 23 1862  
Camp near Rebeldom in sight  
of Fredreckburg

Dear Friends at Home

we are all well at present I came to Camp to day and am tuff again and hope I shall keep so that monny I was verry glad to get it and I want as much more and send 50 ct worth of stamps for I had lossed some and it took all but one dollar to pay up Edson recd his monny all wright they would not let us send anny letters for too weeks to day we have sharred to send our leters the boys when they are on picket have a chance to talk with the reb pickets you probely have heard all about the battle Ed is a going to write so I will Close give my love to all good by H A Ames

Friends at home I take this opertunity to write to you to let you know how we get a long well we are all rite Dell come to the regiment yesterday he is tuff as a buck you beter beleve I was glad to se him we dont know how long we shall stay here we are the nerest to the rebels we have ben since we came in verginie we dont know whether we will have a fite ore not we herde that ritchman was taken we dont no whather it is so or not send me some money you may think that I use a good deel but I want you to send some till we get our pay & then I will make it all rite you kepe track of what you send to me and take it out of what I send home I want you to get that money of Sam \_\_\_\_\_ from Edson Ames

as Ed was not going to write anny more I thought I would write some more we got hell at this last battle we lost about 2000 men killed and wounded and missing I saw that buly boy that lives over by lifes he is tuff and fat I see by your letter that we had been drawd up in line of battle once or twice we was caled up one night a bout midnight and stacked our armes and then we went to bed that was all that amounts to but I should not wonder much if we smell powder before long but we dont know for sertain I think we will get paid of by the first of next month if we do thare will be 80 dolars come to you write in the next what produce is a fetching dont drive my colt to much and keep him fat for I want him to drive next summer when I came down on the boat I saw 700 men that was wounded some with legs and arms off and some that had not had there wounds dressed and that was ded it is so cold that i will not write anny more this time send the bill of the box as soon as you send it we have short living now you beter believe give my love to all tell ma not to worry for us we will come out all wright tell granma I think of her often wright often all the news from your son H A Ames

excuse this writing for it is so cold I cant write good

(Copy of 71-79.24)

Camp Manley near Stafford Courthouse  
May 12th 1863

Mrs. Griswold.

I thought I would write a few lines to you and inform you that we have been in battle and I am sorry to say that that we lost almost half of our company killed wounded and missing with the rest Lieut. Griswold is missing he was wounded in the arm and bled pretty hard the rebs was so close on to us that we had to run for our sweet lives and I dont know if he got off from the field or not he might got off and went to the Hospital and we not know it if he did not he was taken prisoner if he was taken prisoner we may not here from him in a good while and if he is in enny hospitle we will here of it in a short time and I will let you know if we here from him in enny way. there has gone some Abelence to the Battle field after some of the wounded and he may come in with them I hope for the best the boys all feel downhearted to see so menny of our comrads gone but we have to look on the brst side and hope for the best for it may be our turn next Lieut Griswold was thought every thing of by the Company and he was a good Comander as I want over me he done justice to them all and they all liked him well and they feel bad not to see him in comand of the Company but I am in hopes that he will come out all wright yet I will have to close please excuse poor writing and bad spelling from your friend Homer A. Ames please write when you get this

Camp Manley near Stafford Courthouse  
May 24th 1863

friend Mrs Griswold

I recd your letter last night and I am glad that can  
wright better news this time Lieut is all wright onely  
a wound in the right arm I think it was above the elbow  
and it did not hit the bone he was hit in the forepart  
of the battle while he was in the riffle pit it bled  
rather bad and it made him faint I was not with him  
when he was hit when we fell back to the riffle pits  
we got mixt up Dany Horton was in comxand of part of the  
Company and Lieut Griswold the other part so I did not  
see him when he fell ? after the battle he and the  
rest of the boys was taken priseners Saturday night about  
nine o clock and the next morning all that was able to  
walk they took to Richmond and them that was not able to  
walk they paroled wright there on the spot and sent them  
across the river but the Lieut had to go to Richmond  
there is 5 missing in our Company that we cant hear from  
I think probely they are killed but you do not know enny  
of them so I will not put there names down the rest of  
the boys that belong to our Company have been paroled and  
are to Anapolis and we heard from them last night they  
said that the Lieut was in the Hospital in Richmond and  
has not been paroled yet but he may be in a few days I  
hope so ennyway if he does you will get a letter from him  
I hope he will be exchange in a short time the boys that  
are in the Company are feeling first rait now to what they  
did I have not got enny more news to wright tell Casias  
to write to me and I will answer it give my rect to all  
enquiring friends the boys all sends there rect to you  
ifhear from the Lieut I will let you know it wright off  
I will close for this time so good by from your friend  
Homer A Ames excuse this letter for it was wrote in a hurry

Army Correspondence

Camp near Cavalry Station, Va.  
August 8th, 1862.

Dear Brother, — As no doubt a word from the 154th N. Y. would be interesting to your readers, I take this my first opportunity since writing to you from Stafford C. H. We are now about one mile from Cavalry Station, on the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, in a fine camp in a grove of oaks, in sight of Gen. Howard's, Steinwehr's and Bushbeck's headquarters. Gen. Howard commands the corps, Gen. Steinwehr our division, (2d) and Col. Bushbeck our brigade, (1st

We have been marching nearly every day since the 11th of June until the 1st of this month, when we came to our present camp. I am unable to give you a description of our march since leaving Stafford C. H.; suffice it to say we have been up to Gettysburg, Pa., and are now back within thirty miles from where we started. Our regiment was in the battle of Gettysburg, which, no doubt, was the greatest battle ever fought by the army of the Potomac, and its effects are to be seen upon the ranks of our once noble regiment. No braver or truer men are to be found than in the 154th, and old Cattleaugus may well be proud of the men she sent forth, for none have been more faithful to their country in this time of her greatest need. In trying to sustain the beloved flag of our Union, which traitor hands are trying to tear down. Shall they succeed in this their devilish work? Shall we permit them to tear down even one of the pillars of this monument of Liberty, which our fathers reared for us, and raise no hand of resistance? No, never! even though we fight ten years or longer, even though it take every man of the North, we say, let us defend it, and if this Union must be destroyed, let us be buried with it.

Of the three hundred and fifty men who went into battle, only seventeen came out; but luckily for us, Major Warner had about fifty men off with him on other duty, so we saved out of the battle about seventy men. A few have since returned to us, who were taken prisoners and escaped; among the latter are Capt. Cheney, Lieuts. Crosby, Mitchell and Church, and Sergeants Clark and Wellman of Co. B. Our regiment now only draws 119 rations, and we only stack 80 arms. The number killed was about fifteen, wounded, forty to fifty, and the rest of our missing are prisoners. But we shall have a regiment yet, as we are to have over four hundred of you who have been at home, in a few days, as we

have officers and men from our regiment now in Elmira to receive you and escort you down to this land of Dixie. So come on all of you who pretended to love your country so much—you who were so patriotic in days gone by, when there was no fear of a draft. Come on you who have talked so loud, and were willing to do so much to preserve this Government, but who wanted to do it beneath some shady tower at home. Come on you were so willing to lay your lives upon the altar of your country, but who wished to have the altar a bed of roses with pillows of down. Come on you brave men, and we will show you where fighting is done.

Yesterday there was an exchange of prisoners who were taken at Chancellorville. Of these, we shall have about one hundred. How long we shall stay in this camp we have no means of knowing. We may move to-night, to-morrow, and may be gone in a month. Truly it can be said that to-night the soldier knows not where he shall lay his head. He is like the wandering Arab who has no abiding place of his own. He knows not why he is placed here or there, but goes at the word of his commander as chess-men follow the wish of the player. But I must close for fear I weary your patience with the length of my letter.

DELL

Pell Ames

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 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 forms for the game they beat us too but our Colonel bet \$200 that we could beat them in one week from that day and I think we can to.

Pa I thought that I had sent this letter untill to day so I will finish it now we are having fine weather warm and pleasent I am afraid that it is going to be a little to warm for comfort but we have got to get used to or die tiring out 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 Griswold is verry sick with the infermations of the bowels but I am in hopes that he will get well Edson is cooking for the Comishend staff yet top cook I rec'd a letter to day from N\_\_\_\_\_ 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

Sunday Afternoon  
Camp of the Gallant 154th  
Lookout Valley Tenn  
May 1st 1864

Friend Cash

I now seat my self for the perpose of writing a few lines to for your Father.

he is on the gain now and I think that he is out of danger he has had a hard sickeness but he has had as good care as could be given a man here in this country Marve Skinner has taken care of him day times and then the boys have taken turnes seting up with him nights it is the rumer here in camp to day that we will march this week but I hope not untill the Capt is able to come home.

He has sent in his papers for a Discharge and expect them ever day I had rather he would have stayd with us but his health would not admit of it We are having verry warm and pleasent wether here now the trees are all leaved out and what rew apple trees thare is here are in rull bloom and it looks like sumer.

the Capt says that he has not heard from you in over two weeks but he says that he will proply be at home before he can get an answer from this but want you to understand that you must answer it all the same and write to me for I would like to hear from you often.

the Captains papers has just come while I have been writing and he says that he is coming home just as soon as he is able to come and that will be probely about two weeks from now

Cash you must take good care of the fair young damsels in that part of the state because I cant be up ~~th~~ tare I want you to write and tell me how all of the Girls get along and give them all my best sect I will close by wishing you good health and prosperity and hope to hear from you soon excuse all mistakes

from a friend Dell 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 ~~weeks~~ 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 at home hoed corn I though that I would not go anny whare and I did not wasnt I 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 suppose 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 please 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 light felsh wound in the left arm. the ball went 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

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 particulars in old Charlotte our Company was very 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 Convalescence Camp he says that he has got that

not able to go to the front Tom Phillips is General field Hospt 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 sect 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

Remember me in time of need & I will you

it he had spasms and had to be tied in bed last night he had a good night, but this morning as seven he had another. After each one he lost his speech, but in a little while it would return. He had perfect usage of his body and seemed so strong. This afternoon at 1:45 he had another light attack which took him from us forever. The doctors said he had strokes and it was better than if he had lingered because had he lived he would have been paralyzed and suffered terrible. The Cooks were nice just as

San Rafael, Cal.,  
August 10, 19

Dear Aunt Ad,

I wrote you a letter day before yesterday which you have probably received by now. You may be some surprised to hear from me again in such a short time. Yesterday morning about eleven o'clock Pa was sitting in his chair reading the paper when very suddenly he got purple and absolutely stiff. We had two doctors. At 12:30 he had another attack much worse than the first and after

not live long. As soon as he got sick he had no more desire to live.

Well I will close now and let you know anything you would like - after  
With love -

Dear Brother Eva

Just received this & am sending it to you as Eva requested one to I am very thankful that I did not have to suffer long the last letter I had from <sup>I think</sup> he was feeling so well said he would enough so that he was able to pay his bills & pay my mother's bills & write about his health

natural as if he were to wake up any moment. If it would not be too much trouble for you could you send this letter to Uncle John. I will write him a few words but do not feel able to write you much at this time. He died very peacefully. He seemed so strong it was some time before you could fully realize he was gone. He spoke so often of wanting to see you and Uncle John and wanted you both to come out here. That was why we always asked you for our letters to examine and see him because he seemed to think he would