

Head Quarters 154 Regt N.Y.S. Vols.
Camp Near Stafford C.H. Va.
April 18 1863

Dear Ann=

This morning I sent a letter to you telling you that I had not heard a word from the Regiment since they went out on Monday=but this afternoon=some have come back to camp, and we are all to go out Monday morning= We shall have to be very bussy from now untill that time for we have a great to do. I can not tell you what it is and if I did you would not understand it. I am so glad that I feel so well, for it will be a pretty hard march= The Regiment is about 30 miles from here at Kellys Ford on the Rapahanock They have seen some Rebels, but no fighting There was some canonading up towards Warrenton this morning but with what result is unknown to us= Billy Jones sent me a note this affter noon saying that the Welsh boys were all well, but very lonesome with out me

About noon to day I was going to the spring after water and to go by where the Brigade Quarter Master used to keep his stores of provisions and happened to see a box there for B. D. Morgan At first I did not know what to do about for I knew that in a few days we would be gone, and of course Ben would never get the box= But that would be to bad so I went to our Quarter Master about it and he gave me an order to get it. I did so; and oppened it, for I could tell by the way it smelled that there was something spoiling in it and sure enough there was. the Apples were very nearly all rotten and the Cakes green with mold but the fryed cakes and cookies were not all spoild Every thing else was all right. I took the stuff all out, cleaned and dried the box and got every thing in in as good shape as I could and put them back again The Butter & maple sugar did look very nice=

I am in hopes that I can prevail upon the Quarter Master to take the box with us on monday=but he will only do it as a favor to me= because it is strictly against the orders any how I will do all that I can do to the box to Ben. You see when we march there is so much to carry that it is most impossibly to get such a box on to the wagons= If you see any of Morgan folks tell them that the box has come all in good condition with the exception of the Apples and cakes

Ben will have a feast when he will get There would have been some fighting before now if it was not for the big storm= I should not be surprised at all if there would be some fighting to morrow or next day=

It is to bad that Bens Box did not come a little sooner= I tell you they sent him a good lot of Butter some cheese Dried Apples Dried chere a can of preserves, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Tea Pepper and I should think 6 or 8 pounds of mapple sugar. if they had not put in any green Apples the cake would have been all right

Head Quarters 154 Regt. N.Y. Vols
Camp near Stafford C.H. Va.
April 20 1863

Dear Ann

I have nothing to do now a days but to eat and write letters and read==but the boys will be back in a few days then we shall have a mail I hope lots of letters from you=Because I want to hear from you so much

Oh, when will the war be over
Oh, when shall I behold
Tommy with his pure white fore head
And Frances with her curls of gold
And Trim so gay and sprightly
So merry and full of glee
And more than all the dear wife
Who bore my babies to me

yesterday and to day has been quite cold= What does Tommy think of the little lambs is he afraid of them now Did you get that money from Mr. David Lannin. If you have I want you to get what ever you want in the line of clothing for your self and the children We shall be paid before long I hope then I will send you more It is reported that that the Regiment will be here this week or the first of next I think that one reason that the Regiment is coming back, for the Pay master says that he would not take so much money to where the Regiment is. so it is said I know not what truth there is in it.=

Are you having good luck with the cows do they give a good mess of milk I am thinking that you are having a pretty cold backward Spring== I think that butter will bring a good price this season so will the calves skins and wool &c. How are the horses is Jimmy lame yet. How does the sheep and yearlings do has Cobb sold his farm yet I think that he will have to wait untill I come home before he can sell it.

I have no news to send to you It is reported that the Regiment will be back in a few days maybe tomorrow= It is also reported this morning that General Hooker has broken his leg= My health continues to grow better every day= I feel like working this morning

(On printed stationery with heading, "Camp 'John Manley,' 154th Reg't N.Y. Vol., 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 11th Corps, Army Potomac. Near Stafford C.H., Va.," April 21 "1863.")

Dear Ann,

It seems very strange to me to be so long without having a letter from you, and I am getting some what uneasy because of not knowing how you are We have not had a mail for more than a week I have written a letter to you most every day since the boys went off but do not know whether they get to you or not. The report is this morning that the Regiment is coming back to this camp again if so they will be here in 3 or 4 days= It is also reported this morning that General Hooker has broken his leg. if he has (corner cut) will be bad for us

I somewhat expect to see the pay master here the last of this week or the first of next

I have no news at all to send you only I am gaining strength very fast. I feel better than I have in a great while I tell you it has been a lonesome time here the past week= I hope the boys will come back soon or let us go to them

Please give my love to Dack__ & Ma_g_ and accept a large part for yourself and little ones

Very Truly &c

Wm Charles

Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y. Vols.
Camp near Stafford C.H. Va
-----April 23 1863-----

My Dear Wife

To night about dark I had the good luck to Receive two very good letters from you O it has made so happy to know that those I love so much are well "Oh my Heavenly Father will Thou receive my most earnest thanks for thy great mercy unto them."=

Those two little roses, how sweet= fit emblem of the two Roses that Sent them I thank them very much= I will bring them something to pay them when I come home untill then you must Kiss them for me and love them more and more==

You did perfectly right in giving that Testament to those little friends of mine I really believe that they are friends indeed I am very thankful that you was so thoughtful= You know that I will never find fault with you for being generous and benevolent and kind

I am very much surprised to think that the Durham should bring a couple of calves for you= Well done Durham= now don't you suppose that there is a man about my size that would like to see those calves Keep them if you==think best If I was there most likely that I should be foolish enough to keep them.=

I feel very thankful that you have such good luck with every thing= I think that you have done remarkably well in making so much butter so early in the season= If I had it here I could sell it for 60 cts. to 75 cts. per pound== how much can you get there= These two letters are dated 11th & 14th of this month. So there must be two or three letters from you gone some where maybe they went to the Regiment so that I will get them yet. The last letters I got before these two was dated the 26th of March so you see there is more than two weeks= and I know that you sent me two or more letters during that time

I have Sent you several Rings and one for Sissy one for father and for Susan What do you think of the picture I learned by Billy Jones that you got it. Does it look natural did you give the double one to Susan= I am not so fleshy now as I was then but I am fat enough yet. I am very glad that Dack has so much grain on hand. am also very glad that you keep a little Buck wheat for me I shall certainly want some Pancakes when I come to see you and lots of them too I would not care much if I had a few tonight Since the Regiment left here, for some reason or an other We do not get much to eat.= I have bought some bread and some butter & cheese I have not tasted a bit of meat for a long time

Well it is getting late I finish this in the morning if i am alive and well= I sent a letter to you yesterday by Capt. Donnelly who would mail it at Washington he has resigned and gone home The boys of Co. F. are glad of it= Good night to you all

April 24th 1863

night before last and most of the day yesterday it rained very hard, so that the water was runing every wheres. A Stream ran through my tent at one time strong enough to turn quite a mill but it did no harm what ever only came in one side and out the other thats all.

(continued)

(April 24, 1863 continued)

This morning it is cold and the sky partly clear I don't think it will rain any more right a way

I do not quite understand what you mean by the talk there is about D. W.'s Wife you can tell me plainly for it will go no further. But don't you say a word and if you know the stories to be true you must not let any one know that you believe them. David would feel very bad if he thought that every thing was not all right at home. He whines enough now, then he would whine more He is a very small stingy selfish man and what is worse than that I am afraid that he is a hypocrit but I hope he is not. I do not believe that his wife is none to good to many things she ought not to do Still I do not judge any one only say what I think thats all= My health continues very good Give my warmest love to Dack_ & Mang_ and also my sincere thanks for their great kindness and loving care that they bestow upon those little beings that are just now deprived of their father May Heaven bless them and all of you is the earnest prayer of

Ever Truly Yours

W.C.

Head Quarters 154 Regt N Y Vol
Camp near Stafford C.H. Va
May 8 1863

My Dear Ann,

I have written one very short letter to you since the great and bloody Battle but I doubt very much if it got to you= We have not found B. D. Morgan Richard Lewis Uncle Tom & Lewis Jones yet.= But I hope that they are safe some wheres David Williams is doing well in the Hospital near Brooks Station on the Rail Road= not far from Acqua Creek Billy Jones is quite sick with the Bloody Dysentery but he will be better in a few days

Please let his folks know that he is alive, and that he will write to them tomorrow or as soon as the mail goes out. I can not tell you to day how many we have lost from this Regiment, But there are a great many missing= so that we can not tell where they are But I am in hopes that our Boys are all safe some wheres=

I have just Received a letter from you dated 21 of April I am very thank that you were all well at that time.= I have seen enough of this war, and I pray that God in his mercy will not permitt me to see an other Battle

Three different times the Rebels threw their shells into our Supply Train One man man was killed only a little ways from me, and a span of mules torn all to pieces, and an other went right over my head and struck in the road a little ways a head of me= but it did not burst.

Such a time I have never seen and I hope never to see again=

We shall not stay long in this camp it is Reported that we are going to Washington Maybe that the Rebels will drive us there

I have no time to write this or a place either, for we are so unsettled I have given both my blankets and one of my shirts to a poor wounded boy that had lost all he had in the fight= To make it still worse on the fifth day of the fight a great rain & hail storm set in, and has continued with more or less violence for 3 days I have slept 3 nights in my wet clothes, right down in the wet, and I have not taken cold yet. Hundreds of those that were wounded, were on the Battle field during all that storm Who can tell of their suffering I will do all in my to find those missing Boys=

My love to all W. P. James is all right so is S. R. Williams=

Yours very Truly

In great haste

Wm Charles

Tell D. Williams Wife that David is doing well

Head Quarters 154 Regt. N.Y.V.
Camp near Stafford C.H. Va.
May 11th 1863

Dear Ann

I believe I sent you a letter yesterday but having a little time I will write a few words and will try to send them off to you to morrow I will not try to tell you any thing about the Battles we were in last week for you have seen the account of it the papers All I have to say is that the Rebels were to much for us=

you know that that this Regiment belongs to the 11th corps. And that is the corps that is so much blamed for Running a way from the Rebels instead of fighting them Somebody were very much to blame but who it was I will not pretend to say All I is this, that the Rebels came very near taking the whole of us, Supply trains and all!

Some of the boys acted like men but others acted very shameful Some of the Captains in this Regiment Ran as fast as ever they could and left their men to take care of themselves

May 12 1863

it was very warm yesterday and this morning the sun comes out hot The Regiment was paid yesterday I Received \$52. I will send \$40 of it home you can use it as you think best I See it reported in the Papers that Bill Davis is wounded he is not in the least in running through the woods a little twigg scratched a little right on the face some wheres he said but having no specta I could not see it

He claimed that he sprained his acli too but all there is the matter with him is he heard that the Rebels were coming and ran as fast as his legs could carry him=and hundreds of others did the same thing and that is the reason that so many of our Boys are missing-- they did not keep together but ran in all directions Many of them no doubt ran into the Rebel lines and of course was taken prisoners=-- I can hear nothing about Ben Morgan and Lewis Jones or Uncle Tom and Richard Lewis= I am feeling pretty well as far as health is concern But some how or other I am very lonesome Billy Jones is a little better Of course you will keep the contents of this letter to your- self as far as I have said any thing about Bill Davis My love to all. We shall go from here in a few days=

Yours most Truly

Wm Charles

Head Quarters 154th N.Y. Vol.
Camp near Stafford C.H. Va
May 14 1863

Dear Ann,

Your very kind letter Dated the 5th of this month came to hand last night.= My Dear Wife how wonderfully good our Heavenly father has been to us Your prayers have been answered For to night you are not a widdow and our little ones are not fatherless How can we be thankful enough for such mercy. Many did fall by the side of me and all a round me but so far the Lord God of my fathers hath protected me from all harm=

The shot and the shells flew and bursted in all direction But not to harm me why should I be spaired when so many fell is a mystery to me= You will continue to pray for me, and have faith that some day, we shall meet again=

I am very glad that Mang_ has gone to see her sisters, it will do her good but I am a little afraid that the account of this great Battle will make her a little uneasy= At least untill she hears how it is with us here

That letter with the Dollar in it has not come yet= most likely it never will.= yesterday I sent you check of (\$40.) Forty Dollars, I wish it was more but it will help you a little I have got ten dollars left, and that will last me for a long time unless I am sick= some three weeks ago I could not eat much of any thing and I spent \$3. or \$4. dollars for Butter & cheese and bread, but as long as I am well I do not need any money=

We have heard nothing from those missing boys=

David Williams is doing well Billy Jones is not much better. I do all I can for him but that is not much= But if he was my Brother I could not do any more for him We miss those boys very much= If I can in any way find out what has become of them I will there folks know at once My health is pretty good but I am very weak yet, but I am able to be on my feet all day. yesterday and to day has been very hot It is thundering some to night It will rain before morning

What do you think of the war now Does the Copper Heads crow any or do they only laugh in their sleeves

I send lots of kisses to you & Tommy & Frances Ann

Bill James has not writen to Jameson lately I sent a letter to him a few days before we started from this camp Do you know if he Received it or not= Sue will have to send Bill an other likeness of her face for the Rebels have got the one he had He threw his Knapsack away and every thing in it out he brought his gun with him thats more than Bill Davis did

Sam Williams did not loose any thing= Bill & Ike Williams were both in the Hospital Ike looks about as well as ever and Bill never looked better in his life= you see Bill knows just enough to have a good time of it all the way through. Well good by= Give my love to Dack_ & to father and all I would not ask any favors from Susan for I do not think that she or any of them except perhaps father are friends either to you or me= you must not expect any good from them It makes me feel bad to be oblige to say so but it is the fact I think. Did you get a letter from me with a verse writen in it with red ink? My best Respects to all, Most Truly

W. Charles

Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y.Vols
Camp Near Stafford C.H. Va.
May 17 1863

Dear Ann,

I received a letter from you last night dated 24th April Where it had been all the while I can't tell you. The letter with the Dollar in it has not come yet I will get my likeness taken as soon as I get time or to a place where they take them. I do not think that we shall see an other Battle very soon So you must be easy on that account. Our Col. has come back He is badly wounded in the thigh he is going home to day= I made a pair of cruches for him yesterday He was in the hands of the Rebels for nearly a week. They treated him very kindly and took first rate care of him. He thinks Uncle Tom Lewis Jones Richard Lewis and Ben Morgan are gone to Richmond I have written a letter to Mr. Morgan. I had a great mind not to write a word to him just because he did not let you know about that box But then we must not be bad to those who are bad to us So I wrote him a letter telling him all I knew about Ben. If the Boys only kept together instead of Running in all directions it would have been much better for us all. But Our Officers were very much to blame, in letting the Rebels come on to us in the way they did=

We expected them to come up in our front, but instead of that they came from Our Rear or back side, and took us all by surprise and in less than no time they had every thing their own way= They did fight so well they were not afraid of any thing they would woulk right up to the canons mouth. Of course hundreds of them were killed But the Rebels are brave men and their Officers are much better than Ours That is they know a great deal more about the art of war than Our Officers does. But in this last fight it was nothing but carelessness on our part to let them beat us as they did

If Our Officers had been a little more wachful and not been quite so confident of Victory I think we would not have been oblige to Retreat a cross the River. The only wonder to me is how we got off so well= After we got into such a confusution.=

It is said that Seventeen thousand have been burried on that Battlefield That is almost past belief but still I think it is true that more than that number fell on both sides= and I think that twice that number were wounded and were taken or walked from the field.=

It was a Great Victory for the Rebels although they lost a great many men but only think how much they got from us=in the shape of clothing money & Guns The Rebels say that the quantity of blankets that was left by us on the Battle field was so great that they could not take them a way They must have got a great deal of money for most of the Regiments had just been paid off When you was writing those beautiful verses to me you did not think that at that very hour, that so many thousands were falling all round me no, no, you did not but so it was= O how Good Our Heavenly Father has been to us= How can we be thankful enough for for so great a mercy

Well we will talk no more of war this time. It is a beautiful Sabbath morning and my mind wanders back to that spot where dwells all that I hold dear on earth I should like very much to be there this morning to go with you to church=and to listen once more to the children of God praising his Holy name Please Remember me very kindly to Mr. Harris & family John Lewis & Wife Robert Williams & family and old Mr Rees & family and all the rest.

(continued)

(May 17, 1863 continued)

Tell Tommy & Frances to be very good children & Dat will be home as soon as Uncle Sam will let him. Does Frances talk yet Please give my love to Dack__ and Father and mother and all enquiring friends

How long was M_____ stay out west. I am very glad that you have got that little boy if he is there now buy him something and make it a preasant to him from me or give him some money-- Write soon and let me know if that check of \$40. has come=

I Am Very Truly Yours

Wm Charles