

Camp 154th N Y Vols  
near Alexandria Va  
Sept 2nd 1863

Dear Mother

I hasten to write you a few lines in answer to your \_\_\_\_\_ very welcome letter of Aug. 21st \_\_\_\_\_ which I have just rec'd. I have just come off of guard and behold I found three letters two from you and one from Ell(?) I have not got many letters from home since I left the Hospital. Our Reg't is near Alexandria now guarding Conscripts through to their Reg'ts. a detachment from our Reg't. goes to the front every day on the cars and back to guard Conscripts. I have not been down only once yet then our squad had 159 Conscripts for the 145th Pa. in the same Brigade with the 64th N.Y. and so I stayed with Ed. Clark all night came back the next day. there are a great many Conscripts arriving here in Alexandria now for different Regts. in the field. We are having good times now have large Sibley Tents and wood furnished to cook with I dont know how long we shall stay here but hope all the fall think we shall stay here till all the Conscripts get through to their Reg'ts. and perhaps longer it is not very certain how long. I wrote a letter to Libbie the other day, I have not heard from her in some time. I wrote to her a short time before I left the Hospital. Mother did you get my picture in your letter from me that I wrote before I left the Hospital I meant to put it in but dont know as I did for I wrote to John and calculated to send him one but I did not send only one to both of you and I dont know which letter I put it in for I have not heard from John yet. please write in your next if you got it or not if you did not I will send it right off to you. I sent one to Libbie but dont know as she has got it for I have not heard from her. Edgar & Bill Casten are here with the Reg't. now they came since we got here. We are Camped in a very pleasant place on the bank of the River where we can see all the boats that pass and repass from Alexandria to Washington. we go down to the River about ten rods and go in swimming as often as we like when we are not on duty. it is very pleasant indeed then we ride down to the front and back every day or two to guard Conscripts some of them are hard cases that come from Phila. and New York Cities but we have our guns loaded and orders to shoot them if they undertake to get away. a fellow that is in our Brigade shot one the other day when he tried to run and get away. that scared the remainder & they behaved well. We have to handle them ruff if we didnt they would get away. We are in a little ways of Parole Camp and Convalescent Camp too. I have heard from Deloss by way of some fellows that was taken with him and have been paroled and got back here to Parole Camp they left him on Belle Island near Richmond he was well and with George Newcomb they said he sent a short letter of twelve lines home if so perhaps you have got it by this time. they said that they were not confined but allowed to walk around on the Island and got good victuals but

not a great deal of it. he will probably be exchanged now soon as I see in the papers the commissioners are to meet now I hope you heard from him ere this Time, and perhaps he is paroled now but it takes some time to get around from Richmond by way of Anapolis and here to Parole Camp. I shall probably see him as soon as he gets here for he will hear that our Reg't. is here and can come to see us it is only about a mile and half from here to Parole Camp. the boys that were taken at Chancellorsville come over here most every day to see us. the boys that left Deloss said that he could get all the money he wanted to use of Peter Stone a fellow in our Co. that was taken with him. I feel a great deal better since I heard from him for I know he has got some good friends of our Co. with him and then it is a great deal healthier on that Island than in Libbie Prison.

A Lieut. of Co. E. one of the Chataqua companies has died in Richmond lately he was taken at Gettysburg and had the fever in Richmond his name was Jenkins, a good Officer. I stand it very well doing duty, but get tired very quick at first. they do not put me on very heavy duty yet. We live very well here and have grand times for it is very pleasant place.

I was very sorry to hear that Frank and Welley were sick it seems to me that you must have lots of trouble and get very tired but dear Mother do not worry about me for I can get along you must not for it hard for all soldiers as well as for me and I am willing and am going to try to do my duty if I am able and I feel very well now, now do not worry about me for I am as well off as you are when you aorry about me. for when I am sick I can find friends. Mother was it our Adjutant that Mr Duffie wrote to? he does not know any thing about it more than I do. It appears that John did draw a prize Bully (\$30,000) I have seen the names of the men that drew a prize in Leon. it suits me very well. only it will be a little hard on the Castens I have not got Charleys letter yet. Mother I wish you would send me your picture now for I shall probably get it all right. I got the letter you sent to Camp.

Now I think I have written a long line and will close hoping it will find you well and Frank & Welly too.

This from your son and well wisher

M. W. Darling Cell

Camp of the 154th N.Y. Vols.

Alexandria, Va.

Tuesday Sept. 15th-1863

Dear Friends

I seat myself on our bunk or bedstead first as you may call it, to write in answer to the letter I rec'd. a short time since dated Sept. 6th. I was very glad to hear from home and much more, Mother, to see your picture! I think it is very natural though it might have been bettered. I think a great deal of it, and shall try to keep it. I am detailed to go to the front with Conscripts, but dont know how soon I shall be called on to go, perhaps not today and perhaps in five minuts. I have not much news to write now for there is not much going on now days some troops arriving from New York City that have been there to enforce the draft and are now on their way back to the front to join the army for a fall campaign, which will I hope end this cruel war.

My health is gaining now so I am most as tough as any of them Well I do not know what to write unless it is the same nonsensical lingo and that would not be very interesting to you as you have undoubtedly heard all of this a great many times. I rec'd. your letter and Libbies the same time, have not heard from John in some time. I think before I left the Hospital was the last letter I got from him. I have heard from Byron Allen by letter he is in New York City, and Ames had been to see them. I do not hear any thing more from Deloss, do you I am looking for a letter from Aunt Mary now every day. You wished to know if I had clothes enough, I can say yes all I want that never troubles us for we have all we want. I have got one woolen Blanket one gum Blanket or rubber, one Overcoat one dress coat that I drew at Jamestown, a Vest, two shirts, one pr drawers, two prs Trowsers, three prs socks, one pr shoes, one cap, and an old hat. one thing more we drew lately, one State Jacket, or round about as you may call it. Now you see I have plenty of clothing and more than I could possibly cary if compeled to march. Marshall Shannon and I sleep together and have best of clothes. Then I have a Gun Cartridge box forty rounds of Cartridges Knapsack Haversack & Canteen this constitutes my full equipment and Clothing with the exception of a few dishes. Well I guess I wont write any more now finish some other time. Cell.

Three oclock PM

I will try to write \_\_\_\_\_ finish this letter. You spoke of its being most a year since Deloss and I left home. it was just a year from the day you wrote the \_\_\_ of Sept. that I enlisted and went to Jamestown the eighth and was mustered in to the State service. to be sure I have seen some hard times but I guess I could stand it two years longer. I did not think I could endure a half as much when I enlisted but find a man can

endure a great deal when obliged to. I have always thought that I should see this war over and get home safe it always has seemed to me so since I enlisted and I believe it now. You spoke of Monroe I do not want to say any thing about him that would get to his folks. but he was better able to come to the Reg't. when I did than I was (so thinks I). I am very glad to hear from Willey & Frank and to hear that they are getting better. I do so hate to have any of you sick it seems worse than it did when I was there, or to be sick myself I wrote to Charley the other day for you say that he wrote to me and I will write in answer but have never received any letter from \_\_\_\_\_ get letters from Willey and Charley it seems as if they were learning to write and they write what they have been doing & how things are getting along in Leon. today has been very warm and uncomfortable but little going on in the City beyond the usual rumbling and whistling of cars. this morning about four oclock a fire broke out in one of the Government Stables near the dock and burned to the ground before the fire engines got to the place to do any good. it made a great light and caused some excitement early in morning but this soon died away and the usual grumble was heard. I have got to go to the front Tomorrow morning at half past four with Conscripts for the 42nd N. Y. Vols dont know what Corps they are in. I shall write to Libbie when I get back from my journey. Tell Lon Thomas that if he comes he cant go to see Abe but will be placed under a guard all of the way this is the way to use Conscripts & the way they get used too. I have been eating Cabbage or hot slaw as you may call it. you know Mother I think a great deal of Cabbage, but dont pay to buy them and pay fifteen cent a head. I suppose you are having ripe apples now and every kind of vegetable I had rather be at home a month now than any other time of the year. but so it is I can not. what is Milo doing now that he does not write to me Well Mother how are you getting along for money & things this fall dont you have to work to hard & is that small girl home with you now? I hear that Luke Kellogg has enlisted is it so? The report is that Arch Kysor is dead is that so?

I will stop now for have written considerable have not look it over to see the mistakes, but can see them without looking it over

This from your Son

M. W. Darling

Indianapolis, Ind  
Thursday Oct. 1st-63

Dear Friends,

I seat myself in the State of Indiana to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and in good spirits. We are waiting to take the Cars. We started from Alexandria Sunday (?) PM and have been riding on the Cars most all the time since. reached here about an hour ago and having an opportunity to write a few lines I improve the time I expect you will be greatly disappointed at hearing that we have moved and expect to go to Tennessee but dont know for certain I am not sorry that we are going for I have seen enough of Va. last Friday I started from Alexandria with Conscripts for the front did not get back until Sunday then our Regiment had gone on this way the Regiment left Alexandria Saturday morning and they are a head of us now passed through here yesterday there is only one of our Co. boys here and that is Leander Johnson. I think we shall overtake the Regiment in a day or two. I hope you will not feel bad because I have gone to the South west for I think it is a better place than in Va. I will write when we get through and let you know all the particulars. I expect to leave here soon all of the 11th and 12th Corps have gone this way. all the paroled Prisoners have been exchanged that were in parole Camp and are on ahead with the Regiment. If you get this and wish to write before you get an other direct the same as usual and I guess I shall get it but dont know for certain

I shall have to close now

bidding you good bye.

I remain as usual

Your Son M. W. Darling

Remember me to all the Friends Cell

This City is the Capitol of this State

Camp 154th N.Y.V.  
Near Chattanooga Tenn.  
Monday Nov. 2d/63

Dear Friends!

Today finds me well and in good spirits I am very thankful to say, and hope wish you the same.

I am getting about discouraged trying to get any mail I have not had a letter of any discription since I left Alex Va. and now it has been over a month. We are now near Chattanooga. We started from Bridgeport Ala. a week tomorrow morning. marched the first day about 15 miles our Brigade having the advance made it a great deal harder for us for they expected to meet a large force of Rebs and consequently had to keep out skirmishers in the advance but the Rebs all skeadaddled ahead of us the first day and second day till about three o clock P.M. when suddenly we were fired on by some Rebels. our Regt and the 73d Pa. were in the advance on the skirmish line and of course were the first engaged. there was a full Brigade of Rebs and after a short skirmish our two Regts were ordered to charge the Rebs. We did so with a full cheer, and away the Brigade of gray backs run and our two Regts after them. the skirmish was in the woods so there were not many hirt only one man in our Regt and his little finger on the left hand was shot off. He belongs to Co. C. the skirmish over we passed on about a mile and formed a junction with the main Army at Chattanooga. here we encamped and I was detailed on picket in the night a fight broke out about a mile away and our Brigade was ordered forward but was not engaged in the morning I came back to the Regt. and all is quiet ever since and likely to be for some time.

We marched from Bridgeport through here on the Rail R. you can see on the map. I do not hear any thing from Deloss do you? I dont know when I can send this out neither do I know as you would get it. Now do not worry about me Good Bye Cell D.

Direct to M. W. Darling Co. K 154th N.Y.V.  
1st Brigade 2d Division 11th Corps  
Army Cumberland Nashville Tenn I am glad

Tuesday morning Nov 3 Good Good I have got some mail, six letters, two from Mother one the Oct 10th the other Oct. 22 I got two from Libbie one from Milo from Deal I got them last night but must close this now for a chance to send it

I dont know but this pencil mark will rub out so I will put in a piece of paper each side

Camp Jenkins 154th N. Y. Vols  
Lookout Valley Tenn.  
Saturday Jan. 2d 1864

Dear Parents,

I seat myself this 2d day of the new Year to inform you that I am well and enjoying myself very well considering this cold day. I expect you have ere this time received my letter that was written when we first got back here, at least I hope you have for it had been some time then since I had written, on account of the long march we had.

We are in the same Camp as when I wrote last, have got put up good Winter Quarters and everything comfortable for a Soldier to have, that is I mean that he expects to have, Hard Tack Bacon sugar and Coffee sometimes Beans and desecated vegetables and Beef two days out of three, this constitutes our rations and we generally get enough of this. we get an order once in a while of some of the Officers and go to the Commissaries and buy flour and other stuff sugar and the like, you know I like Sugar,

I have an excelent appetite so Hard Tack taste as good as pie and cake would if I was without an appetite. I can eat most anything that is holesome. Mart Shannon Amos Kysor and myself Tent together, have things about as handy as any body in our Co. They have commenced giving Furloughs in the Army now, a fellow in our Co. is going home, from Perrysburg his name is John Waters, I think that Mart Shannon will go the next one from Co. K. the furloughs are twenty days each, I dont know how long they will continue, but probably through the Winter as long as the Army lies still I should try to get one but there is a good many ahead of me and I dont know as it would pay me to go home so far it would cost me a good deal and then it would be hard to come back. I should like very much to see you all, but dont think there will be a chance this Winter There is a fellow going home to Versailles by the name of Bunce. I have sent by him to bring me a Hat and pair of Gloves. I wish you would send me a Paper and put in the inside, about three or four rows of good sized pins, and one darning Kneedle, then perhaps by and by I will have you send me a pair of suspenders for mine are nearly gone, I may have a chance to get a pair here, but if not, I will let you know.

I suppose you had a marriage yesterday in our family Libbie wrote to me about it \_\_\_\_\_ time ago but I have Kept it still here and have never heard you say anything about him your letters I suppose of course you know all about it. I think she will do well The first snow we have had here fell yesterday and it is the coldest now it has been yet. I have letters very often from John do you? Tell all the folks that Cell is well and so as to eat his rations We do not get any news papers here at all so you can send me all you can of them to read this Winter

Camp of the 154th  
Lookout Valley Tenn  
Sunday March 13th/64

Kind Mother,

I seat myself this pleasant day to write you a few lines in answer to your very welcome letter of Feby 28th and Mar 3, which I received March 8th when on picket. I was very glad to get a letter from home.

Every thing is quiet here now and not much war news except from Gen Kilpatrick's Cavalry Corps on the grand raid to Yorktown driving the Rebels within their defences of Richmond. I see in last nights paper that our authorities had effected an exchange of seven hundred (700) prisoners that were in Richmond and I hope Deloss is one of them. There seems to be a calm now in all the departments but perhaps it will soon commence with more fury than ever. General Grant has been made a Lieutenant Gen. and now will probably be in Gen. Hallecks place and things will be conducted rather different I think in the Army of the Potomac now that Army is going to be reorganized the papers say, last nights Nashville paper said, "the rumor was that the 11th & 12th Corps was going back to the Potomac, but rumor tells lots of lies now days so I cant believe this story rumor has started. I had as soon stay here as go there now.

Monroe is here now and it seems a little as it used to before the Battle of Chancellorsville though our Co. is not only about one third as large now as then. If Deloss was here now all of our Bunk would be together once more I hope to hear that he was one of the number that arrived at City Point from Richmond.

I dont know as you have heard that Edgar Shannon is promoted to 1st Lieut. he is to be our Quarter Master. he will get now \$136. dollars a month now if he does not keep only one horse I am glad to see Edgar come up and the best thing is that he is put in over Dell Chaffee, who has been working his best and all of his friends at home also, to get him promoted. it appears that there is some think there was no one come from Leon only Dell Chaffee and that he is the only one of importance from there. if he had never had any better chance than common Leon boys he would have been a Doehead in fact he does not lack much of it now.

I went over to Chattanooga yesterday to see if my Box was there but it was not, I thought perhaps it might be there and I want to get it as soon as it comes, so Monroe and I went over. I shall go again in three or four days.

Well Mother I am twenty years old the day I got your letter I was on picket and the ninth too, a year ago the ninth day of March I was on Picket near Stafford C.H. Va. I received a letter from Uncle John last night, there was no news of importance. I have not got the paper you sent the time of sending the last letter you spoke about. I am well and hope this will find you all the same it is very pleasant here today.

If Deloss goes or has been sent to Georgia he cannot get in a worse place than Richmond. I think it will be better for him if he goes to Georgia. We have not moved at all the Army at Chattanooga marched to Dalton and made a demonstration but we did not move I dont think we shall go to the front this Summer but will guard the railroad. Mother if it is my fate to fall on the Battle field, so be it I am doing my duty and am prepared to meet my fate, but think if we part it is to meet again in a happier land Cell

I should like some molasses right well but cant have it this Spring I expect. We have plenty to eat now days and that is good for a Soldier. Monroe sits here writing I guess to his wife I can not think of any more to write now so I will close by bidding you good \_\_\_\_\_ M Darling

Camp 154th N. Y. Vols  
Lookout Valley Tenn  
Tuesday April 5th 1864

Dear Brothers Welley and Frank,

I should like to stop in and see you this day, or should like to have you stop in to my shanty and eat dinner with me and stay a day or two wouldnt we have fun alive. we would take my gun and go up on Lookout Mountain and shoot a Turkey Buzard or a Deer

I guess you are making Sugar some now and I guess you are eating some too, that would be natural you know for me you know if I was there. I hope you are both good boys and trust you are for you used to be.

I hardly know what to write to you for I have written so much to Charley. Well Frank have you got any little pigs or Calves or Lambs this spring yet has the old Bell sheep got a Lamb yet.

Now I cant think of any thing more to write now so I will close by hoping to get a good long letter from you both in a few weeks

Now be good Boys and write to me from your Brother

Cell W. D.

To W.D. and B.F.D.

All of the Leon Boys are well I believe.

Camp 154th N. Y. Vols  
Lookout Valley Tenn  
Tuesday April 5th 1864

Dear Friends and relatives

Not having much to do today only to get my lesson, (it being so we shall not have any drill) I thought I would write and let you know how your friend in the Army is prospering believing that it would not be an unwelcome message.

I have not had a letter from home in some time but am looking every mail for one. I wrote home the 20th of March and sent three dollars to have you send me a hat. I am anxious to hear if you received the letter and money all sound. Monroe and I packed up a Box and sent it to Cattaraugus March 24 I had an Overcoat and Shirt. I took it to Chattanooga and had it directed to John Carpenter I gave the receipt to Monroe and he sent it to his father. we thought he could send over by Ellis if he carries the mail now, we paid the freight here. my Overcoat was a very light one and had black lining with the cuffs torn off and a white Shirt done up in the coat (or would be white if it was washed clean). Mother if you can use up any of these to advantage do so for I dont care much about them

The day that I sent the Box home I got the one John sent me, and you can hardly imagine how hopping happy I was to get it. I went over to Chattanooga with Edgar, (our Quarter Master) we have to have them along here or get an order from them so Edgar thought he would go to and get all of the boxes for our Reg't. at once, he got into the express Office first while I was expressing the box home and looked the boxes all over. he said my box was not there, but I was bound to look, being that I had come so far. I went in and about the first one my eyes rested upon it read M. W. Darling and I hit it a kick, says I that my box. so I hustled it into the cars and had it carried down to Lookout Station and carried it directly to Camp and you can bet it was not long before I began to taste of some cokies from the land of Sugar and milk where every thing is plenty (except hard tack and Sow belley as the Soldiers call the pork) there was two quarts cans of Butter a two quart can of very nice pickles, two quarts of dried cherries and berries four or five pounds of nice ham three or four pounds of dried beef some dried apples and a lot of cookies, and he put in some salt, we have thousands of that, but I did not tell him any thing to send us so he thought some salt might come very handy. every thing came very nice and kept good though it was about a month coming. since then I have lived on the top shelf and slept up garret except two nights then I slept on the ground and one night it rained (I was going to say pitchforks) but I guess it didnt, only large drops! now in order to tell you how I happened to sleep on the ground I must tell you we have been marching a little since I wrote you last. A week tomorrow morning about four oclock we were called out and had orders to get ready to march at (6-30) A.M. to leave our Knapsacks and go in the very lightest marching order on a reconnoissance. with three days rations we started at the given time in the direction of Trenton Ga.

marched the first day through Trenton about three miles a distance of about twenty miles from Camp. here Monroe and I put up our little two pieces of shelter tent and had a good rest, in the morning started or marched about eight miles and halted without seeing even one Rebel, There was cavalry scouts in advance of us all the time but they did not see any of the enemy, we rested here till the scouts returned about three oclock P.M. and then marched back where we stayed the first night put up our tent and it rained awful hard that night. the next day returned to camp it was the first day of April but there was not much april fooling all the boys felt pretty sore walking on the rail road. this ends our journey for this time.

I dont know but that I wrote to you that I got John's and Libbie's photographs, I think they are very natural. The worst weather we have had this Winter has been within the last four weeks not the coldest but rainy and windy. there was a shower passed over here the other night and it thundered and lightened the wind blew the tents into a cocked hat, have you seen any coming up through there lately? Our old Captain, Hugaboom, has been here, he came with Milton Bush but has gone back and left Bush and I guess we shall have to make a Soldier of Bush for I think there is no way he can get out now after any one is mustered into the United States it is harder to get out than out of States prison in the first place Hugaboom was to blame in telling Bush that any one could take his place for it is an impossable thing to have it done after he is mustered into the United States service

Well I must go and drill now for it has cleared off and the bugle has sounded.

I have been out and had a good drill so will try and finish this imperfect letter now. Amos Kysor has gone to the Brigade Hospital and now Monroe and I have thing pretty nice in our house, if you dont believe me just call in and look thing over a little. It seems like old times to have one of my mess mates with me again. Do you hear any thing from Deloss? I got a letter Sister Libbie some time since and she thought he was exchanged and would hear from him soon but I have about given up hearing from him this time I did not know but he might be one of that six hundred that was paroled and sent to Alexandria I see in the papers that the Rebel commissioner, (his name is Ould) has gone to Fortress Monroe to see General Butler in regard to the exchange of prisoners it said he brought a great many Books and papers and intends to make a new exchange of prisoners I hope they will I guess by the time you get this read you will think you have got reading enough for now, but I am in of a writing mood today

Now Charley I shall expect to hear from you soon and all the news too from your Brother Cell

Camp 154th N.Y. Vols  
Lookout Valley Tenn  
Wednesday April 27th 1864

Dear Friends

In our old camp I once more seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and this will find you all the same. I have no news to tell you I know of It is very pleasant here now and it makes me wish I had a team and some ploughing to do. Well I believe it is just one year since the army of the Potomac started from their Winter Quarters and I think it will not be long be long before they will be moving again, but the indications are now (I think) that this army will not try to advance but will just try to make a demonstration so to not let any of the army here go to Va. I can not see the use of advancing here unless it is to capture Atlanta and that can not be done very easy for the rail road communications are so far through the mountains and subject to raids from the enemys cavalry. I do not think there will be much hard fighting here this summer, though I can not tell much about it. I received a letter from Libbie yesterday the same time I did yours and one from Aunt Mary. I received one from Milo a short time since and have answered it. There has been an order issued from the war department to give noncommissioned Officers and Privates furloughs of thirty days providing their Officers will recommend them for a commission in a Negro Regiment. the furlough is for them to go to the free school at Philadelphia to fir them in such studies as they shall need to recieve a commission. the captain has recommended me to the Colonel and I have been before the examining board here \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ but I dont know how \_\_\_\_\_ passed or how many of us will go, but hardly think any here will go, and as far as I am concerned I dont care I had as soon not go as to go, for there will be some of a \_\_\_\_\_ here I think. Stiles expects his commission every day now but dont say anything about it there for perhaps he would not like to have all know it. all I should \_\_\_\_\_ about going into a Negro Regiment would be for the pay but not the honor of a commission, the pay would do me a great deal of good for I am poor and just now is the time for me get something ahead to commence with if I could get out of the Army which I hope to do ere long. How should you like to have me go into a Negro Regiment. when I wrote to Lyb I was a tat sick with a cold then and now I am tough and rugged only it is a hard time to Soldier now for it is pleasant and seems as if I ought to be at home ploughing the trees are all leaved out now and it begins to look as if it was time to begin the springs work. It seems to me as if Deloss was going to get out of the Rebels hands all right. one thing I have allways bore in mind that he will not sit down and give up like a great many. this getting discouraged and giving up here in the army is just what caused the death of a great many and Deloss I know will keep up good spirits and will not sit down to give up all hopes. I never have been realy discouraged in the Army \_\_\_\_\_ have seen the consequences of it and always tried to avoid it as much as possible

I was rather down hearted last spring when I was sick but I see if I had given up I should perhaps not have lived when George Francis came it cheered me a great deal for I knew he was such a good \_\_\_\_\_ and I shall always remember how good he was to get me lemons and would not take a cent for them. then when we was removed to Washington I could but just walk and he would carry my things and want I should lean on him to walk then when we got on the boat it was so full that I had to go up to the upper deck where there was no \_\_\_\_\_ and he \_\_\_\_\_ and got a heavy \_\_\_\_\_ to spread over me if it had not been for that I should have taken a dreadful cold I never had paid him any thing but if it ever is in my power to repay him and I get home I shall do it (A friend in need is a friend indeed") I received the hat and have written to you since to have Charley see Robin Smith and get two dollars from him to buy me another and that is to large I presume you have got the letter ere this one. I sent the measure for the size of the Hat that hat \_\_\_\_\_ and you need not send mail this or at the Centre for Rufus Kellogg has no business to charge eighteen cents for sending one hat.

you may send me a few stamps at a time if you will. I suppose it is very hard times for poor people now. I got a letter from Lyb yesterday She said that she had got the ten dollars I sent with Edgars money and gave it to you that is all right. I am glad you have got it it will do you \_\_\_\_\_ good and I know that it will. I wish I could persuade Father to sell the old \_\_\_\_\_ for I know they are the worst thing \_\_\_\_\_ they eat so much and no place to put them only to \_\_\_\_\_ and nothing to do that will pay, if he will sell them I will try and help him move but it is I do not feel that I am \_\_\_\_\_ right \_\_\_\_\_

Camp 154th N.Y. Vols  
near Kingston Ga  
Saturday May 21st 1864

Dear Friends,

I am very thankful to write you this morning and after passing through two severe battles I am well and all right I have written to you twice since we left Lookout Valley May 4th the first time I wrote we were at Dug Gap and had been in a Battle there. but thanks to God I was spared while friends and comrades fell each side of me the first letter I wrote was the 9th or 10th and the first fight was Sunday the eighth. The second letter I wrote the 17th and sent it by Dr Van Arnam our surgeon. he went home on a furlough I hope you got both of these letters for I fear you have been worrying a great deal about me. of course you heard about the Army moving and was anxious to hear from us. but I have improved all the opportunities afforded us for writing knowing that you would be worrying about me. now I will try and give you an account of what we have been doing but can not enter into the particulars for it is a long story. The fourth about four oclock P.M. we marched over the Mountain into the Valley by Chattanooga and encamped for the night. the fifth we marched towards Lee's Mills and encamped for the night the sixth we marched a little ways and encamped till the morning of the seventh then marched through Nickajack Gap and down a valley crossed Taylors Ridge to Gordons Springs marched about two miles from here and encamped all night and till Sunday the eighth about noon we started on in the direction of Dug Gap about four miles off there we found the enemy and attacked them with our force consisted of two Brigades of our Division (General Gearies) the third Brigade had gone with Kilpatricks Cavalry to open an other Gap in the Mountain as soon as the skirmishers were engaged we formed into two lines of battle and advanced up the Mountain it was very warm and we came very near melting before we got up the mountain which was very steep and Stoney. as we advanced up the mountain the hotter was the fire, but we kept advancing until we reached a point about two rods from the top of the mountain where our Regiment was for we were nearer to the top than any other Regiment here we stood the fire of the Rebels from their rifle pits on top of the Hill for about ten moments and kept advancing slowly at one time our colors were within six feet of the Rebel pits. here the color bearer and one of the guard was shot dead and our men fell fast the brave Color bearers name was George Bishop his Brother was killed at Gettysburg carrying the colors of the Regiment they were both brave and good Soldiers as ever volunteered and we all mourn their loss here George Mason was wounded in the Head the only one from Leon (?) that was \_\_\_\_\_ our company was very fortunate in this Battle. I said we stood here about ten minuts and the line at the right of us broke and we did not have support and we had to fall back here we lost about Sixty four in killed wounded & missing. this a heavy loss for about two hundred men of our Regiment. Ozro Greely was seen nearly at the top of the Hill and it is believed that he was taken prisoner and was not hirt. I should like to say more about it

but I hope to come home some time and then we will talk it all over again. we fell back to the foot of the mountain and lay there all quiet till the 12th when we marched away from this Gap and passed through another Gap came out near Resaca in rear of Dalton this is what flanked the Rebels and got them out of Dalton

The thirteenth we moved over and nearer Resaca the 15th Army Corps attacked the Rebels towards night. the 14th we lay still till about ten o'clock in the P.M. and marched around to the left of the Army where there had been hard fighting that afternoon. the 15th Sunday we were marched a little to the right and our Corps attacked the Rebels and drove them from two lines of rifle pits and captured ten Cannon we were in reserve and did not loose only five or six wounded our Co. did not loose any. The third Division of our Corps (the 20th) charged and took a battery of four brass pieces but could not draw them off or get them for they were in a breastwork and as soon as they tried to get them and draw them over the breastworks the Rebels would fire into our men from a rifle pit beyond and the Rebs could not get them for our men would do the same if the enemy come out of their breastworks. they lay in this position till after dark when our Brigade was ordered to relieve the third Division in front of the Battery and to draw off the Guns we had got all ready to draw off the Guns when the Rebels mistrusted the rat and fired into us. the 27th Pa. Regiments time is most out and they broke and ran to the rear but we held our position and should have got the Guns but they relieved us and we went back with the Brigade and \_\_\_\_\_ fellows got the Guns. in the night the Rebels \_\_\_\_\_ and skedaddled leaving their killed and wounded on the field we followed them to here and I guess the Campaign is over but can not tell yet we have chased them quite a ways and taken a good number of prisoners you have probably read all about the fight before this...(Illegible passage)

Well the ball play is over and the last one was with minie balls cannon balls such as I dont like very much. we beat the Rebels in the game and the news is that Grant \_\_\_\_\_ them in Va. George Mason was wounded and I am acting Orderly of our Co. now I dont know when the mail will go out but will send this soon as I can

I remain your Son

M. W. D.

Where did you mail the Hat  
I see it cost only three cents.

Camp 154th N. Y. Vols  
Near Pumpkinvine Creek Ga.  
Wednesday June 1st 1864

Dear Friends in Cattaraugus.

Once more I am permitted to seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along in this time of battles. I wrote home the 21st of May and twice before that since we started on this Campaign the fourth of May when we left Lookout Valley, Tenn. the first letter I wrote was about the 9 or tenth of May after we had been engaged at Dug Gap on Rocky faced Ridge. the next was written about the 16th and sent by Dr Van Arnam of our Regt. after the battle at Resaca Ga. the third I wrote the 21st and gave it to the Quartermaster and he said he sent it. I hope you have got all of them for I know you must be anxious to hear from me for of course you hear of the battles. I can not give you a full account of our operations but will tell some of them since the 23d the time we started from near Kingston we crossed the River (Etowah) at about four P.M. and encamped that night. next morning started on marched slowly all day and encamped the night of the 24th all quiet. The 25th we started on towards Atlanta Ga. crossed Pumpkinvine Creek had marched about three miles and came upon the Enemy in force some skirmishing till about three P.M. when our Corps the 20th (Hookers) attacked the Enemy and drove them about a mile and a half dark came on and we lay in line of battle all night, rained some. in this fight our Regiment was in the second line and did not get but a very few hirt. Leon boys came out all right our company did not loose any. our Captain was sick and I had to take command of the Company which was something new for me but I believe our company done as well as any of them. Monroe Carpenter was sick or not able to march that day so he was with the Ambulances. there is only nine guns in our Company now. our Captain and Monroe and Isaac Smith have gone back to the Hospital they were not very sick but unable to march. they will probably write home and you will hear from them. Since the night of the 27th there has been no severe fighting but steady skirmishing all of the time. yesterday the drummer of our Company by a chance shot was hit in the hand slightly, back to the rear nearly a half of a mile his name is Orlando White from Gowanda. this is all our Company has lost wounded since at Rocky faced Ridge May 8th they say we are not far from Dallas Ga but I dont know how far or much where we are only that we are in the woods. I got my hat you sent and it is a good fit. it come just right the \_\_\_\_\_ weather. I have got a letter from \_\_\_\_\_ but can not answer any of them yet for we are busy all of the time. One year ago today George Francis got to Brooks Station and I was glad to see him you can bet, he is such a good man and helped me so much. I got a letter from \_\_\_\_\_ that was paroled from Richmond and got to Baltimore April 8th he said Deloss and all the rest of our boys was sent to Ga. in Feb when he was in the Hospital in Richmond

they were \_\_\_\_\_ then he said. please write if you hear anything from him. and now do write to me and have them all write for I am in want of letters and you dont know how cheering it is to get a letter on the march or on the battlefield when we are tired and fatigued we have not got mail but once since about the 23rd May then I got a letter from Etlie was all I got. I dont know when I shall have a chance to send this but thought I would write when I had a chance and send it when I got a chance. I hope this Campaign will soon be ended for I am getting tired and so are all of the boys, though so far we have been very successful as I can learn from Va. and I know that here we have drove them a long ways. it is very warm here now days I will close hoping to get a letter from home soon now do not fail to write often you must all remember that If I do not write it is because I have not time or that there is no chance to send a mail. perhaps I shall have have a chance to write more before I send this

I remain as ever your  
Son and Soldier  
Marcellus W. Darling

Cell Darling yours in haste

P.S. Tell all to write for I want letters

there is still a chance to send mail Now write often

Thursday June 2d/64 6-30 minuts P.M. the mail goes out at eight this evening and I shall send this all is well with me yet it has rained hard this P.M.

M. W. Darling

Camp 154th N. Y. V.  
Some where in Ga. dont know  
where but not far from Dallas Ga.  
Tuesday June 7th 1864

Dear Mother,

I have just received your very kind and welcome letter of May 25th and you can hardly imagine how glad I was to hear from you once more. Now, I am well and we are resting some I wrote you as often as I could while we have been on the march and all over most. the last I wrote to you I sent the 1st or 2d since then the Rebels retreated and we marched five or six miles and got here yesterday. we have not been engaged since I wrote you last, and I dont know how far the Enemy are from here but think they have fallen back near Atlanta. there is some prospects of us staying here three or four days to wait till the Rail-Road is repaired from Kingston through here we have driven the Rebs faster than we could repair the road and now we have got to wait. they say it is about twenty or twenty five miles from here to Atlanta. I tell you Mother we had rather tiresome times when you was writing this letter of the 29th there was eight days that we were under fire and all the sleep we got we had to sleep on our Arms and not much sleep at that but it takes hardships and fatigue to subdue this Rebellion and it is no worse for me to endure this than others that do though there are a great many that this war does not fatigue. I expect our work is not done yet and what I am going to do I had as soon do this Summer as next and have it done. though I think the fighting is going to be finished up this Summer but it is hard telling, the prospects are good for taking Richmond and Atlanta I think the news from Va. is good. I tell you we have got Generals now that are bound to win and we have got the men too, though the more the better and the easier it is for us that are here. I suppose you get all the news in the papers now days so I will not try to tell you any. We have in our Regiment about 100 guns one Captain three Lieutenants. Our Captain has gone to the Hospital and it leaves me in charge of the Company, only nine guns. I am not very used to commanding companies but think I can do as well as the most of them. Monroe and Isaac Smith have gone to the Hospital I wrote to you in my last letter. you know if you got all my letters I got my Hat at Kingston According to what I hear Leon must be well guarded now I hear that they have got one nine pounder and a htree and a half pounder belonging to Morgan's and Kellogg's Battery's that is doing well I think, though the three pounder is a light one. One year ago now I was Sick at Brooks Station I have written to John and home is all the time I can get to write the rest must wait till we get settled down and till I get some Ink, they must remember that I am where paper and such writing material is scarce and time and oportunity much scarcer. I saw Edgar today he was feeling good and cheerful he has a good position and he is a good Boy.