

Franklinville, April 23 1860

Dear Celia,

I have taken the liberty to call you Dear Celia and I hope in my heart that you will have no objections & I don't think you will. I cannot think of any thing to write for Mr. Woodruff can tell you all there is of interest. Mr. Boxworth died on Sunday eve. I think that Franklinville has lost a good citizen. I have not seen Mrs. Fay since you left but I shall call soon. I should have called ere this if you had been at home. I want to see you very much. You must think of me Cel once in a while won't you? I hope that this will find you enjoying good health. Mrs. Fay is about the same as when you left. Write to me do, I want to hear from you. Good bye now, Yours forever, see — G. E. Graves

160-

Head Quarters 20th Regt. Ill Vol.
Camp Fremont, Cap Giranleaux MO
Thursday August 15th 1861

Dear Ceal,

After a long delay, your letter was rec'd and a welcome messenger it was as are all communications from my far off friends. I think I rec'd all letters sent me, but they are a long time on the way. I was glad to know that you did not answer me for the course I've taken. Lee has already sent some 50,000 men to the field, and there are at present every reason to think they will be needed. And my nation would scarcely be content to remain inactive when the old Stars & Stripes which we so much reverence, was being desecrated by hordes of little less than barbarians. Celia, I will reveal the facts to you, which I have so far kept from my friends at home. I have enlisted for three years or the duration of the war, and there is no telling but I fear the worst. The country is distracted and I fear a bloody carnage will ensue. God grant it may not be the case. I admire your heroism Cele. I know you are courageous, but you could never endure the fatigue of a camp. There is one more thing that is so apparent that there is no disguise. There is not a member, I suppose, of the three Regiments here, but who naturally expect to go home again but many of them will not. More will probably fall by carelessness & disease than by the bullet. While here we have lost 10 men; 3 drowned, 3 by disease, and 4 shot. I do not make this statement you know to frighten, but that we should look at the chances and hope for the best. I have looked at the whole thing, and while I do not fear death, yet I keep everything from day to day, as though it was my last. The greatest desire that prompts me again to see home, is on account of my dear Mother & friends. I have bethought myself dear Ceal, that it would perhaps be my duty under the circumstances, as my country now claims me, and I am willing to spend the best part of my life in her defense as I am doing. To say to you, that I do not (if you see fit to do, or wish otherwise) wish to keep you while in the prime of life, in suspense. I will ask you no longer to wait for one as unworthy as myself, but if you see fit to do so, fine, but choose no one unworthy of you. Understand, now Ceal, under the circumstances, I leave our engagement in your own hands. I can scarcely picture to you Ceal, the scenes I see enacted & the times we pass through. Surrounded as we are by all the habitants & paraphernalia of war, we are almost constantly kept on the alert or have been, fearing an attack from the enemy. Men now entrenched by an embankment of earthwork 10 feet thick at the bottom 6 feet high & 3 feet on top, also a ditch around our whole camp, some 3 acres average from 4 to 8 feet deep. We feel comparatively safe and can defend ourselves against a far superior force. Very many people have left town, among the rest the artist, so I am unable to obtain a miniature but if ever an opportunity presents itself I will do so at once. I retain the size. Should you never rec. it, Sis will certainly let you have a copy. Roxan writes me she was going to write you to come & spend a week or so with her. Do go Cele wont you? I am going to send my trunks home. You would scarcely recognize my miniature, I am so rough, do not pre-tend to shave, and it is with the greatest care that one can keep half clean. Our camp ground is all dust, and it blows around fearfully. I have just rec'd a letter from Roxan. She urges me to come home, says it is rumored that the government is going to draft men and that there is a great excitement. Then she does not consider that I would feel pretty foolish to know the country needed soldiers and stay at home. I should not feel like showing myself much. She mistakes my nation very much. She writes me Mother feels very bad & when she told her where I was that she had to hold her up to keep her from fainting. I knew she would feel so, and it grieves me sorely to have them feel so. They should know I am doing my duty. Present my best regards to your Mother. Tell her I thank her for her compliments. Write to me often if you wish to Ceal, it seems good to hold converse with friends at home. You will excuse my bad writing. Conveniences are few and if disconnected, you should not wonder for I'm in the tent on the ground and a dozen sitting around talking. If you chance to go to Friendship Cele, comfort Mother all you can. I know she would be very glad to see you. She will cry like a child. I tell you Ceal, I feel very lonely at times; I have not spoke to a woman since I left Illinois. I am getting to be pretty rough I fear. You will not change much will you. Who would have thought one year ago now, that to day I should be where I am? I am much changed since then. The weather has been extremely hot here, 110 to 15 in the shade. I thought it would kill me sure, I do not like warm weather, but I never saw any before this summer. It is cooler now. Fruit is plenty here any quantity of peaches. Remember & pray for me and believe as ever.

Yours, Veto

150-

On Board the Steamer Chancellor,
Sailing up the Ohio
Monday October 15, 1861

Dear Ceil,

Yours of the 1st inst. was recently rec'd. It was cheering to hear from you, and I had looked long for the letter. I am sorry to hear of your sickness, and glad to know of your convalescence. Do you know, it occurred to me immediately, when the dance was previous to your being sick, O what other exposure you had subjected yourself to! It is a lovely day. Our Band is accompanying a pleasure party on an excursion to Paducah Kentucky, of which our Colonel & the staff of the Brigadier General Grant, and Ladies, together with some gentleman & Ladies from Chicago & Cairo form the principal part. We left Birds Point Mo. (our present location) at ten this morning, Paducah is 50 miles up the river from the former place. I am seated on the bow of the forecandle, and the view is altogether lovely. The broad expanse of unruddled water lays before me. On my left the Illinois shore, and on the right, the heavy timbered bottoms of old Kentucky whose soil is now invaded by hordes of marauders and enemies of the Country. Conflicting emotions fill my mind as I contemplate the scene. I collect my thoughts and wander again, then lay down my pen and gaze abstractly. I would be needless to say that thoughts of far off friends and home form a prominent part of my cogitations. You may like to know something of my-self, present and past. We left Jackson (when I wrote your letter) on the 11th September for this place. Since that time I have not been well most of the time. Had I been where my mother was I should have considered myself pretty sick. I was attacked with the prevailing southern disease, occasioned by the first use of Mississippi water, and to add to my discomfort, I had the chill fever, and an intermittent fever, naturally accompanied the two former. I had a horror of the hospital, had but little faith in the surgeon and so I let them all alone. Kept up all the courage I could and naturally took the best care I could of myself. I became very much reduced, and very weak, but managed to keep about, determined not to succumb, (which is better than medicine) and before I was entirely worn out, I won out the last and for the last two weeks have been improving some and in fact feel well to day to what I have. Still I am not strong, I am very poor and like nearly all soldiers look pretty haggard.

The vocation of mine (as Musician) is about the easiest in the Regiment, as no duties are assigned us except as musicians. Still of course we partake of all the privations of camp life, undergo all the fatigues of Marches with the exception, we carry nothing except each man his instrument, and if there are any spare horses, we usually get them to ride. I came on horseback from Jackson. The Army refuses to grant furloughs, but if I am disabled permanently in health, I should endeavor to obtain a discharge. I would not like to apply for one on a slight pretext though. The friend of mine from Wilmington, Mr. Van Der Bogart soon after our enlistment, became discouraged, and finally made himself sick and lay in the tent for the last 3 months, and just kept around but did no duty. He has obtained a discharge, but is waiting for money and since he knows he is going home he gets around brisk and improves fast. I would not like to do so. Should I have to remain three years in the service (if I believe in presentments) I should consider the chances of my ever coming home against me. If a soldier is not to be pitied Cele. then is no one entitled to it. And still there is a sort of Savage Excitement connected with it that one becomes accustomed and he rather likes it. I presume were I at home now, or out of the Army, I should feel quite lost. But tis the comforts of home one misses, for instance, Biscuits & Butter! By the way, you know some people are fond of butter! Of the prospects of the campaign, I am sure confident & doubly sure, from information as well as observation, that it will be a long protracted one unless better managed than at present. There is too much office seeking wire pulling and whiskey drinking by the officers and officials, and too much swindling by contractors, for the good of the public treasury. We have not been paid yet for our four months service. Patriotism I fear is at a low ebb. All has become so corrupt I tremble for the result. But to live and hope is a privilege and about the only one allowed a civilian and a non commissioned! But my intention was not to tire and I have spun already to a fearful length. Remember me to your Mother. Tell her please, that for your health, she must endeavor to teach you prudence. Which is undoubtedly the very thing she has always tried to learn you! Wishing for your speedy recovery and continued health for the future I remain as ever,

Yours humbly V.C.W
Direct to Birds Point Mo.
Via of Cairo 111.

V.C. Willard

to father's he wrote with the letters
to mother's he wrote with the letters

Lincoln Jan 24 {62}

Dear Brother

I cannot express to you my feelings my dear brother when I received your letter. Oh if I could of done anything for you, but here I am away out here and your letter was so long a coming. Have you got any supplies yet? It must be there. Has relief come to you ere this? Plumb went to see about sending a box to you but they would not take one. They said government had the road and was sending things as fast as possible. I do think it is so mean that they cant keep provisions anuff there, when it must be nothing but carelessness in them. I wish every soldier would lay down their arms and not fight another day. I would not blame them at all. I would not stay there and be starved to death. I think the poor fellows have anuff to suffer without being starved to boot. I do think it is perfectly awful there. Must be a lack somewhere that they don't tend to things better. Oh I shall be so glad when you are out of it and this miserable war is ended. Do write to me as soon as you get this letter and let me know if you are alive. It seems I can never wait patiently to hear. I am so worried about you can't think of any thing but you. I can hardly eat a meal conformable. The vitals fairly choke me a thinken that you have nothing to eat. Louisa says Plumb will send you a box as soon as he can get them to carry it but, oh dear you may of starved to death before it gets to you. I think it strange you do not get my letters. I have written three or four I guess but do you write oftener and do answer this if you get it. Soon for I shall fly if I dont hear from you quick. I have been here to Ab's seven weeks. It is not a very pleasant place but Ab is doing very well, he is to work for a very fine man by the name of More. He buys horses and mules and takes them to St. Louis. He is a making money fast. He gives Ab one dollar a day and allows him two and a half a week for his board and Ab has to work pretty hard but he likes it and likes the man very much. Ely is as well as usual but her health is not good at all, but she works like every thing a dressmaking. She is drove to death all the time. Willie is well and is agetting to be a great boy. He grows up all long and no wide. I do not know how long I shall stay here. Ab and Ely are not willing I should go home until next fall, but our folks at home have been sick, some of them ever since I have been a way and if they are not much better the next letter I get from them, I think I shall go home, but if they keep well, I shall stay a spell longer yet. I dont like it here at all but I feel sorry for Ely, she is so lonesome and for that reason I try and content myself. Ab says he sends his best respects to you and he wants to see you so much and if you ever get out of the army to come and see him. Ab had just got some grease from the store to grease his boots and it was scalding hot and he went to take it off and he spilt it all over the back of his hand and burnt them awfully. I have just been and done it up in sweet oil. He looks pail over it, but he tugs away at his old pipe, but he has had to lay it one side and get on to the bed. He came by near a fainting away, but he feels a little better now. Ely sends his love to you and wants to see you and so do I. I would give a great deal to hear from you now so do write as soon as you receive this and let me know if you have got anything to eat.

From your affectionate Sister Mary
Direct you letter to Lincoln, Logan Co.,

III

will come up here he will let you have a lackess to ride all the time

75
Indianapolis Nov 28th (62)

Dear Brother

Your long looked for letter came at last and I was so very glad to hear from you and that you are well. I began to think you was never a going to write. We are all well and yesterday was Thanksgiving and we had a very nice Turkey and we all wished you were here to help eat it. I received your letter yesterday. Oh I am so afraid you do not have anuff to eat, do you? Do write and tell me. Oh I am so sorry you enlisted, how came you to? I presume you would not of been drafted. I dont believe they will draft at all. The war it is just as you say I presume, as long as some few can make money at it they will keep it a going, but it makes me feel so bad every time I think of your being away off down there and am so afraid you will get shot. Oh dear brother I wish you was safe back again, I can tell you I dont believe you would go again. How long did you enlist for? Do tell me. I had a letter from cousin Hat and she wrote a considerable lot of news. Ferdinand Shaves raised a company in Bouinhill and is Captain and has gone to the war. Perhaps he is down by you some where and Uncle Abiner is married to Polly Ann Short. Hat had been down to N. Y a visiting. She saw Ed Boughton she said they boarder at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. I had a letter from Ab a short time ago, they were well. He wanted to know if I had heard from you. He would be so glad to hear from you. You must write to him direct your letter Lincoln Logan Co., 111. I had a letter from Louisa Wadsworth she said she had not heard from you. George had gone to Buffalo with Mrs. Jones to see if he could get work. Willis was well. She wrote me John Hatch was killed. Oh dear I hope the war will stop before you have to fight any, dont you? Sis had a letter from Maria Fox and her brother Henry was killed in the last battle at Bull Run and Oscar, her other brother, had enlisted. I presume he was in the regiment that left before yours did. They had a Military Review yesterday, there was nine thousand soldiers. I dont know whether they are a going to winter here or not but believe they are. Bill is a clerking in this winter in a grocery store. He cried when he read your letter and said he was afraid you would see some pretty hard times. Plumb is a doing well and they are both getting as fat as bears and little Clarence grows like every thing and is as cunning and as pretty as he can be and talks most every thing and says his words so cunning. We think he a sweet child. He stands here by his mother and she is a making pictures on a paper for him and every few moments he will bob his head against the stand and make me make some awful looking things as you will see. I just told Sis I guess you could tell every time his head hit the stand, Sis says she will write to Ceal in a day or two. And now dear brother do write to me often and tell me all about how you fair down there and do take good care of your health and as soon as you can play sick and get back home. We all send our love to you and may the God of battles watch over and protect you from all harm is the earnest prayer of your only sister Mary. God bless you and return you safe to us again.

(Written on the back page)

My Dear Friend

As there is a little room left I will say a few words. I am all right in a good store as you ever saw doing about \$1200 per day, 10 clerks, lots of fun, etc. etc. I suppose you are busy just now and I wish you were here instead of being in the Army. I don't think you can read this. Clarence is teasing for the paper all the time. Well tea is ready and I must close as tis Saturday and we are very busy. Now write me soon a good long letter and I will answer it. From your Friend
Plumb

(Written on the top of the front page)

Plumb will write and you. Answer this as soon as you can. From your affectionate sister Mary. I wish you was here this Winter you could get any amount of work and good pay. Money is plenty here but I dont see much of it. The ground is covered with snow but it is warm and I presume it will be all gone by night.

Camp Brown Jamestown
Sunday Sept 14th 62

Dear Cel,

I have bin waiting to hear from you
a long time it seems to be a long
time for I am left alone since
Sam went a way I guess you have
forgoten me intirely but it dont
seem posable that you would for
my thoughts are with you all of the
while Cel this is the worst place
that I ever got in to in my life
we are nearly starved out it grows
worse every day that we stay here
I have not eaten enough to keep a

25
Camp Brown Jamestown
Sunday Sept 14th 62

Dear Cel,

I have bin waiting to hear from you a long time for I am left alone since Sam went away. I guess you have forgotten me entirely but it don't seem possible that you would for my thoughts are with you all of the while. Cel this is the worst place that I ever got into in my life. We are nearly starved out, it grows worse every day that we stay here. I have not eaten enough to keep a me quite alive in two days. The boys came very near tearing the mess room down to day and I guess they will if things are not different. It is an exciting time here to day. Cel why don't you come to see me, I wish you would. Do please come as soon as you can. They say that we are to leave here the last of this week or the first of next, where God only knows. You ought to have bin here when the Chautauqua Reg. left. It was a great day in this place. I did not go down town to see them start for it was enough to see the poor creatures part with their friends here. Cel this is an awful thing, I never want to experience such a sight a gain. Cel you must come out before we go so I sent you a letter by Jane Salisbury and I thought you answer it before this time. If I were there I would spank you some. How is Warren and his family and all the rest of the folks in town? Cel if you don't write soon I shall think that I have offended you but I hope not. If I have, forgive me Cel and I never will again. I can't think of any more to write this time. Good by, write by return Mail do.

Yours Truly,

[Faded handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

7 AD 216
30-

Camp Brown, Jamestown
September 18th 62

Dear Cel

I received yours of the 17th and I was glad to hear from you once more. Horace brought me the letter he sayd he thought I ought to let him read it first but you know that I wouldn't of course. Cel I want to see you here I shall come out there. I have bin waiting for the pay master to pay us for if we aint here when he comes we shall have to wait 2 months longer and I did not want to do that, would you? I went to town last eve expecting to see Sam but was disappointed. I have been at work every day you ought to see me stuck up in a bunk repairing the clothes for the boys. They air the darndest looking things that you ever saw. I make two or three dollars a day sewing for them. I wouldn't draw any pants, I went to Jamestown and got a pair made for six dollars and a half. Cheap of course these are war times. There is a great improvement in the eating line here now for they raised the old boy on Sunday last. They threw bread and everything else all over the room and threatened to tear the house down. So you see that things are different now. I think Cel the pay master will be here this week and if so I shall be home on Sunday or Monday. If you don't come give my respects to Warren and his wife and all the rest. Good by Cel I shall see you soon if I can.

Yours in haste G.E.Graves

Fairfax Courthouse
October 14'62

100
Slight fading

Dear Cel,

I have written you several letters since I left you and have not heard from you yet. I suppose it takes longer than I am aware of so I shall forgive you this time. Our Brigade started from Camp Seward on Sunday and marched 15 miles. We did not get through that day. We marched another ten miles and camped for the night. You ought to have seen me march with a knapsack and bugle on my arm blowing every little while telling them to halt and then for them to start again. It is fun. Oh yes Sam was sick the first day and he rode in the wagon the first day but he is all right now. We have worked hard all day to get our tents up and just this minute got an order from Sigel to march as pickets for miles around this country. This is the hardest looking place that I ever saw. There is not more than a half dozen houses in this place. I understand to day that General Sigel told the inhabitants in the village to get their women and children out as soon as they could, so I expect there will be some fun here soon. Sam is bugler with Vinton and I. We have easy times now. It uses me up some to walk, it makes my feet sore but I stand it better than expected & I should bet I have got rid of carrying the gun and doing guard duty and I think I am pretty well off. Capt. Cheney thanks you very much for that cap. He says to me, "Gene, we will have good times when we get back," he says, "you have got a good wife". I says; "yes". I let him look at your picture to day, it pleased him. He stands it very well. Cel I want to see you so I don't know what to do with myself. I don't know where I shall be tomorrow but you direct your letters to Washington and they will come to me. If I could get hold of you I would pinch you a little, just enough to make you say "take care old fellow". Not too hard, but I think I would pinch some. Anyway: I think that Col. A. G. Rice has gone home and it is a good thing for him for if he had gone with us. His head would come off by his own men for I don't think he had a friend in the regiment. I will tell you more about him when I see you. How is your Mother? Is her health good, and how are all of the folks? They say that we are put here to cut off Stonewall Jackson's retreat from near Harpers Ferry. They expect a battle there soon. Sigel has been all around this ground to day examining every inch and I think there is a going to be something done and that soon. I have no more to write now Cel, but remember your friends. This ink is like mud, good
bye,

Your friend

G.E.Graves

John
Fair Fax to Gene
Oct 15th 1862

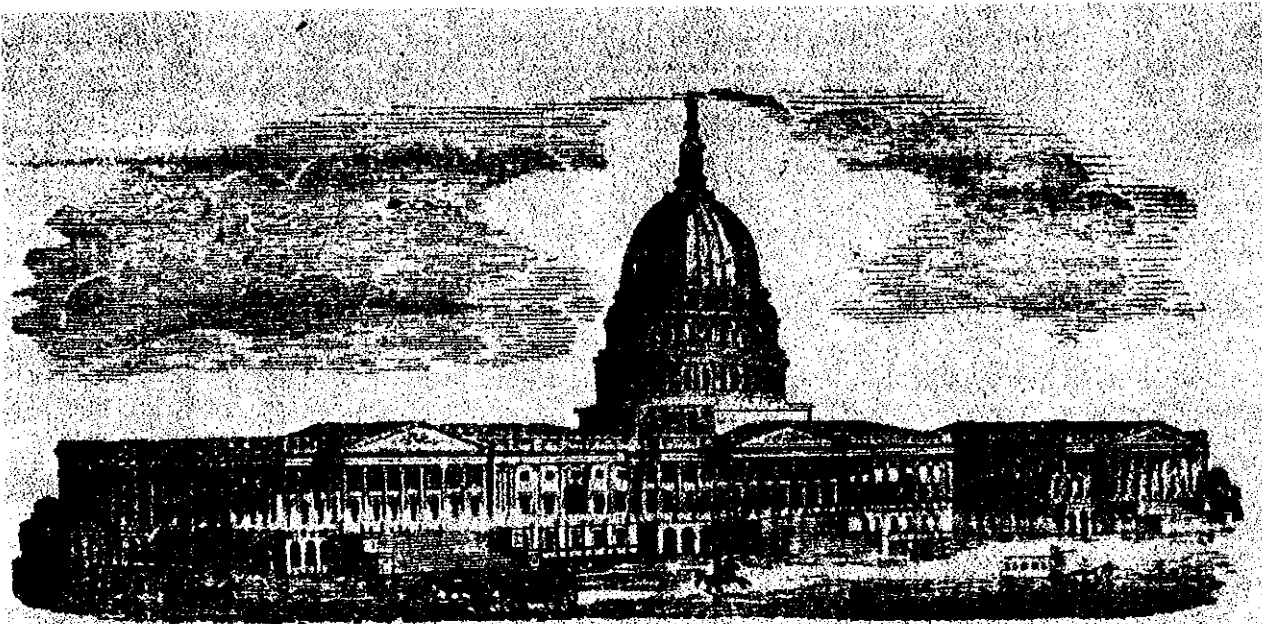
Fair Fax Courthouse
Oct 15th 1862

Dear Cel

I shall keep writing to you until I hear from you. I have looked with patience a great while and am still looking. This a singular country, it's turned upside down and wrong side too. The sun rises in the west and sets in the east. Our regiment has just bin over to the great village to be reviewed. We were marched to the tune of Yankee Doodle over and back. When we got there and got in to line, we musicians stood there as big as cuff and there were three musicians dashing up to us, wheeled and rode in front of the line and one old Dutchman came up to us and said "he tolt you vat you pisnesish vant you got to play" so we struck up Yankee Doodle. I tell you we felt big.

Well there, if I must say it, I have just received a letter from you. Mr. Wheeler just brought it in to our tent while I was writing this and I could jump clear over the tent. I tell you that makes me feel first-rate and no mistake it. I wish I could get another to night. Write again. It does not seem possible that John Seward was dead, but I suppose is true. That is the way with all the world. Cel they talk of the army being a bad place for a young man on account of drinking. That is not so, for there is not a man that can get a drink of liquor in this country. I hear the boys talking about that every day and I think it is a good thing that they can't. Cel you must write how you and your intended get along, wont you? Is it cold there? It is warm and dry here. As far as I have traveled, I have not seen anything but northern men and niggers. All of the folks, if there ever was any here, have left, but I don't see where they lived for there is not a house once in 5 miles hardly. It is the worst looking country that ever was. Not a fence nor anything else that looks like living. The Lieutenant Col. just dropped in and says we must go and sound the horn for dress parade, that is the way it goes. I heard today that there was not to be anymore fighting for thirty days unless attacked by the enemy. That looks like peace some and I don't know as I care how soon for I want to see you. I think I shall if I live. I am sorry your Mother is sick, do not get sick yourself Cel. I have not had a decent meal since I was at your house, I wish I was there to night to eat supper with you. I think I should enjoy it. Do not laugh at this writing for it makes me mad to look at it. Now write soon, give my love to all and take the most of it yourself. Good by Cel -

From Your Friend Gene



UNITED STATES CAPITOL

~~Headquarters 154th Reg't N. York Vols, Col. A. G. Rice,~~
COMPANY L

160-

Washington Oct 23 1862

Dear Cel

I do not know hardly what to write but will endeavor to write you something. I am still at Fair Fax Courthouse. It is getting to be rather an old story this war, but there is something comes up new every day. We were ordered to go, the other day, over to the village. No body knew what for but we got ready and marched and when we got there, there were about seven thousand in all, including the artillery. We learned after we got there, that it was to be reviewed by General Sigel. I never had had a fair look at him before. His aids and bodyguards amount to about seventy or eighty men, it was the best thing that I seen yet. The General came around and reviewed them all in good style. I was disappointed in his looks. He is a thin spare person, not so heavy as I am; light hair and sandy whiskers, rather an inferior looking man. You had ought to have seen the sauerkraut riding around giving orders. It was fun but not so much when we got orders to move from there to an other place about three miles from there on the Centerville road. The boys began to think that they had got to fight sure but they were disappointed. When we got there we were drawn up in line of Battle. There were about, as near as I could judge, ten thousand there and I felt a little squeamish I tell you, but they made two or three dives with charge bayonets and that ended that days sport. So we came home and roosted for the night and Sam and Vinton and myself have got as good a tent as any officer has got on the ground. We live well and have got a good place to sleep. We have plenty of coffee, sugar, rice, beef, disicated potatoes, dried

John B and was thankful for that. Tell Warren things are all right at present
Yours Truly for ever. Good by

G.E.Graves

15

Fair Fax Oct 26th 1862

Dear Cel

I received your last letter in due time and hasten to answer. I can tell you that it does one good to hear from a true friend and I take you to be such. Cel if I could get a letter from you every day I should be happy but I don't expect it. When I hear the boys that has got friends at home say that they have written a great many letters home and can't even get an answer it makes me feel bad for them. I received a letter from Warren the other day and I tell you that it made me feel first-rate. Tell him to keep doing so. I shall write to him again soon. I am glad to learn that your mother is getting better I have just written to my folks in Springville and I think they will be glad to hear from me. Cel I want you to write as often as you can. If you see Warren tell him to write, tell him to remember me to his wife and all the rest of my friends. Cel you spoke of sending something if I wanted. I know my dear girl that you would do anything to make me happy. I have not the least doubt of it but I don't know how you get anything to me, so I don't think I would try. Cel you spoke about that picture again. Now I can't get one taken here that is good for anything but if I do not get one taken I will when I come home, bring you the original, and you shall have it to keep always. I do not know where we are to go next. I understand that there are marching orders now to go somewhere, I think it will be Centerville. General Sigel has moved his headquarters there and I think there is something going on although our regiment is to be kept in reserve. Some think we will stay here all winter to guard Washington but how that may be I can't say. It is raining very hard now and has all day. It is the hardest rain that I have seen since I left Jamestown. It has bin very dry here and warm in the daytime and cold at night. We have a good fire-place that we built ourselves in the tent, we do all our cooking by it. The boys that have those small shelter tents come and stick there head in and say well you are as comfortable as you can be. We keep warm and dry. I am writing this on a drum head close to the fire. Tell Deal Seward that I would be glad to see her and Topsey. Tell James Cooley if he don't stop writing me so many letters I will come and boot; him. I think they will be around in a few days drafting and then you will see those fellows like H. Green and N.F. Weed flying to Cat hole to hide. That will be fun won't it. Cel have you seen anything of a louse crawling around your house. If you do put your foot on him. Ha, Ha. I tell you Cel that Cap is the thing. You ought to see Sam and I dressed up in them once. You would laugh your self to death. I shall have to stop or bum my foot. Good by Yours for ever
G.E.Graves

*... we near from
in Oct I want you to write as often as you
can if you see Warren tel him to write
tel him to remeber me to his wife*

140
Leta sweet k fight
in place
Hay Market Virginia Nov. 4th 1862

Dear Cel

Since I wrote you last we find ourselves at this place. We are lying here for further orders. This is right in rebel town about 25 miles from where we were before. They expect a battle somewhere in the neighborhood of Thoroughfare Gap, that is 3 miles from here. There were rebel Cavalry camped on the same ground where we are the night before we did. Our Cavalry drove them off. We were two days getting here. I tell you Cel it was a hard tramp for me. It made me lame through my hips so I could hardly move. I tell you the soldiers confiscated everything that they got there hands on. They drove in seven or eight head of cattle last night and butchered them on the ground. We had beef enough for all. The camp is two miles from the village and that is like all of the villages in this country, about a half doz. houses and white washed at that. I never saw such a country, perfect destruction. There was a good fence made of rails for about 3/4 of a mile long and in 3 minutes there was not a stick to be seen. Some to build fires and some to pitch tents with. The first night we got here some thirty or forty went back to town and broke into a rebel house and found the house filled with knapsacks and clothing. They helped themselves to all they wanted and have gone back this morning after more but I guess it will be poor picking. I can hear the cannons firing now over the mountain. I expect that Mc Clellan will drive the rebs through this way and then look out old Cattaraugus. I have just gotten back from a tramp this morning after apples and Sam has just started for some. He may get taken before he gets back. The Capt. gave me a nice revolver to defend myself with. I expect it is on account of that Cap you sent him, he thinks a great deal of it. Cel I carry the picture of yours next to my heart. I take it out and look at it and it makes me home sick. I wish I were with you, I would always stay with you. I shall try and stand it as well as I can until we get through and then I am in hopes to see you again. We left Zel Corthill at Fair Fax, the doctor told me the morning we started that he would not live. He was taken the same as the other man that died, perfectly stupid, could not speak. He had bin out the night before on picket duty and they had to send the ambulance wagon after him. I saw the Doc. this morning, he is feeling well but all complaints of being sore. Some of the boys get up singing. Oh how glad I am I came to the village. I saw Marvin's older son the morning we started. He was well. This country is filled with union soldiers there was a man come on to the ground this morning on horse back and wanted his pay for the things that the boys stole. They took the saddle off and bridle and rode the horse all over the ground. The Colonel told him to take the horse and start, if he didn't he would kick him off. He did so quick I tell you Cel. Write soon.
Good by

Yours in Haste

G.E.G.

N.B. Cel I forgot to mention that the first day, that was on Sunday, we passed over the battle ground of Bull Run. I saw every few steps cannonballs of every description in the road. It must have bin a hard fought battle. The ground where they buried the dead looks bad, some barely laid on the top of the ground and a little dirt put over them. I saw one where a mans foot stuck out of the ground and I saw a mans skull by the road side. It must have bin a hard battle, for it was so for miles. Centerville is a hard looking place with all of the rest. This is a rough uneven country. The fields don't look as if they had bin under any cultivation for two years. Nothing but pigeon crap and weeds. Our regiment is called into line for something. I don't know what yet.

Good by

G.E.G.

125
Thorough Fair Gap Va. Nov. 11th 1862

Dear Cel

Since I wrote you last I have bin on a tramp all of the time until now. I think I wrote you the 5th and the 7th. We were ordered to take up our line of march and where to no-one knew. It snowed all day. The first snow that I have seen although it was pleasant marching. The roads were dry. We marched about 12 miles that day and camped within 5 miles of Warrington. It was expected by the more scientific soldiers that we should have a fight that day at Warrington but Burnside had bin there and drove the rebs off. So we stayed in the woods two nights and one day and on Sunday morning we were ordered to march again. (and) After we got started we found we was going right back where we started but did not. We are at the Gap about 2 miles from Hay Market. We are now in a very pleasant place. There are two batteries of artillery, one of six guns right behind us within ten rods of us and a musket battery across the road of six guns. They tell me that the rebs can't come through the Gap. They are joined, all of them, at one point. The Capt. of the Artillery says that he will send death and distruction in to him if they come this way. I have bin in to the Gap some distance and it is a hard looking back. The railroad runs through there from Alexandria. The cars have only bin running a few days. The first that has run over the road probably in two years. It rated quite an excitement in camp when the first train came through. Of all things that I ever saw in my life is the confiscation of the rebel property. They burned the village of Hay Market down, the boys could go every day and fetch in hives of honey. Every company would fetch three or four at a time: chickens, geese, pigs, cattle, horses, clothing and everything that they could get their hands on. It beats all that I ever saw. Cell don't know how long we shall stay here but I think perhaps sometime. I understand that Mc Clellan is superseded by Burnside. I dont know but that is all for the best but I can't think so. It may be in military point of view but it does not suit the soldiers at all. I heard some of the men say that if that was so that they would like to hire a nigger to swear for them for they could not do it strong enough. Cel tell Warren to write me and send me some three cents postage stamps, it is a difficult thing to get one. I begin to think you all have forgotten me. I have not received a letter from anyone in as much as two weeks. The weather is as warm and pleasant as summer here, the birds are singing this morning. It so singular that we see no winter here. I wish I was home with you Cel, I would shoot the man that would ask me to enlist. I am not sick of it but I would like to be with my friends, it is more pleasant to me to be with you but have patients Cel and I shall I come back. R.H. Corthill is dead. He died at Fairfax. He died very sudden the Doctor is rather unwell, he is to the hospital. I went over to see him yesterday and Capt. Cheney is sick also. I hope he will get along for he is a man I have bin with all the time. I am not very fat but in good traveling condition. Tell Warren I would like to be thereto get some warm sugar in the spring and tip over the tub again. Give my love to his wife, tell W.R. that the boots wear well. Horace is well and John Mc Cluer also. Write soon Cel and oblige yours. You know who that is, Good by. Yours G.E. Graves

(added) This that you find in side is quick silver that was picked up. James Degeir handed it to me just now, I send it to you.

135.

Fair Fax Nov 23, 1862

Dear Cel

I take my pen in hand again to write to one that my thoughts are with. I can not for one moment forget you. I have written you about every week and have bin waiting with patience a great while to hear from you. I have received but two letters from you I think. I am not certain for I have to burn them for I have seen so much of the Rebs letters that have bin found and read in Camp. If they got hold of them they read them before all. Cel I have a hard tramp since I wrote you, that was at Hay Market. The next day after that we were ordered to start for Warrington. We went about half way and camped for the night, stayed two nights and one day. It snowed hard the day we started and they found there was a mistake and we were ordered back within two miles of where we started, to Thorough Fare Gap. We watched the Gap one week without seeing anything to scare anyone but finally on a Sunday night we were startled. We were cooking rations for three days at the time. It was dark and the Colonel came to us and told us to get out on the color line and blow the alarm for they expected a fight that night. The whole Camp was in an uproar, blowing the alarm in every camp. The artillery was put in readiness and every thing put in preparation for a battle but we were happily disappointed. We rested well that night but the order came the next morning to march. We were in motion about five o'clock in the afternoon marched until nine o'clock at night and camped in the great city of Hay Market. It had bin burned down by our folks while we were there before, only three or four houses left. The next morning we were out on the road again for Fair Fax by way of Bull Run. Took our ration at noon on the Battle ground. Where I sat I could see a great many graves of soldiers that have fought and died for their country, some half buried. The boys buried one skull while I sat there. It is a hard looking place. Balls and shot all over the ground every little way there would be dead horses in the road, good looking horses too. I got some wet. It rained quite hard the day we arrived here. This on Sunday eve, we are in our little log house that was put up with our own hands. Built the chimney of stone and sticks, topped the chimney out with a salt pork barrel. I am seated very comfortable this evening. Sam sits in front of me by the fire. He has had the jaundice quite hard but is getting better now. I think he is a little homesick with all the rest. Ferd Davinton is writing to his wife on a drum head and the Brass Band is putting forth some beautiful strains of music, just across the road, in the other regiment which makes one think of home. I wish School was out so I could go home and see Papa. Otter. Cel if you dont write I shall have a cat fit or something else. I look every mail but no letter for poor me. They say to me have you got a letter? I tell them no, with a face as long as a rail. I tell them that I guess that my friends have forgotten me forever. I think you must have written and got miscarried. Now Cel write. I wrote to Mate the other day and told her to write to you and I think she will. I had a letter from Fay just as I started from the Gap and have sent him one. He sent me some postage stamps which comes very handy here. Did Warren give you that letter that I sent you Cel? I want to be with you but it is impossible at present but if I live I shall return home to see you once more. I hope your Mother is well. Tell her I would like to be there to take tea with her and at the same time I would like to see you there too. Tell Cal Smith to write to a fellow. We have a new Colonel now, P.W. Jones. I think he will be more to the comfort of the regiment than it has bin here to for He is a fine fellow. Jack Mitchell is sick now in the hospital close by and Capt. Cheney has returned again. He has bin quite sick. They say we are going in to winter quarters somewhere near Washington. I hope we shall and then you may send me something good. I will tell you when we stop for winter if we do at all. Give my love to all. How did that Mask Party go off, was Clara there? Give my love to Old Mrs. Lyons and all the rest. Doct Vanaemein is sick in Washington. I think he will come home some time soon. Cel you would write if you knew how gad I wanted to hear from you. It is fun to her these Dutch men all around us jabber. Can't understand a word they say. They say they fight mit Sigel. They are tough. O by the way John Whitney made us a visit the other night. I tell you I was glad to see him. He is looking well. Says the boys are well except Frank Thompson. He is in Baltimore. I have nothing more this time Cel so good by. I sent this a handsome letter. Write one just like it Cel.

Yours truly, G. E. Graves

75
Camp near Fairfax Nov 30th 1862

Dear Cel

I had just sat down to write a few lines to Jane Salisbury and I heard someone call my name. I looked up and it was Horace Smith with a letter for me. I tell you that you can't know the joy that it gave me when I found it was from you for I had given up your writing to me anymore. Sam has had some bad luck. He has cut his big toe off and it makes it unpleasant for us but we take good care of him. It is doing well and his appetite is good. He is up on our stick bed which is very good for anyone considering the conveniences we have for making them. Our feathers are plucked from the green tops of the spruce tree which makes a very good bed. Sam says so. The feathers stick through. We have tramped a good way since I saw you last. I have got pretty much tired of this thing. It is getting to be an old story. I am afraid Cel that this war will never end as long as the money lasts. I think (it is) nothing more or less than a war of speculation got up by a certain set of political fools to rob the government and kill all of our best boys by exposing their health to this climate. They have got to undergo a change of climate before they are good for anything! Our regiment is whittled down to almost nothing. We cant muster now but about six hundred men for duty. It would surprise you to see the sick ones go to the hospital every morning. When I blow the surgeons call they go in droves to get clear of duty. It looks tough it seems that this thing ought to be brought to a close. I have got sick of being among the Dutch. They are a nasty set of fellows. Tell Warren I received those stamps he sent for which I am much obliged and now I want to know what you sent me some for. I will whip you when I get back there. I am sorry that you put your neck out of joint but I don't care much for you might have waited until I came back to carry you to Hinsdale. Cel you must not think hard of me for writing to Jane for it is a thing I promised to do and you know that I won't lie. You read it and give to her wont you. Cel you must write often. I shall come back to see you sometime and we will cut around some I guess. Give my love to all. If we go into winter quarters I will write you and then you can send me something if you want to. Cel I miss you all the time. If I could be with you I should be happy. Perhaps I shall be, yet I shall if I live and with your consent that goes great ways I think. Give my love to your mother. Did Warren give you that letter I got from Springville? If not you get it. I think if we move from here we will go to Alexandria and then will be shipped to Burnside some where near Richmond. He is trying to take the City. I hope he may if he does I think I will be at home in the spring. Oh yes, Good by Cel Write as often as you can,

Yours truly,

G. E. Graves

Dear Cel

Since I have written you anything, I have passed through what I did not expect. I will give you a little history of my travels for I must say that I am disappointed in the direction that we should take from Fairfax. You know that we are all doomed to disappointments and we soldiers have to take what follows. You have probably ere this, heard of the four days fight at Fredricksburg on the Rappahannock River. Well, that is where we started for. We started on the 10th and marched until the next Monday. Six days of hard marching but did not get through in time to participate in the great battle. Our direction was through Fairfax Station, Wolf Run and Stanford Courthouse, Dumfries. It was a hard march for us. Sometimes the mud would stick to our boots so that we could hardly pull them out of it but we must go through. I suppose that there was never a greater battle fought than this one. I see by some of the northern papers that the Grand Union Army was repulsed. What a word or an idea, they are determined to keep the best side out. The amount of it is our army never was so badly whipped since the war broke out. There was in killed and seventeen thousand and that is not all. They will get the same thing done again if they follow them up for they have the advantage of us in every particular. The best ground and fortified so that Old Nick himself could not take them. Our men was rushed in front of their fortifications and batteries cut (them) down like so many sheep. They call it Burnside's Slaughter Yard. The enemies lines are in sight of our camp. The line of battle was seven miles in length on both sides. The city is about in the center on the opposite side. It looks like a very nice place from the hill where we are. It is about a mile and a half. We can see the enemy plain from where we are. The pickets on both sides are close together on the banks of the river. They will trade, our boys will give them coffee and they will give them tobacco in return. It is one of the most disgraceful wars that the American people was ever guilty of getting up. Talk about patriotism there is no such thing in the book now a days. If the hot headed abolitionists of the north was put in front and had to fight, I think they would be willing to have this thing settled for they will fight as long as there is a toe nail left. They say that the Southern Army are used up that they are barefooted and starved, that may be so but I don't believe it. You let them come in to our country and invade it as we have theirs and see if we would not fight for our homes and our all. The soldiers are made to believe that we have come here to drive them from their homes and families and to destroy their property, which is evident. It has bin done by our army and I think it is a shame and a disgrace to our nation to carry on this war any longer. The southern boys say to our boys that they will throw down their arms and go home if we will. It's singular to see how they feel. They will come and talk with our boys, shake hands and then start for their rifle pits and shoot each other if they can. But speaking of this fight it was a complete victory for the South and they feel well over it too. Here the two armies have lain in sight of each other now for ten days doing nothing. What it will amount to I can't tell Hank Clark got frightened the night we got here. He went out to cut some sticks to put up his tent with and some how or other the ax slipped and he cut both of his fingers off his right hand. A mistake of course but the Colonel says that he will make a good color bearer. He cant go home this time. I would like very much to come home myself but I dont think I shall cut off any of my limb to get a discharge. The two Hotchkiss boys are in the hospital and the Searl boy and Bill Hall and Hicks of Machias and every body that is afraid to fight. I hope Old Gus will get Sam out of the hospital. If you see Sam tell him to write to me as soon as he can. Tell Warren I am well and will be at home to help him play. Old Stife and John Whitney, James Little, Phillips and Gus Hayden and all the boys made us a visit yesterday. They are well, Horrace is well. Now Cel I want to see you the worst way. Warren wrote to me that you had the tooth ache the worst way. All I have to regret is that I cant be there to comfort you in your afflictions. I have always had tried to do so and always will if you remain a single woman. When I get back we will have some of them good old times that we used to have. Oh how I do think of the past and think to what a friend you have bin to me. I never shall forget you as long as I live. Tell your mother I think of her often. Give my love to Deal Seward and all the rest of my friends. I understand that West and Net is married. That is a joke isn't it? Well we cant help it. Tell Net to send me a piece of Wedding Cake. Tell Cal Smith if she dont write I whip her when I get back. I am writing this on a hard tack box in our little tent. The weather is warm now but it has bin cold with a great quantity of wind, no snow. You get a map of Virginia and you can see where we are. We are close to Falmouth on the hill over looking both places. Dock Vanaernam is with us now, it seems like home again to see him around with us again. Tell Mrs. Campbell that Sol Dickerson was over to see me yesterday. He is as fat as a pig. Ash Bards son was here too, he is well. Give my respects to Seams wife and

Warren too. Oh if I was only there to cut up capers with you I should feel better. I showed you to the boys. They say that it is the same Cel and a good girl too. I think so. Oh I yes, now Cel dont get married will you. If you do I dont know but I shall pitch in to the Rappahannock and drowned and what a loss that would be, ha, ha, ha. Well Cel I cant think of anymore to write this time. you can let Warren read the other side of this if you will. So good by for the present and remember that I remain your Sincere friend



Some
were
left
5/25

We are coming Father Abraham,
Six hundred thousand more,
From Mississippi's winding stream,
and from New England's shore.
We leave our ploughs and workshops,
Our wives and children dear,
With hearts too full for utterance,
With but a silent tear,
We will not look behind us,
But steadfastly before,
We are coming Father Abraham,
Six hundred thousand more!

Camp Near Fairfax Va.

Dec 23rd 1862

Dear Cel

How appropriate are those verses but when one thinks of them only for one moment that there will not that number ever live to return, it makes one feel sad. The above picture is a true representation of some of our marches with our Colonel at our head as we march with a strong heart in hopes to get through as soon as possible so as to return to our friends and home. I am a little different from the most of them. I have no home to go to, no friends to care for poor me, but enough of this. I will write you a few lines that are good for the times. It is so lonesome since Sam left Camp that I want to write all of the time. I am sorry that Sam met with so sad an accident, it will probably give him a discharge and then he will be home with his family and friends again. I hope he will. This paper is so greasy that I cant write. It seems so singular to see such weather, a thing that I never expected to see. It is so pleasant, like summer all the while. It seems, that we have taken land to clear off for they are chopping down all the timber in reach. You musent get out of patience with me for writing so often will you Cel

The Friend I left behind me
Tis many a day since left home
to join our glorious army
I thought of but my countries call
and not of what might harm me
I vowed to join both hart and hand
where duty calls you will find me
I left my home and shed a tear
for the friend I left behind me
To meet the foe was my desire
upon the field of battle
The Empire State my battle cry
while cannons thunders rattle
but while I am fighting for my flag
and dust and smoke do blind me
I'll not forget to give one thought

to the friend I left behind me.
Oh when rebellion is brushed out
and traitors slain or taken
the Stars and Stripes will shine more bright
and joy each heart awaken
the horrors of grim war will flee
like troubled dreams remind me
how sweet to know I'll meet once more
the friends I left behind me
Surrounded now by friends and kin
who smile weak and caress me
I watch the tears of joy that flow
as each dear one doth bless me
but there is one that moves my soul
my tears now almost blind me
God grant I'll be obliged no more
to leave my friend behind me,

Cel read this and of the friend that left you but if I live I will return to you which God knows, I hope I shall. Write soon, good by for the present Yours for ever G.E.Graves

\$150

Fredricksburg, Jan 1st 1863

Dear Cel,

I wish you a Happy New Year and I am very sorry that I cant be with you and enjoy it with you. I dont know how it is there but here it is as pleasant a morning as I ever saw. It looks very much like our mornings in June at home. We are still here at Fredricksburg doing nothing as usual. I have looked with patience for a line from you but I have looked in vain since I have bin here. I shall keep looking until I lose my eye sight and then I shall think you have forgotten me entirely. I never have realized Cel the distance I am from you until now. It is a great way but as far as I may be from you I never shall forget you. Things look rather hard here, there has been three died in the regiment adjoining ours within three days. Poor fellows, they little knew their destiny when they started from their homes. They are like every body else that enlists to fight for that glorious Union, but when they arrive in front of the enemy they find that they are deceived. I will venture to say that there is not one in a thousand that can tell what they are fighting for. They say that they cant tell. It must be to fill the pockets of certain political fools and officers that come here for nothing else but money. I dont think there is three officers in our regiment that can tell how to front face without being told. I think it is the most ignorant regiment in the brigade. We are under Sigel yet I don't know what he is going to do with us. Popularity in this war is about played out. The soldiers begin to think that it would be about as popular to drop their arms and go home as it would be to stay here and fight for something they dont know what. Cel this is the most rotten thing that was ever thought of and I think it would be an honor to every one to leave the officers to fight their own battles. I understood that our folks had a skirmish at Agua Creek this side of Fairfax and had got badly beaten. (I heard) that the rebs had taken fifteen hundred prisoners and eighteen baggage wagons and had burned Fairfax Station. If it be true, I think that that is an other grand Union Victory or that our army was only repulsed. It makes me mad to think that I was made a fool of, but I am not alone in this thing. I am glad that Sam has got home. He can tell you about how the thing goes. I haven't seen a home sick day yet but you know that I would like to see you.

I stepped out to see the balloon go up the other day. It looked nice, about three miles off at the Generals headquarters. I think that we will have to go up in a washtub or something else before we ever see Richmond for there is a little impediment in the road. There is just on the opposite side some that saith not. I think that every Governor of every state had better call their troops of their respective states home if they want to save their lives. Well Cel you can see how I feel on this subject and I am coming home as soon as I can get out of the service honorably. I think that will be in the spring if I have good luck. I dont know as I shall come to Franklinville but I shall go some where. I have found by a letter that I received from sister that I have two cousins in Washington. I must see them. When I was in the city last fall I did not know that they were there or I should have seen them. I have bin out on the hill to take a look at the monument of the Mother of Washington, the Father of our country. It is situated on the opposite side of the city of Fredricksburg. I can see it very plain. I suppose the balls and shells flew thick and fast around the building. It is built of marble. It seems rather hard to see our own people fighting over the grave of the Mother of our Country. It is a shame don't you think so? I can't think of it without shedding a tear for the poor fools that get up such things. I got up last night about twelve o'clock, kindled the fire, sat there and thought about this thing. I thought to that there is to be a new figure cut this year and that is a figure three for it is now 1863 and I guess that there will have to be another one cut and that will be to cut sticks for home. The sooner the better to suit me. I find something to keep me busy the most of the time. I have had to make out all of the company muster rolls for the Captain. This makes twice that we have bin mustered for pay and have not bin paid yet. Capt. Cheny is well; he is a fine fellow. Jack Mitchell is in the hospital, I think at Alexandria. He left us at Fairfax. Doc Vanaerman says that he did not think that he would get well. He looked bad when I saw him last.

He looked bad when I saw him last. I have bin a little lame since I have bin here, but I built me a bed up from the ground and feel better now. Cel you ought to have seen me make a pudding this morning. I took some hard tacks put them in to a rag, took a hatchet and pounded them until they became flour, then put the kettle over the fire, salted it of course, then stirred in the flour. It gave perfect satisfaction. Our drum major said he would mention it to his wife, he said it was first rate. If you see Sam you tell him to be sure not to write. Tell Warren that I would like to see him and his wife. Horrace came in to see me this morning swearing mad to think that he had not got a letter from home. He said he had not received one in a long time. Cel I will send this letter that I got from sister Mate. She told me to burn it but I will let you do that. You must write to her. I think it is about time that we was on the march again. I think we shall soon for the report is that we will go back to Fairfax. That is the way we goes. I have not rode a step nor sat in a chair since I crossed the long bridge. I think if I was to come home now I should make a complete blunder if you should ask me to take a chair. I have no doubt but I should sit on the floor and how that would look. I think you would laugh at me some.

A big thing, the chaplain sent his clothes to a woman to be washed the other day and she sent them back and said that they was so lousy that she would not wash them for him. He is a neat one, he looks just as though he was lousy. He is good for nothing a needless expense to government. At Fairfax he cut up a nice caper. He was waiting for his breakfast and a man came to the door and said there was a young man in the hospital that wanted to talk to him, that he was dying. "Well" said he, "I will come after breakfast." So after breakfast he went over and too late for the young man had breathed his last. He is a perfect glutton, thinks more of eating than he does of the future. I must stop Cel write soon and believe to be your best friend. I will again say good by G.E.Graves

1863

Camp near Falmouth Va.

\$ 75

Jan. 14th 1863

Dear Cel

I think you will be surprised to think that I have to take an old cotton book to write you a letter on but as paper is getting scarce. I think t is the best, and more than all that, our Brigade has all up and left but a few of us here to see that the rebs do not carry the camp off. There was an order came to camp last night for the Regiment to be in readiness to march at two O'clock this morning. The pickets were called in and all commenced getting ready. All done on a sly of course. The same as it has bin all the time before. Well, at one O'clock the camp was all astir like a nest of bees, provisions cooked and rations drawn for 3 days. They started precisely at three O'clock I went back and went to sleep. I had nothing to trouble me for. I can't shoot a gun and wouldn't if I could for I couldn't believe in taking the life of anyone, especially in these times. I am not playing the bugle anymore. The Capt. came to me the other day and said that he could do better by me If I would come and clerk it for him, that it would pay me ten dollars more per month. So I like a fool took with his offer and have bin busy as a miller ever since. It has taken me all of the time for a week to get his books straightened but I have finished them today. So I am at liberty to write to you and thought I would improve the opportunity. A fellow just came back from our brigade and said after they had got started they had to double quick and fast as they could they went up the river. How far I do not know. But the rebs got wind of it and was there in large no's to meet them and they have some sport yet but you see I am all right and mean to keep so too. I have given up ever hearing from you anymore. Everytime the mail comes I go to get a letter from you but I cannot and what shall I do. I can not think you have forgotten your best friend. No, I can not think so. The prospects are that we will stay here some time. I see some of the boys from the 6th cavalry every day. I am glad to see them looking so well. Cel write do. I want to hear from you. Fayette Mc Cluer was here yesterday, told some large story, he is looking well. I remain yours for ever, that is a great deal. My respects to your mother.

Yours in haste.

G. E Graves.

DAI

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Somewhat light
in places \$120

Camp Near Aquia Creek

February 12th 1863

Dear Cel

I take this opportunity of answering yours and you may depend I was glad to hear from you once more. I had bin at work hard all day and went to bed early before the mail arrived. It does not come until eight in the evening. I was not asleep. I heard the orderly call the names for the distribution of the letters and I did not wait long before I heard my name called but I layed still for I was so tired. I thought I would wait until morning but the boy that cooks for us came and handed me two, one from you and one from Warren I think I struck a light very quick. The Capt. had two at the same time so we both sat up and filled ourselves with the contents. All except the tea that we had for breakfast and it was a grand treat you may depend. I think I know how to appreciate such goodness Cel. All that I blame my self for is that I was such a foolish fellow to come to this miserable war and leave you there to have so much trouble. I want to share pleasure and trouble with you and will as long as I live. I think I have brought a goodly share on my self by coming here. You spoke in your letter about the small pay that I get. It is not much to be sure and I can't help myself. I would if I could. I do not intend to stay in the service three years if I am smart enough to get out but I dont intend to disgrace myself either by deserting would you Cel? I know what you will say, No of course but as for a higher position I would not take one if I could. In such a war as this, there is no honor or fame for a man to earn here. When our people have to send to Germany after leaders to lead us, I think its high time that the war came to a close in some way, or else get white men that can see after four O'clock to lead them. You said something about Sam Bard sending something to the Capt. He has received nothing of any kind, if he does he will share it with me I will warrant you. John Mitchell has got back to the regiment again. He brought some things to Horrace and John Mc Cluer. They felt first rate over them and I was glad to see them. It is a good thing to have such near friends aint it. Now Cel you naughty girl for talking about that old Jack of Mc Clouth. I would be mad if I thought it would do any good. I think my correspondence has been extensive in the Mc family. I never spoke to the Old fool in my life. I wonder if there is not a lot of women that is a going to try to break our friendship. It has bin tried several times now. If the old women are going to try it let them pitch in. If I was there and had an Enfield rifle and I could shoot, I would try and hit the old target telling that I called on her, the old fool. Tell old Mrs. Lyon that she need have no fears. Well, that is not worth talking about. I am sorry your mother is so feeble and I cant realize that either John or Orien is dead. I can't make it seem so but I suppose it is. That is the way of all, we can't tell one day what the next may bring forth. The Doctor Vanaerman started for home the next day we arrived in our new camp and he can tell you more news than I can write you. I thank you for those stamps. I am not out of money Cel although we did not draw only one month and eighteen days pay. That is another splendid freak of Government. To keep men here that have got families at home depending on their earnings for their support it is too bad. When Ferd Vinton and Major Bishop went up for their pay the paymaster said that the 15th had no principal musicians and they could not get a cent of pay. They will be discharged probably and get their pay in Washington. Thirteen dollars per month instead of twenty-one, both got families at home. That is another one of their tricks of cheating. They feel bad and I don't blame them. Cel, think of me for I am your friend and when I get out of this nasty scrape I will come and see you if I do stay more than five minutes. I think when I get through I shall go where sister Mate is. She wants me to come there she is the only sister I have and a good one too. You must write to her wont you for she thinks a great deal of you.

I wish I could think of something to write. The Capt. sits at the desk writing and I sit on the bed with only the company Clothing Book holding the cover up with one hand and writing with the other as well as I can. If you find any mistakes you must excuse this. It is reported that we are to be shipped to Tennessee. I want to go there if I could only be traveling without going a foot so much it would suit me better. I have not rode in a wagon or sat in a chair since I left Washington. A pretty appearance I shall make when I come home. What do you think if I was to sit at a table? I as soon eat with my fingers as a knife and fork. It would be fun for you I know how you would laugh to see me. Tel the Doctor that we have the best shanty on the ground. We have built it since he left. He can tell you about our taste for building. It is good if I do say it. Tell Sam he must excuse me for not writing to him. If we stay here any length of time I will write to him. I always write to you first and then if I have time I write to some other one of my friends. Cel I hope you will live for me. I can't give you up. If you think that I ever told you a story, look at the picture and see if you can see a lie in my eye. If you can I will give it up. Write often Cel and don't let you heart break but keep up good spirits and I shall come and see you once more if I live. Give my love to Warren and his wife and to your mother too and to Cal and Deal and to Cal Smith and finally all of my friends. Good by for this time, I will write again soon

Yours for ever,
G. E Graves

Camp Near Brooks Station Va. March 12th 63.

Dear Cel

How do you do why do you not speak to me have I offended you or what is the matter I told you I should come and see you again but you did not believe it did you here is Horace too and you won't speak to him either well I will give it up I guess I will come home again if you dont treat us better than that now Cel Horace and I have bin over to Fairfax to day to have our Pictures taken and you can see what we have got Horace is as fat as a fool and looks as natural as life but you must see two that he has sent home to his Father I think you will laugh some you must show this h. i. e.

Camp Near Brooks Station Va. March 12th 63

Dear Cel

How do you do. Why do you not speak to me?. Have I offended you or what is the matter? I told you I should come and see you again but you did not believe it did you? Here is Horrace too and you won't speak to him either. Well, I will give it up I guess. I will come home again if you dont treat us better that that. Now Cel Horace and I have bin over to Fairfax to day to have our pictures taken and you can see what we have got. Horrace is as fat as a fool and looks as natural as life but you must see two that he has sent home to his Father. I think you will laugh some. You must show this picture to Cal Smith. Tell her that it is us and no one else. We have had the streets cleaned to day so as to be in readiness for an inspection to morrow. We have the finest Camp in the Brigade. That hat that you see me holding was at your place a few days ago. I lent it to Mr. Burdick to wear home. I wish I had bin under it my self. Oh if I could see Warren I would give him a talking to for drinking so. They tell me that he drinks to much. It is too bad but dont you say a word to him that I have said anything about it, I shall write to him. There is no news to write. I am well and hope that you are the same. You must write soon. I had a letter from Willis my son, the other day, and was glad to hear the little fellow talk about the War. He said there was not a day hardly but he could see someone coming back from the war or skedadling for Canada. Nothing more this time, my respects to your mother, good by from Gene

it
to
Camp
Hall
had
in
much
any
me
had

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

C
Camp Near Brooks Station Mar 25th 1863

Dear Cel

Since I received yours. I have bin to get a Furlough to come home to see
you. They were sent to head Quarters to day and returned without
being signed and I am mad enough to eat P darned fool up what P
The reason was I cant tell, I feel so bad about P I shall not take
any P I D (+ P I D I . S. D M)

\$40

Camp Near Brooks Station March 25th 1863

Dear Cel

Since I received yours I have bin to get a Furlough to come home to see you. They
were sent to headquarters to day and returned without being signed and I am mad
enough to eat the darned fools up. What the reason was I cant tell. I feel so bad
about it I shall not take any comfort now until I come home. I got all ready and then
to be disappointed. It is to bad dont you think so? I thought I would not write you
about it and take you by surprise but the game is up with us poor soldiers. I think it
will be a long time before I shall see you. I was in hopes that I should see you for I
want to come home and see my friends. You thought that I had forgotten you but
my dear Girl that is not the case. When I come home it will be on purpose to see
you. You must not think so hard of me as to think that I have forgotten as good a
girl as you have bin to me. No, I am not that kind of a fellow. By the by Cel haven't
you got a letter from me that had a picture in it of Horace and my self? Oh isn't it
beautiful? I am so darned mad I cant think of anything to write. I wish this war was
sunk and all the officers with it. The darned fools dont think I want to go home to
see you do they? I think if they did they would say yes. Do not tell Cal Smith how
mad I am for she would laugh. Now Cel I think that letter was a pretty strong one
for when I opened it I could smell the pepper I am very much obliged for it too. You
think we do not have any sugar. Cel we have a plenty of that to sweeten with. Now
Cel I did intend to have a suprise party at your house and do you want to know who
I was a going to have come to it? It was you and I my self. Wouldn't we have a
good time? I'll bet we would. There is no news to write about. The war it is all quite
here now. I think there is a going to be a terrible breaking out in a few days. As
soon as the roads get settled, there is a going to be one desperate struggle to have
this war come to a close. I wish it would. Cel you must not forget me. Write as often
as convenient. I will be glad to hear from you at any time. Give my love to Mother
and take a great share of it your self. I will write you again before long, good by for
this time.

Yours forever
G.E. Graves

\$65

1863

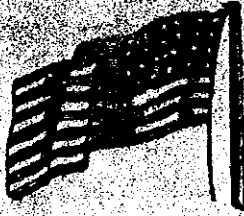
Camp Near Brooks Station Va. April 1st

Dear Cel

I think you can't complain much of my not writing to you often enough for I write you all the time I guess. At least it seems to me so. Oh Cel I must tell you that I have written to Jane Salisbury. Now do not make a lip for I told her that I would write to her and you know that I am as good as my word. I wish you could get her to show it to you. There is no love in it. You know I wrote her a note and sent it enclosed in one that I sent you but she never answered it, so I thought I would try her once more. You must not say anything to her about it and perhaps she will show it to you. The boys have had a great time here to day. It snowed hard here last night and it was a good time snow ball. It was between sundown and dark. The sides were about equal and they pitched in. It was fun to see them. They would send out their skirmishers and have a reserve. The skirmishers would commence the fire and the reserve would make a charge. The balls would fly as thick as hail. Our side came out victorious of course. I have bin under the weather all day. I have felt worse to day than I have since I have bin in the service. I think I will come out all right. Now Cel I want to tell you about Marsh Bond. I understand there is a considerable excitement there about the manner in which he left this Regiment. It is true that he had charges preferred against him which I am happy to say were false and I know it. The very first specification was false and they found it to be so and could not prove anything and they were obliged to let it drop it. Marsh was thought a great deal of in the company. The man that made the complaint was Noel Pools son from Springville. He is a Capt. now, and one that the boys all hate. There is no dishonor attached to Marsh at all. There are meaner men in this Regt. than Marsh and I wish we could get rid of them. Capt. Cheney has just heard that they have got the news at Machias that he gets drunk and swears terribly. It is a hurting his feelings. There is not a word or truth in it. I tell the Capt. not to mind what the people say at the North, that we are in Virginia for other purposes than to be talking about our neighbors. It is some fool that can't find anything else to write. If you hear anyone say anything disrespectful about Capt. Cheney, I want you to show this to them and perhaps it will put a stop to false reports. He is a man that is thought as much of as any man in the Regt. Well Cel I write you this so that if you hear any such talk that you will know better. Jack is here as fat as a fool. Doctor Miller is here. He has bin very sick but is getting better and intends starting for home on Friday. He does not like it here much. Well it is not the most inviting place in the world. I suppose the people think up there that this is a great county. It is. There is the most land to the acre here than I ever saw piled up all over the country. There is not three miles of level ground in the State. I shall be glad when they say march out of this. I cant think of any more to write this time. I dont expect you will write as often as I do, but I like to get a letter from you and would be glad to be with you forever. Write soon Cel and oblige your Best friend

G.E. Graves

\$125 super 14 sheet



CAMP "JOHN MANLEY," 154TH REG'T N. Y. VOL.,
1st Brigade, 2d Division, 11th Corps, Army Potomac

Near Stafford C. H., Va., *Apr 20th* 1863.

Dear Cel

I will be as good as my word. I told you I would write you as soon as I got back, as everything is in motion here now it is difficult to find anything to write with. I got aboard of the Carrs at Great Valley at six that day and arrived in Elmira at twelve the same night. Had to stay there until the next morning. Left there at six in the morning and arrived in Baltimore at twelve that night. Stayed there until the next morning and arrived in Washington at ten on Saturday. Not in time to take the boat, so we had to stay there until Sunday. I might have stayed with you one more day if I had known how it would be. I could not have bin with you more but you must forgive me this time. I was with you more than anyone else. You know that my time was short. I am almost sorry that I came home at all, but when I come again I will come to stay with you. When we got to Washington we heard that the army had moved to Kelley's Ford about 30 miles above Fredricksburg but when we got here we found our Regt. and two others had gone to support A Battery. We were to start this morning but the order was countermanded so we are here yet. We found the tents all torn down and every thing turned upside down. It looks lonesome enough I can tell you. There is a few left here to guard the things in Camp. I think that there is a going to be a great battle fought soon. We had a very pleasant ride down the Potomac. We run in(to) company with another boat that had the President on board. Our boat passed his at Alexandria. Our boat was loaded down with passengers but we kept ahead of the President. I was tired when I got here. Tell Cal that Horace is with the Regt. and as soon as I can get those things to him I will. You must excuse this writing for I am in a great hurry to get it into the mail. Now Cel you wont think hard of me will you? Do not dear, for I think more of you than any one on earth. It makes me feel bad to think that I could not be with you more and I can't help crying when I think of it. Oh that I could be with you all the while, I should be happy but it is not to be. You are to good for me Cel, I wish you all the happiness in the world and if there is anything that I can do for you to make so I will. I never felt as I did that morning I left you and I can hardly write this for I feel as though you will think that I have done wrong in not being with you more. But I will appeal to Warren and all of the friends that I have that knew anything about it. If I was to blame I do hope you will forgive me this time and when I come again you shall have all of the visit. I did not even go to bid Warren's folks goodbye nor anyone else. Now Cel write as soon as you get this and believe me to be your best friend. A better one than you have on earth, for I consider you the best one I have in this world. It rains this morning although it is warm, the roads are very good. Give my love t your Mother and Cal Smith, good by for this time, I remain your sincere friend

G.E.Graves.

\$ 200

Camp Near Brooks Station Va. May 14th 1863

Dear Cel,

The last letter looked so bad that I wrote you. I thought I would write you one that would look a little better. You must have seen by this time the account of the Great Battle at Chancellorsville in which I was an eye witness. I was on the ground when the battle commenced but did not stay there long when I saw how things were going. I stood at the end of the rifle pit where our company was when the Rebs made their appearance and when I saw the Dutch break and run and fly past me yelling as they went, Bull Run, Bull Run. They did not wait to fire a gun, but made good their escape as fast as possible. I saw our batterys fire in to them and mow them down like sheep but still they came on determined to gain the day and they did. We had to retreat but not without great loss. Our Regt. stood till the last and the Genl gave them praise for so doing but the 11th Army Corps in which we are unhappily connected with have got a bad name all on account of some of the Dutch. They are cowards. We could have held them in check if the Dutch had stood their ground although there was 40 thousand of the Rebs come at once. Our Batterys were planted so as to guard the woods and roads in different directions but they took us in our rear, that is behind. But you ought to have seen me behind. I am thinking that there was some tall tracks made about those days. I did not fancy those balls and shells as much as some and took it upon myself to show a light heel. There has many of our poor boys gone to their long home from whence no traveler never returns. This is an awful state of affairs. To see men that are so closely connected as the North and the South must be, stand up facing each other and striving to take each others lives. It looks to me to be wrong but it can't be helped now. But I think we are good for them but when it will end I cant tell. They are a tough looking set of fellows. They are now fighting virtually for their homes for their property. As fast as we get it, it is of course confiscated and becomes property of the United States and they will fight as long as there is a man left. There was one little circumstance that happened on Sunday when the fight was a going on that made me laugh. There were three very nice looking ladies, one on horse back and two on foot. One young lady was making a great deal of fuss and frightened almost to death. There was another behind, this was a wench carrying a little babe. She came laughing, she said that her misses had fainted cause she could not drive the cow along. It made the boys laugh some but they looked as they had been through battle. Their dresses were torn, they looked as tho they hadn't a friend in the world. I have two china cups that were taken from Kelley House. If I can get a chance to send them to you I will do so Horace is well but not so fleshy as he was. The weather is very warm here now. I am writing for the Doctor now. He is Division Surgeon for the present as some of the other Doctors were killed or taken prisoners. It makes busy times for him. I cant think of anything more at present. I will write as often as I get anything of interest. I will close this by saying that I remain your most obedient servant and friend. Write soon and oblige yours truly

G.E.Graves

Cel, I had finished this once but I just been to dinner and thought I'de write a little more. There is something comes up new every day. There is a fellow in Co. C that had the misfortune to shoot his toe off this morning. Tell Warren when you see him to write and send me some post stamps. Give my respects to his wife and to your mother. If Old Mrs. Mc Clout says anything more about me tell her she will do me a favor by minding her own business. Tell Clara to boot her and I will pay the expense. We have heard from Col. Jones. He is a prisoner. We have not heard from Ferd yet. Tell Sam It was lively times here about the 2nd and 3rd of this month. If you get as black as I am Cel I think we will make a team. The weather is very warm. Nothing more at present. From your true friend

G.E.Graves

\$ 85

Camp Near Brooks Station Va. June 6th 1863
Dear Cel.

I received yours of the 31st of May and you may depend I was glad to hear from you once more. I did the errand to Horace, and he said he ought to be ashamed for not writing to you. He was eating supper. He says tell Cel that he could eat as much bread and butter and apple sauce as anyone. He feels first rate. One of our boys in our company that was wounded and had his leg amputated died last night and was sent home this morning. His brother was here with him. His name was John Mearner, from Freedom, Cattarugus Co. I made a good blunder there but that is nothing. I presume I shall make a great many more before I get out of this war. I made a grand one when I came here, and I would like to make another to get out. We had orders yesterday to have 3 days rations cooked and all of the Hospital Stores packed and loaded and be ready to fall to the rear in case of an attack. We had them all ready and were waiting further orders when about 4 o'clock we heard heavy firing in the vicinity of Fredricksburg. It was kept up for an hour and a quarter at the rate of about a hundred and fifty shots: per minute. I think that is pretty sharp firing. We have not gone yet. There was a report came here this morning that our forces had crossed the river again at Fredricksburg and had gained the heights again. If so I think we shall see some fun in a few days. You mentioned in your letter that Willy had got his thigh broke and I could not get it out of my mind, but it must be my Boy. Until I told Horace about it and he said it must be Lewis boy, and then I was a little easier in my mind on that subject. I try to take care of my self as well as I can. It is true that there is a great deal of fever here in the army, but I think if a person is careful that there is not so much danger. Capt. Cheney has been home on a Furlough and returned day before yesterday. We have had a great deal of fun with Cy Salisbury. He had been here for three days. The Cavalry left for White Oak Church and Cy thought he would come over here. I tell you there is times when a fellow is made twice glad. One is when a friend comes to see him and the other when he leaves. There is no satisfaction in trying to make a deaf man understand anything. Doct Van Aernam said there was two difficulties with him, one was that he was deaf and the other was that he was a d- fool. Don't say anything about this Cel, for I don't want to make his folks feel bad. He left here to day, he wanted to hear those guns, but too deaf. I would like to have him go into a fight. I dont think he would stop until he got to Dunkirk, do you? Ha, ha. We have the best kind of music here every day. There is four bands within hearing of our camp, and that makes it pleasant indeed. Oh Yes, you know that I like that. Now Cel you must write as often as you can and dont forget to write to Sister Mate. I cant think of any more this time so good by, I remain still your best friend do tell. Good by Cel I shall expect to hear from you soon, yours in haste.

G.E.Graves

1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100

1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100

\$125

Goose Creek Va. June 20th 1863

Dear Cel,

I am seated in an ambulance trying to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still among the living. I have had a hard march to get here. We started from our old Camp at Brooks St. on the 11th and arrived here the 17th. The weather was dreadful warm. A great many had to fall out on the account of the heat, and blistered feet. It beat all to see the poor fellows limp. I was as bad off as anyone. I tell you, they say that we have made the best marching that has ever been made in this country. The last day we made 25 miles, we marched from Centerville to this place. This Creek is as large as the Allegheny River, but they call it a creek in this country. You of course know all about Lieut. Phillips. He has been sent home. He was shot at Cattels Station. We passed through there on our way here. It is the best part of Virginia that I have seen yet. It is a splendid country here. I do not know how long we shall stay here. It appears that our folks have lost sight of Lee. They can't tell where he is and therefore we have got to wait with patience until our scouts can find him. We have a heavy force here. Cy Colisburry wanted to see the army in motion, but he could not for they started all civilians back when the army started. It is a sight worth seeing to anyone. Our supply trains was at least 10 miles long and that and the artillery and ambulances, cavalry together make a pretty big thing, and then our little army on foot of about one hundred fifty thousand. A light affair that, but I would like to have you see them Cel. Doct Van Aernam said to me the other day, when we were marching, what would the folks think in Franklinville to see such an army passing through that place. I told him that I guessed they would think that the whole world was on a march. I am with the Doct yet. We have got our little tent up and all we have to do is to eat our little hard tack and drink our little coffee as usual. You must excuse the writing for the hospital steward is in here with me writing too, to his sweetheart and he keeps, stomping all the time and I can't write worth a cent, but I will try and do better next time if the Rebs don't ketch me. They have arrested four or five females here and got a guard over them. One was teaching school at the time, I guess they thought she was a spy. They are the darndest looking girls you ever saw. No hoops and look like a string of suckers with the best ones picked out ha, ha. I dont think I shall marry in this State. Cel you are very kind to send me some stamps. I will send or fetch you the money for them. Warren sent me some the other day. I am in hopes this war will be settled this summer for I have got sick of it and who wouldn't. Have you written to Mate yet, if you have not you ought to be whipped. Ferd Vinton is at Annapolis in parole camp. He is teaching a Band there. They are a going to keep him there. A big thing to be taken prisoner, he will do well I hope. How is your Mother and all of the folks? Write please and let me know. When I get out of this, I will come and make you a long visit. The weather is quite cool to day. We had a fine shower last evening and a great amount of thunder. I cant think of any more to write you this time but will keep you posted as we go-marching along, but you must burn this horrible looking letter after you read it. So good by for this time, give my respects to all fare well. Yours in haste.

G.E.Graves

Pre Gettysburg Battle \$125.

Bolivar, Md. June 27th 1863

Dear Cel,

I do not know when I wrote you last but I wrote to let you know that I am in the land of the living yet. We have been on the march now over three weeks and have arrived at this place. We have passed through some of the most splendid country that I ever saw. We have marched some days 30 miles. A great many of the boys gave out some died from the effects of the march. It was a forced march. It is said that Lee is close by with a large force and intends to come into Maryland and Pennsylvania. I think he will have a good time. We have passed through some very nice villages. Poolsville is a strong CCS place but they were mute as kittens when we came through. They appear to be strong Union people here. We are about 21/2 miles from Middletown near the south mountains. There was a Regt. of Rebs seen here yesterday, our Regt. is in the advance. They are about 21/2 miles from us now. They have gone into the mountains. I think we shall see some hard fighting here. We are ready for them. We have traveled since we started nearly two hundred miles. It seems like getting home again to get out of Virginia and come back to civilized country again. It is about 12 miles to Harpers Ferry. Middletown is very nice place. We are in the rear in a very nice orchard. I am under an apple tree writing to you on a cigar box. Doc Day is waiting for the letters. He is going to town to carry them. You must excuse this. I will write you more next time. Write soon and think of a poor soldier that remains your friend for ever. If we have a fight here I will write to you. Did you get that map I sent We can get everything we want to eat, plenty of milk and bread and butter, eggs. Doc Day and I went to a public house when we got to Jefferson night before last, and got a good supply and a good bed to sleep in and breakfast. We did get there after 9 in the evening. It had rained hard all day. We did get there cold and I tell you it was a treat to find such a place as that. Cel dont be scared for I think old Lee will make his appearance in Cattarugus in a few days. It stands the North in hand to open their eyes and I think they will when the Rebs come and spread death and destruction in the North as we have in Virginia. They have to look sharp or they are gone. You must write often Cel for I want to hear from you. The farmers are cutting their wheat here. It is a great county for farming and I tell you there are some of the prettiest ladies here you ever saw. It makes me think of home. No more of his time, I remain your friend. . G.E.Graves, Well done with a lead pencil, what do you say?.

\$75 but light

Emmitsburg June 30th 1863

day before Gettysburg

Dear Cel

I suppose I shall have to keep you posted in regard to our travels. After I wrote you on Sunday there was an order come for us to march again and of course we had to pull up stakes and start. We started between 5 and 6pm. We marched to Frederick's, a distance of 8 miles. Camped for the night, ordered to start at 4 in the morning. 27th marched to Creegersville, got there at noon, took dinner and marched to Emmitsburg. Frederick is a very nice city. We are in sight of St. Mary's College. The building is situated some 2 miles from this place in or partially in the woods on the side of the mountain. It is surrounded almost completely with woods. It looks as tho it would be a lonesome place. There are a great many Sisters of Charity here in this place. Emmitsburg is about a mile from our present camp. It looks like a very nice place. The inhabitants are mostly French here. A great many of them are Rebs too. It is a splendid country the farmers are rich. We have orders to march to Gettysburg in Pennsylvanian this morning. So you see that we are coming North as fast as possible. I guess we shall have to come to your state to defend our own people for the Rebs are going north and we are after them with a large force. We have done some of the greatest marching that was ever known. The 1st 3rd 5th 11th and 12th corps are with us. I understand that Mc Clellan is superseded by Meed. They all feel well and will as long as they travel north. I will write you again soon. Write Cel, good by, yours in Haste.

G.E Graves.

Not for sale

Maryland

Middletown July 10th 1863

Dear Cel

I suppose you are anxious to hear the news, and I will try to enlighten you as much as possible. We have some of the hardest marching that we ever had. I think I wrote you from Goose Creek. Well, the 19th of June we had marching orders and could hear cannonading in the direction of Snickers Gap. There has nothing of importance happened until the 21st. Genl. Pleasanton's cavalry drove the Rebs 10 miles, they fought all day, we could hear them very plain from where we were. Nothing more until the 24th, we were ordered to march. We marched to the Potomac near Bolis Bluffs and camped for the night. 25th, Broke camp and marched acrossed the Potomac on Pontoon bridges and found our selves in Maryland in the land of liberty as it seemed to us, for the boys were all pleased to think that they had got out of Virginia. We passed through Poolesville and arrived at Jefferson at night. Marched 30 miles (26th), broke camp, marched to Middletown. Our Regt. were sent to the front. They went through the Gap and stayed all night. We were ordered back to the rear near the village with the ambulances, this was the 27th of June. The 28th on Sunday we were ordered to march in the direction of Frederick City, arrived there after dark, camped for the night. 29th broke camp, marched to Emmitsburg. Very hard marching, rain and mud. A portion of the Army were left to reconnoiter, think there are some Rebs about. This is the 30th. July 1st, broke camp, ordered to march at 7 1/2 A.M. At 9 we crossed the State line and stood on Pennsylvania soil. We thought we were at home, but not yet. We got within 4 miles of Gettysburg and an officer came back and ordered the army to advance as fast as possible as the Battle had commenced. We double quicked it until we got there and sure enough they were engaged. The Battery's were flanked and were throwing there shot and shell at the Rebs like hail. I saw the commencement of the fight, it was at 2 o'clock in the after noon. I went on to the hill where there was a Battery planted and saw them shoot several shots and saw the Rebs fly for the woods. The Doct thought we had better go back a mile or so and he would come and establish a hospital. We did so. We had not been there long when Doct Dry came and told us to go back further for he thought we would have to fall back. I told him I thought we were smart if we could not hold them there we had better fall back home, but we held the ground. The most of our Regt. were either taken prisoners or killed. Horace is a prisoner, all that we can muster after the fight in our Regt. is about 30 men. Capt. Cheney, Jack Mitchell, Lieut. Crosby are prisoners. 2nd day the fight still continues with unabated fury, but our men fight hard and are bound to whip them here. 3rd, The fight commenced at daylight this was the big fight. The Rebs charged on our center and on our right and left wings but no go. One officer came up to one of our guns and put his hand on it and demanded surrender. One of the boys had a lever in his hand and hit him over the head and killed him, the first blow. It is estimated that we have taken from 20 to 30 thousand prisoners. I was 800 in one squad and 400 in another. The Rebs all retreated in the night of the 3rd. We took Longstreet and a great many officers. 4th, All quiet except they are bringing in the wounded. Oh how the poor fellows suffer, 5th, Rain all day, 6th, Marched back to Emmitsburg in pursuit of the enemy. They are in hot water now. 7th, Marched to Troy and halted for 1/2 an hour, marched 4 miles to the mountain and camped for the night. 8th, Heavy rain, traveling very bad. Arrived at Middletown at night. The army are advancing through to Boones Borough. It is a sight to see the artillery pass. 9th, The army still advancing. 10th, The fight has commenced here heavy firing. We are at Boliver near the South Mountain about 8 miles from Middletown. I think that the Battle will be fought at or near the old Battle Ground at Antietam or near Boon Boro. This country is like a swarm of Bees. Gen. Sickles was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. He has one of his legs amputated. We expect to move every minute. They have caught 3 Rebs spies and have hanged one of them to a tree at Frederick. He has hung there three days. They have dug a grave under him and he is left to rot down and drop into it. The Genl. said he would shoot the first man that touched him. I don't know what they will do with the others, but I think; they will hang on the same tree. Perhaps this wont be very interesting to you Cel, but it is the best I can do under the circumstances. Give my love to your Mother. I hope that this may find you both well and enjoying good health. Write soon, I have not heard from you in a long time. Oh Cel, I do wish this war was at an end. I want to see you once more if we have the good luck to gain a victory here I think perhaps it may end the war. Good by for this time Cel, and as soon as I can get a fit place to write I will write you a long letter. The Reb prisoners are the hardest looking subjects I ever saw. They look worse than the Savages. We have walked since we started out in Stanford City over three hundred miles. I stand it tip top. Give my respects to Warren and his wife. If you see Sam Bard, tell him I thank him for that letter that I have not got and if he don't write soon I think he aint a going to. Good by dear, write as often as you can, from your friend

G.E. Graves

not for sale

Camp Near Harpers Ferry Md.
July 17th 1863

| Friend Fay

Dear Sir

I think I have received all of your letters that you have written me. I have a little time just now to write to you and I will improve it. You have probably heard all about the great battle at Gettysburg. The Rebs got badly whipped there, and were glad to get away with what they had left. It was hard on us as well as on them. There were a great many lives lost on both sides, but with the help of the Lord and a few of those little Cannons to touch them up with we succeeded in gaining a grand victory. We have done some very hard marching and have had a great deal of rain. It has been very warm indeed to travel on foot. We have walked nearly four hundred miles since we started from Stamford City and are still traveling. We are in camp now waiting for the pontoons to be put across the river. We have got to go into Virginia again, I am sorry for that. I think our troops fight better on this side of the River. We have a larger force here now than we had at Gettysburg. Our Artillery are better and more of them. I saw two Batterys pass the other day of 32 pounders and several Batterys of the Parrot Guns besides any amount of Rifled guns. It takes ten heavy horses to draw those 32 pound guns. We followed the Rebs to the River, they waded through. When we were coming back through Hagerstown, I was surprised to hear someone call my name. I looked around and who should I see but Jack Mitchell and Adjutant Crosby in a wagon. They had got away from the Rebs, swam the River and came to us. They were taken prisoners the first day of the Battle. We have no Regt left, there are only 50 left. Capt. Cheney was taken with the rest. Jack says that he left the day before he did. Jack and Crosby had a hard time, they came near drowning in the river. The water was very high and rapid. They tied their clothes on their backs put their money in their hats and jumped in and they found they could not get across in that way. And had it not been for a rock that they had the fortune to strike in the center of the River they would have drowned without a doubt. When they got on this side, they found themselves without any of their clothes. They went to a Negro's home and he gave them the best clothes he had, and finally they got safe through. They looked like the devil. You Northern folks are raising the old boy just now a trying to resist the Draft. Look at New York City. What a shame. It is one of the worst things that could happen to our country at this time. We are gaining victory's all of the time and I think with a little of the right kind of influence at the North this rebellion would be stopped very soon. It wants a few of our Batterys up there, to blow hell out of them. I think it would stop that kind of feeling. They have sent a large force and some artillery all ready and will send more if required and then they can hear how Military Thunder sounds to them. This thing would have been at an end before this time if the North had been united. Old Lee has gone into his hole and pulled the hole in after him and then bit it off. So that they cant find him but they have got old Mead after them and they will find out who *darkey de cole dare if the tail dont break*. Ha, Ha. Well Fay you must write often. I received a letter from Cel this morning, and I was glad to hear from home once more. I began to think that my friends had all forgotten me. You must excuse this writing for I have to sit on the ground to do it. Tell John B. I would like to hear from him once more. Horace is a prisoner of war. Write as soon as you get this and oblige your friend

G.E.Graves

\$12.5

Camp Near Goose Creek Virginia July 21st 1863

Dear Cel,

Again I take my pen in hand to tell you what we are about. This is the first day that we have been in Camp for one day for a long time. We are still in pursuit of the Rebs. They are on one side of the Blue Mountains and we are on the other, keeping good watch of them. Our Cavalry are harassing them in their rear and I understand that they are flying in all directions and in the greatest disorder imaginable to get away. Cel I think if we have the good luck to gain victorys as we have all spring and summer so far, that this war will close before snow flies this fall. There are some bushwhackers around here. There was a commissary sergeant and a quartermaster and a surgeon went out a foraging after something to eat last night and have not returned yet. I think that they are gobbled up by the Rebs. It stands a fellow in hand to keep within the lines in this country now a days. Cel I had a great misfortune happen to me today and I guess you will laugh when I tell you of it. We had just got our fly tent up and had got to work making out our payrolls. I was as busy as I could be, writing and the first thing that I knew the wind blew the tent down and the center pole struck me on the shoulder and I thought I was a gone sucker. It covered us all up in the tent. You ought to have heard the doctor laugh. He was a lying down at the time and it tickled him some. Cel I wont go into any minute detail of us all along the road and through the country, suffice it is enough to do the traveling, it is very hard work in deed. I understand that there is to be some officers sent from every Regt. up North to fetch the Drafted men down. How do you think that will suit them? I think that there will be some grunting done now. They are a cutting up some fine capers in the City of New York. I think if they got a few shot and shell thrown in amongst them that they will have to give up, and that will be done as sure as that they live. For they have sent several Regt. and Artillery there all ready to quell the riot. They have got to come and help us out of this scrape. There is no use of talking, the draft will be enforced. I dont hear anything more from Horace. I guess he has gone to Richmond. Crosby and Jack Mitchell says that Capt. Cheney got away the day before they did, but we have not heard anything from him since. Our force is stronger at this time then it was at Gettysburg and is getting stronger every day. I think that Genl. Mead is determined to crowd the thing as fast as he can and bring the thing to a close. We are waiting here today, waiting the construction of a bridge across Goose Creek. Our Army are in good spirits at this time. The Bands of Music are playing some of the best music. Today, it is very nice indeed. Cel you would be surprised if I should tell you that the train that belongs to our army will reach nearly a hundred miles, but such is the case. It is a sight to behold. I do not know what to write that would interest you, so I will stop for supper now. There I have eat it and I will write a little more. I think we will move again in the morning. Well, let them move, I am ready to ride on Uncle Sam's sled. Let it go when it gets ready be it night or day, the difference is not much. Here I am without friends making the best I can out of it. I think that Capt. Cheney is not the man I took him to be for he has not used me right all together in some things. I tell you Cel one cant tell who their friends are until they get pretty acquainted. I think you are the only friend I have left. If you should desert me what should I do? There is any amount of Cavalry passing here now Well I will close for this time Cel and promise to write you again soon. Cel think of me once in a while and may the Lord be with you, good by, write often and oblige your friend

G.E.Graves

N.B. give my love to your Mother

Ag
the
long
of the
road
with
the
have
do
buss
Mae
my
by
in
ton
just
I
with
an
you
are

\$ 76

Camp at Manassas Junction, Va.
August 27th 1863

Dear Cel

I received yours of Aug. 23d and you may depend I was glad to hear from you once more. I had given up ever hearing from you again. It had been so long since I had even heard anything about you. I had a letter from Warren the other day and he said he had not seen you in two three weeks, but you was well at that time. That did not satisfy me by no means. Our Regt. has all gone to Alexandria to do guard duty, They went day before yesterday. There is no one left of our Regt. but the old Doct. and the steward and myself and two others to attend to the sick ones that are left here. The Doctor goes in the morning to Alexandria to see whether we will go or not. It is lonesome enough here now. The cars are loaded every day with conscripts going to the front. There was one shot in the 27th P.V. Regt. day before yesterday for trying to get a way. He was buried the next day. We get good news from Charleston and I think it will have a tendency to put a stop to this rebellion. I had a letter from George the other day. He is in Buffalo in an engine at work and doing well. Charles Wadsworth, my wife's sister's boy that we called on at Springville was here to see me only a few days ago. I think the draft is all right. I see by the papers that Harry Wade is in too. Bully for him and Whiskey. What to say? Cel never be alarmed about my getting in a bad way for there is not in the least chance for it here. I presume a person might get liquor to drink if his mind was on that particular thing all of the time, but mine is different. Thank God. I am sorry to hear that there is so much drinking in Franklinville. Cel if you ever neglect writing so long again I will attend to you when I get home. Give my love to Cas Cal. Tell her I am all-right. Tell her I would like to be there to tip over their sugar kettle next spring. I think that Lew just done it that time so you think I would do so Cel. Oh yes, I wish I was there, we would go to Cuba and every where else if we had a mind to. Cel how is your Mother and all of the folks in Cadiz? We have not had any pay in six months and I don't know when we shall get any again. You must write oftener to me. For this letter made me feel so well that I could jump into Richmond at one jump. I think that the Deibler family are in for it. We cant do anything with Irish Tom down here his feet is so big. Good for Tip & John Mc Cluer is in my tent a reading those names. He is well. The weather is not so warm as it has been. The nights are cold enough. John says he wish they had drafted Old Dave. You must excuse this writing for it is bed time and the Doct is a going at 7 in the morning. Well good by Cel, write soon and oblige yours for ever if you say so. Ha ha what do you think of that Cel?. Good by from your friend

G.E.Graves

Somewhat light

\$76

Bridgeport Alabama Oct 3rd 1863

Dear Cel

You can see by this that I am not where I was. I am further from you than ever, I'm sorry for that but I had the pleasure of seeing Sister Mate. We got to Indianapolis on Monday at dark. I got off the cars and commenced to hunt for them and had to give it up and go to the Soldiers Home and there I found Bill and Plumb waiting for me. Well, didn't I get to see Mate; I only saw them on hour that was too bad. Mate said that Cel had not written to her yet: naughty girl you for not writing to them. We passed through 8 different States to get to where we are. We had a very pleasant journey. You must write soon, I will write to you as soon as we get settled, direct to G.E.Graves Co. D. 154th Regt. N.Y.S.Vol Army of the Cumberland in care of Capt. H. Cheney; give my love to all from your friend.
Gene

Dear Friend Eugene

I will hasten an answer to your letter of Oct. 3. I see it has been a long time coming. I have just received it tonight. It went to Franklinville office, you must not put Frank on my letters or they will go there and not stop and I shall not get them in a long time. I don't see why you had to go so far away from home. I am so sorry but hope you will yet come home all right. The army went up the Indianapolis on purpose for you to visit your sister Mate I should think. What in the world sent the Army such a round about way. Weren't you in Tenn., or were the rebels what sent you around to see the country? Oh Gene I fear this war will end the lives of all our town boys. Mr. Mc Nell has just got word that Eiff is killed. It is a very sorely affected family, Mr. Mc Nell will go for Eiff as soon as he can get him but the rebels are over 40 miles this side of where Eiff is buried. Oh Gene do take care of yourself. I do wish you were here. I am so lonesome, I do not know what to do. What business are you in now and what are your experiences, tell me do please. I feel really afraid you will get sick. I hope this cruel war will be over soon so you and all the rest of our soldiers can return to their homes. Do you hear anything from Horace and who of our boys are now prisoners?. Warren had gone to Titusville Pa with Ben Steward. I am sorry to say Warren is a perfect sot. Oh Gene it seems as though I could not have it so. It has made me sick once but I know I can not help the matter by worrying but Oh what can a man think to ruin himself and disgrace his family. If it were not for James I would say poor fool go your length and if he had no better mind than to do as he does I would know he would hurt no one else but himself. I can say truthfully I am glad Harriet did not live to see him so. But Gene she told me it would surely be as it is with him (as regards drink) after she was gone. Oh My dear sister, how much I loved her and how greatly I miss her dear kind instruction but Gene we shall all follow her soon. I hope I may live to see you again but we may never meet. If you can get a furlough do come home if it is but for two days. That is better than not to come at all. You are so far away it will take you too long to come home but I am in hopes you will not have to stay there long. The rebels are now in possession of Bull Run, I cant see how they manage to get possession so many times unless our people are willing to have them. I will now lay this letter away to finish another day, I have a severe headache. Good night dear friend.

Light \$50

Camp Near Stevenson Alabama
Oct- 12th

Dear Cel

I thought I would write you again for fear that you could not read the one I sent you before. I did not speak of our journey in the one I sent but I will now. If we had stayed in Alexandria one hour longer we should be there now, for General Briggs issued an order for our detention and sent a telegraph dispatch to stop us but it was withheld by someone and we did not get it. We started two weeks ago last Saturday and arrived here on Friday of the next week. We had a very peasant trip. When we got into Ohio we found lots of Union folks especially among the ladies. Every place of any importance we passes through the ladies would come running with baskets filled with provisions and tell the soldiers to help them selves to all they wanted and they would go and get more, and the ladies in Indiana, they showed themselves very patriotic indeed. We passed over the Cumberland Mountains and through them indeed. There was one tunnel we came through that was one mile long. We lit a candle when we passed through it and it looked queer enough. I tell you I think Ohio and Indiana two of the best States I was ever in. I think when we get married we will come here and live. Oh dear, only think of that. What I have not heard a word from poor Horace yet. I think however he will be here before long for they are exchanging prisoners now. I hope he will come back to us safe for a better boy never lived. We came through Louisville KY and Nashville Tennessee. They are very pretty places but don't come to Indianapolis. That is the prettiest place ever saw. There has been six thousand buildings built there this summer. Mate likes it there first rate. Plum is in the best store in the City on Washington Street. That is the main St. and the streets are the tidiest and kept the cleanest of any I ever saw. Oh how they wanted me to stay but I could not The people about here have great faith in Rosencranes. Cel you must write soon for I want to hear from you. I dont know whether I told you how to direct. Direct to G.E. Graves Co. D. 154 the Regt. N Y Vol. 11 corp. Army of the Cumberland Nashville. Tell in care of Capt. Harrison Cheney. Now Cel you must write to Mate for think it is too bad you dont write. Give my love to all and especially to you Mother. Cel the copper heads up North think a white man cant live so far south as this on account of the hot weather but I have not been a day since I have been here that an overcoat was uncomfortable. I wear one the most of the time and it seems as tho I should freeze my feet nights. We have a very heavy fogs here. We are on the Banks of the Tennessee River. They are building a rail road bridge here and I think we will be kept here to guard the bridge and road for a time. How long I dont know. Write soon and oblige your friend for ever. G. E Graves

Oh what a dirty letter but I cant help it, it is all dirt here.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

\$ 35

Lookout Valley Tenn., Nov. 4th 1863

Dear Cel

It has been a long time since I have heard from you. I begin to I think that you have forgotten your old friend. I suppose I shall have to put up with it. I have written you two letters since I have been here and have not received any letters from anyone but my boy Willis. He thinks enough of me to write. I had a letter from John Burlingame the other day by Doct Vanaernam. He wrote that he could pay that hundred dollars that I let him have and would do so at any time. I wish you would see Warren and tell him to do as he sees fit with the money only have it safe. Tell him to write to me and let me know whether he got the 45 Dollars I sent. Him. Tell him it is difficult getting a letter from here now but I will write him as soon as I can. We are within 4 miles of Chattanooga, have driven the Rebs from the Valley on to the top of Lookout Mountain and there they remain. They fire away at us all day long but they are too high up to do any damage or else their powder is good for nothing. Cel write soon. I got here last night, I came up the Tennessee River on a Steam Boat, it is a nice River, the Boats run regular now. I have just been writing to Mate. I saw her at Indianapolis I when I came through. Good by for this time. Yours in haste.

please direct to G.E.Graves
Nashville Tennessee. Co. D. 154th Regt. N.Y.Vol 11th corps. Army of the Cumberland
in care of Capt. H. Cheney

Lookout Valley Tenn. Nov 5th 1863

560

Lookout Valley Tenn. Nov. 5th 1863

Dear Cel

I received yours of Oct. 18th & 25th all in one yesterday. I had almost given up ever hearing from you again, but I was happily disappointed. The Doctor found me at Bridgeport Alabama. I was left there with the medical stores. The Regt. had been gone about a week to the front. They had a fight with the Rebs on the 8th at 12 o'clock at night. They charged on the Rebs and drove them from the Valley that we now occupy. They keep up a constant firing from the Mountain. Their shells burst all around our camp but do no damage. They fire at the Trains. It is a rough country here, very hilly. We had a fine ride up the Tennessee River. I got the stuff loaded on the boat. The night after Doctor came and we went up the river in the night. The Steam Boat was loaded down with provisions and two barges one on side and that made quite a load. There are from 30 to 50 Rebs come in to our lines every day and give themselves up. They say they want to get in out of the wet. It is only 3 miles to Chattanooga. Old Joe Prostitute is confident of success here. Cel give me to old Cattarugus, yet we have heard so much about the sunny south. It is all a hum bug at least as far as I have seen. Indiana and Ohio are different. Oh Cel how I wish you could have been at Indianapolis when I got there. It is one of the prettiest places I ever saw. Mate likes it first rate. If I can get a furlough to go there this Winter I shall and then I shall send you for to come there and make a visit I want to see you so much. Cel I am sorry about Warren. I will do all I can to prevent him. I will write to him for I think as much of him as I ever did of a brother. I am sorry that he does so. Cel the talk among the troops is that we shall all be at home in time to vote next fall. I hope that may be so. Give my respects to Clara, tell her I am all right and when I come home we will get up a surprise party or something else funny. I dont hear a word from Horace, poor fellow. I expect he is having a hard time. Cel I have written to John Burlingame in regard to that money and I think he will do right by me. Give my love to your Mother and to Cal Smith also, and all of my friends. From your friend for ever. If you see John Burlingame you tell him how to direct for I think I forgot it in my letter to him. Good by Dear Cel, Excuse this writing for it is written in the woods.

G. E Graves

\$120 good Combs H
Gene + Cel

Chattanooga Dec. 13th 1863

Dear Cel

It being Sunday and I have a little time, I will devote it to writing you a few lines to let you know that I am right. Every thing is quiet here at present. I am in the Corps Hospital acting as Ward Master. It keeps me busy all of the time to keep others at work. We have at present in the Hospital about one hundred and seventy patients. The most of them slightly wounded and doing well. Our corps has been gone ever since the battle was fought here chasing Old Bragg into his hole and I guess they have done it for the Corps is a coming back again. They are expected any day. Doct. Van Aernam was detailed to go with the Regt. and I have not heard from him since he left. I dont hear anything from Horace, I wish I could. We have had no snow here yet, it is raining some today. I dont like this country at all, give me old Cattarugus yet. I am coming back to see you all yet and then Cel we will have a good time. I think it is in store for us yet, for I do think that this Rebellion is about to close for there is only one more state to drive them through and then they will have to jump into the Gulf and the sooner the better. They can't do it too soon to suit me for I have seen enough of this thing. The taking of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge was one of the grandest things that I ever saw. I was an eye witness to it all. I could see every gun that was fired almost and if they didn't make those Rebs dance a double quick around the Mountain I am no judge. I saw seven thousand prisoners in one squad. That was something of a sight. Cel how I wish you could be here in the night to see the telegraphing done by signal lights. It is wonderful to see them a bobbing all over the woods and on the Forts. This is one of strongest fortified places I ever saw. You can't look out without seeing a fort or an earth work of some kind. This has been a place of business some time before the Rebellion broke out. It was one of the greatest Slave Markets in this country. The Steam Boats are a running regular from Bridgeport now. I am in hopes we will all be at home next summer. I cant think of any more to write this time, give my respects to your Mother and Cal Smith Warren and all of the folks in town. Cel write as soon as you can and oblige your friend. Good by for the present, yours in haste.

G.E.Graves.....

Dear Eugene, I will now hasten an answer to yours of Dec 13th which had been long looked for. I began to think you had got tired of my letters and would not answer them. I know you must be busy in your new business. Do you like it as well as being clerk for Van Aernam. I suppose you get more pay or you would not change. I hope you will not over task your strength and get sick. Poor Horace we expect is dead, yet hope that it is not so. I wrote to you about him in my last to you. Poor boy he has suffered so much I am in hopes he would live. I do think it is cruel for our government to allow our men to remain in rebel hands to starve. You say you think the rebellion will be put down before long. I hope it will, but there is a great many lives to lose before it will be done. There will be no draft in this town I think. There is to be raised for each volunteer 300 dollars to be collected by town tax. Some have been sworn in. I understood that Willey Wing, Wright Cummings, Billy Patterson and some other such boys had been sworn in. I think it is a down right shame for men to coax boys to go so as to get rid of it themselves. I hope you have written to your boy George not to inlist. Warren told me last week he was going to inlist. He has had such trouble with Spencer that he is quite discouraged. I told him not to but I have no influence over him. I think he will do wrong if he goes. He should think of his boy and how much he needs his care. Gust Glayden is now home, Is going back tomorrow. He and Elena (?) Riggs were married Christmas. Mr. Mc N. is going with him and will fetch, Eff's body home. I was at home all day Christ(mas), and worked hard too. I had an invite to go to Allegheny to a party but thought I would stay at home. You will wonder who invited me. It was a gent from Cuba, a Mr. Friendly. I was in Cuba several days this Summer and formed an acquaintance with him. He is thought very much of in Cuba, but my acquaintance was so limited. I concluded he would think I had as good since if I stayed at home as go with him. If it had been G.E.Graves that had invited me I think I should have gone

11th Corps Hospital Chattanooga Dec 17 1863

Dear Cel

I received yours of the 6th of Dec and was
very glad to hear that you was well, good
that you has some good friends. I
suppose he is a heavy, I had to be in
of the hospital and heard he had a that Capt
and a Capt. I will be copy the
I see that you had that that I had
I will be glad to see you
I will be glad to see you

11 Corps Hospital Chattanooga Dec. 17th 1863
Dear Cel,

I received yours of the 6th of Dec and was very glad to hear that you was well and
that you had heard from Horace. I suppose he is having a hard time in Richmond. I
heard yesterday that Capt. Pool and Capt. Castler, Capt. Fay and 3 sergeants from
our Regt. that was taken prisoners at Gettysburg had all died from starvation. What
a horrible thing to think of but I cant help it. If I could divide my rations with them I
would do so with a willing heart. That you know Cel, but here I am in the Hospital
acting Ward Master. I dont have a great deal to do only to see that it is done. It
keeps me very busy the most of the time. I have enough to eat for I eat with the
Doctors. We have very good cooks, we have beef, onions, potatoes, pickled
cabbage, fresh pork, soft bread, soda crackers and everything that Sanitary

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]

\$20

11th Corps Hospital Chattanooga

Dec 22nd 1863

Dear Cel

As Capt. Cheney is coming home I thought I would send you a piece of rock that was broken off of the very point of Lookout Mountain. It don't amount to much but perhaps it would be a curiosity to you as a keep sake from me. Keep it until I come home. I wish I had something else to send, Well I will send my love, that will do as well perhaps. They are breaking up this hospital. I think we will get through tomorrow. We are sending off the sick and wounded as fast as we can. I think they will all get away tomorrow. No more of this. Good by from your friend,

G. E. Graves

Direct to G. E Graves, 10 Co. D 154th Regt. N.Y.S. Vol. Army of the Cumberland in care of H. Van Aernam Via Nashville Tenn.

\$100

Lookout Valley Tenn., Feb. 2nd 1864

Dear Cel

Yours of the 24th of Jan was duly received and you may depend that I was glad to hear from you once more. I had given up ever hearing from you any more but disappointments will happen to the best of Family's and that letter was one of my happiest disappointments. Cel I am so sorry that Warren has acted the fool. I don't know what to do. I told him in my last letter to never go in to the Army. I don't think it was necessary for him to do so for he was well enough where he was and why not let well enough alone. But that is the way with some, they can't be satisfied until they have a trial and I guess he will be satisfied. Those that are volunteering now are doing so for money and with that idea that they will be discharged with the rest of the troops if the war ends in three months. They will be kept in their three years out. Government is not a fool. They are getting these troops to keep for they will never let the Military organization run down again. The organization is going to be kept up for all time to come. There is no Nation in the World as strong as ours at the present time. We have the best Navy in the world and the best facilities for making small arms at Springfield Mass. We have the best manufactures in existence and all since this Rebellion broke out. We are going to be the greatest Nation in the World. Everything is working favorable for the restoration of the Glorious Union. Let it come, it can't come too soon to suit me if they hurry. I think our Reg. are Detached from the Brigade and are Head Quarters Guard for Old Jo Hooker. That is a good thing. Well, Cel in regard to those notes that Warren has got. I wish you would get them and Keep them for me. If Warren has not gone tell him to have Sam Bard take my Trunk and the rest of my things and keep them for me and I will make it all right with him and I will send my money to you after this. Cel in regard to the pay I get, it is small but it is all I want. It was not for money that I came to War, it was to help put down the Rebellion. I would be glad to give Government back all that they have payed me if they will let me go. I would rather be at home with you than be here in the woods. You know Cel that I am no fighting man and all I am waiting for is for this war to come to a close and I guess I can take care of No one or No two. Cel what did I tell you about Volo. It is about as I said isn't it? I think he is no gentleman or wouldn't have used as good a Woman as you are in the way he has. If I should be guilty of such a thing I should despise myself, indeed I should. Cel I never will neglect you for I love you to well and I guess you know it don't you. If I ever get out of this you will be the first person that I shall come to see. I want you to write often. Give my love to your Mother and Cal Smith and all of my friends. Can't think of any more to write this time. Cel think of one that loves you and will as long as we both live, write again soon and oblige your own

Gene

They have a trial, and I guess he will be satisfied
those that are volunteering now are doing so
for money, and with the idea that they will be
discharged with the rest of the troops. If the
War ends in three months, they will be kept

\$ 100

Lookout Valley Tenn. Feb 3rd 1864

My Dear Cel

I wrote you yesterday and I hardly know what I wrote, I was so taken back at Warrens conduct. It is so singular that he would be so foolish as to enlist in the army after I advised him not to. I know it is not right to try and discourage anyone to come to war. But Warren I considered one of my best friends and as I have been through the mill I can tell something how it goes. There is honor and decency in every thing but I must say there is neither in this Rebellion for I think the most of them, that is the Officers, come for the money or a big name and I know of a great many that has got a name that will last them as long as they live. I would not want to be in their places for all of the money that Uncle Sam makes. They are marked men. A man can be a man here or at home. If he was a good man at home he can be so here, I a mean man at ;home he gains no credit here. I will stake my reputation with any officer in the army as to good behavior or any thing else that pertains to decency, right and justice. I have held no office in this service nor do I want to. I have been offered a 2nd Lieutenancy a number of times by Capt. Cheny. I told him I did not wish to set my self up as a target to be shot at at any price. I was satisfied with thirteen dollars for month. It is all I want from Government. Life is sweeter to me than all of the money or honor that any of them will get or save in this service. If I get out of this with what little honor I had and my health it is all I ask. Your advice to me Cel is good and I know how to appreciate it from one so good as you are. My associates are few and scattering indeed. I am separated from Regt and have been all of the time. Men that I associate with are gentleman at least I consider them as such. Well Cel enough of this, give me my freedom and see how quick I will come to you, and I wont leave you again either, unless you get sick of me.

Feb 4th 1864

Dear Cel

Mr. Sweetland came in to the tent at noon Yesterday when I had got so far in the writing, and said I must stop and go with him to visit the Cave and Lookout. Well as I had a great anxiety to do so, I went and I must say I was not sorry only for one thing that is, I wished you were their with me, for it was truly a great sight. We took a candle with us and when we got into the cave Sweetland struck a light and took the lead. I didn't care to go ahead but followed him. Well we had got in about 10 rods and I says to him "do you see that light ahead?" "No says he." I guess there ain't any light in here, so we kept advancing and I saw the light again and called him mind to it again and said he. "Oh yes there Is someone in here." We had not gone far when we discovered a fire built on a shelf of rock and burning finely. Well when we got there we had to crowd ourselves through between the rocks, and came out into a large room and there we began to look around. It was one of the Wonders of the World. It was a grand sight. There is places where the Salt Peter and lime has dropped down from over head and formed large pillars of the nicest kind and every body breaks off a piece to send home. Well we heard someone a talking and I should think we was them in a half mile It sounded so queer. A kind of a hollow sound. It started me at first but I got over it and we met three young fellows a coming back. They said they had been in about 10 rods beyond there, so they went back with us and we went ever so far beyond where they did and I must say it was the greatest sight I ever saw by candle light. Some places we had to crawl through and others was from twenty or fifty high and gorges in the rocks that was a far down as you could see. You couldn't hear a stone strike the bottom.

One of those boys got scared and wanted to go back. He was afraid he could not breath, but Sweetland told him there was no danger where there was so much Salt Peter, so he was contented. We went in about a mile and concluded our lights would not last, so we took the back track and came in to open day light again. It looked so singular after being in the dark so long. Then we went up the Mountain passing over the Battle Ground and so on up the Mt. I thought we never would get there. We could look up and see people standing on the very point of the Rock They didn't look bigger than the little end of nothing. We found our selves on the same rock after a little, and that Capped everything. We could see almost all over the world. We looked till we was satisfied and then came home tired to death. These little pieces of specimens come out of the Cave and the leaf from the Mt. I picked it from a Laurel Tree. Well Cel I can't send you anything more, but all of the love I have is left for you and I will bring that to you in person. Excuse me Cel don't suppose there is any use of my talking about some things that you and I have talked about so much is there. If there is write to me and tell me whether you love me a good bunch or not ha, ha. Cel I wish you would see Warren and tell him as he is a going a way he had better transfer my matters to you. He will have to go before a Justice and make the Statement to him, and there get the County Clerk to sign it because it is the only way I can get my money that has got to be sent to the pay Master. It can be sent to me first and I can send it to him and then I will send you all of my money. I wish you would see about getting those notes from him. One against John Burlingame of \$100 and one of \$50.00 against Ben Howard and keep them for me and oblige yours for ever
G.E.Graves

60
Lookout Valley Tenn. Feb 10th 1864

Dear Cel

I received those things that you sent me by the bearer John Me Clure. I was surprised when I heard that John had gone home for I knew nothing of it until a day or two before he returned. Jack Mitchell came into my tent yesterday and said Johnny had got back and wanted to see me for he had lots of things for me. So I went over to see him and got the things and found John sick. The Doct says that he has got Small Pox. That is too bad, you won't say anything about it for it will make his Mother feel bad. Cel you don't know how much I prize those things, I do prize them very highly indeed. I see you haven't forgotten the best friend you ever had. Cel, I hope you have received my last letter, for I sent you some specimens from Lookout Cave and I will send you some more of larger size. Doct Van Aernam and 4 or 5 of us made another visit to the Cave the other day and we got some splendid specimens of Stalactite that I will send you by Jack if he comes home. Cel you must not be jealous if I tell you that I received some very nice things from Martha and Dode Mc George. I think they are very kind to think of their soldier friend. Oh Cel how I want to see you. I wish this War would close, I would give anything for then I could see you. When I do come Cel you and I must go to Indianapolis and make Sister Mate a visit. You would like the place I know. Cel you ought to see us cook hot cakes and bake pan cakes and everything else. We can get flour and meal. We have potatoes and onions once in a while which is very good. I can go to Capt. Fowler the Brigade Quarter Master and get things when Officers in the Regiment can't. Oh Cel, how good that wine was, I liked to kill my self, ha ha. Well, it is all right for John said he could not bring it so you and I will drink it when I come home. But those cherry's and currents were first rate and the socks were nice. Cel, I want you to take those notes and if John Burlingame wants to pay his he can at any time. I wrote to him and told him he could act his pleasure about paying it. I expect the pay Master here in a few days and I will send you the Money and if you want to use it you can the same as if it was your own. Cel give my love to your Mother and all of my friends. Please accept my thanks for those good things you sent me and my love with the rest. Write as soon as you get this. Please send me a few stamps. Give my love to Cal Smith. Have you heard from Horace lately, if so write and let me know how he is and oblige yours for ever

G.E.Graves

(Added in pencil, difficult to read plus there is a bad stain on the paper)

Dear Eugene

I received your line last eve and am glad you often think of me. I wish you was at home. It is so dull here. I received a letter from Warren this week. He writes well but almost froze to death. They were 4 miles from Washington but soon expected to leave. He had not received all their clothes. He said there was 54 boys that all knew him by name, and any of them would do anything for him and he would for them. He thinks he preferred being there than in this town under the circumstances he was placed when here. I am sorry for him after all that ————. Sister is so thoughtful of you. I expect to get spanked but when I can get a photograph of myself I will. Write to them and send one so they can see be getting over it before they see me personally. I have an album and would like to have all of their pictures and yours to put in it. Warren is going to get his taken if he can and then I shall expect one from him. I shall be very glad to receive those specimens you have for me. You will please write at the time you send them if you send them express or other wise. You can send that money when you have a mind and I will let for you or get John B to do

#100
#1 ahead

Lookout Valley Feb 27th 1864

Dear Cel

As I am alone tonight I thought I would improve my time in writing you a few lines. I am getting very anxious to hear from you and the folks at your place. I haven't had a letter in such a long time or at least it seems so to me. Oh Cel if you knew how much good it does me to get a letter from you I think you would write one every day but you know I don't expect that, but you must write as often as you can. Cel I have got a box of trinkets that I have picked up on Lookout and Raccoon Mts. and in the cave. They don't look to be worth much to me but I think you would value them very highly if you had them at home. I am a going to get them to you if it is a possible thing and I have fifty dollars that I will send you as soon as there is an opportunity and if the pay master pays us off again this month which I think he will I shall send you seventy dollars. I suppose you received that letter of Mates. You can see what she would do with you if she had a hold o f you. I tell you she would make you fly around some don't you think so? Cel the weather is very fine In Tennessee now, it is as dry and dusty as it is in the middle of summer. There are troops going to the front all of the time. I think Old Jo Hooker will be kept back this summer to guard railroads for he done to much when he took the mountain and they won't give him another chance to immortalize his name. If they would let him go he would go through to Richmond and be in Charleston in two weeks. It is the impression that the 11th and 12th corps will guard the Railroad from Chattanooga to Ringould. I hope so. Cel I have got my hair cut off short and I look like a bob tailed rooster. I think I will get my profile taken and send it to you so you can have a hearty laugh. If you see Sam Bard tell him I have got a ring made for him with the crescent of the 11th corps in the top and also one for Lew Stilwell. I will send them in the box to you and you will give it to them. John Mc Clure is better. I think he will be around in a few days. Cel I want to see you so I don't know what to do but I suppose I shall have to wait a long time yet. I hope the time is not far distant when I see you once more. Oh it seems as tho I had been gone ten years. You will see if you get the box that we really. are in the Cotton States. I was on the bank of the River the other day for a walk and we had to cross a cotton plantation and I picked up some of the cotton buds for you. Well I can't think of anything more cunning to write you so I will close by bidding you good night and charging you in particular to think of your best friend. Give my love to Mother Smith. What in the world have I said now? Well let it go so now I can't rub it out and shant try. Would you Cel? Ha Ha I am yours any way so good by from your your your what shall I say. Oh yes friend.

G.E.Graves

N.B. The toot horn is a blowing for bed time and my friend Sweetland has gone to the Regt. and I an sitting up for him. They may blow their brains out for all I care. I won't go to bed till I get ready.



THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION
Sends this sheet as the Soldier's Messenger to his Home.
Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings.

Lookout Valley Feb 27th 1864

Dear Bel.

As I am allow'd to write I thought I would improve my time in writing you a few lines. I am getting very anxious to hear from you, and the folks at your place I haven't had a letter in a long time or at least it seems so to me, oh Bel if you knew how much good it does me to get a letter from you I think you would write one every day, but you know I don't expect that, but you must write as often as you can, Bel I have got a box of trinkets that I have picked up on Lookout and Nacoochee Mts and in the Cave, they don't look to be worth much to me but I think you would value them very highly if you had them at home. I am a going to get them to you if it is a possible thing and I have fifty Dollars that I will send you as soon as there is an opportunity, and if the pay master pays us off again this month which I think

1864
Lookout Valley Tenn Feb 27th

G. E. Graves

Lookout Valley Tenn. Feb. 29th 1864

My Dear Cel

Yours of the 21st was duly received and I will answer it with the greatest of pleasure. You will see that I had one written for you already but I am glad now that I did not send it for I can put this in with that and send them both in one. Cel I would like to know who told you I had lost two teeth? Well I have and I expect to lose all of them if I have to eat hard tacks, but never mind. I can get some new ones I suppose. It is raining here today. Cel I shall send you Fifty Dollars tomorrow by Adams Express to Winsdale. I have directed it to C.C. Smith. If you will take the pains to send for it I would be very much obliged indeed. And I want you to take out of it enough to pay you for all of the stamps you have sent me for I don't expect you to send them for nothing and if you don't I shan't like it at all. Cel you say you are a going away this summer. I hardly think you had better go and leave your Mother, it seems as tho she would be lonesome if you did. If you do go away why not go to Indianapolis and make Mate a visit. If you want to go there, I will furnish you with the money to go with. Oh Cel if you was mine I would like to have you go there and stay until I came home but I suppose there is no use of talking about that is there? You know what I would do if I could? That is I would Marry you in less than no time for I think and know that you are good, too good for me. Oh Cel, how I wish I had a wife to think of and to care for at home like you, but you know me Cel as well as I know myself and if I was worthy of you I would talk but it seems as tho there was no use of my trying. Well Cel if you want any money you can use all that I send to you and welcome or you can give it to John B. I know that John is a friend to the Soldier and to me in particular. I have placed the greatest of confidence in him and know him to be an honest and upright man. If you give him the money tell him to do with it as he thinks best and it will suit me. But if you want it take it and use it and if you want more you can have it by letting me know. I think you can send to Winsdale by Ben Howard or some trusty person that you think will bring you the money. I do not know what the express charges will be but you take the pay out of the package. Well Cel write as often as convenient. I shortened that word some for I want to hear from you. I will close by sending you all of the love I have. Yours in haste,

G. E. Graves

Oh Cel I forgot to tell you we have been making fried cakes this afternoon. I wish you had one they are licking good, try you some Gene

\$ 25

Camp Stoneman March 3d/64

Dear Cele

We leave here tomorrow morning at 7 O'clock. I am well & enjoy myself first rate. I am getting fat every day & must say that I never enjoyed my self better when a way from home. I have got my outfit from a horse down to spurs and when in full rig feel well if I do look like the D---L. I have tried to get some photographs but failed for they had got out of stock. But will as soon as I can & if I do not you must not forget me if you do not have my picture. Cele I did not send home as much money as I thought I should & not as much as I might for the more I thought it over the more thought I might as well have some of it to use as to starve myself to death & let someone else have it all to use. What say you? Now Cele when you write to Gene tell him I am on my way to Tennessee. I have no more time to write now but when I do I will write you a full letter with full particular. Write me & Direct to..

Warren R. Fay
Washington D.C
15th NY.Cav.
Co. L
Give my respects as before care E.R.Trull
Quarter Master

The D-L, I have tried to
get some Photograph but failed
for they had got out of
stock. I will do it as soon
as I can & if I do not
must not forget me if you
do not have my picture
Cele I did not send
home as much money as

Lookout Valley Mar 16th 1864

Dear Cel,

\$35

Dear Cel

Lookout Valley Mar. 16th 1864

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and to let you know what our army are about. There is a going to be a move I think soon for they are having reviews and inspections through this Department now and that is a pretty sure thing to being on a move. The first and second Brigade was reviewed yesterday by Genl. Hooker. I was out to see it and it was a grand sight. Our army are looking well this spring. I think they are all ready for another fight. Well Cel there is not much news to write you. John Mc Clure is well now. Have you received the fifty dollars I sent you? I have just got the Receipt from the Office. I hope you will get it and if you want to use it you are welcome to do so. If you have any use whatever for money I want you to use it. I will send that box just as soon as I, can get an opportunity. Cel I have been making a pipe for Jonas K. Button from Laurel root. I am going to send it to him. It is a nice thing. I have put on it J.K.B. Lookout Mountain. Hooker 1863. You must see it when he gets it. And I send in this a crescent of the 11 Corps for you to wear to remember me by and also a cross that I made from a shell from the Tennessee River. Cel give my love to all. Please answer this son and oblige yours.

G.E.Graves

there is not much news to write you. John
Mc Clure is well now. have you received
the fifty Dollars I sent you. I have just got
the Receipt from the Office. I hope you will

\$60

Lookout Valley Tenn. April 23d 1864

Dear Cel

Yours of Apr 17th came in due time and I was very glad to hear from you once more. I am glad Cel if you are taking comfort in Buffalo. I wish you all of the pleasure in the world, I would like to be with you. I think we would take a trip to the Falls or any where else that you wanted to go. Oh Cel, I have sent that box by Mr. Morton and I am sorry that you are not at home long enough to see it, but you will see it before long. I sent you a Chattanooga Gazette in which you will find the prettiest shell you ever saw. I want you to get a Gold back and a pin put on it and wear it for Gene. You write what it costs and I will send you the money to pay the expense. I have another one of a larger size that would make you a beautiful shell pin if you want I should send it, I will. I worked them out with my own hands so you could see what I was busying myself with. The shells are from the Tennessee River. I will send you specimens as fast as I get them. Well Cel I am afraid you will make Miss Weed jealous if you are not careful. Oh what a pity that would be. Cel when you write to your Mother give her my love. I am glad that Warren has made up his mind to be a sober man. It is a poor place for a man that drinks. Cel let us suppose the case: well if I dont get home this fall to stay supposen I should get a Furlough and go to Indianapolis, and you should make up your mind to take a trip west and we should meet each other and get Married. Whose business would it be do you suppose, but yours and mine? Ha, ha. That would be Capital wouldn't it. Say yes do Cel. Well write as often as you can, Cel some days I make five dollars and some I make eight. You will ask how I do that. Well when you get that shell and see those pipes you can tell. The shell is worth Ten Dollars here and the pipes from eight to ten so you can see how I busy myself. I cant give you George's address until I get a letter from him for I have forgotten. I will do so as soon as I learn it. Good bye for this time Cel and write soon and oblige yours in haste.

G.E.Graves

N.B. Two o'clock in the morning Cel I had to get up to finish this letter. The cars make such a whistling that I cant sleep. They are running Night and Day taking Soldiers to the front. The 11th Corps has gone up. There is no more 11th, we are in the 2nd Division 2nd Brigade 20th Army Corps under Genl Gerry. Jo Hooker has Command of all the forces from here to Nashville. Cel do not forget to send me your Photograph. I will send you mine as soon as I can find a place to have it taken. The weather is quite warm here now. I remain yours for ever

G.E.G

860

Cassville Georgia May 22nd 1864

Dear Cel

I should of answered yours before this but I could not. We have been on the march since the 4th. I received yours of the road. We have had to fight our way every day. We are within 40 miles of Atlanta, have driven the enemy at every point like the winds. Our boys suffered some a week ago to day at Buzzard Roost on Sunday. It was a worse place than Lookout but they had to come down and flee for their lives. There has been hard fighting every day that the country shows. The enemy have taken no prisoners from us of any amount and no Artillery. We have taken a great many prisoners and a number of Batteries. I think this summer will tell the story. I dont know Cel but I shall get so far off that I cant get to Indianapolis to meet you but I will try for it. When we stop I will write you again. You must answer this as soon as you can. I will send you some specimens of Quartz that I have picked up by the road side as we stopped to rest. We move tomorrow morning again. Cel we have a large army and resistance is a foolish thing. I think they will have to give up whipped. We have had no pay yet. When we do get pay I will send you a hundred dollars. Cel do not forget me. I want to see you very much indeed. Give my love to your Mother and Jane Salisbury. Oh yes you can give those things I sent in the box when you please and it will please me. Write soon. I hope you will excuse this writing for I have to hold the paper in one hand and write with the other. I cant think of any more to write this time so I will close. I remain yours affectionately

G.E.Graves

Please direct to G.E.Graves Co.D154th N.Y.S. Vol. 2nd Brig, 2nd Div.
20th Corps Army of the Cumberland in care of H Van Aernam

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the name "G.E. Graves" and other illegible text.

\$ 15^s

Camp Near Dallas Georgia
June 1st 1864

Dear Cel

Our army has been stopped for the right of way to go any farther at present. We run into a nest of Rebs. about a week ago and have been here ever since fighting every day. This is the 30th day of hard fighting since we started from Lookout. We have had to fight for every inch of ground that we have got. There are reinforcements coming to us every day and I think the Rebs will have to let us through soon. They have a strong position but our boys have confidence that they can break their lives at any time. They have had a hard time of it. James Johnston and an other boy came in from the front yesterday wounded. Johnson was shot through the left arm and the same ball popped through the other's leg. They were back drawing rations at the time. This is the hardest fighting that was ever known. There are a great many wounded coming in every hour. There was a regiment of Rebs made a charge on our boys of the right wing the other day. Our boys let them come until they got close enough and they fired into them and there were only four seen to go back alive. They have been repulsed every time they have undertaken to charge our lines. We are strong and I think Atlanta is ours if so the Rebellion has gone up in the south west. The weather is very warm here through the day time but cool nights. Cel did you get that Chattanooga Gazette I sent you with the shell in? Oh Cel if you could see our boys go into a planters House and rummage it. it would do you good. They make the Chickens squall and Pigs squeal and sheep jump the way that is a caution to the Rebs. I shall have to tell you about an old Negress I saw the other day where our army was marching. She stood by the fence holding on to a rail with one hand and bare footed. Says I "good morning Aunty. How do you do?" She says "well. so well. So, I comes out to see my Union boys go by. Good bless dis ain't all of em I hope." "Oh no" said I. "There is fifteen hundred thousand and coming the country is alive with Yankees." "Hish you say so I so glad to see em come. Day look so good." I told her we were a going to drive the Rebs into the Gulf "and drown every one of them." "Hush you don't day so. De lod bress you all." I left then. Well Cel give my love to all and more especially your Mother. I don't hear anything from Warren. I understand Horace has got home. I am glad of that. I hope he will stay there. Well Cel write soon. I have no more to write this time so good bye. I hope you will not forget your friend. Tom says tell them that we are laying down writing letters and if you want to know who Tom is it will do you not good for he is engaged. Good bye Dear Cel.

G.E.Graves

Camp Near Marietta Georgia July 1st 1864

\$150

Camp Near Marietta Georgia July 1st 1864

My Dear Cel

After a long and wearisome march I take my pen to write to you to let you know that I am still alive although I cant say it of many of the poor boys that started with us. We have had the hardest fighting this summer that ever was known. We started the 4th of May from Lookout and have had hard fighting every day since. There has not been a minute but we could hear those in advance fighting their way through. We have driven the enemy out of their strong holds. That would seem impossible for any Army to do but there is no position that the Rebs get that Old Jo Hooker can't take. They dread him as they do the evil one. They say they don't like the white star. We are near the Kenesaw Mountain. The Rebs hold that now. Our Battery's have been shelling it every day for along time. We have got them in a circle like a horse shoe. Their center is on the Mountain and our right and left rests on the River around the Mountain taking it in and I think it will be a hard matter for them to get away. If they do, I think they will lose all of their artillery. They have some heavy guns on the Mt. I can see them fire them every day but they do no damage. They can't depress them enough but our boys keep the Mt. hot with solid shot and shell. We can see them burst all over the hill top. The Rebs made three charges on our lines last night about 12.0clock but they could not break them. Cel we have lost heavily this summer. It has been a hard campaign and many of our boys bit the dust. Oh how I wish this cruel war would end. I have seen blood enough. I am satisfied that we are in the right. The Union ought to be preserved, but at the cost of it how many of our best companions are gone. There is not a day but we hear of someone that we know being shot or taken sick. Oh may the Lord spare my life to come to my friends once more. Cel write often, I want to hear from you. I have written to John Burlingame. Tell him to let you see it. Give my love to your Mother and to all of my friends. Do not forget the photograph. I shall get a furlough if it is a possible thing in Sept. and then I will see you I hope. I shall have to bid you good bye for this time. This is horrible writing but excuse. Please direct to

G.E.Graves

154th N.Y.S. Vol. 2nd Brig. 2nd Div. 20th Corps Army of the Cumberland care of
Doct H. Van Aernam.

N B. Do not fail to write and oblige yours

Damp. u *at n to Geo*

\$85

-Camp Near Atlanta, Geo. July 29th 1864

Dear" Cel

Again I take my pen to write you a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well. I have waited with patience ever since I left Lookout to hear from you but I have not had a letter from any person except my old friend John Burlingame. He has not forgotten me. I cant believe that you have not written for I think you have and I have not got your letters Our Army are in their Breastworks within 2 Miles of the City. We have a fine view of the City and also of the Rebs works. I can see 3 Forts and see them fire their 4s at our boys. This fight commenced on the 20th and they have kept it up day and Night, and are still fighting. Day before yesterday they attacked Geni Howard on our right. Howard whipped them and drove them one Mile and Captured 2 Forts, 8 pieces of artillery and eleven hundred prisoners. We get from 50 to one hundred most every day. I think this is their last resort in this State. I am sorry to say that we have lost Genl. Hooker. He was ordered to report to Washington. Started yesterday, the 20th Corps lost a good man. The City of Atlanta looks like a very nice place from here. I went out yesterday evening to see some buildings burn that our shells had fired in the City. Cel have you received the shell I sent you in the Chattanooga Gazette last spring. I suppose you have seen the box by this time I sent you. Cel it seems to me that you have forgotten your friend. Oh I hope not for if you do I shall never come to Franklinville again. I would give anything to see you and your Mother. Give my love to her and to all of my friends. Horace is in Chattanooga. Hope he will stay there until his time is out. The weather is very warm here now. Doct Van Aernam is with us again. He is well. I lave not heard from Warren yet. I guess all of my friends have soured on me. Well I can't help it. Our boys have been firing and throwing shell into the City all day and can't get any reply from the Rebs. They think the Rebs have left again, I hope they have for I want to see the place. Now Cel do write to once more won't you and if I have done anything that I should deserve to be forgotten tell me so. I know you will. I think of you all of the time band it grieves me to think you do not write. Cel give my regards to S.P. Bard. Please tell him to write. I cant think anymore this time so goodbye. I will write again soon. From your friend

G.E.Graves

Patrol the little sheet

\$100

Camp Near Atlanta Ga. Aug 1st 1864

Dear Cel,

Yours of July 18th came to hand to day, you can't tell how glad I was to near from you once more. I have written you three or four letters since I started on this Campaign last spring. I had begun to think you had forgotten your friend Gene. but I will own that I am mistaken. I wrote you yesterday reprimanding you for not writing. I will take that all back. Cel this is a hard life for anyone: but some can make it harder than others. There are some in this army that have no respect for themselves or anyone else and such I am sorry for, as for myself. I can say that. I don't think that I have lost that respect for myself for myself and my friends that is due to a soldier or a citizen at home yet and I hope I never shall. Cel I am the same as when I left you. except one thing. That is I think more of you every day and if it is a possible thing for me to get a furlough I shall do so. For I want to see you indeed I do. Cel I want you to keep yourself still. Do not work yourself to death. I want you to be as fat as a pig when I come home. Do send the picture. The first place I can have one taken I will and send it to you. The Pay Master has been here yet I think he wont come until this campaign is over when he does I shall send you the money and you can keep it for me. I think our Army could take Atlanta at any time they have a mind to they are a fight to day on our right and left both. How would you like to hear these big Guns, Cel it almost deafens one. They are shooting now all of the time while I am writing this to you. Perhaps you would like to know what I am doing well, I have got myself into business. I am in charge of 22 prisoners whose duty it is to work around the 2nd div. Hospital to make the poor soldier comfortable. They are a good fellows. They like me first rate for I give them enough to eat. You want to know what those balls are that has got so may pricklers on them oh excuse me. Well, they are from gum tree balls. I sent you some specimens of quarts that I picked up in Georgia in a letter. I am sorry you have not got them for they were nice of how they are fighting this afternoon It is a perfect thunder. I shall go out by and by to see them. Oh Cel it sounds so singular to hear the guns and to hear a half doz. bands of music playing at the same time. Cel I wish you would tell John B to send me a hat black 7 1/8 size Send it by mail I want a good one. No more this time dear. I will write to you often. Please answer this and oblige your friend for ever. Good bye.

N.B. Love to all G.E. Graves

Co:D'154 NY Vol. 20th Army Corps Army of the Cumberland

due to a soldier or a citizen at home get

\$600

Camp Parole Hospital
Ward 38 Section D
Annapolis Maryland
October 3rd./64

Dear Mother,

I received yours of the 25th & was glad to hear from you & learn you was in usual good health. You said you wanted to know just how I was & I will do as near as you want me as I can. My complaint runs all of the time but worse some times than others & no medicine does any good only just at the time I am taking it & as soon as I quit run right back as I was before I took it. So a part of the time I am on the gain & a part of the time run downhill, so you can imagine I do not get a long very fast on the whole but manage to keep along about so but none ahead of that point and do not know as I ever will in a Hospital. It does not look much like it now & I am bound to get out of it & run the risk if I have to go to the Regt for it appears to me anything for a change & after all I may be foolish.

I got a letter from Cele just before she went west & have not answered it yet for I delayed so long that I thought I had better wait for her to get home. Of course have not much news that I can write you for there is not a person in this camp that you ever saw.

The weather is pleasant & nice & vines of most kinds have taken a new start & look green & thrifty & a plenty of peaches yet & some melons & those that planted for it have green corn. Oysters have got good & there is a plenty of them taken out of the Bay in sight of this place but they do not do me any good for I can not eat them. They hurt me just as almost every thing does that I want.

Give my respects to all & tell Cele I shall write her as soon as I learn she has got home & if she concludes to stay up west longer I will write her there as soon as I can learn it. Yours as ever in truth & friendship.

C.C. Smith
P S

W.R.Fay

Write me again

Atlanta Ga. Oct 16th 1864

\$125

Atlanta Ga. Oct 16th 1864

Dear Cel,

I have been waiting a long time to hear from you. I have some money that I want to send you and as you told me you thought of going to Chicago I thought I would not send it until I heard from you. If you are at home write me and I will send it If you are in Chicago I will send it there. I will send you one hundred and twenty dollars. If you want to use it you can do so with pleasure. If you do not want it I would rather you would keep it than to let it. For we are payed off in the new issue which is drawing interest from date of note which is six percent. They are compound interest notes. The interest is figured on the back of each note. We still remain in Atlanta. Our corps will probably stay here this winter as the rest of the army have gone after old Hood. The enemy are some troublesome in our rear. They have cut the Railroad twice but they have got their pay both times. I think this war will play out this winter if old Abe is elected and if not I think it will last 4 years longer. So of course you see that I am for Old Abe. Hurrah for Lincoln. We don't want any change of administration now as Old Abe says it is no time to trade horses after we have crossed the stream. They are whipped so bad they dont know what they are about. I say let good enough alone. What do you say? The soldiers will all vote for Old Abe. Well Cel you must write as soon as you get this for I want to hear from you and all of the folks in town. Give my love to all and you must not forget to give my love to you Mother. I went to the Athenaeum the other night and of all flat performances I never saw. A perfect Niger show. I got enough of that. Well Cel I have only 9 months longer to serve in Uncle Sam's army and then I shall be free to come home. Home sweet home. There is no place like home. I will close this hoping to hear from you as often as you can find time to write. So, good by for this time dear Cel. From yours forever.

G.E.Graves

rest of the army have gone after
the enemy are some troublesome in
have cut the Rail Road twice
got their pay both times, I think
play out this winter if old
and if not I think it will
last 4 years longer so of course you see that
I am for old Abe hurrah for Lincoln, we

Samuel H.

Atlanta Ga.
Nov 16th 1864

Camp Near Savannah Ga. Dec 16th 1864

\$135.

Camp Near Savannah Ga. Dec. 16th 1864

Dear Cel

As this is the first opportunity I have had to write you since I left Atlanta. I thought I could not improve better than to write you a few lines to let you know that the army came through without any molestation until within a few miles of this place and that didn't amount to much. We started on the 15th of Nov. and arrived in front of the City of Savannah on the eleventh of Dec. The destruction of Atlanta commenced on the morning we left. Every public building and all Government property was destroyed by fire or blown up with powder. It was a sight to see the city in flames. I Presume there is not a building left in the City of any account. The first place we came to was Decatur 6 miles from the City. As quick as we passed through they set fire to the place. The next was Madison, that was served in the same way. The next was Milledgeville, next Davis Borough, Sandersville, Louisville, all served the same fate, and every Railroad destroyed in the state that is of any use to the Rebs. Killpatrick is a brick on a raid. Our troops are now skirmishing with the Rebs. There are a number wounded from our Regt. but none that you know. The Rebs are firing some heavy Guns we can see the city very plain from here. I think there is no doubt about the outcome of this expedition for Surman (Sherman) is operating just as he did in Atlanta. He is not done much yet as they have taken Fort Jackson and Fort Mc Allister and we have got our base open and have sent for supplies for the Army. I tell you Cel we lived first rate on the march. We had all the sweet potatoes, fresh pork, chickens. Duck, geese, sheep honey and all of the molasses we wanted. We would go in the fields and pull all the peanuts we could eat, and sugar cane, Oh dear me it was fun to see the Niggers eat it. We have got a drove of Niggers and wenches that will reach 20 miles I dare say. They would pack up their duds and take their little Nigs on their backs and follow the Army. The State of Georgia is completely destroyed. I saw Horace the other day he was well. I tell you they are shelling to night in good earnest for the big 64's fairly make the earth tremble. The weather is so very warm today that it is uncomfortable with ones coat off. The weather was very fine all the way. We have had no rain of any account in four weeks. Well Cel. I will close this for it is bed time and I am tired. Do not forget to write as soon as you get this. Give my love to your Mother and all of the good folks. I still remain yours for ever, goodbye. Direct the same as you have only send in care of Lieut. Horace Smith. Yours truly G.E.Graves

Savannah, Georgia, Jan 22nd 1865

Dear Cel

I thought I would write to you once more and see if I could get an answer from you. I have not received but one letter from home since I have been in Savannah, until yesterday. I got one from John Burlingame and I was very glad to hear from him indeed, altho he didnt mention a word about the money I sent

\$30

Savannah Georgia, Jan 22nd 1865

Dear Cel

I thought I would write to you once more and see if I could get an answer from you. I have not received but one letter from home since I have been in Savannah until yesterday. I got one from John Burlingame and I was very glad to hear from him indeed. Although he didn't mention a word about the money I sent by Doct Van Aernam. I sent one hundred and twenty and it was to be given to you. I hope you have gotten it. I sent by Mail a box containing a set of jewelry that I purchased on purpose for you. The man I got them from was offered two hundred and forty dollars for them and would not take it. I don't know what they are worth but I know they are very nice. The best I every saw. We are all packed up for another campaign. Don't know when we will start. Destination Charleston. The 19th Corps from the Potomac relieved us three or four days ago. The weather has been so bad that we can't move yet. The citizens are bound to have us stay. They have sent a petition to Washington to that effect. The 19th corps are a hard nation. Horace is well. Write as soon as your get the box for I want to hear from you. Give my love to all from ours forever. G.E.Graves

N.B. Please excuse this writing for it so dark I can't see. This is the last Dear Cel I hope to see you once more if I live. I mailed the box the same time I do this letter so I think you will get them together. Gene

G. E. Graves

Out little diary \$275

Monday Feb. 27th 1865
Lay in camp until 10AM when we crossed the Hanging Rock Creek (a small seam) & went two miles to the top of the ridge & camped. Are waiting for the 14th corps to cross the water & get into position on our left. Clear & warm.

Tuesday 28th
Moved at day light & soon after it commenced to rain & rained most of the day. The roads were bad & had to corduroy. Marched 8 miles & camped at 3PM. Crossed the little Lynch River about noon. It is about the size of the Conewango. Very good country. Heard today from Reb. Prisoners that Wilmington was ours.

Wednesday Mar. 1st
Moved at noon, cloudy, roads fine. Crossed the Great Lynch Creek at Blackneys Bridge at 5PM. Camped 2 miles from the river on the Chesterfield Court House Road. Came 12 miles to day I saw but few Plantations today. It was mostly pine woods. Pines from 1 foot to 18 inches in diameter. We are running all the Grist Mills on the rout whilst the army is passing. Soil white sand. Surface of the country quite rolling.

March 2nd
Broke Camp 8AM. Marched 10 miles & camped at 9PM near Chesterfield Court House. Crossed a number of swamps & small streams to day about the size of the one that runs through Franklinville. There is here a handsome Brick Court House & Jail. Rained a little in the morning but cleared off in afternoon.

March 4th
Left Camp at 10 AM after burning the Court House & Jail. Crossed Anderson Creek at 7PM 3 miles from Sneads Boro. Came 10 miles.

March 5th 1865
Laid in camp all day waiting for pontoons to laid cross the great Pee Dee River. Pleasant. Are ½ mile North of the North Carolina line.

March 6th
Broke camp at 7AM & leaving Sneads Boro on our left, marched down the River to Cheraw 10 miles which place we arrived about 1PM & whilst waiting for the troops to cross over the river I looked the town over. It is (or was rather) about the size of Jamestown but the Public Buildings & Stores have been burned & many dwellings, houses were blown down this morning by the explosion of an immense amount of ammunition captured from the Rebs. They run up a large amounts of arms, stores, cannon, 20 locomotive cars, etc. which we destroyed. In the old church yard I saw the graves of Gen. Francis Marion & Sumpter. Nothing but some small brick vaults mark the resting place of the heroes. There is not a word carved upon either. Near them is a large Marble slab with this inscription.

My name My country What are they to thee? What Whether high or low my Pedigree! Perhaps I far surpass all other Men! Perhaps I fell below them What then? Suffice it, Strange that thou seest a tomb thou knowest its use. It hides no matter whom

We crossed the Pee Dee about sundown and marched 5 miles and camped on the Fayetteville Pike at 8 PM. The Pee Dee is 400 feet wide & 7 feet deep when we crossed. The right wing crossed before us. The 24 corps & Kiplpatricks Cavalry Crossed at Sneads borough.

March 7th
Left camp at 6AM. The ground near white with frost. We are now fairly in the Pineries. About noon we passed into NC. Just on the SC side of the line we came to a Turpentine Manufactory which our advance had fired. It was the most splendid sight that I ever witnessed. 2000 Bbls of rosin was on fire at once & melting. Ran across the road into a swamp about \$1000000 worth of resin was destroyed made 14 miles, camped at 1 PM

March 8th 1865

We being in the rear today did not move out of camp until afternoon. Commenced raining about 7 AM & rained hard all day. Roads became very bad & did not make but 8 miles & camped at 7 1/2 PM. Saw but one house today.

March 9th 1865

Broke Camp at 6 AM made 13 miles & camped at 6 PM 1 mile from the little Pee Dee. Rained hard most of the day.

March 10th '65

Left camp t 10AM the roads have to be corduroyed most of the way now. The little Pee Dee is about 50 feet across and very deep. It hailed a few minutes about noon Cleared off just before night. Made 7 Miles and camped at 6 AM (PM?) Have been in rear three days.

March 11th '65

Moved at 6 AM crossed Dowling's Creek about noon. Pleasant today. Had 2 Bridges over 8 small streams today. Country grows better. Soil white sand. Made 15 miles & camped at 9 PM on the Fayetteville & Rockingham plank road.

March 12th

Left camp at 7 1/2 AM. Made 14 miles & camped in Fayetteville at 4 PM All of the army is here together. Sherman opened communication to day. Pleasant.

March 13th

Our corps was reviewed by Sherman in the streets of Fayetteville & afterwards upon the pontoons but we did not get any further with the train then the bank of the river where after waiting all to cross, we went into camp at 10AM. The town contained about 11,000 inhabitants and is strongly fortified. Most of the people appear quite loyal hundreds are going through with us here or at Columbia & Cheraw. We captured a large amt. of arms & stores. The U.S Arsenal was the torn down, a splendid lot of buildings. Warm.

March 14th

Broke camp at 8 AM but did not get a chance to cross the river until noon & then went into camp near the river so as to send our sick & wounded off by steam. The Cape Fear River is 350 feet in width banks high.

March 15th

Moved about a mile this morning at 4 AM. Sent off 36 sick & wounded from our hospital. Very warm, rained this afternoon.

March 16th

Broke camp 6 Am roads horrible. Make 13 miles & camped with the division at 4 PM. Rained all afternoon. The 1st & 2nd Div. of our corps stormed some Reb. Works to day & captured three cannon and some prisoners.

March 17th

Left camp at 6 AM Marched 5 miles & camped at noon. Crossed the South River on a ridge made of poles & logs. Pleasant day. Our Div. Is not guarding the corps train

March 18th

Broke camp at 6AM Passed through low and swampy country. Made 8 miles & of which was corduroyed and camped at 7 PM Heard cannonading to the North of us are now half way from Fayetteville to Goldsboro. It has been a warm and Pleasant day. Peach & Plum trees are in bloom.

March 19th

Left camp at 6AM. Very clear & still today but uncomfortably warm at noon The land grows better as we advance & the country is nearly level & is ditched where ever it is cultivated. Saw some pieces of winter wheat today That looks well. Heard cannonading most of the day. Made 8 miles & camped at dark.

March 20th

Was awakened at midnight last night by Doct. Wolf (our Div. Surgeon) to send 6 men to the front with one branch of the hospital to where the 1st & 3rd Division of our corps were fighting. Yesterday Left the train with 2nd Brig. The 1st & 3rd with us arrived at the battlefield of yesterday about sunrise. The Rebs had attacked two Div. of the 14th corps that were in the advance & after fighting some time one Division of the 14h gave away & lost 2 cannon & some prisoners. Our 1st & 3rd Divisions of the 20ith (A C) then went in and drove them back and at night held the round with the Rebs dead & wounded and many well prisoners. Among the prisoners was Col. A Rhett son of Barnwell. Rhett of the Charleston Mercury who was one of the foremost in getting up this rebellion. No fighting today We buried 900 dead Rebs. Pleasant day.

March 21st

At 10AM we started on the back track with the sick & wounded from the fights on the 18th & 19th numbering in all about 300. Commenced raining soon after we started & rained hard all day. The roads are horrible. Made 18 miles & got up again with the corps train & Hospital at midnight. Got very wet and tired but Regt came back with us as guard. Terry's Div. 24th Corp. passed us on the way to the front. Heard some cannonading to the north.

March 22nd

More wind and dust today

March 23

Crossed the Neuse River on 8 pontoons. Clear day, high winds.

March 24th

Camped in the out skirts of the village which about the size of Randolph. Pleasant day

Mar 25th

Moved our Hospital 2 miles to where the Division are camped. Have a good camp in the Pine woods

27th

Pleasant day nothing of any importance. Genl Sherman has returned from City Point. All I can hear is bands of music and they are splendid. Wish you could hear them and see this army as it is. It would astonish you. The weather is like summer here now. I am tired of writing and will stop. I could come and see you this fall. Good Night

March 29th

Gene,

Handwritten scribbles at the top of the page.

Handwritten text, possibly a recipient address or name, mostly illegible.

\$ 75

Goldsboro North Carolina

March 29th 1865

Dear Cel

Yours of March 5th came to hand in due time for this is the first time we have had any communication since we started from Savannah, We started the 27th of Jan. and have been now over two months hard march into get to this place. Through swamps and mud, but we have finally come to a halt for a few days. Horace was sent back sick from Sisters Ferry on the Savannah River where we crossed in to South Carolina. I tell you Cel the boys destroyed everything they could lay their hands on in that state for that was the first to go out of the Union and they remembered it. It is the worst looking country I ever say. There is not a Building Standing nor a fence. It is all laid to waste. I have seen rosin and Turpentine Buildings on fire with Seventy-five thousand Dollars worth in them. South Carolina is noted for its production of Pitch and Turpentine. They tap the Pines as we tap our maple trees at home. We had little or no opposition on this March. The Rebs would fly before us like the wind. I have not received the Box yet but think I will get it here as soon as the Adams Express is open. They said they would toward al goods as soon as the Army came to a halt. As soon as we get payed I will send you some money and you can pay John. You done right in keeping the money. When I send you the money you must take your pay out of it. You must write as often as you can for I like to hear from you. Sherman has gone to City Point to see Grant. His army must No (number) now over one hundred and fifty thousand men. That is some, I wish you could see them. You must excuse this short letter for it takes me all of the time to keep my men at work building Camp. I have them all at work this morning. I will write more particulars of our March next time. Hoping you will excuse this short epistle, I will bid you goodbye. Do not forget me to Cal and your Mother, tell them I want to see them. The time is growing short every day. I think our next campaign will be on Richmond and that will wind up this Rebellion. Give my love to all, I will write again soon good by.

from your best friend

Gene

\$175

Goldsboro, North Carolina April 17th 1865

Dear Cel

I dont know but you will get tired of my writing to you so much but I hope you will excuse me for it. As I have heard from the box you sent. I suppose you will ask what has become of it. Well I will tell you. It arrived in Savannah all right, but to late for poor me to get it. I heard from it by the way of Steward Baker who was left there. He returned yesterday and he told me that the box was opened and the eatables used in his mess. I have not got a thing out of it yet although I think I will get the shirts and wearing apparel by mail. If not I shall call it a streak of bad luck and put up with it. There is great excitement in Camp today. In camp the news is that Grant has taken Petersburg and Richmond. The news was brought here by Gen. Carl Schultz who used to command the 11 corps in Virginia. The news is I think reliable. They took those places and twenty-two thousand prisoners and five hundred canon. Well done Grant. They say also that Grant and Sheridan is after Old Lee in hot haste. I hope they may catch him and hang him to the first tree they come to. Cel there is not a state in the South but what is a complete cemetery. I dont know where old Lee will go now or what he can subsist an Army with (but wind) for this country is ruined for years, If he comes this way he will meet with a warm reception I can tell you. I think Sherman could eat them at one mouth full. They had better keep away from the white stars for the Rebs dread them more than any other 2. Corps in the Army. I received a letter from friend Burlingame today with a bill of the articles he purchased for me. I cant think of any more to write to day. We are getting ready for another Campaign. I dont know when we shall start. I understand Horace is at Buford, is expected every day. I would like to see him. Give my love to Cal, tell her I am coming home this fall and she must look out or I shall catch her splitting wood again. I will close by bidding you goodbye from

Gene

April 18th 65

As I did not mail this last eve I have more News for you. There had been a Flag of Truce sent into Gen. Sherman and the report this morning is that it is Old Wheeler who offers to surrender his whole Cavalry force which will number some where from fifteen to 20 thousand. I hope it will turn out to be true. The soldiers are hurraing all of the time. It is enough to deafen one, and the Bands of Music playing all of the time, and to put the climax on the Shoulder Strappers are all drunk. That o course is all right. Why? Because they are Officers. Excuse me. I am glad I never held an office in this army. I see enough every day to satisfy me of the corruption of that class of individuals. They are too mean to be treated decent by any one. Write soon and oblige yours for ever

Gene

excuse this envelope

\$50 oil wells

Pithole, Pa July 23rd, 1865

Dear Wife,

I suppose you are anxious to hear what success I had in getting to this place. Well I will tell you. We left Great Valley about one O'Clock the same day we left home. Arrived in Jamestown about 4 P.M. Stopped in Jamestown that night at the Jamestown House. You know where that is of course. We took the cars for Cory at 8 A:-M. The next day arrived in Titusville about 8 PM. We had to stay in Cory from 9 AM until 6:15 PM The train that we expected to go on started in such a hurry we did not have time to change cars before they were of therefor we had to stay there all day. Sam swore some but we found John and Titu Corthill waiting for us. We stopped in Titusville over night. It is quite a smart place for this country. Oh Cel I am glad you did not come for the roads are awful. How anybody gets in or out I can't see but they do. There are thousands of Barrels of oil drawn from here every day. Our house is not quite ready, but we have to take what we can. We could have five hundred if we could keep them. Get from ten to twelve dollars for a week for board. I think Sam and Gid will do well if they stick to It. Horace is here now, came last night. He said he got thrown out of the stage three or four times before he got her: I can see more than fifty Derricks from here. I went down last eve to see the Island Well. It flows all of the time. I wish you could see it. If is a sight and if I stay here this winter I will send for you and you shall see what there is in Oil Dom. We are well. Give my love to Mother Smith and all of the folks. I cant think of any news to write. Please write as son as you get this, Direct to G.E. Graves, Pleasantville Pa. There is no Post Office here, it is about five miles from here. Write as soon as you get this for I am anxious to hear how you are. Do you take your medicine regular? If you do not I will see when I get home. Write soon and oblige your own. Gene

Civilian
from Aeneas
wife 540

Cadiz July 31st 1865

My Dear Husband

I will write a few lines this morning for fear you will not get the letter I sent by Bairds people as soon as you could by mail. I thought I would send by them thinking you would get word from me sooner but I understand Mrs. Baird is sick and will not be able to go today therefore you may not get it for several days. Now Gene you must not feel uneasy about me for my health is much better that when you left. I will not deceive you Eugene. I am not quite well yet. I am improving as fast as could be expected. Yet Mother is very impatient to have me look better. She says I think I do look better than when you left. Gene I would like to look in upon you and see how you are getting along. I want you to write me all about yourself what you are doing and what the prospects are for getting into business by yourself or do you feel satisfied where you are. Tell me what Horace is doing. You must write to Jim Cooley. He feels quite out of patience waiting to hear from you. He talked of starting today but Old Sid discouraged him. I think it won't last him long until he gets another fit on. I don't think all you or Horace could say would satisfy him until he can see for himself. Yet you must tell him just what you think Gene. Then he can't blame you. I find he won't be pleased to have you write a message to him in my letter but expects a letter from you and nothing short will do. Give my love to all that inquire for me. I would like to see you but expect it will be a long time before I do. When you write to your boys or any of your people give my kindest regards to them. Tell your boys I want them to come and see me. I think Willis might come if George cannot. I don't expect they would enjoy a visit with me alone as well as if you were here. Why can't you send them word when you will be at home and have them meet you here? I wish they might feel as if your & my home was theirs. Also and they will be ever welcome where ever I am. I shall always be glad to do for them all that is in my power to do. I never expect to fill their Mothers place to them, but I am willing to do the best and all I can for them and You. I would love to have your boys love and respect me as one worthy of the position I now hold in relation to them and you. I do not expect them to think of me as they would if they were younger or I was older and they to be with me all the time. Eugene your boys are old enough to choose for them selves. So don't you influence them in what to call me. Let them do as they like. I would as soon they call me Cel as anything. Let that be a matter of their own choice. I wish you would send me you sister Mate's address in full. Also your fathers and Will's. I may like to write to them. I will now close hoping to hear from you soon.

With much love, your own little wife, Celia

Mother says don't forget to send my love to Gene

I understand Mrs Baird is
sick and will not be able to
go today therefore you may not
get it for several days. Now
you must not feel uneasy about

Balltown Pa. Aug 4th 1865

\$40

Balltown, Pa August 4th' 1865

Dear Wife,

Yours of the 29th July came to hand in due time. I was very glad to hear from you. I am glad you are feeling well. You must get fat as a pig by the time I get home. You must take your medicine regular, if you don't I shall write to Deal to attend to you. If your brother comes give him my regards. I tell you Cel we had quite a time night before last. Just as I sat down to supper I heard the cry of fire and someone came in and said there was a Well on fire. After I got through I went to the door and sure enough the Heavens looked as if the world was on fire. Pretty soon I saw three or four men coming to our house. One poor fellow with his clothes most all burned off and crying Oh Dear, Oh Dear. The doctor wanted to know if I could take him in. I told him I could not for our House was as full as it could be. There were eight of them. One of our boarders got burned. We have over 200 boarders now. We could keep more only for beds. They smothered the fire out in the night. I have taken today over eighty dollars. Pretty good for this place. They are building very fast here now. Asa Bard got here day before yesterday. He had quite a time getting through. The wagon that brought the women tipped over two or three times and hurt the women considerable. There is business enough for 20 taverns. It keeps a fellow busy. Sam has not got help enough in the kitchen. I tell you it makes them fly around some Tell James Cody I think he could do well if he was here in the meat business. There is not any shop here. They bring the meat from Pithole and charge 20cts pr pound. If he was here now I think he could do well. Give my love to Mother Smith I will be at home this fall to see you. You must write often for I want to know how you get along. Oh Mrs. Chandler did not come with Bards folks. I cant think of any more to write this time, so I will close by saying I want to see you very much. Indeed. Write soon. Goodbye from your husband for ever Gene

N.B. Direct to Pleasantville Venango Co., P.A John Mc Clure says tell Cel he is well. He says he ought to write to you himself and tell you what a bad boy I am, ha, ha.

825
Pithole, Pa. August 7th' 1865

My Dear wife,

I received yours of the 31st July and am happy to hear that you're well. I hope you will continue to improve so you will weigh two hundred by the time I get home. You must be careful of yourself and try to improve your health as much as you can. You must not work any more than you can help. I can do the work for you. Therefor I want you to keep still. I will be at home in September. I think if not before. James Colley & Sam Bansberry came here yesterday with some cattle. Horace is going in with them. They are building a meat market today. They will be ready to kill tomorrow. I think they will do well as cattle is very high here. We are full of business. I turned over 20 men since Sunday. We have not beds enough. I suppose Gid will be here today with some more. He went to Buffalo a week ago and has not returned yet. It makes me mad to think they would try to keep tavern until they got ready. If they had things all right I could take two hundred dollars a day for them. There are a great many buildings going up here now. You would be surprised to see how quick they build up a city out of rough board. Well I can't think of any more to write. Those men that got burned are improving. Sister Mate's address is Cooperstown, Oteswego Co. New York. Mrs. Mary A. Holmes. Willis is Arcade Wyoming Co. New York. Miss Maria Davidson, Springville, Erie Co. New York. George E. Graves, Buffalo New York in care of John W Jones, Esq.

Write as soon as you get this and oblige your loving husband.

G.E.Graves.

to Celia

N.B. Sam is sick but not dangerous. He has got the summer complaint. It is quite prevalent here. I think the water is bad. Good by
Gene.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting]

620

Ball town- Pa. August 17th, 65'

Dear Wife,

Your letter of Aug 6th came to hand in due time and I was very glad to hear from you and to hear you were well. I hope you will continue to improve. I think Cel, I shall strike for higher wages as soon as this month is out for I have it all to do here and it is hard work for there is no convinces here at all. Sam is sick but he is getting better. Mister Floyd a land agent that boarded here that got burned in the fire at the Well, died yesterday. He was a fine man. The others are getting along very well. Cel this is the hardest place I was ever in. It is not so bad here as it is over to Pithole City about a mile from here. The place is filled up with blackleggs, pick pockets. Our house is full. We have now about seventy boarders at ten dollars a week. Ash Bard and Jim are boarding for nine. They must be sick for they could have ten just as well. Cel I wouldn't have you come over the road from Titusville here for nothing. They are the worst roads I ever saw. I will be home next month. Write often, give my respects to your Brother and Wife. Tell them I would like to see them. Give my love to Mother Smith and all of the folks. Goodbye, write soon. From your affectionate Husband.
Gene

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting]

\$30

Balltown Pa. Aug 22nd 1865

My Dear Wife,

As Sam brought me a line from you I thought it would be no more than right for me to answer it. Of course not, I take pleasure in writing to one that I love as I do you, and if you dont get sick of reading my letters I shall keep writing so you may expect one from me every week until I get home. It is raining quite hard this morning. Ash Bard & Jim Warring have sold out there Tavern to Ben Baldwin for 5 thousand dollars. I guess they have got sick of the business. He hires all of their help in the house. He pays the girls 7 dollars pr. week. The devil has got in to our girls as big as a Wood Chuck. They have fell in love with every old limpy in Pithole. I gave them a blessing this morning, that I.guess they wont forget for a long time. They have been in the habit of sitting up with some fellows that board here about every night in the week. I think I have stopped it, if not I will kick them all into the back yard. I told them it was well for them that I did not keep the house for I would make them fly to the Cat hole. Our receipts on Saturday was one hundred and ninety dollars. I think we average one hundred per day. They pay me now sixty pr. month and board, That is as good as one hundred for board is worth 40 pr. Month. You must not be uneasy about me. I shall come home a week from Wednesday to see you. I hope to find you and your Mother well. Jim is here. Horace is well. Dear Cel keep your health good. Drink Beer and get fat. John Mc says tell Cel I am here and you behave your self if you dont I will tell her. John is a good Boy. All well, write soon and oblige your affectionate Husband

G.E.Graves

PS Please direct to Pit Hole City. Pa

*Do Dear Wife I hope you are well
 The boys are all well I hope
 in the house. I paid the girls 7 dollars
 for work the week at in the house
 kids no big as a Wood Chuck. The
 have sold in the house with every old
 limpy in the hole, I gave them a*