

Camp Brown Sep 16 1862

Dear Wife

Here I am in Camp sitting around the other boys are drilling I tried to drill but my ankle was so lame that the Captain told me that I need not try to drill. We shall probably get our clothes today.

If you come down to camp you had better come Friday the talk is that we shall leave here for the seat of war the last of this week or the first of next.

Yours Truly

G. W. Newcomb

Ell you did not put me up no towels if you come down fetch me down a couple. Be of good cheer there news in camp that Stonewall Jackson's forces is captured.

G. W. Newcomb

*Courtesy of:
Alexander G. Lynn*

Camp Brown Jamestown NY Sep 25 1862

Dear Wife

I thought I would pen a few lines to you and let you know how I am getting along I am well & hearty and enjoy my self first rate The pay master is here and is paying off the men to day I dont no as I shall get more than 25 Dollars to day or not I will send some home to you by Charles Blair he is here to day. Mead was here day before yesterday he did not stay but a few minutes

Well Ell keep a stiff upper lip be a good woman take good care of your self and boy good bye

your husband G.W.N.

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Thoroughfare Gap Va 16th 1862

Dear Wife

Here we are yet at the same camp we arrived week ago today I do not know what is going to happen for we have not yet got marching orders today most of our marches have been made on Sunday Well Ell they say we have got marching orders for tomorrow where we shall go I cannot tell but probly on towards Richmond I caught a severe cold week ago Friday and I have not done any duty since I came very near having a run of the fever but I am all right again There is a good many sick with the fever in our Regt Emory Vossburg is quite sick and in the hospital Jerome Averel was shot through the wrist out on picket this morning he will probly lose the use of his right hand Mad and Harve (Lumin?) are out on picket 1 day We are having nice weather here now pleasant and warm through the day but cold nights Well Ell if I had heard to you I should not been here but Dear Wife I shall come out all right yet and come back again to Dayton to enjoy its bounties Well Ell you spoke about sending a box you need not send any for I shou. should not get it if you should send unless we go into winter quarters We have not got the box that was sent but shall in a day (****?) it has been in Washington for a long time Well Ell write to me as often as you can for I am anxious to hear from home good bye dear wife

Your Husband G.W. Newcomb

Headquarters 154th Reg't N.Y. Vols., Col. A.G. Rice company
Arlington Heights Va Oct 1862

Dear Wife

Here I am in dixie on the old camp ground of Arlington Heights we reached here last night about 8 o'clock I feel well as could be expected after so long a journey We left Janestown at five o'clock Monday and reached (Elmira) the next morning We received our arms and equipment there we left Elmira at one o'clock in the afternoon and reached Little York Pa the next morning at day light Baltimore at noon and layed around on the side walks until nine o'clock in the evening and arrived in Washington about nine o'clock the next morning and then marched 6 miles to our present quarters Well Ell things looks like war here there is some 100,000 men camped here on about four miles square we are in sight of the Capital the boys are well with the exception of two they are in the Hospital they were from Conawango they are sick with the mumps I can hear the roaring of canon towards Harpers ferry where McClellan army is stationed but perhaps it is nothing but skirmishing The news here is that Jeff Davis has made proposals for peace but how true it is I do not know but in all probability the war is near its end for I dont think the rebels can stand such a force as the north are sending against them Every train of cars are loaded down with troops Baltimore City was full their was several regiments there waiting for transportation to Washington Well Ell it is warm enough here to day to go without clothes some of us boys went to work and built us a bough (?) out of oak brush so it is quite comfortable to lay around the nights are quite cool with very heavy dews It is a sad looking country about here the timber all cut down and the land is growing up to brush troops are camped on every hill as far as I can see I heard from Fry Cooper yesterday he is with McClellan at Harpers Ferry There will in all probability be a severe battle fought within ten days thousands of men are leaving for the upper Potomac to day We probably will not have a hand in it though I think our regiment could do good execution if we were only drilled to the use of arms for we are well armed with the Enfield rifles My ankle is quite lame to day owing to our march yesterday I will send back some postage stamps for they are good for nothing here Well Ell be of good cheer and all will be well write as soon as you can direct to Washington D.C. 154 reg N.Y.S.V. Company K Your Husband G.W. Newcomb

**** written on the inside fold:
write all the news to me and tell Ruth to write I will write again in a few days goodbye

Camp Seward
Va Oct 11th 1862

Dear Wife

I still remain in camp Seward But I expect to have to move to morrow for we have received marching orders we probly shall go to Fairfaix Court House some fifteen miles distant from here we are having some rain here to day and the weather is cooler I have had a run of Dysentery for a few days and have not got over it yet Doctor Rugg is here he has given me medicine There was a good deal of stir in camp since 12 o clock a number of regiments havemarched for Maryland It is reported that the rebels have gone into Pennsylvania as far as Wan... burg We shall probly go into Scigels Division he is stationed at Centerville that Steickland has been quite sick but is getting better now the rest of the Dayton boys are well

Those postage stamps that I wrote to you that I would send home to you I did not put in the letter I supposed that I had put them in until I sealed the letter Write to me all the news Good bye

Your Husband G.W. Newcomb

Fairfax Court House Va Oct 21th 1862

Dear Wife

Well Ell I am yet in Fairfax and on the gain and fit for duty Well Ell how do you get along you must take good care of your self and also your boy kiss him for me Well Dear Wife have no fears for me I shall come out all right and return home to enjoy its blessings once more but how soon I cannot tell But if our Rulers would let the Soldiers old and new decide this contest they would settle it up without any more fighting We have quite a comfortable place to sleep I went and got some hay and put in to our tent so we sleep warm and cosy write as soon and often as you can I am anxious to hear from as often as I can good bye

Your affectionate Husband G W Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp Jones, Va. Nov. 27, 1862

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you day or two ago and was glad to here from you and to hear that you was well I am well now and doing duty again We are still encamped near Fairfax and shall probly stay here some time yet We are holding Thanksgiving here to day so we do not have anny duty to do to day We cant have a roast Turkey or other delacaces still we have fared verry well We made an Indian meal pudding and had a meal of pudding and Suggar It made my mouth water for milk to eat with it I have not been out on picket but twice I was out night before last with several others of our Company as reserve guard to the Gens Head Quarters It rained most of the time during the night we had nothing to do but lay around the fire during the night We had no shelter to protect us from the rain and we went back to camp in the morning quite dripping with wet I had not done anny duty before in about four weeks Mr Chapman of Versailles arrived here to day he intends to stay with us some time The Boys are well as usal Hod and Badgero are writing home Philand sits by the fire greasing his boots We had a Thanksgiving sermon to day from our Chaplain I received a letter last night from Ed & Allice they wrote that they were well The wether is cold and raw here now We have to sit around the fire with our over coats on to keep warm No more at present I will write again soon Write soon as you can

Your affectionate Husband G. W. Newcomb

Tell Ruth that I will write to her soon

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp Jones Va Dec 4 1862

Dear Wife

I embrace this opportunity to write you a few lines I am well as usal We are still encamped near Fairfax The wether is fine but the nights are verry cold Patrick Jones our Colonel has got along and taken command I do not like him as well as I do our Liet Colonel Loomis Well old woman our box got along last night and we have lived well to day Evry thing came through safe We had beef steak soft bread Butter Cheese Tea for breakfast For dinner boiled beef bread Honey Cheese Butter and Tea The Captain First Lieutenant took dinner with us The roads are in fine order here dry and dusty The Cheese you sent is first rate I could not buy anny such cheese here short of 30 cts per pound The Butter that was sent came through in tip top order Those that eat it say that it makes them think of old () Butter brings 40 cts per pound here quick sale I stewed some cherries that Em sent me they were tip top to night I am going to have an Indian meal pudding with that maple sugar on it that you sent me Some of the boys have sent thier drefs coats home I sent mine with the rest We sent the box to Charles Blair you can tell mine by turning the sleeves wrong side out mine is marked G.W.N on one of the sleeves I should have sent you three or four hard tacks in the pockets if I had not forgotten it

The health of our Regt is not very good out of one thousand men there is not but 550 fit for duty I heard from Emory Vosburg to day he is not expected to live he is in Washington in the Hospital We have a good deal of picket duty to do we have to go out 2 and 3 times a week I was out on reserve picket night before last there was some thirty from our Comp out we went to guard headquarters had nothing to do but lay on the col ground with nothing but the blue sky over us I have drawn me a India Rubber blanket which is a nice thing these cold wet nights Had Inman Badgero from our tent are out on picket to day I shall have to fo out to morrow There is no danger on picket here The boys seem to like to go out as they go out in squads and only have to stand six houres out of 24 We take out coffee and trade for hoe cakes meal The way we make hoe cakes is to mix the meal with cold water and fry them as you would slap jacks

Well Ell you must be of gool cheer and keep a stiff upper lip for there fair prospects of a peace soon I do not think we shall have anny fighting to do this winter we are held as a reserve and thier is some talk that we shall go to Georgetown to winter if we do we shall be in good quarters Well it is most dress parade time and I must close so good bye Dear wife Your affectionate Husband

To Ellen Newcomb

G. W. Newcomb

Courtesy of Michael W. Schaefer

The boys seem to like to go out as they go out in squads and only have to stand six hours out of 24 we take out coffee and trade for hoe cakes meat the way we make hoe cakes is, to mix the meat with cold water and fry them as you would slugs fuchs

Well Ell you must be of good cheer and keep up a stiff upper lip for there will prospects of a peace soon I do not think we shall have any fighting to do this winter we are held as a reserve and there is some talk that we shall go to Franktown to winter if we do we shall be in good quarters well it is most dress parade time and I must close so good bye dear wife your affectionate husband J. H. McNauley

Camp Jones Va Feb 4 1862

Dear Wife

I embrace this opportunity to write you a few lines to day I am well as usual we are still encamped near Hanover the weather is fine but the nights are very cold Patrick Jones our Colonel has got along well taken command I do not like him as well as I do our First Colored Division Well old woman our boy got along last night and we have lived well to day every thing came through safe we had beef steak soft bread Butter Cheese Tea for breakfast For dinner boiled beef bread Honey Cheese Butter and Tea The Captain First Lieutenant took dinner with us The roads are in fine order here dry and dusty

The cheese you sent is first rate
I could not buy any such cheese
as short of 30cts per pound
The Butter that was sent came
through in my top order Those
that eat it say that it makes them
think of old Latt Butter brings
7cts per pound here which sale I stowed
me cherries that you sent me they
are tip top to night I am going to
make on Friction meal pudding with
that maple sugar on it that you
sent me Some of the boys have sent
their Army coats home I sent mine
with the rest we sent the box to
Charles Blair you can tell mine
by turning the sleeves wrong side
my mine is marked G.W.N on
end of the sleeves I should have
sent you three or four hand locks
in the pockets if I had not
forgotten it

The health of our regt is not very
good out of one thousand men
there is not but 550 fit for
duty I heard from Emory Wassing
to day he is not expected to live
he is in Washington in the hospital
We have a good deal of picket duty
to do we have to go out & stand
3 times a week I was out on
reserve picket night before last
there was some thirty from our corps
out we went to guard head quarters
had nothing to do but lay on the
cold ground with nothing but
the blue sky over us I have
drawn me a Friction Rubber
blanket which is a nice
thing these cold wet nights
Hod Person Badger & son our
tent are out on picket to day I
shall have to go out to morrow
There is no danger on picket here

Camp Jones Va Dec 7 1862

Dear Wife

I received your letter dated the 30th this morning and was glad to hear that you were well I am well with the exception of my cough that troubles me some yet but I shall soon be all right We have had a severe snow storm here the ground is covered with snow And the wether is piercing cold here to day It froze very hard last night and to day the wind is blowing hard from the north west Groups of soldiers are standing shivering around the camp fires Us boys in our tent went to work yesterday and built a fire place and chimney in the Captains tent and also in ours so we are quite comfortable to day compared with good many others But still the cold wind pierces through our thin cotten tent Our Colonel has reported our Regt not fit for duty and so we are going into winter quarters then we shall make us a comfortable log hut We probly shall winter some where near Fairfax We shall not have anny fighting to do before spring if then I expect this damed war will be settled up by that time Some of our boys have got to go out on picket to day they will have a cold time of it to stand out in this cold wind without fire I have been verry lucky I have not been out on picket but a verry little Our Regt has a good deal of picket duty to do We have lived well for a few on the good things that our kind friends have sent us from home Those berrys you sent me go first rate I had a good meal of pudding sweetend with that maple sugar you sent me The health of our Regt is not verry good out of one thousand strong when we left James town but 550 are left fit for duty the rest are sent to help fill up the Hospitals Well Dear wife I will send you some feathers from our bed as a keepsake from Dixie it is ceder brush Well Dear wife my name is called for picket duty I did not expect to have to go so I must wind up for this time keep of good cheer for I shall try and get home if I can so good bye Dear Wife

Your affectionate husband G. W. Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp Jones Va Dec 8th 1862

Dear Father

A gain I take the opportunity to write a few lines to you I am well at present with the exception of a cold I cough a good deal yet the weather is severely cold here now the inhabitants say it has not froze so hard here before in four years it froze ice three inches thick last night I was out on picket last night and had a cold time of it the wind blew hard and the snow would squeak under my feet as it does in (?) some cold February morning I did not get any sleep during the night Our Regt has a good deal of picket duty to do We have to go out every other day The health of the Regt is not very good out of a thousand men that left Jamestown less than six hundred now are fit for duty The rest are sent to help fill up the Hospitals We are encamped two miles from Fairfax We probably shall soon go into winter quarters I do not know where we shall winter There is some talk that we will winter in Georgetown and some think we will winter not far from here We have done a good job of clearing land since we have been here we have cut over about 15 or 20 acres and used the timber for wood in the last 3 weeks We have burnt miles of fence since we came into Virginia Most of the inhabitants in this vicinity are secessionists although the men folks keep quiet the women do not spare any pains to let it out Our Captain has gone to Washington in a pass of ten days he will probably resign and go home if he can at any rate that is the talk here Our Colonel has reported our regiment fit for duty We have not drilled but very little for we have been on the march or on picket duty most of the time Every kind of produce is very high here potatoes 3 and 4 Dollars per bushel Butter 40cts a pound Chesse 30cts I could sold that cheese you sent me for 50cts per pound within an hour after I got it Apples are four dollars a bushel

Well how do you all get along at home you must have had skating there by this time and mighty cold weather if it is as cold accordingly up there as it is here Well I tell you soldiering is tough business such weather I can look around camp and see groups of soldiers standing around the camp fires burning one side and freezing the other We have good fare the government furnishes us enough to eat such as it is I look at this war in a different light from what I did before I left home There is a good deal more care taken of us than what I expected All our Generals care about is to get good salaries and then carouse and drink and live on fat things Our head Officers in our Brigade are drunk most of the time I suppose you and John are busily getting wood now well I believe I has rather be doing that than to be here How much is your taxes this year I presume they are quite heavy The boys from our town are well Philands health is good Chet Strickland is getting as fat as a hog if he continues to flesh up as fast for a month to come as he has for a month past he will have to have a separate tent Write as soon as you can

Yours Truly
T.W. Newcomb

To Thomas Newcomb

Camp Jones Va. Dec 9 1862

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you this morning enclosed I found two dollars in money and six postage stamps. I was glad to hear that you and the babe was well. I am quite well except a hard cold which makes me feel rather hard today. I was out on picket Sunday. It was very cold and caught an addition to my cold which I had before. You wrote to me that you had a chance to sell my cutter. I meant⁶ to write to you about it on Sunday but I was called out on picket if you have a chance you can sell it for fifteen dollars you may let it go. Tell George Hubbard that he can have that gun for seven dollars. We have got to march again we probably shall go about 20 miles from here to a place called Brentsville. There is quite a number of men getting discharged out of our Reg^{"t} today 4 out of our Company: Russell Dawley Myron Kirkland and Jacob Winney of Perrysburg Merrick Price of Conewango. You spoke about sending me a vest I would like one first rate. Norman Allen is coming down here some time in the course of this month or first of next. Maybe you can send me one by him if you make me one make it single breasted and so it will button up to my neck. Well old woman, I have not shaved since I left home and I suppose I am a hard looking case. I will try and be home with you in course of the winter if possible. Well I have not got time to write any more at present write as often as you can good bye wife I still remain your affectionate husband

G. W. Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Fredericksburg, Va. Dec. 21st 1862

Dear Wife

Again I will write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along I am better than I was when I wrote to you last We are still at Fredericksburg what is to be the next move I cannot tell I do not think our forces will attack the enemy again in this place for we got badly defeated here before Our men were led where they were slaughtered with out having anny chance to do the enemy much damage It is estimated that we lost 15000 or 20000 men a good share of them were wounded Our camp lays where the rebs could easy shell us out if they should take a notion Charley Brown is here to day he looks tough and healthy he was in the fight Burt Inman and Hart Blair was here yesterday I think I shall go over to the 64 this afternoon there camp is about a mile from ours It is a fine looking around here the best I have seen since I have been in Virginia The wether is clear and cold the ground is froze hard and it makes a fellows back cold to sleep nights There is some talk in camp that we shall go back to Fairfax again soon but think it is doubtful but us soldiers do not know the moves are untill we are on the march We are in plain sight of enemy on the other side of the river As for the prospects of whipping out the rebs that is played out I do not think that will ever be done and that is the oppinion of all the old soldiers that I have talked with I think the it was time our Government put a stop to this damnable slaughter of men Well Ell you wrote to me to come home if possible if it is in my power do so I shall I shall try as soon as I get my pay and would now if I had the means to get home with I do not know whether it will be possible for me to get home or not but if there is anny possible chance I shall improve it I assure you Well Ell I want you to keep up good courage and be as contented as you can and trust for the best You wrote to me that you would send me money to come with and not wait for pay day If I had the money I should try hard to get away but you may do as you think best about sending me some if you do send you had better get a check on some bank but I want you to keep still and not let anny one know anny thing about it If you send anny send 25 Dollars and if I cannot get away I can lend it to Philand for he is out of money perhaps you can get the money of Charles Blair or N. M. Allen I think by playing off I can get away but do not let anny one see this nor say annything about it Good bye Dear Wife

Your affectionate husband G. W. Newcomb

Have no fears for me Dear wife for I never shall risk myself to be led up to be butchered If you can send me the money do it as son as you can

Be careful and not let anny one read this

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp near Fredericksburg Va Dec. 22nd 1862

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you to day also one from Jane Sarah and Em I was glad to hear that you were well My health is not verry good neither has it been since I have been in Virginia Our Regt is out on drill I am in Philands tent writing Philand is here writing to Jane he is not verry well he is troubled with a stiff neck We are both excused from duty in fact I have not done but verry little duty since I have been in the army I have not been out on regular picket duty but three times and on guard duty but once It is some warmer here to day with fair prospects of a storm you wanted to know what had become of that quilt I took with me I have it with me yet I could not keep house with out that It has helped keep Hod and myself warm many a cold night I have received a number of papers from you and they come verry acceptable for I cannot get hold of anny to read here except those that are sent from home I have written letters to you as often as twice a week except on the march and will still continue I wrote a letter to George Butler some weeks ago but have not had an answer from it yet is he at Versailes yet or not I have not heard from Ruth since she left Fathers Adgate Gregg and Ed Eals was over here to day and took dinner with us We had Beef soup with a verry little Beef in it Coffee Hard tacks and Cheese Ad Gregg did not know me he said I had grown old so fast Hod and Harve Inman have gone over to the 44 with them I went over to the 64 yesterday and took dinner with Riley Kiersteard we had boiled Beans and Pork Hard tacks for dinner It seemed as though I had been to Leon a visiting All of the old soldiers are disheartened and tired of this war and it is so with the new troops all are home sick and would be glad to get home Another such a defeat as we had here I believe our men would throw down their arms and go home I sent home my dress coat because I could not carry it on our marches I have plenty of clothing and did not wear it much a good many threw away thier dress coats and even over coats on our march Fairfax to this place the wether was warm so we had to carry our over coats I did not throw away anny thing but an old shirt I had some 50 or 60 pounds to carry on my back and the mud ankle deep We were on the march 8 days so Dear wife you must not blame me for not receiving a letter in that time for I had no chance to write to you

Women are a scarce article in this country I have not seen but verry little calico since I have been in Virginia without it was on some old wench Well Ell I must close for it smokes so here in camp that my eyes are nearly smoked out of my head you must write to me as often as you can I would like to have you send me some letter paper for I cannot get here verry well I received those 7 stamps you sent me _____
_____ this time I will write again in a day or two good bye Dear Wife

Your affectionate husband G. W. Newcomb

I do not know as you can read this or not as I was out of ink and had to use a pencil

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp No. 15 Falmouth Va Jan 1

Dear Wife

As to day is New Years Day
try and send a few lines to me to
know how I am getting along and what I
am doing. My health is good at present
better than it has been some time.
Vigilance I do not have much to do
part of the time have to do some picket duty
and stand guard some. The weather is cold
~~but~~ with ~~but~~ ~~but~~ ~~but~~ ~~but~~ ~~but~~ ~~but~~ ~~but~~
in our old Camp, here we shall probably move
again soon where we shall go cannot
tell but still I hope we shall move from
this place for it is the meanest Camp we
have been in yet Wood is getting scarce
around our Camp we have cleared off
quite a large piece of ground for some
old rebels since we have been here.

There is a report from Camp
that the rebels have cut off some
of our forces between here and Fairfax
and taken 1500 of them prisoners and
burned Fairfax Station to a reptile or 5 miles

Courtesy of Michael W. Schaefer,

of the Railroad track how true it is
I cannot tell but I do not credit it
Well Wife what are you doing and how
are you holding New Years Well it is
a dull lonesome day for me most of
Boys in our tent have gone over to the
44 to day to visit the Boys in that Regt
The roads are dry and dusty here there
has not been but one snow storm here
yet this winter and but very little rain
There is a good deal of smuggling going on
in the army even our orderly Sargent
will gouge his Company out of part of
their rations Poland appears to be better
to day he says his back is not so lame
as it has been for some time back
I do not think there will be any fighting
soon Some think that our army will go
into Winter Quarters somewhere in the
section This Winter Campaigning tells
hard on our Army good many are dying off
by sickness We drew a ration of Whiskey
this morning and some of the Boys are
feeling well I should judge for I can
hear some of them quarreling in camp
There has been another Death in our Company
Pilchard Fisher of Perrysburg died

in Washington the 26 of Dec of the
Thyroid fever he was sent to the
Hospital while we were at Thorough
fare Gap Our Company is the healthiest one
in the Regt there is no one from it in
the Hospital here I received a letter from
Ruth right before last she was ~~there~~
in Ellicottville going to school
Had got a letter from Rossi stating that
Frank Butcher was married to Emma
Johnson well he has got a good start in
the world as far as family is concerned
Well Ell cannot think of much more to write
I will write to you again in a few days
you must be of good cheer and hope for
the best and I will come out all right yet
It seems that this present time is the darkest
hour of our country but the old adage
is that the darkest hour is before day
I hope to god it may prove so with this war
soon come to an end Well I'll be a good woman
and take good care of yourself kiss the boy
for me Well I will close by wishing
you a Happy New Year Good bye

Your Husband
To Ellen Newcomer G.W. Newcomer

Camp near Falmouth Va Jan 1st 1863

Dear Wife

As to day is New Years I will try and pencil a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along and what I am doing My health is good at present much better than it has been since I have been in Virginia I do not have much to do we drill part of the time have to do some picket duty and stand guard some The wether is cold and pleasant with raw winds We still remain in our old Camp here we shall probly move again soon where we shall go I cannot tell But still I hope we shall move from this place for it is the meanest camp we have been in yet Wood is getting scarce around our camp We have cleared off quite a large peice of ground for some old rebbel since we have been here

There is a report in camp that the rebbels have cut off some of our forces between here and Fairfax and taken 1500 of them prisoners and burned Fairfax station tore up 4 or 5 miles of the Railroad track how true it is I cannot tell but I do not credit it Well Wife what are you doing and how are you holding New Years Well it is a dull lonesome day for me Most of Boys in our tent have gone over to the 44 to day to visit the Boys in that Regt The roads are dry and dusty here there has not been but one snowstorm here yet this winter and but verry little rain There is a gool deal of smugling going on in the army Even our orderly seargent will gouge his Company out of part of thier rations Philand appears to be better to day he says his back is not so lame as it has been for some time back I do not think there will be anny fighting soon Some think that our army will go into Winter Quarters somewhere in this section This Winter Campaigning tells hard on our army good many are dieing off by sickness We drew a ration of Whiskey this morning and some of the Boys are feeling well I should Judge for I can hear some of them quarraling in Camp There has been anntoher Death in our Company Philander Sickler of Perrysburg died in Washington the 28 of Dec of the Thypoid fever he was sent to the Hospital while we were at Thouroughfare gap Our Company's the healthest one in the Regt there is no one from it in the Hospital here I received a letter from Ruth night before last she was then in Ellicottville going to school Had got a letter from (?) stating that Frank Butcher was married to Em Johnson well he has got a good start in the world as far as family is concerned Well Ell I cannot think of much more to write I will write to you again in a few days you must be of good cheer and hope for the best and I will come out all right yet It seems that this present time is the darkest hour of our country but the old adage is that the darkest hour is just before day I hope to god it may prove so and this war soon come to an end Well Ell be a good woman and take good care of yourself kiss the boy for me Well I will close by wishing you a Happy New Year good bye Your Husband

To Ellen Newcomb

G.W Newcomb

Courtesy of Michael W. Schaefer

Letter No 1
Camp near Falmouth Virginia Jan 4th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter No 1st day or two ago and I take this present opportunity of writing a few lines to you I am well and gaining in health and flesh The weather is warm and pleasant the roads are dry and dusty Every thing is favorable for moving an army except competent officers to command it The news is that McClellan is again to take command of the army of the Potomac He will be hailed with joy by the soldiers and many hats will be thrown up on his arrival The Captain arrived in camp yesterday looking quite refreshed after being relieved from the dutys of camp life for a short time I have got the vest you sent me it sits first rate and just the thing I wanted it is warm and nice I found two dollars in money in one of the pockets also a night cap which comes in play I tell you for I have had to use the cap of my overcoat to keep my head warm cold nights I also found some wax which will come in play Well Dear Wife I thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness for sending these things for they were just the things I needed The dried peaches and berries have not got along yet but are on the way The Captain could not fetch the whole of things that were sent by him and he sent them by express when he got to New York Philand does not seem to gain much he has resigned his command and it has been sent to Washington for approval it will probly be accepted as the surgeon advised him to resign on the account of his health He will probly be at home in a few days our Regt has been mustered in for pay again and I have hopes I should get my pay before Philand leaves so I can send it home to you I have spoke for a furlough to come home the Colonel says he is willing and he will get Generals Bushbeck and Sterneer to sign it but he did not know as Gen Sigel would or not unless I get the Surgeon to state that it would be best for my helath the Col thinks I had better wait awhile longer and if it comes on bad wether he can get me a furlough without any trouble He says he intends to arrange matters soon as that all of his men who have familys go home that wish to on furloughs so if it comes on bad wether so that the Army cannot move you may expect me home before long I do not want you to say any thing about it at home to any one for some will be writing back about it If you send the money that I wrote for I will save it for that purpose If I should get my pay I should not need it not all of it at least but I have allotted \$8 dollars a month of my pay to you that I cannot use I will probly get 4 months which will amount to \$2 dollars \$2 of which I will send to you and if it should happen that I could not come home I will send the rest to you only what I think I shall need Well Ell we got some flour and had some pancakes yesterday flour costs us 4cts a pound we mixed them up with watter which made some heavy but they went first rate with us

yours affectionate G.W. Newcomb

write as often as you can

number 2

Camp near Falmouth Va Jan 6th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter number 2 last night I was glad to hear that you were well I also received one from Father of the same date Hod and I are over to the 44 I am in Burt & Charleys tent writing the Boys are well I have not seen Wal he has gone over to our Camp It is raining here to day We have been to work for two days building a new house we have got a bully old tent 12 feet square with a nice fire place in it it is warm and Comfortable We have raised our bed up from the ground The prospects are that we shall stay here for some time Our Regt have laid out streets and riged up comfortable quarters well Ell I have not anny news to write I will write to you again soon We have had verry easy times since we have been here We have but little guard duty to do The health of the Regt is gaining There has been three deaths in it since we have been here The Boys from our Town are all well Well I will close for my pen is so poor I cannot write

your affectionate Husband
G W Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Number 3

Camp near Falmouth Va Jan 10th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter number three night before last also a Buffalo Express last night I am well and the rest of the boys are the same we have got good comfortable quarters and enjoy ourselves verry well We have got a bully good fire place in our tent We have plenty of room to sit arround the fire and read tell stories and write to our friends at home There has nothing new happened here of late what is to be the next move of the army I cannot tell but my oppinion is we shall have to cross the Rhaphannock again but still we may not at least I hope so for I fear there will be another slaughter of our men if they undertake it The wether is pleasent here but cool it freezes hard through the night

Chuaney Cooper was here yesterday and made me a short visit Marion Farnsworth was here last night he has got his discharge and is going home soon Philand does not seem to get anny better he does not know wether his papers will be accepted yet or not but he expects it will be We probly will get our pay soon I am in hopes I will get it so as to send it home to you by Philand when he comes Well Ell there is not much news to write this time I felt the best for the last two weeks than I have before since I left home Well Ell you must keep up good spirits and not worry about me Well I must close for it is time for drill so good bye

Your Husband G W Newcomb

Ell when you send me a paper send some black pepper in it you can it in that way and it will not cost but one cent postage

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Letter Number 4

Camp near Falmouth Va Jan 12th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter No 4 yesterday And was glad to hear that you and the rest of our folks were well I have not much news to write this morning But still I like to pass away my leisure moments in writing to you I am well and in good spirits this morning I am gaining in flesh fast I was weighed last night my weight was 170 pounds without an over coat on 4 weeks ago I did not weigh but 145 pounds so I think I am gaining fast what do you think It is warm and pleasant here this morning I can sit in my tent and see the rebels pass to and fro on the other side of the River The woods have been cut away since we have been here so we can look down on the City of Fredericksburg I should judge it was about the size Fredonia There is a Balloon assension here evry day it goes up about five hundred feet We do not have but verry little drilling or other duty to do now We have to go out on picket once in two weeks we probly shall have to go out to morrow Philand does not seem to get much better The rest of the Boys are well we have had some rain here lately Emory Vosburg is not expected to live so N M Allen says he went and see him while he was in Washington he says that the Surgeon told him if his friends could have been there and took him to a private house he would have got well Jerome Averel has lost his right arm it mortified and he had to have it taken off above the elbow Mr Allen arrived here last night I received the socks and paper also the sugar and the articles all which was gratefully received Allen & Badgero have gone over to the 44 to day I have not had much time to talk with him he will be back to stay with us to night when I will probly have a chance to have a talk with him about affairs in Dayton also about the business you wrote to me about Harve Inman is quite wrathy because father says he will discharge him the 1st of January his folks have wrote to him about it and about his refusing to get a pair of shoes for some one in his family He blows here the same as he did at home You need not say anny thing that I wrote about it for if his folks get hold of it they will write to him about it We will probly stay here some time yet and may stay through the winter as the whole army is fixing for winter quarters You need not send me anny more paper or envelopes for we have got enough in our tent to last us a year A M Delong sent us a number of quires Write soon

Your Husband G W Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

George W. Newcomb - Age 28 years. Enlisted August 30,
1862 at Dayton, N.Y. to serve three years; mustered in
in as Private, CO. K, 154th N.Y. Inf., September 25,
1862; captured in action, July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg,
Pa.; died of disease, February 8, 1864 at Belle Isle,
Richmond, Va.



Gen. WOOL.

1863

Camp near Falmouth Va Jan 13

Dear Wife

Again I will write
you a few lines you may think that
I am writing to you quite often
But Dear Wife it is a great pleasure
to me to write to you I am as well
as usual to day Our Brigade is going
out on reconnoisance to morrow we
may have a little brush with the
rebs but still I do not much
expect we shall We probably shall
be gone from camp two or three days
Philands resignation has been ac-
epted and he will probably be at home
in a few days I did not say any
thing to N.M Allen about getting
some Money of him he let me have
one Dollar that Charles Blair sent
me Philand say he will let me

Camp near Richard's Ford Va
Ja 19th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter number five last night and was glad to hear from you and to hear you were well we have again moved camp we are up the river about 8 or 10 miles from our old camp we are encamped in a thick growth of pine woods a short distance back from the river my health is good and appetite also I can eat what the government furnishes me and some to boot if I had it we arrived here day before yesterday left our old camp at noon and got here about 4 o'clock I was called out on picket the first night it was a cold clear night my post was in a thick piece of pine woods I tell you dear wife I thought of you and have a good many times during the night for it was a dark dismal lonesome place There is but one Regt here besides ours the 27th Pa we have been out to work to day cutting out the road. The pontoon bridges are close at hand and will probly be placed across the river in course of two or three days It is the intention of our forces to cross here We were sent on here to cut out the road and to do fatigue duty Other troops are expected here every day there will probly be a fight here within a few days I do not know as we shall have a hand in or not as we are acting as Pioneers at present The weather is clear and cold and freezes very hard nights This is the same place that we were out at the other day that you wrote to you about in the letter before this We have got a shanty built out of pine brush similar to those you have seen the Indians have we lay our feet to the fire It appears that there is a good deal of marrying going up in Dayton this winter and will probly be lots of recruits of light infantry another year Well there is not much news to write about here a soldiers life is about the same thing over and over it is march and counter-march I do not see much prospects of this war closing very soon It is nothing but a damned nigger war at the best a nigger here fares better than a common soldier On one of our marches a sick soldier went up to the baggage wagon and asked the driver if he could carry his knapsack no he said it was strickly forbidden by the officers on the top of his load lay a great fat greasy nigger riding along at his ease and the poor soldier had to trudge along afoot with his knapsack on his back and let the stinking nigger ride I would like to see these northern Abolitionists like Horace Greely who are so eager to carry on this war down here with a knapsack on their backs wading through the mud over their shoes and laying on the cold frozen ground instead of staying home and crying out push ahead and not go into winter quarters but free the cussed nigger Well Ell I suppose you will think I do not think much of the nigger well if you do you will think about right for I have seen enough of them since I have been down here Well I must close and go and draw my rations I will write to you again in a few days goodbye dear wife
your affectionate husband

To Ellen Newcomb

G.W. Newcomb

Private
Camp near Falmouth

1863
Va Jan 27th

Dear Wife

I will now write a few lines to which I do not want you to let anyone see Well wife God bless you I wish I was with you today I will assure you I would not leave you again for the whole South niggers thrown Well Dear wife keep up good courage for if God spares my life I will be with you again for I will not stay in this cussed army much longer I shall not have any fighting to do this winter for it is so muddy our army cannot move and it is raining hard here today I get good pay here nad do not have but little to do but the fare is hard enough I tell you on our last move one night our Regt had to sit out in a drenching rain all night for they could not get a chance to lay down without laying in the mud and water

Well I tell you I would like to be with you and sit around the fire and eat a good meal of victuals and drink a good cup of coffee with you It is hard for me to be seperated from one who has always been so kind to me and especially to be placed in the situation that I am in amidst dangers and disease Well I suppose that the lake has grown to be a fine fellow how I would like to see him and play with him Everyone that writes to say I ought to feel proud of him for they say he is a splended fellow I got a piece your dress in my letter I think it is very nice piece of calicq You need not send me anymore paper or envelopes as I have got pleanty of those And DeLong sent us lots of paper and envelopes by Allen when he came down here besides those you sent by him I want you to urge Rep Charles I know and get the rest of my bounty money and also you must see that they pay me the 20 schillings a month they agreed to pay to each man and child those who would enlist which would be five dollars a month for you and the baby I suppose they do not care so much about it Now they have got us down here probly not so patriotic as they were now there is no fear of being drafted Well Ell I can see you improve a good deal in writing I can read your letters without any difficulty

Well I do not know as I have anything more to write I do not think you will like this so if you should see me for I have no straw as since I left home my wife is so long I have to use it may to eat you miss eat each of apples for me Well dear wife be a good women take good care of yourself and boy kiss him for me I do not want you to hire out to many home for I shall not stay in this army for this summer no more this time Do not let anyone see this Burn it as soon as you read it Its so good bye wife
I still remain your affectionate husband

G.W. Newcomb

Letter Number 9

Camp near Falmouth Va Feb 1st 1863

Dear Wife

As I have a few leisure moments I will spend them in writing a few lines to you I am well as usual and enjoy myself as well as could be expected under the circumstances I am glad to hear that your health is good The weather has been very stormy of late It is raining here to day We had a severe snow storm here the snow fell to the depth of 10 inches It snowed for 24 hours we got caught with our breeches down Our Regt had to go out on picket soon after we got here from our trip up the River So we did not have time to fix up a comfortable tent Badger Hod Wash Blair and myself went out in the woods and staid through the night we were wet to our hides but we built up a good fire riged up a tent with our rubbers and dried our clothes and passed the night quite comfortable Well Wife we have got us a good cabin now and we dont care how much it storms We do not have but very little picketing to do and but little other duty Our Regt do no drilling to now for the reason we cant on the account the mud is so deep we cant Well Ell I feel well now for our new Lieutenant has just come in with a canteen of whiskey to wet his office And here comes our First Lieutenant with another canteen so you see old woman we have got good officers in our company our Lieu both are bully good fellows Well Wife I dont no but you may think I am getting to much But you can see I can follow the line yet well you must keep up good courage for I shall not get tight for this is our officers day if it is Sunday but there is no Sunday in Virginia you now Well old woman when I get so I cant follow the lines I will quit for this is the first time that we have had it in our tent since we have been in the army It is stormy weather now and you must excuse me now for our officers are in here now calling all the men in here to take some thing to drink Well Wife if there is anny officers in our Regt that I like it is our [Note: Newcomb's handwriting has become increasingly sloppy as the whiskey takes its effect. Here it resumes its former neatness.] Lieutenants Monday morning Well the boys raised the old harry so last night that I could not finish my letter so I will try and finish it this morning The Boys had quite a time of it last night myself with the rest But evry thing went straight Well Ell I have made out to get two months pay I will send you a check of 16 Dollars in a day or two Our Surgeon Dr Van Arman is going home and I will send it by him it will be safer to do so than to send it by mail The weather is pleasant this morning but the prospects are not very favorable for it to remain so long But I dont care if it storms so that the army cant move again in Six months There is not much news to write so I will close I will write to you when I send the money and how I sent it You must write as often as you can for I am always glad to hear from home I do not no as I shall be able to get a furlough or not for certain but I shall try hard for it no more this time good bye

Your affectionate Husband

Geo. W. Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

[Undated letter, written circa February 9, 1863, from camp near Stafford Court House, Virginia.]

Well Dear Wife as you like good long letters so I will try and write you one You wanted to know why I did not write to Ruth I wrote a letter to her a short time ago and directed it to Ellicottville but perhaps she has not received it I have written two letters to George Butler and have not received anny answer Well Ell we are encamped in the pleasents place we have been in yet dry sandy ridge with plenty of nice straight pines to make our houses of It looks like a log city here now our camp is laid out in streets and all of the Boys have built their tents of logs which makes quite a queer looking town We have got us a good tent 12 feet one way and 7 the other with a fire place in one end Wel you wanted to what we had to cook our grub in we have a good spider and a small kettle we have got a good large coffee pot to make our coffee in But Dear wife it is not such coffee as you make to home Well for our breakfast we had fresh Beef soft Bread with flour gravy and coffee We are about 8 miles from our old camp at Falmouth on the road to Fairfax The health of our Regt is good at present We have one woman with our Regt that has kept with the Regt in all of its marches she is an Irish woman and has a Husband in the Regt The Boys call her Biddy she does a good deal of washing for the Boys Well Wife I think we will all be good Cooks by the time we get home and will not need anny woman do our cooking for I can beat anny woman making soup out of grubby hard tacks you can start We get hold of some hard tacks some times that are so grubby that I can hear the bones crack while eating them I have lost another one of my teeth the last double tooth on my under jaw so it is hard work for me to eat thier damed hard tacks Philand Paid me the money I let him have and I got three Dollars of him before he left I have paid out money for flour and meal and other Provisions dried Apples because I could not eat hard tacks verry well I will send you 18 Dollars in my next letter if I do not have a chance to send it to you other ways Well Ell I want you to be calm and not worry about me be a good woman take good care of your Boy and yourself Ell my thoughts are on my family and I am in hopes that I can soon be with you If it was not for you and babe I would be contented here But to be seperated so far from loved ones at home without anny certainty of ever seeing them again is rather tough Well Ell I must bring my letter to a close and help the Boys rig up our bunks you must write as often as you can for I am anxious to hear from you My Mustouch is getting so long that it in to my mouth We are all a hard looking set none of us have shaved since we have been in the army Well no more this time so good bye I still remain your affectionate Husband

G. W. Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

[On stationery illustrated with a cut of Gen. Wool.]

Letter Number 10

Camp near Stafford Court House

Dear Wife

I thought I would write a few lines to you this morning. There has been quite a change in the weather since yesterday yesterday it was so warm one would sweat sitting out doors in his shirt sleeves To day it is storming snow and rain together. We have got good comfortable quarters and I do not care how much it storms Enclosed you will find a check of 16 Dollars and two Dollars in money you can do with it as you see fit I want you to finish paying Clark if it has not been paid yet You done right in letting father have that you wrote about but when you let army money go take a note for it if it is of anny amount I think I can send you some more before long as there is a talk that we shall be paid off again soon there is some over 3 months back yet Well Ell I have not much news to write to day Our Regt has made a good hole in the woods here in making our shantys It was as nice a piece of Pine timber as I ever saw It would average from 4 inches to eighteen inches through and would make hewing sticks 40 and 60 feet before coming to the limbs I think the old secesh who owns this will growl some when he sees how we have used up his Timber and rails There is nice Oak and Hickory just back of our camp which makes good wood for us to burn. Well Ell we have got on a pot of Beans cooking for dinner They make good Physics for the are old ones and they will go through anny one as quick as a potion of salts Well I must wind up my letter so as to get it into the mail for it leaves soon write as soon as you receive this and let me know if it came through safe

Your affectionate Husband

George W. Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Letter No 11

Camp near Stafford Court House Va Feb 15th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter No 10 last night also one from Em I have had one letter before this from you since I last wrote to you and one from I M Rich I was glad to hear from you and glad to hear that you and the Boy were enjoying good health But was sorry to hear that you was feeling so uneasy about me for I am all right and enjoy myself well if it was not for my family But to be separated so far away from home and to know that you are feeling so uneasy about me makes me feel sad and gloomy Well Ell you must keep up good courage for there is some prospects of their being a settlement of our national difficulties soon It is raining here this morning which will increase the mud which is verry abundant There is not much going on here all military opperations are at a stand still and is likely to be so untill the muddy season is over It seems like April here Blue Birds are singing and the wether is quite warm Well there is some talk that Gen Segils forces will go to North Carolina or Missouri which one of those places it will be but I should prefer the latter But I am under Uncle sam now and I have got to bide his decisions Well Wife the Box that was sent to us has not got along yet but will in all probbility soon I did not get those Peaches and Berries you sent me by the Captain for the reason that he has not got his valise yet Well there is not much news to write about to day yesterday I done my washing but did not get my clothes dry and it is raining to day and I cannot hang them out doors so I have got them strung up on a line in our shanty I sent in the letter before this 18 Dollars to you write and let me know wether you get it or not I should think by what you write that you are having cold wether up in Cattaraugus I hope it will not freeze out all the Patriotism out of those men who made such fair promises for men to enlist but as soon as they got them fast will not do as they agreed to do I did not say anny thing to Allen about the rest of my Town Bounty when he was down here for I had but a verry little chance to talk with him If they do not want to pay it as they agreed they can do the other thing I can live without it as long as they can with it Well I will tell you what we had for breakfast desecrated Potatoes salt Pork soft Bread flour gravy and coffee but it is not such coffee as you make and I hope Dear Wife the day is not far distant when I can again enjoy that priveledge Well Ell I want you to keep up good courage and be contented I will write again soon write often no more this time so good bye

Your affectionate Husband

To Ell. Newcomb

Geo. W. Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp Near Stafford Court House, Va. Feb 28 1863

Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I undertake to write you a few lines. I am well as usual and hope that you are enjoying your usual degree of health. I never was healthier in my life then I have been for two months back. When I first came into Va. I was rather hard up for some time but I have come out all right. The weather is warm and muggy. There is no bottom to the mud. Well Ell I have not had a letter from you in two weeks. I have been looking for one every day but have been disappointed thus far. I sent you a check and two dollars in money I have not had a letter from you since I have been anxious to hear from you to know to know if you received it or not. Well, Dear Wife I have expected to get a chance to come home on a furlough this spring but I do not know as I shall succeed but I have not give up all hopes yet I would really like to come home and see you and our child if possible. If it was not for you and the babe I would be contented to stay here and see it through but when I think of you it makes me feel sad and gloomy. We have very easy times here we have not drilled any since we have been in camp here out street is decorated with evergreen trees that we have stuck out which makes it look very nice. I will send you a few leaves from a tree it is called the Holly tree it is as splendid an evergreen tree as I ever saw. Well Ell I have been disappointed in our Captain he is a perfect dead head. There is no fire in him he sits around like a stout bottle. I don't want you to say any thing about it for it may get back here to the captain. Well Ell we have not got our box yet but we probably will soon for I understand that all the express boxes for our Reg'tt are at the landing and we will get them soon. I se that the Conscription Bill has passed. How do the folks like it up there in Dayton. If the war continues some of them will have to come down here for they will be needed before the Rebels are beaten. Tell father that Harvey Inman wrote to Charles Blair to sue him. He got a letter from his wife a day or two ago stating that Father owed her over fifty dollars that Charles had seen Lawyer Sherman and he said that when it amounted to 50.00 he could collect and Harvey has wrote home and told them to put the spots to him. Our Reg'tt has got to go out on Inspection to day and also to be mustered. We probably will get our pay again soon we will get 4 months pay next time. Well Dear Wife six months of our time has passed away towards our three years. I presume it has seemed like a long time to you but the time has flew away fast with me but still to think back to the time that I left home it seems like a long time to me write as soon as you get this your affectionate husband

G. W. Newcomb

Courtesy of:
Alexander G. Lynn

Camp near Stafford Court House Va
Feb 18th 1863

Dear Wife

I wrote you a few lines to day not knowing that any one was going home from our Regt and mailed it I made applications to go from this Company but our orderly has got the chance I do not know as I shall get a chance but still I have not give it up if there is anny chance I shall improve it I want you to send me a neck hankerchief and a pocket hankerchief or two a fine comb and also a coarse comb If George can fetch it I would like my hat but if he has got a load you need not send it The Captain says if there is anny chance he will let me come home if I cannot get a furlough this spring probly I will not be able to get one at all I cannot think of anny thing else you can send me without you can get your likeness and the babes and send them to me I would like it first rate if you could get it taken and send it to me by George he can bring it to me safe

Your affectionate Husband

George W. Newcomb

P.S Get your likeness taken if possible and send also the babes

Yours G. W. Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Letter No 13

March 1st 1863
Camp near Stafford Court House Va

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you last night And was glad to hear from you and to hear that you were enjoying good health my health is first rate The health of our Company is good They are all able to do duty but one And that is Truman Shannon he is not verry well but nothing serious he has been one of the toughest men in our Company We have a good deal of stormy wether here now days It is raining to day Our Regt has gone out on picket I was called out as supannumary but did not have to go I was lucky for the ground is verry wet and mudy and I should had no chance to lay down to rest in the 24 hours on the account of the wet picket duty is not verry bad when it is good wether There is always something exciting about it And any one can get out from Camp and get a snuff of fresh air Hod and I are left alone in our tent He has no picket or guard duty to do he is Regeimental Pioneer We have got on a kettle of Bones a cooking from some old Stag that had to be killed to Save its life But I think it will make some soup by putting in some gruby hard tacks with it We slept with out our pants and vest on last night for the first time for 4 months The nights are getting warmer Well Ell Herbner is half crazy He says George Butler is intimate with his wife he says he will show him one of those six eyed fellows when he gets home again He has been to an old fortune teller here and he said his wife was intimate with a young man And went on and described him and Herbner says it is George and he believes all the fortune teller tells him Well woman the report is here that we are only nine months men having enlisted under the Presidents last call for 300,000 men for nine months But still I do not give much credit to it but good many think it is so and they cannot hold us any longer Well I did not send them leaves in my other letter as I wrote to you as I forgot to put them in untill I had sealed it up But I will send them in this if I do not forget it They have red Berries on it is as splendid an evergreen tree as I ever saw Apples are quite plenty here now They bring ten Dollars a barrel Them and Oranges sell for the same price 3 and 5 cts a piece Has Hurd been paid up yet I was owing him a little when I came away He and Clark was all that I was owing anny thing I would like to have them paid up as soon as you can conveinly I should judge that Dayton was populating quite fast by what we hear from there I see in the Papers that a Bill has passed Congress so that Soldiers can send letters free It will save me a good deal or you rather for you have fumished me with nearly all the stamps I have used Well my paper is about used up and I must close

Your Husband

G. W Newcomb

Well I have just been called on for Division guard at half past Eleven it is most as bad as picket

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

No. 14

X.

1st March 1863

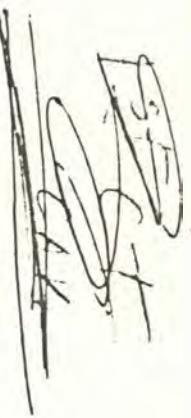
Camp near Stafford Court House Va March

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you yesterday by George Real also the things you sent me by him. My health is good And hope this will find you enjoying your usual degree of health. The health of our Company is good there is not a man in it but what is able to do duty which I think cannot be said of any other company in our Regt. The Box that was sent to us we received a few days ago everything came through in good order. I received a bag of dried peaches and a bag of Berries in a box that was sent to me by the Versailles Boys ^{Box} I do not know who sent them But I suppose you or Jane were the person. Well Ell we are living on the top shelf now as we have potatoes and Onions to use with the luxuries that were sent us by our kind friends at home. That ham of Guasage you sent me was first rate and suited my taste exactly. It seemed some like home to sit down and partake of the good things that you and other kind friends sent us. The weather is rather stormy here to day it rains and hails together Wallace Johnson and Bart Durman are here they came here yesterday and staid with us last night they both look tough and

Written in Co. A,

154th N.Y. Vol's



They lacked a corporal and so I acted as one I went
into the house and sat by the fire and had a
good warm Hoe cake to eat which releshed first
rate I tell you I received a letter from Em stating
that the Democrats claimed me as theirs but
they will be suck'd in if that is the case for I am
no more of a Democrat than I was when I left home
and I do not think I ever shall be Mr Rich wrote
a letter to asking what General I thought the soldiers
preferred for a leader and I wrote back to him that
Gen McClellan was the man which is the case with
all of the Old Soldiers and I think most of the new
my self included I think there is a good deal of jealousy
~~think in our army~~ amongst the leaders to much of it for
the army of the Potowmick to be successful Well Dear wife
there is not much new to write about here every thing
seems to move along in the same old channel we do not
have any thing to do but picket duty and guard duty
we have not had to drill much of any since we have
been here for the mud has been so deep it has been
impossible to drill we have to double our picket line
as the Rebel Cavalry made a dash on them a few
nights ago and captured a number of them that is our
Cavalry pickets they are posted in front of the
infantry pickets we probly shall get our pay again
soon we expect it by the fifteenth of this month
but may not get it as soon as that The Dutch Regt
in our Brigade call our self the hard luck Regt and

Written in Co. A
154 T.F. N.Y.
Vols

many on my own opinions and not on mine or ~~my~~
we call them the Four Crowd Regiments -
They are all dutch in our Brigade except our
Regt and they do not like us very well We can
hardly get any water to use but what some
Dutchman has washed his ass in it Well Ell where
is Ruth now I had a letter from her about New Years
an answered it but have not heard from her since
she was then at Ellicottville I would write to her if
knew where to direct my letter I found a nice knife
in one of my bags of fruit which came very acceptable
Orvin Clark sent Hod and me a pound of first
rate fine cut chewing Tobacco by George Read the
next time you see him tell him I thank him
handsomely for it and that I will remember him and
hope to be back again to take a drink of Sche damb
 Schnaps with him Well I suppose you know I
have got into the habit of using Tobacco before this
My teeth bothered me a good deal when I first got
into Va and I had to keep Tobacco in them to keep
them from aching If you will not sell me I will agree
to break off using it when I get home Well Ell I am
getting fat and awful lazy Ever since I got over my
sick spell I have been growing fleshy A soldiers
life is a very lazy one espesly when we are in camp
I understand our first Lieut has Resigned but do not
know how true it is he has said he would if they
appointed a Captain over him Well I must close for my
sheet of paper is about full Give my best respects to Eliha
and all enquiring friends So Good Bye dear Mr Husband Gil Phewen
To Ell always Your affectionate husband Gil Phewen

-11

Saturday morning March 7th 1863

Dear Wife

As I did not get my letter wrote in time to send it yesterday I thought I would write you a few lines this morning It is raining again today we have a good deal of wet weather here now I am glad you sent me my hat for it keeps the wet out of my neck And the handkerchief you sent me is just the kind I wanted for it will not show the dirt as easy as a linen one Well I guess all of our Officers are going to resign The report herein camp today is that General Legil and General Steinwehr and also General Bushbeck are brigade general have resigned of our Regt is acting in his place Lieut. Bond of our Regt and also Capt Hills I understand have thrown in their resignation but let them go I dont care if all of them go resign if we can get better ones I wish you would send me some honey by (Badders?) if you can get it handy you can get an oyster can to put it in he will probly be at home next week but you need not put yourself to much trouble to send it if you cant get a chance to send it over to him let it go he says he is going to fetch us a load of stuff for he thinks he is indebted to us If you think you had better work out this summer you can but do as you think best but I do not want you to work to hard if you work out get you a good place I dont want you to work for John I rather you would work for you would not have much milking to do well I have not got much news to write Where is George Buller? I would like to write to him I have written two letters to him and have received no answer from him but perha's he did not get my letters Well I have just eaten my breakfast I had boiled nice coffee soft bread cheese and butter of which I did not undertake Well Ell I have not got anyone to write so I will bring my letter to a close Be a good woman and take good care of yourself Write soon so goodbye dear wife

To an affectionate husband
George W. Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

(the soldier had drawn a picture of a pig and labeled it "Sesesh")
written under the drawing was the following:

While I am in this pig the brass band of the 33 Nags. Regt. is
not playing some lively tunes It is the best band I ever heard

yours

G.W. Newcomb

Private

Camp near Stafford Court House Va March 16th 1863

Dear Wife

I have some more that I wanted to write to you so I will take an extra sheet of paper as I do not want anny one else to see it I dont want Ed to have anny thing to do with our Colts I would rather have them run untill another winter without breaking them than to let him have anny thing to do with them has father kept my hiefers on the place yet and how do they look What does father say about paying me twelve Dollars a month Mrs Inman wrote to Harve in a letter that he got last night that we might come home as he should not pay us what he agreed to I want you to write to me and let me know what he says about paying me what he agreed to Well Ell I got a few lines your letter from Eliza Bump probly she has not forgot other days that are gone by and past There is a young woman here that came here a few days ago she has got a Husband in the Regt She probly came down here to enjoy a hard tack f-k But her Husband must be in better trim than most of the Boys or I fear she will suffer for the want of f-k-g Well Ell I think you had not better work out this summer if you can get along with out you can go to Mansfield and see your folks Well I will bring this to a close so good bye Dear Wife

Your Husband G. W Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Private

Camp near Stafford Court House Va March 16th 1863

Dear Wife

I have some more that I wanted to write to you so I will take an extra sheet of paper as I do not want anny one else to see it I dont want Ed to have anny thing to do with our Colts I would rather have them run untill another winter without breaking them than to let him have anny thing to do with them has father kept my hiefers on the place yet and how do they look What does father say about paying me twelve Dollars a month Mrs Inman wrote to Harve in a letter that he got last night that we might come home as he should not pay us what he agreed to I want you to write to me and let me know what he says about paying me what he agreed to Well Ell I got a few lines your letter from Eliza Bump probly she has not forgot other days that are gone by and past There is a young woman here that came here a few days ago she has got a Husband in the Regt She probly came down here to enjoy a hard tack f--k But her Husband must be in better trim than most of the Boys or I fear she will suffer for the want of f--k--g Well Ell I think you had not better work out this summer if you can get along with out you can go to Mansfield and see your folks Well I will bring this to a close so good bye

Dear Wife

Your Husband G.W Newcom

Camp John Manley Va March 30th 1863

Dear Wife

Well I thought I would try and write a few lines to you this morning I am in good spirits this morning And hope you are enjoying yourself as well as possible Well Dear Wife I want you to keep calm and not worry about me But keep up good spirits and all will be well Take good care of yourself and the Boy God bless you I would like to see you both I am in hopes the day is not far distant when I can enjoy that priviledge Well Ell if you can get Father to give you a note for that money you had better do it I am in hopes that I can send you some more in a few days Well I have not been troubled with the shits in a long time but can shit a regular Cattaraugus evry time which esteem as quite a privaledge Well Dear Wife put no confidence in what the city gossipers say pay no attention to them I rather you would not work out for it will be to hard for you You probly can get some sewing to do and I had rather you would do it Well I must close and go and help get Dinner ready so good bye Dear Wife I will write again soon

Your affectionate Husband

Geo W Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Letter No 21

Camp John Manly near Stafford Court House Va
April 1st 1863

Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I again undertake to write a few lines My health is as good as usal We are still in camp here But expect to leave soon As we had orders this morning to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a moments notice A good many thought it was done to April fool us and it may turn out to be so It is reported that the enemy have appeared in force within our lines if that is the case we probly will have to march soon We had quite a snow storm yesterday To day it is cold and raw the ground is white with snow The spring is verry backward here the trees have not commenced to bud yet neither have I seen a green blade of grass even here in what is called the sunny south But I have not seen much sunshine for the last six weeks Hod is getting along first rate his foot does not pain him much We expect N M Allen here some time during the week He wants to get our Regt and the 9th New York Cavalry to pay off They had quite a time in the 29 New York Regt a few nights ago The Officers called out the men at midnight and were going to drill them The men fixed their Bayonets and charged on the Officers and drove them out of camp They were going to drill them because they did not work better on the road the day before The 29ths time is out the 5th of May they belong to our Brigade Well perhaps before you receive this I shall be in some other portion of Va what part I cannot tell But we probly shall move towards Gordonsville about 50 miles from here It is situated on the Rail Road North west of Richmond about 40 or 50 miles from the latter place Well I will lay aside my letter until to night or to morrow morning as the mail has gone out and I cannot send it to day April second Well our marching orders turned out to be a sell It was got up by some of the officers for an April fool Our Comp got quite a large mail last night but they were nearly all April fool letters We got papers in camp yesterday stating that Richmond was evacuated by the rebs but I cant see it Well it is quite warm here this morning the frogs are singing merrily The wind is blowing strong from the south with fair prospects of another storm There is not much news to day Evrything remains quiet here The Boys are all feeling well and seem to enjoy themselves first rate We have been here in camp two months the longest we have staid in one camp We have had easy times here lived well and are growing fat and lazy I should hardly know how to go to work on a farm now I think I would have to get rid of some of my hard tack fat before I could do much hard labor Well I must close keep up good spirits Ell

Your Husband
G. W Newcomb

To Ellen newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp John Manly near Stafford Court House Va
April 4th 1863

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you to night and was glad to hear from you But was sorry to hear that you were unwell my health is good as usal Well Hank Randall is going home on a furlough in a day or two The order granting furloughs being re____ed I am writing this to send by him It is ten O clock at night The Boys are all abed We are having a hard snow storm here to night Our Regt is out on picket I have got to go out to morrow and help cook some Beef for them That is the reason I am sitting up to night to write to you You wanted to know how many we had to cook for well it is 58 quite a little family But we have easy times as I do not have anny other duty to do I had a letter from John to night and a verry Patriotic one But as good place as I know of for him to show it is to come down here There will probly be some drafting done soon As there is to be a General muster of all the troops the tenth of this month So as to find out the number of men in each Regt so as to fill up the deficiency with drafted men J W Badgero got his commision to night for second Lieut in Comp A I wrote to you two or three days ago stating that we had orders to march we had such orders but they were April fool orders We shall probly stay here some time yet It is reported that our corps will be left here to hold this ground Well Ell you wanted to know if we were nine months men I do not think we are We are having a verry backward spring here evry thing looks as dead as it did last Jan Gen Howard is commander of our corps now Gen Sigil having resigned Well my turn comes next to go home on a furlough after the orderly seargent gets back he is going now If they do not shut down on the furlos I shall come home I would like to have you send me ten Dollars by Hen Randall for I may not get my pay by that time But if I should get it I could bring it back to you or if I should get disapointed in getting a furlough I could send it to you I have not got enough now to take me home You had better put it in an envelope and send it by him Gen Hooker thinks it has a good effects on the army to grant furloughs and he intends to make it a permanent regulation Hods foot is doing well he has not been out of the tent yet since he cut it The rest of the Boys from our Town are well Herbner thinks his wife is an angel now since he has heard she has got a Boy Well it is getting late and I must bring my letter to a close so good night

Your affectionate Husband
Geo. W Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp "John Manley" 154th Regt N.Y., 1st
1st Brigade, 2nd Division 11th Corps
Army Potomac
Near Stafford C.H. Va April 6th 1863

Dear Wife

It is with the utmost pleasure that I undertake to write a few lines to you My health is good as usual And I hope this will find you enjoying good health The weather is cold and raw here today We have had a hard snow storm here since I last wrote to you It commenced snowing about dark and the next morning the snow was six inches deep The spring is very backward here everything looks as dead as it did in midwinter Well Ellyn new Captain has taken command of our company He appears to be a first rate fellow and has made military about him in one hour than Captain Hugaboom had in a month I spoke to the Captain to day for a furlough to go home the next time He said that he would give me the chance if the 1st Lieut. had not made other arrangements for someone else But the Lieut. told me yesterday that I should have the next chance and he would see the Captain about it So if they do not shut down on the furloughs before the others get back You may look for me home in the course of two or three weeks Adelbert Rolfe one of our Company died last night in the Division Hospital He was young lad of 17 years of age his folks live in Silvercreek He will be buried to morrow Well I expected we should move from here before this time but we are still here and will probly stay here for some time to come Thursday morning April 9th.. It is pleasant this morning But quite cold and frosty Our Regt is going out on Review today We will have to go some distance from Camp Captain Mills has resigned and leaves for home to day we have 4 Captains left that came out when the Regt did Well there is nothing new to write about there has nothing unusual happened of late all is quiet on the Potomac Hod is getting along first rate he went outdoors yesterday for the first time since he cut his foot he has to go on crutches and probly will for some time to come The Sanitary Conditions of the Regt is good there being but a very few sick at the present time Our Regt has been pretty well called out and what is left are old peaches Every new Regt has its share of the fallen process before it will become a good and efficient one All the Regts have two classes in it which have to be sifted out one is a class of sneaks who pretend to be sick and get sent to the hospital and there buy a discharge The other is those who enlist for (primary) purposes(?) and who were not able to stand the privations of a soldiers life and are discharged because they are good for nothing here Well I will close So a fine morning to you mum

Your affectionate Husband
Geo.W. Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

Brooks Station VA
May 7th 1863

Friend Ell

by the request of George I will write a few lines to you he has been through one of the almighty's fights that was ever heard of and has come out all right I wish I could say so by all of the rest of the Boys but I cannot there is a great many missing there is so many I will not attempt to name them and I think the most of them are prisoners wounded men are coming in by the hundred Well Ell I will not attempt to describe any thing about the fight for I do not know how it stands yet Our Corps has fell back to there old Camp I have not seen George yet he sent by George Bailey to have me write a few lines and let you know he was all right the Regt is under Marching orders Some think they are going to Washington I do not know that is tell Adaline I am all right my foot is doing well how long I shall stay here is more then I can tell there is 30 missing in our Co there names I will not mention at present for I think the most of them are safe

Respect. yours H Howlett

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Camp John Lanly near Stafford Court House Va May 8th
1863

Dear wife

I will embrace this opportunity in writing a few lines to you To let you know that I am alive and well This is the first chance I have had to send a letter since we left this camp and that was on the 13th of April I will not attempt at the present time to give you a description of the scenes I have passed through within the last few days for the want of time Only to state that I have been in one of the hardest battles fought on this continent And came out safe and sound But nearly worn out from fatigue and want of sleep We arrived here in our old camp yesterday and are now trying to get a little rest Our Regt suffered severely in killed wounded and missing The exact number I cannot tell but upwards of 200 out of some 400 that were engaged Our Company lost 30 out of 46 that went into the fight how many of them that were killed I cannot tell out of the 30 that are missing only two are known to have recrossed on this side of the river Ross and Whelock they are both wounded and in the Hospital I will give you a list of the names as soon as I can get time I will write the particulars of the fight and that will be in a day or two It is late to night and I have to write by fire light with nothing but my knee to hold my paper on so you must excuse me for not writing more

turn over

List of the killed wounded and missing in company (K?)

1st Lieut W Chapman wounded

2nd S. Beardsley missing

Orderly Seangt S.B Ellsworth killed

Seangt P.B Mathewson miss

B. C. Wilkinson "

Corporals C.D. Streckland

" Ames (K) yser

" I.L. Shannon

" E. Ross

Privates D. Lietz

" W.W. Blair

" H. Darbee

" J. now

D. Cardna

H. Mulet

A. Herbner

C. Haught

P. Hull

E. Hugaboom

killed

miss

"

"

"

Wounded

Killed

missing

"

"

"

"

"

"

"

"

"

"

"

"

H. Inman

missing

D.L. Jones

"

C.L. Johnson

"

B. Merrill

killed

A.C. Merill

missing

H. Randall

"

H. Robbison

"

B.D. Shelmadine

"

P. Salmon

"

E. Snyder

"

T. Wheelock wounded in

the head

I have only stated those that I knew were killed or wounded Probly good many others were wounded and perhaps some killed but I think the most of them were taken prisoners (es Real was severely wounded and no doubt taken prisoner Col Jones was wounded in the thigh and Adjutant Noys killed Well Ell I will bring this to a close I will write again in a day or two I got the letter you sent me by H. Randall write soon so good night
Ell Newcomb

Your Husband

G.W. Newcomb

111

Camp John Hanly near Stafford Court House Va May 9th 1863

Dear Wife

I received a letter from you last night and was glad to hear from you my health is good but I feel nearly worn out well till it seems good to get back to our old camp again where I can send letters home and receive them our Brigade went in advance when we left here and was in camp at Kelly's ford on the Rappahannock River about thirty miles from here nearly two weeks I had no chance to send a letter from there we crossed the river the 28th of April about dark our Regt and the 73 Pa Regt in flat boats and were sent out as skirmishers until the Pontoon bridges were laid and quite a force had crossed when we returned on this side at two o'clock in the morning Recrossed again at six o'clock and laid on the other side until six o'clock the next morning and then started down the river towards Fredericksburg crossed the Rapidan River at two o'clock where we rested for a couple of hours when we again shouldered our knapsacks and marched until two o'clock in the morning within about eight miles of Fredericksburg where we lay quiet until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we had some skirmishing and some cannonading After dark all was quiet again Nothing disturbed us again until about five o'clock in the afternoon of the next day When the enemy (thrown) a heavy force against Carl Schurz Division which was on the right of us totally routing him in less than a half an hour his men came running through us like so many frightened sheep our Brigade was formed in line of battle as well as could be in what little time there was when the rebels came pouring into us closed in mass and marching in solid column We stood our ground as well as we could until they flanked us and poured a cross fire into us Then let me tell you there was some tall skidding grape shot and cannister flew amongst us like hail stones The old soldiers in our Brigade who were in the Bull Run fight said they never saw the shot fly so thick as it did there for a short time our battery lost two guns the horses being killed they could not get them off You can judge for yourself how thick the shot flew Our Regt was not engaged over 20 minutes and lost over 200 men out of a little over 400 About ten o'clock in the evening they made another desperate attempt to break our lines but failed It was a grand sight in the evening We had 60 pieces of artillery playing on them at one time Sunday morning we were placed on the left and laid in rifle pits during that day and night and until nearly night the next day before we were relieved early the next morning we recrossed the River and reached our old camp here the next day at 11 o'clock a worn out set of men there was a week that I did not have my cartridge box off which was quite heavy having 60 rounds in it I lost my knapsack and all my clothes except what I had on my back I have not seen any papers yet and I do not know but our folks called it a victory But us soldiers all think we got the worst of it I think the rebels lost a good man (?) our forces were (fighting) the most men for the most of ours

Camp John Manly near Stafford Court House Va May 10th 1863

Private

Dear Wife I thought I would write a few more lines to you Well
Ell keep up good courage and not worry about me I will try and look
out and not let the rebels get hold of me Well I have been through one
fight But I have no desire to go in to another I did think I would
like to go into one to see how it went But I have been in and seen the
Elephant and had rather be excused from participating in another Well
you wanted to know how many of them hiefers was mine well they were not
divided there was nine in all and half of them belonged to me and I
have one yearling hiefer or at least I had a calf last fall when I left
I dont want you to let any more money go without a note for it but
who is perfectly good for it Never mind that you let father have say
nothing about it keep on the right side of him if you can As soon as
I get my pay and I think that will be soon I will send it to you and
if he wants it and will give a note for it and what you let him have
before let him have it and not without you can get some one write the
note payable to me or bearer and it will do as well as though I wrote
one and sent to you I shall try and come home if there is any possible
chance I would like to have you send me some Postage Stamps if you can
get them for I have but one left And I cannot get them here Well Dear
Wife it is linesome here I tell you all the boys that I used to associate
with are gone what there fate is I cannot tell for we are driven from
the field How many are killed I cannot tell A good many of them I fear
were wounded and left out in the woods and if so were probly burned the
next day for the woods were burned over by being set on fire by shells
Gold many of our wounded were burned up in a house that for a Hospital
and Rebels shelled it and burned it before we could remove all our wounded
I tel'l you Sunday was an awful day I do not wish to see another such a
day Well I must stop for I guess it will bother you to read what I have
wrote for I have no ink and my pencil is a poor thing Write as soon
as you can and I will as often as I can when we are on a march we have
no chance to write so you must not worry if sometimes you do not get
a letter in some time So good bye Dear Wife

Your affectionate Husband

Geo. W. Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

Camp John Manly near Stafford
Court House Va May 14th 1863

Dear Wife

I will send you five Dollars in this I thought I would not send with the check I will send you some more to morrow or next day I send it in small bills so if one should get lost I would not lose as much I will send you eight Dollars more you can wait until you get the whole of it and let it out together write and let me know wether it came through safe or not as soon as you get this

Your Husband

G.W Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

Camp near Stafford Court House Va
May 15th 1863

Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I again undertake to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am still amongst the living my health is still good and I enjoy myself as well as could be expected It makes one feel lonesome to look at our little company We report eleven men now for duty out of eighty that left Jamestown less than eight months ago Our Regt left Jamestown nine hundred and 27 now it will not muster 200 effective men Our ambulances have returned from the other side of the River They brought back a number of our wounded Col Jones has just came to the Regt He is wounded in the hip The rebs paroled our wounded S. B. Ellsworth orderly seargent in our Company who was reported killed was brought to our Hospital to day He is badly wounded through the hips Lieut Chapman is also here he is wounded in two places Back and thigh severly in the former but probly will recover B Merril and Adam Herbner were killed D Jones H Randall and Horace Robinson were known to be taken Prisoners I have not heard a word from Chet Strickland or H Inman But I think they were taken You can tell Mrs Strickland that I think Chet was taken Prisoner and that I saw him some distance from the field of Battle all sound I think he must have strayed within the enemys lines The wether is cooler here to day Evry thing is quiet and lovely again The Boys have nothing to do only a little picket duty We no guard around camp now or roll call we can go to bed when we are a mind to and do the same about getting up I am getting somewhat lazy about early rising for the Sun gets a good deal the start of me of late I am living little above army fare now My bunk mate and I bought us a ham and some Potatoes and we draw Soft Bread so we stand fair to get some of the Hard Tacks out of us Erve Johnson has got back to his Regt again I have not seen him yet I sent you ten Dollars by Express with some others Directed to Orrin Clark to Distribute you can get by calling on him I sent it yesterday I sent my check and five Dollars in letters before knew there was any chance to Express any through Write and let me know as soon as you get it Write how Philands folks are getting along for I have not heard from them in a long time I have not had anny letters in a long time from Dayton except one from you You need not wait for a letter from me before you write for sometimes it happens so I cant write in a long time Write soon

Your Husband

G W Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Civil War Letters of George W. Newcomb

Private, Co. K, 154th N.Y.S.I.V.

Camp near Stafford Court
House Va May 15th 1863

Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I again undertake to write a few lines to you To let you know that I am still amongst the living my health is still good and I enjoy myself as well as could be expected It makes one feel lonesome to look at our little company We report eleven men now for duty out of eighty that left Jamestown less than eight months ago Our Regt left Jamestown nine hundred and 27 now it will not muster 200 effective men Our ambulances have returned from the other side of the River They brought back a number of our wounded Col Jones has just came to the Regt He is wounded in the hip The rebs paroled our wounded S.B. Ellsworth orderly seargent in our Company who was reported killed was brought to our Hospital to day He is badly wounded through the hips Lieut Chapman is also here he is wounded in two places Back and thigh severly in the former but probly will recover B Merril and Adam Herblner were killed D Jones H Randall and Horace Rolbisen (?) were known to be taken Prisoners I have not heard a word from Chet Strickland or H Inman But I think they were taken You can tell Mrs Strickland that I think Chet was taken Prisoner and that I saw him some distance from the field of Battle all sound I think he must have strayed within the enemys lines The wether is cooler here to day Evry thing is quiet and lovely again The Boys have nothing to do only a little picket duty We no guard around camp now or roll call we can go to bed when we are a mind to and do the same about getting up I am getting somewhat lazy about early rising for the Sun gets a good deal the start of me of late I am living little above army fare now My bunk mate and I bought us a ham and some Potatoes and we draw Soft Bread so we stand fair to get some of the Hard Tacks out of us Erve Johnson has got back to his Regt again I have not seen hime yet I sent you ten Dollars by Express with some others Directed to Crrin Clark to Distribute you can get by calling on him I sent it yesterday I sent my check and five Dollars in letters before I knew there was any chance to Express any through Write and let me know as soon as you get it Write how Philands folks are getting along for I have not heard from them in a long time I have not had anny letters in a long time from Dayton except one from you You need not wait for a letter from me before you write for sometimes it happens so I cant write in a long time Write soon

Your Husband G W Newcom

Monday May 18th 1863

Well Dear Wife

as I did not send my letter out last night I thought I would write you a few lines more I want you to pay Philand four Dollars and fifty cts Being the amount I collected for him of the Boys that were owing him I meant to have written to you about it before but forgot to do so Erve is here to day he looks tough and rugged Well Ell I have been lousy for the first time since I have been in the army since I came back from the other side of the River I found quite a number fat greasy Sleek looking chaps on me It looked like a pity to kill such noble looking fellows But I mustered up courage and after a considerable exertion I succeeded in laying them out with a good sized club I should judge by the amount of eggs or knits rather that they had deposited on my shirt that they had some good times and had been verry busy the short time they staid with me Boiling hot water will soon use them up and I think I have them subdued now The wether is somewhat cooler here to day Quite a number of our Boys are sick with the fever But none of them are considered dangerous Evry thing is quiet along the lines at present Our wounded Boys the most of them are getting along first rate Well no more this time I still remain your affectionate Husband

George W Newcomb

Ellen Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Monday May 18th 1863

Well Dear Wife

as I did not send my letter out last night I thought I would write you a few lines more I want you to pay Philand four Dollars and fifty cts Being the amount I collected for him of the Boys that were owing him I meant to have written to you about it before but forgot to do so Erve is here to day he looks tough and rugged Well Ell I have been lousy for the first time since I have been in the army since I came back from the other side of the River I found quite a number fat greasy Sleek looking chaps on me It looked like a pity to kill such noble looking fellows But I mustered up courage and after a considerable exertion I succeeded in laying them out with good sized club I should judge by the amount of eggs or kurts (?) rather that they had deposited on my shirt that they had some good times and had been verry busy the short time they staid with me Boiling hot water will soon use them up and I think I have them subdued now The wether is somewhat cooler here to day Quite a number of our Boys are sick with the fever But none of them are considered dangerous Evry thing is quiet along the lines at present Our wounded Boys the most of them are getting along first rate Well no more this time I still remain your affectionate Husband

George W Newcomb

Ellen Newcomb

Camp John Manly near Stafford Court House Va
Thursday night May 21st 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter night before last and was glad to hear from you My health is still good The weather is still very warm here to much so for comfort There is a few cases of fever in the Regt none however are considered dangerous Otherwise the health of the Regt is good We have heard from a number of our Boys They have been paroled and are in camp at Anapolis Maryland waiting to be exchanged I do not hear any thing about Alva Merril he is not with the rest No one can give any trace of him T. S. Shannon or Bornt Shelmadine Daniel Gardiner from Conewango of our company was wounded in the arm and was taken Prisoner and marched as far as Guinea Station where he died He was a noble fellow a good soldier and our Company deeply feels his loss Well Ell I would like to have you send me some paper in your letters You can do so by sending a little at a time I cannot get any here that is good for any thing it is half sand Write and let me know if the money that I sent you came through safe or not All remains quiet here and the prospects are fair for us to remain here for some time yet The water is first rate here We get our water from a spring that comes out of a bank and furnishes water for a number of Regts Well Ell it is bedtime and I will lay aside my writing untill to morrow when I will try and finish my letter Friday May 22nd Well we are having another awful hot day which makes a fellow lather in the crotch that is if he exerts himself much But that thing I do not do I have not had any thing to do to day but draw the rations for the company and deal them out I went down to a creek close by and had a swim The rest of the time I have laid in the shade and read newspapers Well there is no news to write You must keep up good courage and not worry about me Take good care of of your self and Boy Write as often as convenient write all the news no more this time I will write again soon

Your affectionate Husband

G. W. Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

Centerville Fairfax Co Va June 16th 1863

Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I undertake to write a few lines to you to let you know where I am and what is going on We have been on the march for the last four days It has been the hardest march I have had since I have been in the army We left Stafford Court House Friday noon and marched to Harwood Church the distance of ten miles where we encamped for the night Started the next morning at daylight and encamped for the night at Catletts Station on the Orange and Alexandria Rail Road a march of 21 miles The day was verry warm and a good many fell down in the ranks from exhaustion We suffered a good deal for the want of water The streams being dried up and there being but a few wells on the road it was impossible to get water enough to quench our thirst Left Catletts Station at nine o clock and marched to Bristoe Station where we halted two hours for dinner camped for night on the first Bull Run battle field made fifteen miles that day Dug out early in the morning came onto this place distant four miles where we are trying to get a little rest I blistered the bottom of my feet badly which made it rather tough buisness to march I stood the heat much better than I expected as I stripped of all my clothes but my shirt and pants I am all right to day except I am a little sore Where we shall go to from here I cannot tell But expect to go towards Washington The rebs are making a demonstration in the direction of Maryland and we have to make our moves accordingly Well Ell a part of our Regt got there pay the day we left But before they got to our Company we had to pack up our duds and march we will probly get it before long It is verry dry here the grass is withering up There has not been anny rain here since I came back The roads are verry dusty and the dust nearly suffocates the men while on the march I am the only one from our Town with the company out of eighteen that came from our Town with it Having out winded all of the rest We stack 14 guns now in our Company seven non commissioned officers and seven privates Well Ell I am out in an open field sitting in the shade of my tent flat on my ass Which begins to ache so I will bring my letter to a close I will write again the first opportunity and keep you informed as to my whereabouts write as often as convenient Good Bye

Your affectionate Husband

George W Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)

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Louden County Va June 20th 1863

Dear Mr. & c

It is with pleasure that I again undertake to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and still amongst the living We are now up the Potomac river about six miles from Leesburg We have been here three or four days I do not know how long we shall stay here but probably not long We have been on the move now some over a week and have had a long march and a hard one I stood the march first rate so far The weather has been very warm and a good many had to fall out two of our men belonging to our Corps that fell out and went to sleep had their throats cut by a couple of women at a place called Gun Springs some five miles from here The women were arrested yesterday and brought to our headquarters The inhabitants are all secesh through this section We are now about twenty miles from Centerville where I last wrote to you We have not had army mail yet since we left Stafford Court house nor any chance to send a mail from the Regt. but we shall probably get a mail in the course of the day I wrote a letter to you while we were at Centerville and sent it out with the mail of an old Regt. that was stationed there I do not know where the army of the Potomac is There is only the 11 Army Corps here I understand the whole army is on the move but in what direction I cannot tell as I have not heard any chance of learning It is reported here that the Rebs are moving towards Pennsylvania but how true it is I cannot tell We supposed we were going to Harpers Ferry when we left Centerville That place is up the river some 15 miles from here We are in a hard place to get water here that is fit to drink as it has been very dry and most of the springs are dried up We had quite a hard rain at night and the weather is considerably cooler today there will probably be some lightning etc. I am told however where I have not been can see the smoke of battle and in this quarter neither can I learn why we are placed here for I have not seen a paper for a number of days and that is all the way a private soldier can learn what is going on Hell all I do not know as I can get a chance to send this out you must see me to a doctor and I may delay me Take care of your self and all I will write to you as often as I can Well I must close this letter and write again as soon as convenient
Your affectionate Husband

Geo. W. Newcomb

To Ellen Newcomb

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Belle Island Richmond Va. Nov. 1st
1863

Dear Wife

I embrace this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am well I still have hopes of being exchanged soon I suffer with the cold as my clothes are nearly worn out otherwise I get along very well I would like to have you write to me immediately for I am very anxious to hear from you Tell Alice to write to me Write how Father is and the rest of our folks for I am anxious to hear from all

Direct to G.W. Newcomb
Prisoner of war Belle Island Richmond
Va 154th Regt New York State Vol
Your Husband
Geo W. Newcomb

(not dated or known place of writing)

Dear Ellen I could enjoy Camp life verry well if it wernt
for being seperated from you But dear wife be of good
cheer for I shall be with you again For life has no joys
for me unless I can enjoy those blessings with you Dear wife
do fear for me I shall come out all right I want you to
send me some clean postage stamps 8 or 10 and send me three
Dollars if you can I have loaned to Philand all I had in
the world I can send it in a letter put in two
Envelopes kiss the baby and burn this up as soon as
you recieve it dont let any one see it
Your affectionate husband George (W N)

Dear Ellen I could enjoy Camp life verry well if it wernt for being
seperated from you But dear wife be of good cheer for I shall be with
you again For life has no joys for me unless I can enjoy those blessings
with you Dear wife do fear for me I shall come out all right I want
you to send me some clean postage stamps 8 or 10 and send me three
Dollars if you can I have loaned to Philand all I had to buy him a
sword you can send it in a letter put on two Envelopes Kiss the baby
for me burn this up as soon as you read it dont let any one see it
your affectionate husband George (W N)

Dayton New York
Sept. 22d 1866

Mrs Ellen Newcomb

I send you the pension certif of your son. I also send you a Blank to be filled up & properly executed before some Justice of the Peace Go before some careful men who will not make mistakes & have it filled up properly & take two Witnesses with you.

Also execute the enclosed oath of Allegiance. Then send or carry it to the County Clerk of your County & have him attach a certif to it the Blank for which is on the paper I send you, & then return it to me & I will collect it. Also return oath of allegiance. But you can keep the Pension Certificate.

All well & am

In Haste

Truly Yours

Norman M Allen

(Mark H. Dunkelman collection)