

[On letterhead illustrated with vignette of eagle with shield, and verse: Then conquer we must, when our cause is just, and this be our motto--"In God we trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.]

Washington Dec 16 1861
Headquarters Camp Shepherd

Dear uncle

I now take up my pen to let you know that I am well and hope that you are enjoying the same prosperity I have been here about ten days or more I have been well all the time we have been here while all the rest of the Company have been sick or complaining I [have] not had a chance to see old Abe yet but shall some time probably I had quite a time coming down here I did not sleep an hour for two nights we started from Elmira Tuesday the second of december and reached here thursday about eight AM we reached Baltimore wendsday about eight PM and staid there till about eleven PM got our suppers and come very near getting into a fight for there were not enough passenger cars to accomodate all of us and so our company and one or two others had to go into Baggage cars with rough boards for seats and no stove and if we did not have a good time then no matter the cars would not have sold for ten dollars apiece for all of the windows were knocked out and the roof knocked loose and out of gear genoraly the boys feel quite ___ to day for the news has just come that charleston has been burnt but there is no certainty of that but I hope it is so for the rebels would begin to Hunt their holes before long I guess if they dont they are tougher than they appear to be the news is here that they have offered to lay down their arms and pay half of the expenses of the war and go it and call it even but it is rumor and may [not] be so I hope it is any way there is a fight going on now across the river for I can hear the booming of the guns plain as my nose on my face and can see the smoke come up in that direction and I wish I was there to dont you if you dont I do there was a thousand guns went off just now I should think for it jarred me so I had to stop writing but it is music for all that I did not have a chance to come out there before I left Elmira but I shall be there some time for all that for it may be my luck to come home on a furlough I shall do it if [I] can possibly I dont think of any more to scribble so good bye for this time if you please I have been on guard twice since we have been here write soon Direct washington DC 85 regt Co I N Y V

this from your nephew

Edwin L Doty

To Mr Marion Plumb

Do tell all that is going on and particularly about your boy