

Sept 23, 1862
Jamestown Camp Brown

Dear Father and Mother,

I thought I would Write you a few lines as I have time now, for our Company is Signing the pay roal for thier bounty which they will propaly get to morow or next day but all of us who inlisted the twenty second of August are throwed out of our government bounty of twenty five dollars and our months pay in advance for the pressent our State bounty of fifty dollars we will get Within a day or two, but our U. S. States bounty we will not get untill after the war I do not know when we shall leave here but I think not this week but we may go the latter part of the week I should like to have you come over here If you could convenilently I was on gard yesterday, which would excuse me from drill this fore noon our Company letter is E, 154 Regt

We are having fine weather here. I am well, and hope you are the same James Stone and all of the rest of the boys are well James Bacon wants me to say that he is all right and wants his folks to come over here and wants them to have Milton to come and see him I have Just been to dinner and had some bread and milk for dinner it as first rate I am mad about not getting our bounty monney but it cant be helped and so we must make the best of it. the inspector general was here yesterday and Inspected the Regiment there was a number of men rejected there was three in our Company that were rejected I cant think of any more to write So I must close Jim Bacon has thought it over and has concluded not to send for his folks to come over as he thinks it is posible that he may get a furlough and come home I believe that is all, so good bye for the present

Wm H Sprague

Wm S Sprague
Catharine I Sprague

[William H. Sprague, private, Co. E, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

in Camp near Falmouth Va
Dec 23 tuesday evening

My Dear Mother

I rec a letter from you yesterday and was happy to hear from you and to hear you was all in usual health at home you must not think of me so much as to keep you from sleeping nights I am all right and you must not feel concerned about me and think more about those at home and less about my unworthy self. it is very doubtful about our going into winter quarters this winter I have drew a pair of government gloves and I guss I can make them do this winter I mean to keep up courage and you must do the same and try and take care of your health two as for the warm supper that would be acceptable but I would much rather be at home to eat it as you said but when we have enough here we live first rate take these hard tacks and fry them in pork grease and they dont go bad and I am getting to be so fond of coffee that I am quite a toper indeed coffee is the soldiers grand resource and comfort and fortunatly they have enough of it when they get anything we drew potatoes to night for the second time since we came into virginia but I must close so good by in the confident hope that we shall meet again

CIS

WHS

Dear Brother Charles

I rec a letter from you yesterday and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well hoping and trusting that you are still in good health I take this oportunity to let you know that I am well except a slight cold I guss your hedgehog hunt did not amount to much after all as you were not certain what was up the tree it might have been mouse I am glad you like your lamb so well and that he is so tame and clever What is his name you must take good care of him and next summer you can get a lot of wool from him but I must stop writing now good night

Dear sister Sarah

I got your letter and was glad to get the same I am much obliged to you for the piece of money you sent me but I dont want my little sister to all of her money away off here to me I suppose you had a nice time when Uncle John was over to our house but I see he made just such a visit as usual but I must stop writing for to night for it is getting late and I am getting tired of writing this from your affectionate Brother

W H Sprague

Sarah L Sprague

[William H. Sprague, private, Co. E, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

in Camp near Stafford Court house
February 20 1863

Dear Father and Mother

once more I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to let you know how I am getting along I am well and hearty and sincerely hope these few lines will find you all well at home and now I will explain why I have not written before about three weeks ago we were paid up to the first of November a little over two months pay and I should have sent my check home immediately but Lieut Jenkins had just applied for a furlough and expected to go home for fifteen days and about the same time there came an order from the War department for one man at a time out of each company to have a furlough for ten days and John Miller applied for the one for our company and I have been waiting to send it home by one of them. a few days ago Lieut Jenkins found out that he could not go and Johns furlough just come in to day and he was going to start for home this afternoon but there was something wrong about the papers and they had to be sent back to Gen Sigels headquarters at Stafford they will probably be back so he can start within a day or so and I will send this letter by him with the check enclosed and John will pay you seven dollars in money. I am sorry that I could not have sent it before but I thought that it would be better to have it go through safe and wait a little while than to run the risk of sending it by mail I have received two or three letters from you since I have wrote to you in one letter was a three cent piece and some thread in another 50 cents and in the last was the comb I wrote for. Bill Kendal has not received any letter from you yet he says tell you that [*18 words heavily crossed out; they appear to read: he thinks of taking a _____ furlough but does not want you to say any thing about it*] he was much surprised to learn that he had money at home in the hands of Mrs Adams but concluded that it was in safe keeping we had considerable sport over it. The paymaster that paid us is Major Rogers he is a nephew of Horrace Ribe a short time ago one of our company died in the Hospital at Washington his name was Theodore Hall he was a nephew of Sam Hall you wrote that the only way you could tell which was the right side up of my writing was by the stamp and top and left hand corner of the paper that does not speak very well for my writing but this will do for this time. this from your loving son

Henry

[William H. Sprague, private, Co. E, 154th New York, *National Archives.*]

Camp near Stafford C. house, Va.
Wednesday Feb. 25th, 1863.

Mr Sprague Dear Sir

I take the responsibility to write you a few lines to let you know of your sons illness he was taken sick last sunday we did not take any harm about him at first. monday afternoon he was taken worse he was the sickest boy I ever saw he was crasy as a loon they took him to the hospital monday night and it took three to take care of him all night he was a little better in the morning. I have been to see him this morning they think he is a little better, but he is a very sick boy now. his disease is I believe the inflamation in the bowels the doctor thinks he will recover soon but this is a bad place for a sick person to recover for there is so many sick. I sincerely hope that Henry will recover and be with us again for he is a good Soldier and we miss him in every place. there is a great many sick in our Company now. The weather has been very stormy for two or three weeks past and has caused a great deal of sickness among us. Lieut Jenkins is sick now I do not know what his disease is.

I took this upon me to write to you because I think it is my duty to write to any of my comrades friends when they are unable to write themselves as long as I am blessed with health and any of my comrades are sick I will do all I can for them.

Henry got a letter from you night before last but he was so sick that they would not permit him to read it. I must close for it is time for the mail to go out I will write again soon that you may know how your darling boy is.

please write to me as soon as you get this so I may know if you get the sad news. I must close hoping when I write again I may inform you of Henrys speedy recover but we cant tell how his disease may turn no more now. this is from Truman A St John a friend of Henrys to his father Wm. S. Sprague

Truman A. St John
Co. E, 154 regt N.Y.S. Vol
Washington D.C.
care of capt. J. B. fay.

[Truman A. St. John, private, Co. E, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Stafford C. house Va
Sunday March 1st, 1863

to Mr Sprague dear sir

I take my pen to write you a few lines in regard to Henry.

it is with sorrow in your behalf that I now inform you that Henry is a great deal worse. they have removed him to the divission Hospital. last night they sent for us to come and see him for they did not think he would live till morning. but he did not realize any thing nor know any of us. James Bacon and myself stayed there a good share of the night and watched the poor fellow in his suffering.

We came away before morning we left him about the same as when we went there. but the doctor thinks he cant live long, and we all think the same. but we all hope that he will recover and be permitted to return to your arms once more. but I am afraid that you will never see him alive again unless you come to see him very soon.

I think he has got the inflamation in the brain, and I believe the doctor calls it that disease. the poor fellow may recover but I fear he has not got long to stay with us. I sent you a letter four days ago and hope you have recieved it before this. I have not heard Henry say any thing about you, nor any of his friends since he has been sick he has not had his sences but a very little while since he was taken witch was one week ago to day. there is a great deal of sickness here now. Lieut Jenkins is very sick with the fever. he expects to go to Washington to the hospital soon.

as to day is sunday and the mail will not go out untill tomorrow I will not write any more till morning and see how Henry is then.

the Captain is going to write a few lines to you and send in this.

I must close for today hoping that poor Henry will be better by morning I remain as ever

Truman A. St John
to Wm. S. Sprague

[Truman A. St. John and William Kendall, March 1, 1863, continued]

Dear Sprague

I am sorry and sorry to Halfto turn on this side to Inform you that your Dear Son Henry is Dead he Dide Last Night Poor Boy has Left us out of all trubels I Beleave he hadent his senceses He Had a good many friends here we miss Him Verry much Poor fellow I Hope he has gon to a Beter Place than this which he has no Doubt we have started his Remains to the Landing to Bea sent Home to you and a man with him But we Dont Know wether he will get threw or not as he has no Pass from the General If He Dont he will Have to bea Burried hear and if he is we will send you a nother Line oh this unholly ware its a Disgrace on all of Gods Good People

William Kendall

[Truman A. St. John, private, and William Kendall, corporal, Co. E, 154th New York, National Archives.]

Camp near Brooks Station March 2d/63

Mr Wm S. Sprague
Dear Sir

It is with deep regret that I am called upon to write you the particulars with regard to your son Perhaps as you have already been informed he was taken very sudenly ill one week ago today Feb 23d with inflammation of the Bowels terminating on the Brain. He did not have his senses but very little of the time during his sickness He Died March 1st at 3 oclock P.M. I made every effort to have him Embalmed and sent to your care, but could not I had his remains taken to Brooks Station near the Rail Road so that you can get his remains if you think proper The Sacred Spot will be marked plainly with the Name of the Co Regt. &c

I believe all has been done that could be under the circumstances in which we are placed

I will enclose a copy of Resolutions passed by his company which I fully endorse

Yours Respectfully
J. B. Fay Capt.

[Joseph B. Fay, captain, Co. E, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Stafford Court House, Va.
Monday Morning March 16th, 1863.

Mr Sprague Dear Sir

I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope that you although afflicted are enjoying good health. I have rec'd all of your letters and also the Box that you forwarded to Henry. the Box got here on saturday last. it came through all right and evry thing was nice in it. I opened it as you requested me to and have divided the eatables around with those who were friends to Henry before his death and who sympathize with you in your affliction.

That loaf of Bread was very nice. I cut it in two and carried a part of it to Lieut Jenkins who is sick. he thought it was very nice bread indeed the other part I kept for myself & I think it is very nice bread. Lieut. Jenkins is gaining slowly, & I think as his uncle is here with him from Ripley that he will as soon as able obtain a furlough and come home to recruit his health.

if Lieut Jenkins comes home we will send Henrys things by him. I dont know how it will be about the clothes But the Pocket Book and housewife we will send to you as soon as possible to comfort you in this hour of trial and your affliction.

your request was to have his boddy sent home. we was very ancious at the first period of his death to forward his boddy to you, and this Co did raise the money to send him home, and tried to get a pass for a man to go to Washington with the boddy but did not get the pass, and could not get one. his boddy was taken to the Station. but at last we had to bury him there. he had a good rough board coffin, and was laid out in his military suit he was buried in a good place and we put a board up at the head of his grave with his name and co. and regt on it. it would be impossible for us to send his boddy home now, unless you come or send some one for it, and it would cost a great eal to take him now he has been dead so long I should therefore advise you to let him rest where he now lies near brooks Station Va.

We would all be very glad to have him sent to you for we all know how you must feel to have your Son buried so far from you. but he was buried in peace, and it was a striking blow to this Company to have him taken from our midste. but he has gone I hope & trust to that land where war is never known and trouble is never brought uppon us. I Truman as an individual deeply sympathize with you in your affliction, and hope that he who is higher than earth will sustain you in this hour of trial. Lieut Jenkins was very sick when Henry died, and he felt very bad and he deeply Sympathizes with you in this dark hour of trial.

I have sold those boots for five dollars. I dont think I could of got any more for them at present and I could not run the risk of keeping them for we are under marching orders now and will probably march before long

[Truman A. St. John, March 16, 1863, continued]

I am very thankfull for your kind letters and I can say that I was Henrys friend and will continue to be your friend as long as life is givven me The paper and envelopes you sent to Henry I will keep them and pay you for them as soon as we get our pay them two Handerchiefs I will send back to you as soon as Possible.

Tell Mr Ellwood that I rec'd his letter with pleasure, and will try to keep that cake of sugar that he sent Henry in remembrance of him you said you saw John Miller but did not say wether he gave you any money from henry or not. but I will say to you that Henry sent by John Miller to you a twenty dollar check payable at any bank, and also seven dollars in money. and as you have never written any thing about getting it and John has never returned back here I thought it my duty to write to you and find out if you have ever got it.

I believe I have written all the news, and therefore I will draw to a close hoping to hear from you soon. I will draw to a close. I will send the five dollars rec'd for those boots in this letter, and I want you to write and let me know if you get it. no more. my best wishes to you all I remain as ever,

Truman A. St John

To Wm. S. Sprague the father of Wm. H. Sprague deceased--Truman A. St John

[Truman A. St. John, private, Co. E, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]