

Civil War Letters

From

Emory Sweetland, Little Valley, Cattaraugus County, New York

To his wife

Mary Jane (Holdridge)

1862 - 1865

Originals handed down from Emory to son, Herbert Sweetland to his son Lyle Sweetland and now in possession of great grandson Robert Barnes, 25 Hillside Drive, Fredonia, New York.

Transcribed by Mark Dunkleman, author of 154th Regiment History " The Hardtack Regiment " and later by Margaret (Nyhart) Smith great granddaughter of Emory Sweetland.

Grammar, language and spelling have been kept as near to the original as possible.

Double S was written FS instead of SS at this time.

February 1991 &
January 1002

There was a
look of inexpressible sadness on his face as he gazed over the
battlefield or studied a scrap of paper he held in his hand. I
think it was an envelop torn open and written upon both sides.
He began speaking in a slow and distinct voice but as he proceeded
his voice grew tremulous and he would pause to choke down his emotions.
When he came to where he said "~~we have come here to dedicate a part~~" On
of this battlefield as a final resting place for those who here gave
their lives that the nation might live"; tears were running down
his face, he continued, "but in a larger sense, we can not consecrate
we can not hallow this ground; The brave men living and dead who
struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or
detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say
here but it can never forget what they did here". He continued to
speak in the same eloquent manner a few minutes and sat down amid
silence like death. Tears were upon many faces about me. There was
a lump in my throat and my eyes grew dim as I thought of my dead
and wounded comrades: 247 of the 154th dead, wounded and missing;
three fourths of all that went into the fight, 9500 dead and 34000
wounded on both sides on the field. Just back a little way on the
TANNERTOWN road was where I parted with our own Captain Fuller and
as he wrung my hand in parting he expressed the conviction that he
was going to his death but said, "I shall do my duty". Rest noble soul!
Year by year we will scatter flowers on thy grave and ever keep in
memory thy virtues. The corner stone was laid with the masonic
ceremonies. The procession reformed. As they started down the hill
a rosy cheeked young mother stood near me upon the sidewalk holding
a noble baby boy in her arms. As Pres. Lincoln rode up to where
she stood he raised the baby aloft; the baby laughed and cowered and
reached his chubby hands to be taken; Lincoln took off his hat and
bowed to mother and child while his face lit up with a rare smile
that fairly transformed it; one touch of nature makes all the world
akin. The procession moved on down the hill and this kingly man
passed forever out of my sight- No, not forever; something in my
inmost soul tells me we shall meet again where no foul assassin's
arm can reach him. The grave can not hold this grand good man; he
died to make men free; he loved his country and his God.
Comrades we are going to him one by one. As we fall may we have
the assurance in our hearts that we have done our whole duty to
each other, our country and our God.

Emory Sweetland

undated

I guess that we had better pay Uncle Hardy the 40 dollars that I have just sent home. I shall probably be paid again in the course of a month & if I get all my extra pay I can send home as much more. You know Mosier said a soldier could not save any thing from his wages. well a large share dont save much. but I shall send home 160 or 175 dollars in the course of my first year if I get my pay. I dont ~~spend~~ spend much but for paper & postage & for eatibles such as potatoes & sugar. havng bot. but one pie in Va

I wish that you could see an army moove it is a splendid sight first in order will be (if there is not much danger) the commanding general and his staff of officers & body guard all mounted. next generally a battery & some cavalry & then the infantry each regiment separated from the other a couple of rods. Every 4 regts. are called a brigade & is gennerally commanded by a Brigadier Gen Who rides in front of his command while marching: Every 2 or 3 brigades ours has but two is called a division & is generally commanded by a Major Gen & 2 divisions is called a Corps. regts. generally ~~number~~ number about 500 men on an average so a corps will number from ~~1000~~ 15 to 20,000 men. there are 3 corps near us probably about 50,000 infantry besides cavalry & artillery we hear this morning that Milroy has defeated & driven the rebs from Chambersburg. he is an old hero. the rebs have no Jackson now & I am glad os it.

The mail is just ~~starting~~ starting & I must close So good by love

E.S.

Sunday (Oct.) 26th 1862

My Dear Wife

Through the mercy of God my health is quite good. Wesley was taken sick last Friday afternoon. he is threatened with a fever. he stood on guard the night before & caught cold. I have been taking care of him the best I could under the circumstances. he had quite a fever yesterday & last night. I kept fire all night. think he is a little better this morning. Dr. Rugg is doctoring him. I keep my towel wet with cold water on his head most of the time...Dr. Rugg has just been here. says Wesley is doing as well as could be expected. thinks he can break it up so that he will not have a runn of fever. he was attacked almost the same as I was at camp Seward. nothing but the best of care & doctoring & the protecting care of God kept me from a runn of fever there. I am striving to repay that care to Wesley. And I trust that I am trying to repay the vast debt of love & gratitude that I owe to my Heavenly Father by loving & serving Him. I tell you it seems good to have a brother here, one to take an interest ones welfare. of all places I was ever in camp is the poorest place that I have ever seen to be sick in. our tents are small & tucked up & it is hard to get those little delicacies we have at home and if we do get them they cost to much (when I was sick I went a number of times to a private house & got some tea with sugar & milk in & paid 10 cents for it. Milk is worth 25 pr quart & hard to get ~~at~~ at that. Little pies cost 20 to 25 cents a piece. they are thin ~~and~~ & not much larger than a saucer I have not bot. one since I came to Dixie). but most of all we miss the warm kiss, the loving smiles & those thousand littles acts of kindness which wives and mothers alone bestow upon their loved ones. When we are in health our fare relishes very well, but when sick the stomach revolts from it the Sanitary committee are doing a noble work in trying to provide our hospitals with jellies & delicacies for our poor sick & wounded soldiers but I fear that but a small share of them ever reach those for whom they are intended. Officers, Surgeons & nurses live well. This war develops all the honesty, virtue, patriotism, selfishness, hog & rascality that there is in our country men who at home were considered honest men, many of them soon have a taking way with them, soon are bragging how slick they stole such an article from the sutter, commissary ~~or some half Union farmer near camp.~~ P.P.M. has a good many loose idias in regards to the rights of property. (dont say any thing about it) he had a letter from Dealia yesterday the doctor says she has got the consumption & dont know as she will be any better. I hardly know how that could stand it if I should hear such news from you.. ..how I wish the war would close so that we might return to our homes again. not that I wish a dishonorable peace, but a peace that would be permanent and lasting....You said my letter did not appear in the Freeman. Maybe like many Soldiers letters it never reached its destination. but far more likely the editor did not consider it worthy of a place in his paper. Which is about my opinion Letters which would bee verry interesting to friends at home might not have much interest to the public. ..it has rained & rained all day to day. A cold wintery rain. I tell you our fire place comes in play to day, especially on Wesley's account. I rather guess he is some better tonight than he was in the morning. Our captain is in Washington sick. he has not been with us since we came to Dixie & I think never will. George Waterman has the mumps & typhoid fever together. Harmon is getting quite tough. Ira Wood has been sick

continued

Sunday October 26, 1862 continued

considerable since he came here but is now better Martin has had the mumps but is getting better 5 oclock. I have been up all night with Wesley he was quite sick the fore part of the night has rested better the latter part. I think he is some better this morning. It has been one of the hardest nights that I have seen. It has rained & blows a perfect tempest for the last 23 hours. it is rather holding up I think. I kept a good fire all night I dont know how that we could get along without now that Wesley is sick

Fairfax Nov. 3rd/62
morning

Dear Wife

I wrote you a long letter last night & gave it to Uncle Bob. Davis to put into the Office & he lost it. I have not got time to write much this morning Wesley is gaining verry fast I think he will be able to do duty in a week or two. he walked around a little yesterday. I think that I shall stay in the hospital I dont have to stand guard here & that is the hardest part of soldiering I have better fare here & a better place to sleep in. we have to be on duty here 12 hours & off 12. The regiment started toward War-rington yesterday all the soldiers in the country moved forward yesterday as many as 15,000 went by yesterday. there has been heavy cannonadeing in the distance for 3 days. increasing every day. yesterday afternoon the reports were almost continuous resemb-ling heavy distant thunder. I think it is 15 or 20 miles off. We shall stay here about 3 days. Some were to sick to be moved. we have not heard how the battles have turned out. I saw Chase & Stanton at Siegels head quarters a couple days ago. Stanton look like merrick. I wish you would send me \$2⁰⁰ (two dollars) in your next letter. I dont know when we shall get any pay Wesley & I have been sick so much that it has used up our money. we paid 325 for our rubber blank-ets & haverlocks I am well. have not recd. any letter from you in 10 days Direct your letter to Washington no matter ~~where~~ where we are

E.S.

Camp Jones. Dec. 7th 1862

Dear Wife .

It is Sabbath today & no meeting to go to & so I will spend a portion of the time in writing to you. My health is good, for which I feel very thankful. I sent a letter to you last Thursday morning & at noon I went on picket. 132 men went from our regiment. we were left in squads of from 6 to 12 men to guard roads and foot paths. there was 11 in the squad that I was with. we were in a grove of cedar & oak woods. it commenced snowing in the afternoon snowed until about 10 in the evening by this time the snow was 4 inches deep. it cleared of by midnight & became very cold. we had a good fire & so kept comfortable. A $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 we saw a total eclipse of the moon we were gone 26 hours. fixed up our tent last night. Slept very well. Kept a fire all night. I and two of the Burroughs boys tent together. this morning water was frozen 2 inches thick over a creek near here. Sun shines today but it does not thaw. the wind is very cold. we expect new tents in a few days, large warm tents called the Sibley Tent. Capt. Saxton has resigned cause he was not appointed Major. Wesley has not come back yet & I have not heard from him excepting what father wrote...if we get into winter quarters I shall send for a box of dried fruit, some stockings (as those that we got here are worthless things) butter, cheese, pair of suspenders, a pair of fringe mittens would'nt be a bad article although my gloves do pretty well.&some other things that I dont think of at present....O when will this wicked war end. This war is corrupting the morals of a majority of the Soldiers, many are led into a system of petty thieving, Lying, telling obscene Stories & singing obscene songs. & lately our regiment has commenced to draw whiskey rations, each soldier having a gill delt out to him once pr day this will create a taste for liquor in the men & I fear lead many to a Soldiers drunkards grave. by the assisting grace of God & by the remembrance of the sweet ones at home I think I have been kept from the contaminating influences around me. pray for me dear wife & I will still keep praying for myself. I am trying to be a Christian here in camp. I find it rather hard sometimes. It seems to me sometimes as though that it would do me a great deal of good & strengthen me much to bow with you around the family altar once more. how little we used to prize the common mercies of life. but my paper is out so good by

E.S.

Monday Dec 22nd 62

Two miles above Fredricksburgh on the river

Dear Wife I wrote to you 5 or 6 days ago that I should write to you in 2 or 3 days but it has been so cold that I could not write verry well. the nights have been verry cold the days have been windy & disagreeable. we sleep warm nights generally but find it quite disagreeable in daytimes. wood is rather scarce. the night after I wrote to you last we started at about 7 o cl. & marched towards Fredricksburgh about 2 miles when we were halted on top of a hill in sight of the old battle field & of the enemys fires. here we lay on our arms about an hour expecting to be called upon to cross the river & storm the enemys works. we were then called up and marched back towards our old camp part way & then we turned up the river a couple of miles & then lay on our arms the rest of the night. in the morning we found that we had camped with- in 60 rods of the 64th I went & made them a visit, found Byron Wilcox, Com. Battles, Charlie Brown, Singing Master Hunt, Shakespre Whipple Jeff. Zibble (he is color bearer) Ben Pratt C. Merrills, Scott Boardman, Norman Earl, Lieut. Fuller he is Acting Adjutant & probably soon will hold the office in his own name. the boys were glad to hear from home & to see me. in the afternoon we mooved over towards the river ~~to~~ about a mile & camped & here we have been stay- ing ever since. on the hills near our regt. are some batteries. our company & company G. Capt. ~~John~~ Cheyney have been detached from the regiment to support them in case of an attack by the enemy. these batteries shelled the enemys batteries during the late fight. we are camped ~~in~~ behind a knoll near the ~~the~~ battery so as to be protected from the rebs balls if they should shell our batteries. there has been no moove here since the last fight that we know of & we do not know how soon we shall moove or whether we shall go forward or fall back towards Washington to Winter Quarters. The army are verry much discouraged by the recent events. the feeling in the army is verry strongly in favor of making a compromise with the rebs & having peace in some way. God grant that we may have an honorable peace soon. if our regt. goes into a fight soon I think I think we shall stay with the battery. there are so many troops for miles around here that the smoke of the camp fires makes it look like Indian Summer all the time. the rebpickets are just below us on the other side of the river in plain sight our pickets are on this side of the river. the river is about 20 rods wide. our boys & the rebs talk to each other across the river & go across and drink coffe & swap papers & c the pickets on both sides have positive orders not to fire at each other & do not evn carry their guns loaded from the battery we have a most splendid view of Fredricksburgh & the battle field & of part of the enemys batteries. it all lies below us spread out like a map. Fredricksburgh is about as large again as Jamestown. I do not call the rebel position a verry strong one by nature, but it has been verry strongly fortified. their batteries are placed one above ~~the~~ another as the ground rises for a number of miles, so if our boys take one or two batteries the end would still be as far off as ever. we shall not get our pay now until some time next month any way. we shall get four month pay then probably.

continued

December 22 1862 continued

...mount is getting along well he has not been sick at all I miss Wesley much. I like my bunk mates first rate they are good steady boys. I have been washing today I take a camp kettle made of Sheet Iron & heat the watter & then use the Kettle for a tub. we hang the clothes on the top of the tub to dry & Iron them on our backs I wrote you that I drew two pair of socks some 3 weeks ago. I wore large holes in both pairs the first time that I wore them. they worn and as soon as a stick breaks it soon goes. it will not cost but 9 or 12 cents to send me a pair by mail & I guess you had better send me a pair. wrap a paper around them as you would around a newspaper

I have just been out to see a balloon go up from Gen Burnside's headquarters to make observations. it did not go over half a mile high.

My health is good. weigh about 150. have a first rate appetite. wish I had you to cook for me again. have a good many things to write if I had time & paper but I must close pray for me dear wife. Kiss Allie Save one for yourself.

E.S.

Christmas

Dear Wife. I have just recd. a letter from you of course I was verry glad to get such a Christmas present. I have just got back from the 64th. Saw Silas. he was verry glad to see me. he looks better than when he was at our house. he is acting as Orderly in his Co. most of the Co. in the 64th are reduced in numbers so that they have but few more men than to make Officers of it takes 18 men to officer a co. found all the rest of the boys well. Fuller had many inquiries about home & wife &c to make.

We are still encamped at the same place that we were when I wrote you 3 days ago. we have got our tent raised from the ground and a floor in & some straw for our bed so that we are quite comfortable. It has been warm & pleasant for the last 3 days. has not frozen any nights. has not rained for a long time to amount to anything & the roads are dry & dusty

I suppose you would like to know what I had for Christmas to eat well for breakfast we had fried pork & fried hard tacks (the hard tacks we have now are not like the ones that we used to get 3 months ago, they are now brittle Sweet as any crackers & nearly as tender as soda crackers) Indian pan cakes & molasses. for dinner hard tacks & coffee. for supper Indian pudding with sugar out & some Tea So you see dear wife that we try to make the best of it here I dont think that I can beat you cooking yet (at least I long for the time that you shall cook for me again) we get up some queer dishes some times, I got some meal at Falmouth 5 pounds for a quarter of a dollar or \$5.00 pr hundred. Saw a soldier from the 37th to day Charley has not arrived yet. was he coming to his regt. or going to stop in Was. I should be verry glad to get that fruit his regt. lies about one mile from us Mount is not verry well. has a hard cold. My health is good. you wrote that Marsh & Dudley had failed. Did it involve Father any. I am afraid he backed some of their notes...

26th Silas has been here today have nothing new to write. Thank you for those verses. God grant that may not be so with us. I dream of you & have about every night & then wake up & feel all out of sorts to think that it is not a reality. I do not dream any think about Allie.... there is but little sickness in the army here at present

27th morning one died yesterday in the hospital of the fever It seems singlar to me to be in sight and hearing of the rebs here & no fighting going on. all is apparently as quiet and peaceable as in a time of peace. from the door of my tent where I am writing I can see the rebel pickets on the other side of the river walking back and forth. it does not look to be farther off than from Fathers to Grandfathers. the river bottom here is filled with huge rocks & the rebs come across on them & talk to us. They say that they are sick of the war. Some of them when they get across give themselves up as prisoners

New Years Day. 1863

A Happy New Year to thee dear Wife. & if I had recd. a letter from you by this mornings mail I should have had a pleasant day If not a happy one. do write often dear it cheers me up. remember that I have no ~~kindred~~ here to talk to as you have at home. & your letters are prized beyond, I had like to have said any thing else you dont know how much I think about you every day. I dreamed that I was at home with you last night & that we went to the village to meeting I thought the choir rose up to sing, the melodion commenced to play & I awoke & found that it was midnight & the band of the 33rd Mass. near us was playing Old Hundred. I do not get homesick but I often long to press you to my bosom & talk with you once more to once more sit with you around our own fireside & once more to sit & eat at my own table like white folks. & I long once more to gather around the family altar & there with you hold sweet communion with our maker & once more with you go to meeting, & enjoy the blessings of society

but I will not repine at my lot. God has been very merciful to me & has raised up many friends to me here. I do not know as I have an enemy in the company. The Officers treat me with respect. it is here as it was at Jamestown. I can get favors from them more readily than most of the Co. & they never call ~~on~~ on me to do extra duty such as getting wood fro them & building their quarters &c as they do of most of the Co. the fare that we get here I can get along with after a fashion, but the society is not at all congenial to me We are away from the refining influence of women, home & Christian society & many of the boys throw off all restraint & plunge into almost all kinds of wickedness. Some of the boys I can not see as being in the army has any effect on moraly. I have good bunk mates. the Burroughs boys are steady boys, although not professors....It is a beautiful day today, rather cool of the two for comfort. I bought two pounds of maple sugar of our Lieut. for 10 cents pr pound (he bought it of the comissary) & for breakfast we had boiled hard tacks & some of the sugar melted into molasses for a dressing. for dinner meal pudding & molasses. for supper we propose to have Tea, boiled hardtack & molasses I have not seen Charley West yet he had not got to the regiment a few days ago. Some of the boys are over there today may be they will bring that fruit over to me the boys from the 64th are over here every day or two. Silas was over a day or two ago. I saw Sol. Beardsley treat him from a canteen of Whiskey dont say any thing about it we were mustered for pay yesterday think we shall be paid off about the 15th at 13 X 4= 52 and \$5.75 extra pay for hospital Services making \$57,75

Jan. 2nd a cold night last night. pleasant this morning. the ~~mail~~ mail has come & no letter from you O Shugar. well I will call it that you have written & the mail has ~~miscarried~~ miscarried but I must close good by from your aff. Husband

E.S.

Jan 16th 1863

Dear Wife

I recd. your welcome letter three days ago but have had no time since to answer for the following reason. immediately after receiving your letter which was at 7 in the evening we had orders to get three days rations & be ready to march at 1. I had a busy time all I assure you in dealing out rations. ~~then~~ after that I lopped down on the bed & took a nap. at 1 we were called into line & at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 were on the way up the river. the night was rather dark & the roads were somewhat muddy. It had rained the night before we marched quite rapidly & ~~about~~ about Sunrise arrived at what proved to be our destination about 9 miles from here we camped on a hill in a pitch pine wood. We rather supposed when we started that may be we should smell powder but we soon found out that we had come out to fix a road from the main road down to the river ford at that place a distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ ~~of~~ of a mile through thick woods. our Brigade which consists of the 29th P.A. 73rd Ohio 27th N.Y. & the 154th were soon at work after we arrived & had breakfasted. our regt. would work 3 hours & then be relieved by another regt. we worked in this way all that day & night & until 2 o cl. the next day when the road was finished & we started for home again, arrived here at 7 pretty well worn out. slept first rate night & feel a great deal better this morning. it rained hard most all night. it was pleasant all the time that we was gone we did not take our tents with us, so we had good quarters to come back to. Of course I did not have to shovel. every thing looks like a move forward soon. our folks are planting heavy siege guns on this side of the river to shell the rebs out of their works back of Fredricksburg. this ought to have been done before the last fight. the heaveyest pieces that we had before were 32 pounders. our forces have been making roads up & down the river. most of the regts. are required to keep a number of days rations on hand so as to be ready to march at short notice. I have just heard that we have orders to have 5 days rations on hand. May be its only a camp story. I think when a move is made again that it will succeed I think our generals have learned a lesson by the last fight. I think a heavy force will go up the river where we made the road & a large force down the river, both forces to make an attack on the enemy at the same time on both flanks. I think our siege guns & a show of force will keep the enemys attention directed to the front So much for guess work.

We have a sermon once in a while by Bro Lowing & also once & in a while a prayer meeting. it seems as though every thing was against us it either storms blows or is to cold, or we have to march every time that we are to have a meeting we have to hold what few we do have in the open air. you want to know what I think about coming home. Well my faith is still strong that I shall live to come home to my family I do not allow myself to have the dumps I find from what I have seen if a man really gets the dumps he stands a pretty good chance of dying. God has said that even the hairs of our head are numbered. his care is over me all the time. I endeavor to put my trust in the god of battles for I know if it is his will. I might be in a hundred battles & receive no harm if it is his will that I should lay my life down in the defense of my country his grace can be sufficient for both you & me. but

continued

January 16, 1863 continued

I trust that through his goodness we both shall be spared to meet again on earth. it still seems to me that I should be at home within 6 months there is a verry strong & rapidly increasing feeling in the army in favor of peace. you at home know but little about this feeling or the strength of it. I hear many curses about this war every day by Officers & men the 9 months & two years men's time is out in the spring. I think from what I can see that the back bone of the rebellion must be broken by spring or never. God give us success...Henry Whipple is here & is as tough as a buck. dont know how far we have marched in a day. but as far as 15 miles with our great packs, guns, belts, cattridge Boxes, & forty rounds of ammunition

Jan. 20th 1863

Darling

I have just recd. your welcome letter of the 6th & 7th. You cannot think how much good your kind, loving letter done me. I felt as though I would like to kiss and hug the writer. Your letter was just 12 days from the time it was mailed in reaching me. Those two letters you recd. at the same time I wrote about 3 days apart. I feel bad to be so far from you, but I don't know as it makes much odds how far off or how near I am to you while in the army excepting that mails are more uncertain & it takes longer for letters to go. I thought whilst reading the forepart of your letter, that I should like have been with you to kiss away the tears and pillow that dear head on my bosom but then if I had been there, there would have been no cause for tears unless it had been tears of joy... I am trying to be cheerful. Indeed I think we ought to be thankful that it is as well with us as it is. I have a good place here, and am treated well and as long as you & Allie are well I feel contented. Then you think you would not exchange me for Pete. Neither would I exchange you for Delia, be she ever so rich. I love you for your own dear self. Those good qualities that first drew me to you. I to with you detest a deserter. Your husband will never disgrace his wife and child in that way. I try to do my duty everywhere I go.

So Will Pebody is married at last. I wonder if she will be in meeting now with her head held as high as she used to. Bill Stevens has had bad luck again. he felt bad when the last girl was born because it wasn't a boy.

I am glad that you have paid that \$2 that is the interest and \$50 on the principal. when I am paid I want to pay the \$100 which will pay considerable towards the farm. but it is mail time and I must close so good by love

E.S.

In Hospital, Jan. 26th midnight

Dear Wife. I have just commenced my first turn with the sick in the hospital, although my time commenced the 21st. I have been busy overseeing & helping putting up the doctors tents, the tent for hospital stores & the Hospital tent. There is no one but myself here now that are used to such things & I have to oversee it all. Those that have been with the hospital I & Uncle Bob Davis left were ordered to Aquia Creek about a week ago when the great battle was expected, to act as nurses in the General Government Hospital. I do not think that they will ever be back to the regiment again. Yesterday (Sunday) I was very busy all day making beds for the sick. They are made by driving four crotches in the ground about 3 feet apart one way and 6 the other. Then we lay a stiff pole from one crotch to the other at the head & at the foot, & then lay small poles about 6 1/2 feet long lengthwise. The poles are about an inch in diameter and by lying them close together & covering them with fine cedar brush & blankets make a good bed. I made 5 such beds & have 8 patients occupying them tonight. They are all asleep now. I have had to get up 5 times to give them drink since I commenced this letter. It is all quiet now & oh how I wish that you could be seated by my side (in my lap I guefs would be better come to think about it) for an hour. how much I could tell you in that time and how many times I could kifs you. you may look out for some tall kifsing when I get home for I shall calculate to draw all my back rations, as the boys tell about when we are on short allowance (which happens pretty often lately) It seems to me that Mary that the time that we have been seperated only makes you dearer to me, & it would be to me the height of earthy hapinefs to be seated by your side in our own home with our darling in my arms. In a letter that I sent to you 9 days ago I told you that I would tell you my reasons for comming into the hospital again. in the first place I can not stand it to make such marches & carry such loads as we have to carry in the ranks. Our knapsacks, haversacks, & from 3-5 days rations. a canteen of watter, gun. gun weight 12 pounds & accouterments & 40 rounds of ammunition(which weighs 4 pounds), a tin plate knife & fork & spoon & a cup holding about a quart to steep coffee & a smaller one to drink it out of & an overcoat & one piece of tent six feet square made of heavy sail cloth make the load that the common soldier has to carry, it would make a decent load for a mule & I do not mean to carry it any more if I can help it. the nurses in the hospital are not allowed to have a gun (I have given mine back to the Captain) & when we moove have our packs carried for us & a hospital does not moove so often as a regiment does. A regiment often goes out on a reconnoifsance or on fatigue duty as our regiment has done lately & leave the hospital behind. in the hospital we have enough to eat & of a better quality than we get in the Co. again our winter here is rainy weather & if we have to be marching around it will be much more plasant under a good tent beside a good fireplace than it would be standing out in the rain as we did while guarding that pontoon train the other night another reason is the 2 shillings pr day extra wages we get. This is quite an object with me. I don't know as it is as healthy as it is in the Co. but i think it will be through the wet cold season

I recd. your letter of the 19th last night how thankful I am that God preserves us all in health. I think I should be home sick if you or Allie should get sick. I got a letter from Bush a few days ago. They were all well. They have not got a letter from our folks in a good while. I would send the letter but part of it is to Wesley & I must send it to him. We

JAN 26TH CONT.

expect our pay in a day or two Col Jones has just come from Washington & says our paymaster is on the way here. I wish I had those socks you speak of. Bro. Lowing said he would call at your house & what bundle or box you had to send he would bring to me. he will probably be there before this reaches you. if he dont fetch them may be you had better come & bring them or lend a hand. the boys hated to have me resign my office. Think they wont fare so well. I had Harmon write to have you send berries by Cyrus. He was here yesterday. I did not find out that Cyrus was at home until I got my letter in the office. Oh had I the wings of _____ that chicken you spoke of. I wish father H or S would get my harnes it is a light harnes & he will soon use it up. I do not owe him anything. how much did father pay Botsford, I owed him \$567. have not got that mifsing letter yet. Warren Waite was here yesterday. I could not find that kifs Allie put on your letter. perhaps it was a verry one. Martin & Matthew are off to some hospital. We draw whisky about once a week, I do not draw my rations or have anything to do with it. I have not touched a drop since I was in the service. Washington Boroughs draws his & trades it off to the boys for sugar. He wanted to know why I did not do so. I told him I could not with a clear conscience & I knew that you would not approve of it. There are some half a dozen that do not touch it in our Co. I am trying to live a Christian from day to day. I mean God helping me to come back to you a better man or at least no worse than I went away. God bless you Mary. I will write in two or 3 days.
Write often. E.S.

Camp near Falmouth, Va.
Feb. 7th 1863

Dear Wife

God is still merciful to me & is still preserving my health & strength, giving me food & shelter & blessings to innumeros to mention.

I sent you a letter last Tuesday by Dr Van Arnam containing my allotment Ticket of \$16. My pay amounted to \$21.20 leaving me \$5.20 cash. When Wesley & I was sick we borrowed \$3.50 Of Charley Hall. this I have paid up. Wesley owes me about a dollar of this. I shall write & have ~~him~~ him send it to me. I have bought me a verry pretty Hnssooth (I guess I hav'nt spelled it right) hat I cost me \$3.00. My cap was about spoiled by getting to near the fire the night that we guarded the pontoon ~~the~~ train. It is the prettiest hat I have ever had. I would not have got so costly a hat if I could have got one cheaper it would have cost 114 shillings or \$2.00 at home. I do not like our caps. the wet runs ~~off~~ off from them into our necks & from their shape they are easily knocked of from our heads. Last thursday morning our boys had to moove from here. they had just finished their winter quarters. it seemed to bad for them to moove from so comfortable quarters. it stormed verry hard all that day & night. they had a time of it. I am left in charge of about 20 sick & lame & lazy. that Finley that I spoke of is getting better he has been verry sick. he is the husband of Jane Varsickels.

Sunday 8 the ambulance came after us this morning. I had all my baggage carried, over coat & all. I tell you it makes a vast difference with me whether I have a gun knapsack & rations to carry or not. after a march of some 8 miles we came to our camp near Stafford Court House. found the boys busy making them selves log huts.

Monday. My health is the best it has been in some time. I weigh 157 today we have bread now instead of hard tacks. I fare first rate now, every thing goes on smoothly I have not had a letter from you in about 10 days hope to get one today I must close as the mail goes out in a few minutes good by love

Will write again in a couple of days

Your Husband

E.S.

Feb 21st 1863

My Dear Wife.

Again I take my pen in hand to let you know how that I am getting along. My health has been first rate for a few weeks. I weigh 166. this is more than I ever weighed before. I wish you could see me now. You would scarcely know me. I am so fleshy & have got so whiskered & moughtashed up. but however much I may have changed in out ward appearances my heart still remains unchanged towards thee my darling wife. The remembrance of you and our sweet babe has done much to preserve me from the evils of camp life. When temptation comes my first thought is would God approve, & what would Mary say.

Let us be faithful to God, mary, & we shall find him to be a strong hold in the day of ~~the~~ trouble trial & temptation.

One of the patients in the Hospital by the name of E. Bull died day before yesterday & was burried yesterday with military honors. this makes but five that have died in the regimental hospital since we came to Va. how many have died in the government hospitals I do not know. they have mooved the division hospital from Acquia Creek to within about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a mile of this place. this looks as though we might stay here some time. Sam. Monroe is in the hospital. he is getting most well. the rest of the boys that you know are all well. have you heard from Wesley lately. I have not. snow is all gone & it is pleasant. I have been in the Hospital a month today. everything goes smoothly along. I wrote to you last tuesday or Wednesday. have you got that allotment check yet. the 64th have mooved their camp about 3 miles down the river. the army is in the best health & spirits that I have ever seen it. the general opinion here is that we ~~shall~~ shall end the war this spring. God grant it. I long to return to enjoy your society & the ~~comforts~~ comforts & quiet of our home. give my love to Father, Mother & the other members of the family. God bless & keep you, my Mary & our sweet babe

E.S.

Camp near Staford Feb. 27th 1863

^{e2}
Dear Wife

I expect to have a chance to send this by Newel Butler. he expects to have a furlough today. to be absent ten days. I have an extra dress coat that I found at our last camp. if it was cleaned up it would be about as good as new. I shall send it home by him. he does not stop at the valley as his folks now live at Catt. Station. I will have him leave it with the depo Agent & father can get. if you can sell it, you may, it is worth 5 or 6 dollars. when our troops march they throw away a great deal of clothing I shall try and save some if I remain in the hospital so that I can get it carried. you dont know how I want to see you & Allie. (though your own felings will tell you about how I feel.) sometimes it seems as though I must see you. how I want to see Allie. you dont know what emotions that little lock of her hair awakened in my breast. when I get my pay again I want you ~~to~~ and Allie to have your likenesses taken & send them to me. how grateful we ought to be to God that he has spared her life, to be a comfort to you whilst I am gone. If it did not cost so much I would come home on a furlough. we cannot get but ten days leave of absence now, & it leaves but about 5 days to stay at home as it would take about 5 days to go & come in & it would cost about \$25. cant quite afford that yet. May be I can get a chance yet to go home as an attendant of some discharged soldier who is to bad off to go alone if I could it would not cost me anything. but such chances are rare. I am in hopes that the war will close & that we all shall come home by summer the soldiers are more hopeful now, than at any time ~~was~~ since last summer. God grant that the great expeditions against Charlestown & Vicksburg may be successful & that the back bone of the rebellion may soon be broken & we be permitted to return to home & loved ones. I do not think I shall ever go back into the ranks again I must confess that since seeing gunshot wounds I have no desire to have one on or in me, & if I ~~can~~ can serve Uncle Sam as well, & do as much good away from ~~the~~ bullets as among them I shall keep away from them. especially since the work is easier & I get more pay & better fare. you want to know if I am Hospital Steward. I am not. I am a notch lower, what is called Ward Master at the General Hospitals. the Hospital Steward's name is Harry Matterson from Ellicotville He gets \$30. pr month. Dr. Van Arnam is brigade Surgeon & he stands quite a chance of being promoted to be a Medical Director. if he does I presume that I can get some position under where I shall get better pay for I think he is a friend to me, but this is counting chickens before they are hatched or the eggs are laid

Feb 28th 1863

Dear Wife

Last night Bro. Lowing arrived bringing that can of honey, bundle of fruit, socks etc. You may smile a little when I tell you that I felt rich, but I did. I tell you those socks looked good to me I am in hopes that they will last me until I come home. I see that I have a thoughtful wife, for loving fingers have run the heels & toes of my socks. I wish I could do or say something to pay you for this and the many many acts of kindness to me. Give my thanks to mother for the honey. It is good. I steeped a cup of those berries last night & had a good eat. & then got a letter from you & one from Wesley & one from Malvina Yours was dated the 27th. I also got the one inside the bundle. If you can an order from H. Mosher you had better do it. He had better come back to the war and Alonzo with him. Hank Monroe was here the other day & said that Ed was in a cavalry regiment. He had seen him. He will lose all that the government owes him I presume \$50. & maybe he will find trouble yet. I wish that Allie could kiss her pa instead of his aporagotion. I am very sorry that Allie is or was sick. Wish I could have been at the donation. I like my hat very much. It is very hard to get one here. There is not more than half a dozen here in the regiment besides those that the Officers wear. I borrowed some money of the boys. Will try & get along without sending home for money this time. We expect to get our pay in a week or two. If I get it all it will amount to something.

Uncle Asa has strained himself I think. When my pay comes I guess I will get my picture taken & send it to you. I have my hair cut often & wash my clothes as often as at home. I have written every 4-6 days lately & shall continue to do so. I am not sorry that I enlisted. I think I done my duty & think that God will bring me safe to my home again. I should hate to come home as fat & healthy as I am with my discharge papers in my pocket. I should feel as though I had been stealing a sheep.

I never have the blues. I some times feel lonesome if I don't get a letter pretty often from a black eyed girl up north, named Mary J. Sweetland. I haven't heard a sermon since we left Falmouth until today. Bro. Lowing preached for us today from _____ & we had a prayer meeting this eve. also the first in a long time. you may be sure it done me good. the Lord was with us. Malvina wrote me a good letter, will send it to you next time, all well.

Monday 2nd March. feel first rate. Bro. Lowing & I tent together & shall probably to do so. We have a wall tent about 10 feet square with fireplace etc. It was Bro. Lowings desire that I should tent with him. So you need not be concerned about my being in bad company.

April 2nd 1863

Dear Wife

It is a warm pleasant day to day. it makes me think of home. it makes me desire to be at home putting up fences, drawing out manure, putting in crops & clearing off the doar yard & such works as I did last spring when the weather resembled to day. there is no frost in the ground & the roads are dusty but I presume it will rain before tonmorrow. we have singular weather, verry sudden changes occur. the roads get all most impassible in one days time from the depth of mud & dry off almost as sudden, Some of the troops are on the moove & others are preparing to moove soon. I think that those that have mooved yet, are merely mooving up to the front nearly opposite Fredricksburg so as to be ready to make a moove across the river all together.

(Friday. all well, dont think we shall moove within 2 weeks, as the order came last night to give furloughs for 10 days)

We expect the paymaster here every day. the boys have been ordered to have clothes & shoes enough on hand to last 3 months. I have enough on hand my boots are still good. the dr Day gave me two verry nice red flannel shirts they are new & nicely made & will last me until the war is over I think Harry the hospital steward also gave me two pair of socks. the Drs. are verry kind to me. P. Mount is not verry well, has the diareah. is I laugh at him about what is to happen he flushes like a girl. I am affriad he is acquiring some verry bad habits. Charley Brown was over to see me yesterday. had a good visit. the boys that we know in the 64th are well. we still have meetings in our tent every night two or 3 have been converted. Bro. Lowing & I talk about you & his family every night & also we always pray that God will keep our loved ones safe & bring us to their embraces again

Camp "John Manley", 154th Reg't. N.Y. Vol.,
near Stafford C.H., Va., April 9th 1863

My Dear Wife

I have been away to a grand review of the 11th Army Corps this afternoon. It was the grandest sight I ever saw. Generals Howard, Carl Shurtz, Stinwheir & Smith and others reviewed the troops, they first riding along the lines & then they passed before them, they sitting on their horses it has been a beautiful day the ground dry and every thing passed off nicely. There was 17 regiments in the review & 6 batteries of 6 cannon each the troops were exilently drilled & it was a beautiful sight to see them march and manauver & wheel in a perfect line it reminded me of some perfect machinery. Gen Howard is a fine looking man. he has lost an arm by a cannon shot at the battle of fair Oaks. he is a Christian so they say, he is in command of our Corps at present Generals are as plenty here as wood churchs at home. it was a painful thought connected with the pomp & pagentry of war, that in all probability before 6 months has passed away that probably fully one third of these men now in the flush & pride of manhood would either be under the sod or mangled

12th I recd your letter of last Sunday last night- Oh how glad I was how it cheered my heart. if the war does not look likely to close after the spring campaign, I shall come home on a furlough, some time in July I guess, I know that you would not like to kiss me any better than I would like to reciprocate the sweet favor. I look forward to the time when we shall meet again as the very acme of happiness on earth. I see you in my dreams about every night. I hope that we shall soon be permitted to meet togather and enjoy each others society again Peat says he'd like to be at home pretty fo~~68~~ a great while I wonder if Harve will think that it is of his pro-duction this time. please send me some more stamps as it is nearly impossible to get them here. I have no more time to write before the mail goes out so good by my own prcious wife

E.S.

12th Apr 1863

Dear Wife

I commenced a letter yesterday to you & got it about half written when I had to leave & I was going to finish it this afternoon. When I had just got ready to write we had orders to be ready to march tomorrow at 5 o cl. I had to get the sick ready to go to the Gen Hospital & pack our hospital stores. I just got through & feel very tired. it is now dark & it rains a little. it is verry warn & the roads are good Bro. Lowing is at Washington expected to be back tomorrow night. I have packed up his things & my own & I shall ride his horse & take care of his things. the day after I wrote you we had another review the president was there & his wife & their two boys. also, Gens Hooker Howard, Sickles & half a dozen others. there was 38 regiments there. it was a brillant pagent. I rode Bro. Lowings horse over & got up close by the president & had a good view of him & the other notables. if I had time I would write you more about it in the afternoon the president reviewed another corps at Stafford Court house I went over there & saw them reviewed. there was 35 or 40 regts there if it rains all night to night I presume that we shall not moove in the morning. we are going up to Kellys ford 20 miles above Falmouth & 8 above where we went on that pontoon expedition I presume that we are going to make roads preparitory to a general moove of the whole army. I dont know but the whole army is going now. do not borrow any trouble about me. if I am in the path of duty ~~is~~ (& I believe that I am) God can take care of me here in the army just as ~~well as~~ well as at home. put your trust in Him dear wife & pray for me that I remain faithful. we have organized a Christian association in the regt. of which I am Treasurer. we have good meetings some are being converted. I hqve written to you 2 letters a week for some time, but presume that I shall not be able to write as often ~~as~~ when we are marching I will do the best that I can. you must write often Ch how I hope & pray that this war may soon close & we be reunited again. God bless & keep you My Mary

E.S.

13th we shall start this morning & shall not take any knapsacks & be in light marching order. I think we are going to make a raid on the rebs, & will be back in a week there is a couple thousand infantry going along & all the artilery & cavalry in the country. Got a letter from Brother H last night

Kellys Ford. April 16th 1863

Dear Wife

I wrote to you last Sunday & mailed it Monday. We were two days in coming to this place. the distance is 30 miles. the weather was pleasant & I had nothing to carry & I enjoyed the march verry much. I did not have to march in the ranks but went where I was a mind to. I would stop & talk with the rebs & then go on & catch up with the regt. I dont believe that there is any Union sentiment in the country except that which is inspired by the sight of our cannon. they all say that they long for the war two close & I do not wonder for it is totally ruining them. We had a terrible rain-storm yesterday & I went over to a house near here staid 3 or 4 hours & had a long talk with the family which consisted of an old man & his wife & daughter. They were quite intelligent & members of the Methodist E. Church. the old man said that he had worked right smart all his days & had got together a little for his old age & now it was being all swept away from him most of his ~~money~~ property is in Virginia money & confederate scrip & both were nearly worthless coffee & Tea they say was worth a right smart of money. Say \$10 pr pound flour \$40 pr barrel salt \$400 pr peck calico was verry scarce & the woman said there was none near but some of her neighbors had been off & got some at \$220 pr ~~yard~~ yd. Sugar \$125 pr pound, eggs from 75 to \$150 pr doz. So you see that there is good reason why they should want the war to close they must soon be union men or starve

As we were coming along I saw a negro eagerly gathering up some salt from some pork barrels that our boys had used the pork out of. Said I youre lucky. Yes said he, de Lord Zon my side dis time we are here holding the ford. the force at this place small consisting of the 73rd Chio. 27th P.A. & 154th NY Also Weidriches Battery. When we were coming I thought we should see a fight but now I think we shall not as we are nearly guarding the ford to keep the rebs from coming across the ford & flanking our men. There is a heavy force & cavalry & artillery above here about 5 miles at Rhapahannock Station they intended to have crossed last night Tuesday night or Wednesday morning but it commenced to rain & rained for 26 hours without ceasing & now the streams are all running over the banks it is pleasant to day & is drying off fast. nothing will be done for some days to come. We have not had any mail since we came here & I dont know when we shall or when that I shall get a chance to send this. from our camp we have the finest view that I ever saw. it is a splendid valley below us & apparently well cultivated. in the distance is the blue mountains, raising their lofty peaks above the clouds. it is 35 or 40 miles to them.

18th all well. have got a chance to send this back. we have no mail now dont know how often I can get a chance to send you a letter.

Good by dear

E S

Envelope postmarked Apr. 18, 1863

19th. We shall start this morning. We shall not take any knapsacks & be in light marching order. I think we are going to make a raid on the rebs & will be back in a week

■ 19th April 1863

My Wife I am back at our old camp to get the rest of the Hospital medacines. I started from Kellys ford yesterday at 12 (noon) & arrived at this place this fore noon at 10 rode most of the way & shall ride Bro Lowings horse back. he has gone home on a furlough. the night that we arrived at the ford we ~~found~~ our pickets and the rebbel pickets firing at each other across the river. no one on our side was hurt since then ail has been quiet at the ford. Dr Van Arnam & myself went down on the river bank day before yesterday & took a good view of dixie & the rebs. we had a field glass along so we could see them almost as plain as they were by our side. they (the rebs) are a hard looking sett. I believe if I looked as hard as they do I would as lieve die in the first ditch as the last one that they are always telling about. they are none of them dressed in uniform but wear old gray clothes. it would be natural for a man at the north if he should meet one of them gray backs to put his hand in his pocket & give him a quarter I am enjoying myself verry well considering that I am a way from you & Allie. I dont have much to do now. I am simply a spectator of what is going on around me. There is an immense force of Cavalry up the river a five miles above us it takes 208 wagon load of provision & hay & oats to keep them 2 days & they get a good deal (?) from the rebs. Our cavalry went across the river the day that the great storm came on & they were affraid that the river would rise & they came back our cannon have been shelling the rebs for two or three days I think the fighting will be above & blow us I dont think that we shall do any thing but hold the ford. I shall send you a letter as often as I get a chance we have not had a mail in a week but shall have one as soon as I get to camp good by Dear

E S

May 15th 1863

Dear Wife

I returned last night from a trip to the United States ford. I have been up there to assist our wounded boys. a good many that we supposed to be dead are wounded or prisoners. I could not get a chance to go to the battle field. the rebs were very particular, & afraid that we should find out something about their situation. I went first across the river. the rebs had a guard & some officers on their side of the river. they were a hard looking they were poorly dressed, ragged & dirty. they say that they licked us, but admitt that they lost the most men. they had better have lost 25,000 men than to have lost old Stonewall ~~the~~ Jackson they had great faith in him he was a power in himself. he was desparately wounded in that charge on our corps on Saturday. our poor wounded soldiers laid on the field 2 days before they had any thing to eat or drink or had any thing done for them. Many died that would not have died if they had of had care. the rebs generally used our boys well, but they did not have any thing to do with, not even to attend to their own men

I sent you a letter about 5 days ago containing a check of \$40. have you recd. it. I got \$12. besides \$3.00 of it..they owe us for over 2 and a half months now. Col. Rice is here & I shall try to send this by him. I shall enclose \$5. for you to keep for your own use if you or Dear Allie wants any clothes or any thing to make you comfortable use it dear. it does not cost me much for clothes now & I dont calculate that it shall as long as I am in the Hospital, which I think will be as long as in the army. I can pick up new clothes that the boys throw away on the march for nearly all that I want. the government allows us \$52 pr year for clothes I have had about 30 so far. we shall get pay for what we dont use at the end ~~of~~ of the year or in Aug.

Harmon nas come to the Hospital to day wounded in the leg, have not seen him yet. shall go & see him tomorrow Newberry is a prisoner, not hurt. Col. Jones is here paroled, wounded in the thigh I weigh about 155 an quite tough, think I have got acclimated & shall be tough this Summer

May 19th

Dear Wife

I sent a letter by A.G. Rice to you containing \$12. four days ago. He will mail it somewhere on the way home. This makes \$52 that I have sent home this pay day.

I wrote you in my last that I was feeling first rate that afternoon I went down to the Gen. Hospital at Brooks Station to see our poor wounded boys. I was there a good while & would give you a list but Rice took a list & it will be published in the Freeman before you get this. the boys that had been wounded & been prisoners in the hands of the rebs had not had much care and their wounds stank terribly (Harmon is wounded in the leg a little above the knee. the ball broke the bone. I dont think that he will have to loose his leg) & it made me sick. have been rather under the weather ever since, but am getting better. Shall be well in a day or two. I have not had a letter from you dear in about 12 days. I think that the mail must have miscarried again. you must be sure I am in a pickle to hear from you. I sent you a paper yesterday & a picter to Sweet Allie. tell her pa sent it (of course she knows) I am in a hurry to get her likeness. if you have not had it taken yet have it taken with her sitting in your lap or by your side. I persume that we shall not make a moove for some time yet O how I long for this war to close so that I can enjoy the Sweets of home good by dear wife. Ever yours. E.S.

this piece of stone I got of a Gold mine near United States Ford weather to warm to be pleasant or comfortable. leaves on forest trees out nearly full. Strawberries will commence to ripen in a week dont have much to do for a few days. things do not look green here as at home in the spring but little of the ground is covered with grass or anything else instead of the scent of a thousand flowers we have the stink of a score of dead Horses. I think we shall moove into a new camp in a few days

2nd Division 11 Corps Hospital May 27th 1863

My Own Dear Wife

I recd. your letter of the 22nd last evening. you don't know how welcome it was, how my heart came up in my throat as I looked at the shadows of those two loved & loving ones, that God has blefseed me with. you don't know what a comfort it is to me to even look at your portraits. How I long to clasp you both in my arms. You spoke of my sending it back. I can not think of that not at present at least. Your likeness I think is _____. I think the mother looks better than the girl that I have in the other case. It looks a little older, the face has lost a little of its plumpness & the former a little of roundness, but in this last I can see the loving wife & mother. the one that made home the dearest spot on earth to me. You look a little sad dear. How I long to be at home to cheer you once more. I am in hopes from the cheering news that we have recd from the west that the end is not far. I am of the oppinion that when this rebellion goes down, it will go down suddenly with a crafh. I am verry sorry that Allies face shows so dimly. I can see her size, form & the outlines of her features but her eyes are dim & I can not see the exprefsiion of her face. but as it is I value it above rubies. We ought to _____ her to us dear wife. Tell father the eyes are all right, just the kind we spoke for (though the next I guefs will have a little darker) Is Bro. Wheat living on his farm now, you spoke of seeing Rufsel & Clap Jayms. You don't know with what contempt such characters are looked upon here in the army. I hope they will be drafted & have to come back again. I saw Cyrus the other day he looks tough & hearty (& I may say dirty with propriety) he is driving team at Lewision head quarters Oliver is nurse in regt. hospital. Davis & Silas are searjents & Pcf Zibble is color bearer. Cyrus told me that he had been corresponding with Adda West for a year within a short time. that how that Willis (from Little Valley on the Aldridge farm) has got the inside track. I could not help thinking while looking at him that it was a pitty that the match was broken off. they would have had such interesting children.

I haven't riped all the glazing off the ambrotype yet but I think I've looked a little of the shine off. I've looked at it by the hour since I've got it.

I am down at the corps hospital taking care of some of our boys. I have been here 3 days. Shall go back to the regt. shortly. Most of our boys are doing well. Harmon is doing well. There is some signs of another moove. We shall get more pay in a few days I expect. Weather is verry warm. What does father think of the war now. have you paid out that \$40 yet. but I must close so good by my own loved & loving wife. E.S.

Camp Noyes May 30th

My beloved Wife.

My last letter of the 28th was written from the corps hospital, from which place I have just returned to the regiment. found our boys in a new camp in a nice woods about one mile from the old camp. it is verry pleasant here & I think that we shall be healthy now that we are away from the stink of our old camp. our camp is named after the Adjutant of the regt. who was killed at the last battle. I had a letter from Wesley yesterday which I shall send to you with this. I presume that he will come back to the regt. I should like to have him with me verry much. When I was down at the hospital I showed your & Allies likeness to a wounded Dutch man. he looks at it a minute & wanted to know who it was. I told him it was mine vrow he said it was no goot, no goot I asked why. he said may be ~~you be gone~~ you be gone 1-2 years. She look toogoot much handsome. Some man he get her. I told him I could trust her. and I can trust my own darling wife. if I did not I could not love & respect her as I do. Harmon is doing well I am going to send you tonight Harpers Monthly & Harpers Illustrated Weekly. I bot. 30 sheets of paper & same of envelopes today for 40 cents

Joe Cullen has just fetched me a letter from you dated 23rd & am well now. how glad I am that you & Allie are well. how I want to see Allie if M Fisher comes send me some dried berries if you can spare some. I can get this its hot here. Shall write often every 2 or 3 days or send apaper. Good by love, 40 kisses to you & Allie

Camp Noyes. June 1st

My Loving & much loved Wife

It is with feelings of gratitude ~~that~~ to our Heavenly Father for his loving kindness to us, that I now seat myself to write to you. Truly God has been good unto us since we parted he has kept you & our precious Allie in health & preserved me through all the dangers that I have been called to pass through. I have truly found religion to be good for me here & I long for the time to come when I can bow with you around the family altar & there mingle our voices in praise to God for his goodness & loving ~~kindness~~ kindness to us. be faithful dear wife & pray much for unworthy me.

I am trying to be contented ~~and~~ & cheerful with my lot. I am treated kindly & have no reason to complain, indeed I have great reason to be thankful that it is as well with me as it is. my health is good & I feel that I am doing good we have two new hospital tents which we have up & 8 or 10 patients in them. it reminds me of camp meeting here. the ground is very pleasant shaded with large trees. Yesterday Bro. Lowing preached an exilent sermon which I presume he will get published. I have no news to write. Sent you a letter two days ago. Shall write to you in 3 days again Good by love

Yours ever

E.S.

June 4th 1863.

My Mary.

I recd. a letter from ~~me~~ Wesley last night. will send it to you. I was disappointed when I found that it was not from you. guess that I will get one tonight. Dr. Bucklin is here. came last night. have had a long visit with ~~me~~ him. I found an old Secesh knife a few days ago that I shall send home by him. it is a rare specimen of old Va. Mike Ellwell & Loop from the ~~the~~ 9th cavalry are over here yesterday Charley Brown was over here & I had a first rate visit with him. he has just come from home on a furlough I have a good deal to do now have 11 patients in hospital. last night our boys had orders about 3 A.M. to be ready to march at sun rise. accordingly about 5 this morning we broke camp & went about a half mile when we were ordered back to camp & to be ready to march at any minutes notice. we had not taken down our hospital tents so we are all right. we dont know what is up, but surmise that the rebs are going to try us an other battle on Bull Run battle field. the whole potomac army were called out the same that we were & some troops have marched off now & I dont know how soon we may follow. may be not at all. I think that I shall be left in charge of the sick if the troops moove. Cur Hospital Steward is sick & he wants me to stay & take care ~~of~~ of him I have had the care of him since that he was sick

June 6th 1863

My Own Love Mary

I recd your welcome letter of the June 1st last night. how thankful I am that you & Allie are well My health is still good (I weigh about 150.) how much I want to see my own true & loving wife & darling daughter. I sometimes think my darling that may be that I love you too well, & then I know that love as pure as that that I bear toward you can not be sinful. God grant that we may live to enjoy each others society again on earth & if not here, may we meet in heaven. When I read about Ellas getting hurt I thought the first thing, I am glad that it is not Allie How selfish we are (or rather I am)...

We are looking for the fis? here if Vicksburg & Port Hudson should be taken (as we think they will be) it will do a great deal towards closing the war. there is another move going on now. I can hear firing whilst I am writing this in the direction of Bull Run. Last night from 4 until half past 5 there was verry heavy firing down at Fredericksburgh. reports say that we have again taken the heights. we think here that the rebs have sent part of there forces west ~~west~~ & so Hooker is pitching into them I hope and pray that we may be successful this time Dan Burroughs is not hurt, is not very well, Goodrich is wounded in the leg. he is in Washington. the Wellmans are all right. fine fellows. Harmon is about a mile from here at the corps hospital all wounded men are sent off I am tending sick men. Two have died since we came to this camp. Liut. Badgero Co. A & Fayette Dutcher of Co. B. I think Uncle William had better come and see harmon. The bone of his leg is some what shattered & may be it will go hard with him. he keeps up good spirits & I guess he will come out all right. Bro. Lowing is here. he is a good deal of co. for me. we are all ready to start at an hours notice may be that we shall not have to move at all do not be concerned if you do not hear from me for sometimes may be they will ~~nt~~ not let the mail go out for a few days fro fear of giving information to the enemy 5 p.m. firing has ceased bull run way & commenced at Fredricksburg. we took some prisoners there last night Mail is going out now so good by My own dear, Loving & loved Wife

Yours ever

E.S.

June 9th We still remain in camp & dont know whether there is to be another great forward moovement or not. cavalry & infantry are scouting all up and down the ~~the~~ Rapphannock trying to find where the rebs are & what they are doing. I am feeling first rate both in body & mind. Drawed a new pair of pants today. give my love to all, reserving the largest share to your self. your loving husband

E.S.

June 9th 1863 June 9th 1863

My Own Darling Wife

How glad I should be this pleasant morning if I could seat myself by your side and talk to face to face instead of using this pen. I presume that I should draw some of my back rations of kisses. My heart warms within me as I think of you my own true wife. The world would seem very dark and dreary with out you to comfort and cheer me. I feel that while I have you I am rich, if not in this worlds goods, what far exceeds them and that which cannot be compared to gold or silver. The love of a true hearted woman. How I want the rebs whipped out so that I can enjoy home society again. I wrote to father and Bro. I Hutchinson yesterday and one from you three days ago. I wrote you back the same night this is the twelfth letter that I have sent you since the fight, how many have you received. I have also sent you one magazine two papers (illustrated) I think from what you have written that there is one or two that you have not received. Pete has got to be _____ to _____. We still remain in camp don't know whether there is to be another great forward moovement or not. Cavalry & infantry are scouting all up and down the Rappannock trying to find where the rebs are & what they are doing. I am feeling first rate both in body & mind. Drawed a new pair of pants today. Give my love to all reserving the largest share to yourself. Your loving husband E.S.

In camp near Goose Creek June 19th

My dear Wife

I sent you a letter the 15th containing \$20. The next morning at day break we started for this place reached here about 2 o cl P.M. a distance of 25 miles. I stood it verry well not having to carry anything. but the boys stood it rather poorly, having so much to carry. A man in the ranks has to carry his bed & board & his house & drink & his weapons of war. C how hot it was. no air stirring & dust about 2 or 3 inches deep. there has been no rain here until last night for about 6 or 8 weeks The country is verry beautiful but rather poorly cultivated. Goose Creek empties into the Potomac at Balls bluff 4 miles from here We are watching the gaps through the mountains There has been firing in the distance about every day for a week or more. nothing serious I guess I dont think it will be a great while before we shall get in behind the rebs & have a brush with them...we dont know out here what is going on as we dont get any papers or mail.

20th morning. Am in first rate health. nothing new. all is quiet our corps is camped on a hill that over looks the country for miles around. can see the blue mountains on the one side & Balls bluff & the potomac on the other

June 23rd 1863

My beloved Wife

The mail is soon going out & I have not much time to write. We still remain about the same as when I wrote you 3 days ago. We got a mail yesterday, the first one in a week. I got a letter from Bro. Hutchinson & Malvina & one from my own dear wife. How I would like to be at home to help you take care of our daughter. it would be the height of earthly happiness to me to be with you & Allie at home again. I hope & pray that this may come to pass. We are here watching the rebs. the main body of their army is over in the Shennendoah Valley 15 or 20 miles from here & we are keeping the rebs on their side of the mountains day before yesterday we (our army, the Cavalry & artillery & some infantry) had a fight 5 or 6 hours long about 10 miles from here. we drove them 8 to 10 miles. have not heard any particulars. dont get any papers out here. Wheat is beginning to trun, the best corn is knee high. Strawberries are gone, Cherries are ripe, A kind of (?) black berry is nearly ripe. gardens look poor. bush whackers are taken every day within a mile or two of here. thanks for those Winter greens there is none in Va. as far as I know of. I wrote to you about the Mount baby I guess you did not get the letter bro. H wrote that I was behind with my subscription \$1.00 to the Protestant. I guess you had better let him have \$2.00 to send to the publishers. but I must close so good by my own dear dear wife write often

E.S.

South Mountain, June 27th 1863.

My Dear Wife

We are now lying at the foot of the hill or mountain famed as being the place where our troops gained a desisive victory last Sept. the mountain looks like the hill back of Worths & to clear & about half the way up the side & then there is a belt of woods in which the rebs were posted with 4 batteries. The top of the hill is cleared & there the rebs had more guns over looking the whole plain below. but our men charged up the mountain & drove them all day some 7 miles to Antitam where the great battle was fought the next day. We marched 10 miles yesterday. it rained slightly all day & slept last night in a nice barn on straw. had a good sleep. I am enjoying the march verry much although I get verry tired & wet sometimes. I am in love with this state, my Mary land. The country through which we passed yesterday was as beautiful as the sun ~~was~~ shone upon, just rolling enough to give beauty to the scenery. blue mountains loom up in the distance & sometimes down some stream fringed with weeping willows we catch a glimpse of the potomac. the farm Houses are generally on the top of some roll of land surrounded with a park of trees of 40 or 50 years growth black & white oak & chestnut. the land is well fenced with chestnut rails. Abundance of fruit of all kinds. Cherries all along the road, ripe the inhabitants along the road greet us kindly & sell us everything as cheep as we could get it at home & you can but bet we live high. bread milk, butter & honey &c. a good many ladies gave us milk & bread & pies & requested us to kill a reb for them. We have been used for the last 6 months to having wimin look sourly at us. but here all is changed. lovely women smile upon us, waive their handkerchiefs at us and stand by the side of the road with pints of milk to give us to drink & tell us to fight for them & protect them. this country & itt's inhabitants are worth fighting for, & I tell you the rebs had better look out. our boys are in fighting trim. I must confess that I never saw women look as good to me in my life as since we came into Maryland. (dont be jellous little woman. My heart clings to you. I haveseen no eyes light up with love like my own dear loving wifes) I was writing of women in general terms. I dont know whether we shall move to day or not the 154th is about 2 miles ahead holding the pass through the mountains. I have written about 6 letters in 20 days to you dont blame me for writing so often I want to talk to you I must close as the mail is going out

Good by Dear Wife write verry often
your Loving Husband
Emory

Emory Sweetland

Gettysburg July 17th

My Own Dear Wife

I have been anxiously waiting to get a letter from you, but ave looked in vain thus far. I have written to you since the battle. I think you mst have directed yor letters so that they go to the regiment. Direct to 11th Corps Hospital Gettysburg Pa. Care of Dr. Armstrong. I don't have quite so much to do as I did at first. I draw & divide among the nurses the bread, eggs, preserves & _____ for the wounded. Also I draw clothes for them & see to having their clothes washed (I have two men that don't do anything but wash) I have to see that the nurses tend to the wounded & keep them clean & _____. I am much encouraged by recent events to think the end is nigh. The terrible defeat of the rebs here, the taking of Vicksburg & Port Hudson & the defeat of Johnson & Bragg & the succesfs of the operation against Charleston I think foreshadow a speedy end of the war. How ashamed I have been of my native state for the past few days. You might have heard curses long & deep against N.Y. if you had been here. it makes the old soldiers mad to think that the copperheads should be allowed to carry such things to such lengths in the north. I wish that our brigade & the battery that is with it could be sent to the citty. They would make short work of the riot They would not fire blank cattridges at the mob_0 how I pleased the rebs that are _____ it.

The pappers say Lee is acrofs the river I doubt it some yet we heard cannon yesterday in the direction of Antietam. its a cold rainy day.

How I want to see you & Allie. I persume that when the hospital at this place breaks up that I shall go to Phila. or Baltimore & stay there awhile before going to the regt. I hope that I can come home in a few months & then how much comfort we shall take together. I know that I ought to be thankful for present blefsings & mercies(& Itry to be) but my mind is continually looking to the time when I trust I shall receive the greatest earthly blefsing that could be bestowed upon me viz. your society, council, & loving smiles once more.

How is Harmon getting along. have not heard from him in some time. Mr. Phillips from Great Valley was here a number of days. A great many are here looking for wounded men now. Dear write me a good long letter & I will try & be patient until it comes. Kifs Allie for me.

Good by love

from your husband & love E.S.

Gettysburg July 22nd

Dear Wife

I sent a letter to you & in the course of an hour received a welcome letter from you. I need not tell you that I was glad to hear from my loved one. God has been good to us dear wife in preserving our lives in these perilous times. We ought to be verry thankful & love him more for his goodnefs to us. I have a verry pleasant place here considering that I among wounded men.

Martin did not get to the regt. before the fight. We have not heard anything from Wash. Burrough. I think he is dead. don't know of any Ballard. I agree with you that Copperheads are a most contemptible creature. it is a race that is extinct in the army. I had forgotten to say anything to you about that. it belongs to Peter Mount & he wants to send it to Delia if you get a chance.

I always like to have you write about yourself & Allie. it does me good to know how you are getting along & what you are doing.

It has been an hour since I stopped writing. The nurse cried out that a man was bleeding like a stuck hog. He had been wounded in the breast & was apparently doing well when some artery rotted off inside & the blood was spurting. Those around did not know what to do I put my thumb on the artery & stopped it. & the doctors are going to cut into him and take it up. Such things as this are of daily occrrance(it is the second one today) Some days I hold the legs or arms of 4 or 5 men to have them taken off. I think that we have got a darling precious child though perhaps a little too forward in some things. I hope soon to be with you to help take care of her.

So Bill Crawford has got to be a Lieut. well. I think the pattern is rather small. I'd like to drill him some. I had not heard of his marriage. Wonder how long it will be before they have a baby. Shouldn't wonder if they had a start before they were married. but I must close Good by dear wife

Your loving husband
E.S.

Please send some stamps.

Gettysburg July 26th
Sunday

My Beloved Wife

Although I can not get a letter from you I have hopes that my letters will reach you, so I keep writing to you... About a week ago our steward went away & now I am acting steward & ward master at the same time. I dont know how long that I shall stay here Louis Bishop our color Serg' is dying to day. he is a noble brave man. he went home before the battle of Chancellorsville & was married to a girl at Clean.

Even amongst so much suffering & death some things laughable will occur

The other day we had some wounded rebs in the cellar of the barn & the door being open a stray pig walked in. one of the rebs entered a complaint to the Drs. waiting boy that we allowed hogs to come about among their wounded. the boy asked him if the hog recognized any acquaintances among the rebs. the weather is quite warm & the flies verry thick

I have a chance to send this to the village & must close
So good by Dear

E.S.

Emory Sweetland

Gettysburg July 26th
Sunday

My Beloved Wife

Although I can not get a letter from you I have hopes that my letters will reach you, so I keep writing to you... About a week ago our steward went away & now I am acting steward & ward master at the same time. I dont know how long that I shall stay here Louis Bishop our color Serg' is dying to day. he is a noble brave man. he went home before the battle of Chancellorsville & was married to a girl at Clean.

Even amongst so much suffering & death some things laughable will occur

The other day we had some wounded rebs in the cellar of the barn & the door being open a stray pig walked in. one of the rebs entered a complaint to the Drs. waiting boy that we allowed hogs to come about among their wounded. the boy asked him if the hog recognized any acquaintances among the rebs. the weather is quite warm & the flies verry thick

I have a chance to send this to the village & must close
So good by Dear

E.S.

Emily Sweetland

Fragment with envelope postmarked Gettysburg Jul 31, 1863

I don't understand what there is about that note for the open (?)
(\$45-R1) I supposed that all that was paid up on that long ago but of
course father knows about that. I think you had better pay Mr. Davis when
I get my pay. it is getting late & I must close so goodby my loving wife
Your affect. hus.
E.S.

Gen. Hospital, Aug. 8th/63

Dear Wife

You will see by the heading of this that I am located at the Gen. Hospital. I came here 3 days ago & have charge of our ward of 60 wounded men & 20 nurses. They occupy 10 tents. I have been busy from morn til night getting things in running order. Shall not have quite so much to do in the future I hope. I feel first rate & have good fare. I recd. a short letter from you a few days ago. It was too short. do write longer next time. I feel affraid that you will be sick from watching with the sick. I myself can face all kinds of disease & not be affraid of catching it, but someway I don't like to have you. Alonzo is spreading over a pretty large surface I should think _____ will do well.

The hospital is about 1 mile from Gettysburg & overlooking it. Weather is verry hot. We have all kinds of vegitables here. potatoes, beets, cucumbers & tomatoes also some ripe apples. I think I shall stay here a month perhaps or two. I don't know as I shall get any pay here for a month & I wish you would send me 3 dollars as I want to get me a new hat. Mine is getting some holes in it. It has lasted about 6 months & would have lasted more than twice as long at home. it costs about \$2.00 for a good hat here. I enjoy myself verry well here. Write often dear I will write soon again. direct to Gen. Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

Yours ever

E.S.

Sept. 2nd 1863

My much loved wife. I once more sit down to write to you. My health still remains good for which I am truly thankful. I am sorry it is so sickly at home. every letter that I have received in some time from you speak of the death of one or more of my acquaintances. I am affraid that you or Allie will get sick in my absence. Take good care of yourself dear wife & also of our little girl. How I want to see her. I hope that I shall be permitted in a few weeks to hold sweet communion with you once more. May be that I can get a furlough but I shall try my best when I get my pay. I was mustered the other day a Acting Steward & shall likely get \$22\pr. month. I shall try & get this situation in some hospital or regiment when this breaks up. I expect to get a letter from you tonight. last Sunday morn you spoke of not feeling well. I am sorry you know dear. Wish that I could have been there to smooth your head when it ached so. how many & who will pay the \$300 & stay at home. There is one Lady nurse here to about 60 patients. Their businefs is to have the general care of the patients diet & get dispenseries for those who need them, pass liquor around about 3 times a day, to get the patients things from the Sanitary Commifsion & many other things. It is hard work for them. they get \$12 pr. month. I should have sent for you when I first came here but that I thought it would be to hard for my dear wife & I don't think that it is verry healthy being around old stinking wounds & then it is not a verry nice place for a woman as in drefsing wounds the men's persons are often exposed. Did you ever get a letter from me in a rebel envelope & containing Gen. Hookers signature & also a button from Gen. Armstrongs coat. I sent it home after the battle. Got a letter from Wesley yesterday.

Good by dear wife. E.S.

look of inexpressible sadness on his face as he gazed over the battlefield or studied a scrap of paper he held in his hand. I think it was an envelop torn open and written upon both sides. He began speaking in a slow and distinct voice but as he proceeded his voice grew tremulous and he would pause to choke down his emotions. When he came to where he said "we have come here to dedicate a portion of this battlefield as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that the nation might live"; tears were running down his face, he continued, "but in a larger sense, we can not consecrate we can not hallow this ground; The brave men living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here but it can never forget what they did here!" He continued to speak in the same eloquent manner a few minutes and sat down amid silence like death. Tears were upon many faces about me. There was a lump in my throat and my eyes grew dim as I thought of my dead and wounded comrades; 247 of the 154th dead, wounded and missing; three fourths of all that went into the fight, 9500 dead and 34000 wounded on both sides on the field. Just back a little way on the TOWN road was where I parted with our own Captain Fuller and as he wrung my hand in parting he expressed the conviction that he was going to his death but said, "I shall do my duty". Rest noble soul! Year by year we will scatter flowers on thy grave and ever keep in memory thy virtues. The corner stone was laid with the masonic ceremonies. The procession reformed. As they started down the hill a rosy checked young mother stood near me upon the sidewalk holding a noble baby boy in her arms. As Pres. Lincoln rode up to where she stood he raised the baby aloft; the baby laughed and crowed and reached his chubby hands to be taken; Lincoln took off his hat and bowed to mother and child while his face lit up with a rare smile that fairly transformed it; one touch of nature makes all the world akin. The procession moved on down the hill and this kingly man passed forever out of my sight- No, not forever; something in my inmost soul tells me we shall meet again where no foul assassin's arm can reach him. The grave can not hold this grand good man; he died to make men free; he loved his country and his God.

Comrades we are going to him one by one. As we fall may we have the assurance in our hearts that we have done our whole duty to each other, our country and our God.

Emory Sweetland

Baltimore Md. Dec 19th 1863 2 P.M.

My dear Wife

You will see by the heading of this letter that I have changed my base of operation; I will commence back to the date of my last . from that time until yesterday we worked verry hard packing up & sending off the rest of our hospital stuff. We finally got it sent off and started on the _____train & arrived at this place about 8 last eve. verry tired & hungry. We were ordered to report at the Provo Marshalls(There were 8 of us along in charge of Steward Knowles all of us Head Quarter Clerks as we call them) When we got here we found that the Provo Marshalls office was away to the other side of the city. We were so tired that we hired a hack to carry us for \$.25 a piece. We recd. pafses to report at 4 P.M. today. I went to a hotel where the Steward Knowles & wife staid. I felt quite unwell as I caught a verry hard cold being out in the storm considerable day before yesterday but a good sleep last night and a good breakfast(which lodging & breakfast cost \$.75) makes me feel much better. it is now about time that I started for Camp Tyler. The Steward has been assigned to Anapolis where our patrolled prisoners are.

Camp Tyler Sunday Morn

I will write a little before going to meeting This camp is a general assorting camp when men from all hospitals come before going back to their units. Here they stay until they gather up a squad. I have been arround Baltimore considerable & write to you about the place someday. 2P.M. have just returned from church. I attended the old Eutaw St. church one of the oldest in the United States. heard a good loyal sermon. There was a large congregation. I bid Steward & wife good by today. I feel rather lonely after parting with them. They seem like brother & sister to me. He is going to try & get me detailed with him at Anapolis I shall know about it in a few days. Medical Director Suchley is absent from Baltimore & will be for a couple of weeks. if he had been at home I think I should have recd. a detail immediately as the Steward & myself are both acquainted with him. I hope to get a situation here some where in Baltimore but can't tell how it will be yet

Undated

I sent two pamphlets that the Prof. gave me. Also your old letters. I haven't got that hair you sent me all kifsed away yet. May be that you think that I am a foolish boy but I know you won't chide me for loving you so well.

I wrote to you 2 days ago telling you to direct letters to Camp Tyler, Baltimore, Md. So if you should not get that you will know where to write without waiting to hear from me. What is for me in the future I cannot tell but God has been with me thus far & why distrust him now.

I have got a good clothes brush & also hair & boot brushes & by the use of them & soap & watter I keep myself looking verry well. I change my underclothes twice a week. I have not had much to do for the past two weeks & I am getting fleshed up considerable. have you gained in flesh since I was at home. do the worms still trouble Allie you do not speak of any preparations being made to escape the draft. Prof. Stover thinks that the war will be settled this winter. I hope so. To many homes have been made desolate already. I do not think of anything more to write that would be interesting to you. Although if I could see you I could talk all night. it is now 8 p.m. and I want to pack up my things to make me comfortable. I have never heard from my valise or its contents.

But I must close. now my dear o so dear wife is there anything that I can do or say that will add to your comfort & happiness.

Trust me & confide in me Mary

Your True & faithful husband
Emory Sweetland

Camp Chase Columbus Dec. 27th 63

Dear Wife

I wrote you a letter the 24th and soon after sending it, all the 11th & 12th Corps men (about 30) were ordered to be ready to go to this place at 1/2 past 9 oc. (night) I would have been glad to have staid in Baltimore until I heard from you. I recd. one letter from you after leaving Gettysburg announcing the death of our dear mother. I was verry anxious to hear from you again, but shall have to wait. If Dr. Suckley has been at Baltimore I should have received a place then, but he was absent on an inspecting tour. I recd. a letter from Steward Knowles just before starting, which I send to you. just as I started I sent 3 phamphlets to you. Prof. Storver gave them to me. Let father S. read them. I also sent you a Harpers weekly containing a note informing you of my destination & telling you where to write. I shall not stay here more than a day or two and then go to Camp Denison (near Cincinatta) and from there to the regt. as soon as I can get there. As I don't like bumming I want to be of some use. If I could have got a place in Baltimore when that I could have been more useful I should have liked it, so as to be near you. But as I cannot be I want to get to the regt. as soon as I can. I know that you would like to know about my journey. Well we left Baltimore at 9:30 P.M. It was a beautiful moonlight night and I enjoyed my ride verry much. We started on the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. We pafsed through quite a hilly county and arrived at Harpers Ferry at midnight. I think I sent you a paper containing a picture of the place. it is a wild & beautiful place situated in among the mountains. from here the scenery grew wilder as we advanced and by the middle of the day (Christmas) we commenced to ascend the Blue Mountains. We wound arround mountains and crofsted ravines and tunneled some spurs of the mountains. I think sometimes if we had run off the track we should have went down a thousand feet. by 3 we pafsed _____ mountain and commenced to descend and arrived at Bellair (in sight of Wheeling) at 8 o'cl. P.M. Staid all night and at 6 A.M. started for this place. At first the country was quite hilly & the hills were filled with coal. after an hour ride the country leveled off and we pafsed through a fine country, villages were thick and farms well cultivated. About 3 P.M. we arrived at this camp. This camp is as large as our farm. there are about 6,000 rebs here

Louisville Dec. 30~~th~~ 1863 9 A.M.

My Darling

I sent you a letter yesterday from Cincinatta, and immediately after got aboard the Steamer Maj. Anderson bound for this place. arrived about daylight. After telling you how I got here I will commence back to the time of leaving Columbus & tell tell you what I think would be of interest to you. about 400 of us belonging to the 11th & 12th Corps (convalescents) got aboard the cars & started for Cincinatta about 12 A.M. The country through which we pafsed was quite level and highly cultivated. Pleasant farm houses dotted the country and made me think of home, sweet home. handkerchiefs were waved at us by their fair inmates. arrived about 8 P.M. and were marched through the city to the soldiers retreat (which means in the country some large building where soldiers are allowed the priviledge of sleeping on the floor while pafsing through the place. There are also guards at the doors to prevent any one from going out so that one is virtually a prisoner.) in the morning about 10 A.M. we pafsed through the city again down to the wharf. I am some what disappointed in the looks of the town. the streets are dirty and the buildings are not verry tall, most of them 3 or 4 stories. The levee was crowded with Steamboats, loading & unloading. We took on a heavy load of army goods, and about 100 pafsingers (besides our squad) and steamed down the river. Opposite Cincinatta is Covington a place about the size of Ellicotville. The country about Cincinatta and down the river is hilly & the sides covered with vineyards. after we had gone 10 or 12 miles down the river a Steamer came up with us and attempted to _____ by us. Then commenced a race. it was rather exciting as we were side by side only a few feet apart. Sometimes our boat would gain a few feet & then the other. The firemen piled on the coal but at last the other being lighter loaded outran us. after looking at the scenery until after dark I found a good warm place under the boiler and made me a bed and slept soundly until we reached this place. I can make myself quite comfortable as I have my overcoat, rubber blanket, a large woolen shirt and two large woolen blankets. Most soldiers carry but one blanket, but I like to be warm and comfortable. Louisville is about such a city as Buffalo. We are here in the soldiers relief waiting for the cars to take us to Nashville. I think of nothing more. Kifses to you & All ie

Stevenson Alla. January 3rd 1864

I sent you a letter Thursday from Louisville and soon after started for Nashville. we rode in freight cars on rough board benches. it was a drizzly morning and the country was not verry interesting. about noon passed through a long tunnel making the 18th since leaving Washington. We met many ladies jogging along on horseback. This appears to be the common mode of locomotion in this country as we did not see but one buggy all day. just night the wind veered around to the north and blew stinging cold. we arrived at Nashville 158 miles from Louisville about 7 P.M. and were taken to the Zillocoffee House an interesting hotel covering one square acre of ground & 5 stories in heighth. it in an unfinished condition. The windows are all out. We suffered a good deal from the cold. We were awakened about 1 in the night, and given breakfast and marched to the cars. it was bitter cold. my beard & hair would freeze stiff in a few minutes. the cars were freight cars & no fire. I wrapped up in my blankets and gained some warmph in that way but some of the boys had no blankets or but one and nearly chilled to death, one did quite

We arrived at this place about midnight, 113 miles from Nashville. I think I never spent the same length of time as disagreeably in my life. I caught a verry hard cold and feel about sick. We are here awaiting transportation to our regiments.

January 4 9 am

I feel a little better this morning. I am doctoring myself. Think I shall get along all right now. I hear that we are going today the weather is warmer and it is raining. This place is a dirty stragling villeg. The huts are thick. I wrote you that when I was at Camp Chase that I was put in charge of a squad of men. The same Capt (Capt Anderson 69th Ohio) came with us to this place in charge of us. just before leaving us he took me outside, and said ___ young man, I've taken quite a fancy to you, and I have a vacancy in my company and when I go back to Columbus I shall use my influence with the Gov. to get you the place (2nd. Lieut) What do you think of that dear. I don't think it will work as I belong to another state from what he does. I am in a hurry to get to the regt. so that I can hear from you. I dreamed of you last night

Lookout Valley near Chattanooga
Jan. 7th

Dear Wife.

I arrived here last ~~last~~ evening. our regt. is here and likely to be all winter My cold is some better but I feel all tired out. I find Elder Lowing has resigned and is to start for home in a few ~~days~~ minutes & I can not write much but will write soon. Elder Lowing's health is verry poor. I find no letters here from home, mails are verry irregular and we must write often and we will get part of them. I will write often With much love to you I remain

Yours ever

E.S.

near Chattanooga Jan. 14th 1864

I am feeling quite lonesome to day. I have not heard a word from you since that letter that you wrote on the envelope that Mother was dead. I long to hear from you. Sol. Beardsley showed me a letter that he recd. from Wm. Congdons boys which stated that Father S. died suddenly. I suppose that this is a mistake and that it referred to mothers death. Beardseley has just started for home on furlough. The ground is bare & frozen 2 or 3 inches deep. it is pleasant & thawing slightly. the mountains that overlook us are covered with snow at the top. My patient is some-better. we are fixing up a hospital of which I am told that I am to have the charge of. Dr Van Aernam is Division Surgeon now. Drs. Day & Rugg are with the regt. I recd. a letter from Steward Knowles. I will send it to you as soon as I have answered it. There is 3 men of our regt. here under guard, who are deserters. one is a young Coon from Little Valley. He left at ~~██████████~~ Jamestown. the other two are Kelly boys from Great Valley. you doubtless remember seeing the eldest one under guard with his face bloody at Jamestown. Young Coon was treed working in a cornfield in the west. more of the deserters from our regt. have been caught lately & are in prison awaiting trial. I hear that the rest of our boys that were taken at Gettysburg are exchanged & will soon be here. I think that our regt. will number 400 men by spring. tough hardy veterans our boys have a good name in the corps. no regt. has a better name in the corps. we are soon to receive a flag from our own county with the names of the battles in which (as Gen Howard says in a letter telling what to put on the flag) the regt. has Gallantly participated, to be inscribed there on Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Valley, and Chattanooga, will be on the flag. Cattaraugus has never had occasion to blush for the 154th. it has always done its duty. in Lookout Valley our regt made a charge up a hill covered with timber (about such a hill as that by waits saw mill) they went in with a yell on a run with leveled bayonets the rebs stood a minute, then broke and run in all directions. Col. Jones is verry popular in the regt. it is bed time so good night darling. your loving husband

E.S.

Jan 15 eve

Dear

Dr Day is going to start for home on furlough in a short time so I embrace the opportunity to send this by him. Mails are slow & uncertain here. I have not heard from you yet. I am well Stephen Green is coming with that new flag so I hear. if so you might send me a pair of socks and a good pair of suspenders inside also a soft felt hat (like the one I had at home) you want No 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. you can do them all up in a small bundle. it will not hurt a good hat to double it up the hat suspenders & socks that I have will last until spring & then I shall need them and such things are verry high here. hats are from 4 to 7 dols. Suspenders 8 to 12 shillings So if I should not want them I could sell them. we get enough to eat though not as many vegetables as I should like. I buy some sugar & flour & make pan cakes & short cakes I am a verry good cook but I shall be willing to resign in favor of your sweet self when I get home. I must close so good by darling

Many kisses to you & Allie

Good by

Write often

E.S.

Chattanooga Feb. 28th 1864

My Darling wife

...We are having most beautiful weather. it hardly seems like spring though, but more like the Golden ~~days~~ days of Autumn. We have verry dry weather now & the roads are all settled & dusty. The boys are verry healthy. One man (Lyman Wilber) from Humphrey died in our Hospt. he had the Lung fever & Typhoid fever at the same time & it soon carried him to his grave. his body was sent home Genl. Howard & Bushbeck came into my tent & staid 5 or 10 minutes & talked with me about the sick boys. Howard is a fine looking man & what is more he is a Christian. his left arm he lost at the battle of Fair Caks. I see Old Joe Hooker verry often, his quarters are between the hospt. & the regt. for some nights back we have had fires on the mountains all around us in the woods. the woods are very dry & the fire burns fiercely

That money I sent started the 22nd from Chatta. I have the Receipt & guess that I had better keep it, for if the money should not get to you I should want it here to show that I had sent the money. I should have to let the company know within 30 days from the time of sending the money that it was lost or else I could not collect pay ~~from them~~ from them

dear please send me a pair of socks by mail, it will cost 4 cent under this new law. insides of the socks I wish that you would send me 3.10 cent (silver) pieces. I want to make our Corps badges of them. they look verry nice. I want one for you to wear for a Shall pin it costs 25 cents to get them made & they sell for one dollar. I would also like a 25 cent Briar if you could get one. I think that they would come safe inside of the socks. the boys are receiving socks from home by mail every day. I send Allie a ring to remember Lookout Mountain & her loving father by. it was made from the fuse of a shell from Lookout MT. of course it is to large for her now, but the little dimpled hand will grow to it if God spares her to us. I persume that it will get tarnished going home. rub with woolen cloth. tell her pa loves his little girl & wants her to be good while he is gone. I will try & get you a ring out of the pearl oyster that are found in the Tenn. River they are verry nice

Chattanooga March 13th 1864
Sunday afternoon

I sent you a letter Friday containing a ring for my dear wife. This is a pleasant day & I would like to spend it with you, or even go to meeting here but I have one man to sick to leave so I shall have to stay in the hospt. it is full warm enough for comfort & we have thunder showers quite often. all is ~~quite~~ quiet & I have no news to write. we expect to be paid again in a few days. I see that there is a bill before congress to give extra pay in the army again. I dont know whether it will pass or not yet. you know that just as we started for Gettysburg that I was paid 2 months pay & 2 months extra pay (\$15). this was after the extra pay was stopped & the next time that the other boys that were with the hospt. were paid they had to refund the \$15. I have never had to refund it yet & guess that they have lost the account. I am still whittling (not to day though) & have much better luck than I expected in selling my pipes. I wish that you could see one. they are made of Laurel Root & are about the collar of the veneering on our bureau I finish them up verry nicely & carve the words Lookout Mountain, Hooker, 1863 upon them. I can sell all that I can make from \$2 to \$5 apiece to officers. I send you \$10 in this letter. all pipe money. now I think that you had better take this for pocket money for you & Allie to get you some clothes with. I have earned it easily. I dont know how long it will be that I can make money so you did not mention receiving a letter containing a ring for Allie. may be the letter has arrived . I sent a paper with some cotton balls inside. have you recd. them. Those veteran troops are comming back quite fast. the troops are in good spirits & confident of victory. how I want to have this war close so that I can come home. I want to kiss you & talk to you again. I want to enjoy the pleasaures of home & Christian society again. our doctors think that I had better be a doctor when I get home. Dr. Rugg talked with me about it today. he wants me to come & study with him he says that it shall not cost me a cent. he often says that I am 3/4 doctor. what do you think about it dear. you are my councillor you know. I want to send this off So good by for this time

Your faithful & loving husband

E.S.

Chattanooga March 20th
Sunday Afternoon

My Darling wife

I expected to have received a letter from the one who loves me best but the mail to day brings nothing for me. Well, ~~maybe~~ maybe it will come tomorrow. I hope so at least. I do like to get letters from you, my own dear wife. My health is good for which I am thankful. the sick man that I spoke of in my letter a week ago is still alive & is to sick for me to leave to go to meeting. it is most beautiful weather & I think that we shall soon be moving. I wrote to Prof Stoever & to Steward Knowles lately Sent Susie S. & Jennie Knowles each a Laurel Ring such as I sent you. I will send you their answers. I still keep whittling & have traded two verry nice pipes for a Telescope. it is a splendid one about 2 feet long when open & I value it at \$10. if I do not get about that for it I will bring it home. the pipe business pays, I think dont you? have you recd. the \$15. that I have sent home I guess that I may send \$5. in my next. Oh how I wish that I could see you to day. you spoke in your last about spinning fathers wool (?) (?). you know best whether it would pay, or not. I dont think that I could make it pay to spin on 'shears' (?) I have sent you some papers lately have you recd. them What do the folks think about the new call for troops. It looks as though Uncle Abe calculated to finish up the war whilst he is in the chair

March 24th evening

.....the man that was sick that I mentioned in the letter died Monday. his name was Eliezen Swetland of Chaut. co. he leaves a wife & child. May God help them. Tuesday & Wednesday snow fell full 12 inches deep, but is mostly gone now. Every thing looks as though that we should move soon. & I hope give the finishing ~~blow~~ blow this rebellion. it is 18 months since that we were mustered into U.S. Service. So, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of our time is up I think that we shall likely be at home to give Old Abe a vote. the army are unanimous for him. the wind is blowing up another storm to night. I send you Harry Mattisons photograph. it is a good one he gave it to me.

March 25th eve

Dearest I failed to get my letter to the office in time for the morning mail but will try & do better tomorrow morning. it is verry bad weather ~~now~~ now, rainy, snowing & both together. This will put off army movements for the present. I do not of self feel first rate, have taken some cold. if I was at home to night I would have you make me a pepper ~~mix~~ mix(?) tea. I have sold that coat that I bought at Gettysburg for \$1.50 the same that I paid for it. am to have my pay next pay day....

Chata. March 27th 1964

My dear wife

I received a letter from you yesterday morning, was very glad to hear from you once more. I will try to keep you in money after this, enough at least for postage. I send you \$5 in this. I have sent you \$15 which ought to have reached you since you wrote. (\$5 in one letter & \$10 in another) you do not speak of receiving the coral ring I sent you. I am afraid that some of my letters have miscarried. I sent you a letter Friday. will send you a Harpers Magazine to day. I think that Elfindas drefs is very beautiful & I would like to have my wife & child have a drefs like it. I think that I have got an economical wife. How I would like to see you in your hat since that you have rejuvenated it. it nice weather again. I have not sent my overcoat yet. have not had a chance I expect to get a letter from you shortly again. I want to send this out tonight so I will close by subscribing myself your loving Husband

E.S

March 29th 1863 1864

Dear Wife

I recd. your letter and fathers last night. was glad to hear that you are well. My health is still good. as to my trying to get a commifsion in a colored Regt., I don't know what to think about it. I hardly think that I shall make the effort to get one. So Brisley is still raising volunteers. I am glad that Bro. Wheat is back again. is Asa going to moove home this spring. has Eliza heard from Ed. lately. what do they say about Inez. how does Emilys baby look. does she look as well as Allie. What is Green doing & what does expect to do the comming summer. is he worth anything. I bought me a watch the other day. it belonged to Boyd Myers. it is a verry nice watch, hunter cage, large & heavy,_____ tightly & runs like a top. I gave or are to give \$18 for that & the chain. the chain is gold plated& cost \$ 475. I consider it to be cheap at that money. I have been offered the same that I gave for it& I think I can sell it for more. I have had the watch on trial for about a month. I thought if I got a watch (& I can not get along without one verry well in the hospital) I had better get a good one that I could sell again & one that would not be getting out of repair all the time, for here if a watch gets out of repair there is no way to fix it here. if I can get 20 dollars for it I guefs I shall let it go, wouldn't you. Seargant Shippy thinks he will give me that when we get our pay. We expect to get our pay this week. When I get my pay I want all my scatering debts paid up. I suppose Wesley will pay me for my hay & oat straw this spring. if Wesley pays me up & I get my pay I think as near as I can reckon that we can pay up all our debts & may be \$50 towards our farm. it will seem good to be out of debt, won't it dear. We still have our cows & dairy utensils(what are as good as our cows worth) & we have a cutter, harnefs, plow, drag, yoke & chains & tools in all worth may be \$40. What is land worth now. if land is bringing a good price I do know that it would be well to sell our place & buy a homeplace with buildings on it. after all I should hate to leave the place when we have taken so much comfort. How I long to be at home with you again. I shall send a letter to father this morning. The furloughs have played out for the presentin the army so I cannot send my coat home at present. good by my dear.. E.S..

Chattanooga April 8th 64

My Darling Wife.

dent I received your welcome letter this afternoon & hasten to answer it. My health is good & I am enjoying myself very well. I keep myself busy studying or whittling, so time passes very well. I have sold my overcoat for \$5. shall send it in my next. I ~~like~~ like the idea of paying that tax any more than you do. I think that it ought to be refunded. I sent two dollars in my last. Dr. Vanaernam gave me his photograph today. It is a good one & I prize it very much. I will try & get an album for you to put our photographs in. All talk of moving has blown over & there is talk of the 11th & 12th corps being put into one corps & called the 1st corps. & that regiments will be put together to make larger ones. It is pleasant weather & I think the army of the Potomac will soon take Richmond. Hooker told Col. Jones that he did not think that we should have any fighting to do here, that all of the fighting would be on the Potomac. That piece of cloth is very pretty you sent me. I sent you a Harpers Magazine yesterday. It is bed time & I will close. I will write again soon with much love to you. I remain your loving Husband

E.S.

Chattanooga April 10th
Sunday afternoon

My Dear Wife

I received some papers from you yesterday, containing a sweet remembrance of home & loved ones. Thank you darling. I also recd. one letter from Prof. Stöver & one from Willie (his boy). I send them to you. I would like to go there after the war is over. How long that will be God only knows. but I long for the time to come. some times my heart grows sick with "Hope deferred." but then again I know that I have great reason to be thankful that you both have been preserved in health, whilst others of my comrades have lost their companions or children since that we have been away from home. & I feel that in my own case that I ought to be very thankful. I have always since that I have been with the regiment been treated with much kindness & my lot has been easier than most of the regt. I am quite healthy & I think I am thoroughly acclimated. I have learned how to take care of myself & think that I am in but little more danger than I was at home. & I have too the consciousness that I am in the path of duty. My conscience approves of the act enlisting I feel too that I have been of much use in alleviating the sufferings of the sick & wounded. apple trees are in blossom & the trees have commenced leaving out. I have a cane from Lookout Mt. that I shall send home to L.V. Station by one of our boys that are going home on furlough this week. I shall send it in care of S.C. Green, so father can inquire then for it. I fixed it myself. father H. may use it until I come home I send a \$5. in this making \$40. since pay day. I think that we shall be paid in the course of 10 days. I shall probably send home \$50. then as I have considerable owing me (for pipes) to be paid then. how I would like to go with you to meeting today. how we could talk if we could get together. I am living in the anticipation of the future. I merely stay at present whilst I am a soldier. I dont see any signs of moving very soon. The 11th & 12th Corps are consolidated into one corps. Hooker commands. All the boys that you know are well. I will now close by asking you to write often.

Your loving husband

E.S.

Chattanooga, Apr. 11th

My Dear Wife

I sent you a letter this morning also a paper & shortly after sending them I recd. a letter from you dated April 3rd. also a pk. containing an exilent pair of socks the heels run by one who loves me well. There was also some berries which I have put by until some time when I don't feel verry well myself. Thank you dearest. You need not send me any more socks verry soon at least, but I would like a handkerchief & some more berries. My hat is still good but you may send a picture. dear I would like to have your likeness if you have a chance have it taken for me.

_____this side of the Atlantic, he enlisted in our regt. as soon as he got over. I sent my ca__ by him and a note to father S. by him stating who he was. I told him to go to see father S. & you & make you a visit. I told him that any friend of mine from the 154th would be welcome at either one of my fathers. he can tell you all about how I am situated. He has no home & no one to welcome him on his arrival. he is a good fellow & I know that my sweet wife will treat him kindly. I did not think that he would go so soon or I should have sent some few things by him to you. It is bedtime & I will close good night dearest & best of women. That God would blefs & keep you is the prayer of your loving husband. E.S.

Chattanooga 18th (64)

My Darling

I recd. your letter the 15th & sent you 2 in return by the same mail. I have written to the children so you can read their letter & excuse me from writing a long letter this time. I got my pay to day for 8 months, excepting \$4.80 for transportation from Gettysburg to Elmira when I was going home. 8 months at \$13 = \$104 - \$4.80 = \$99.20 what I have now. I got it all in greenbacks & quefs that I shall exprefs it to father S. at Little Valley. Shall send \$95. Shall probably get 2 months pay again in a short time as it is due us. if father has sold any of our hay or potatoes you can add it to this & pay Uncle Hardy the \$100, that was due Jan. 1st. Also pay the interest up to present time, which will be about \$6.50. Well that will be so much paid, & leave us \$450 in debt. I think we can pay it if God gives us health & prospers us, don't you my love ?

I don't want you to work to hard. you often write about your being verry tired. now I want you to be careful of your own dear self & get recr__ited up by the time I get home. I don't hardly know how father could have gotten along if it had not been for you. The girls will soon learn to be neat & handy about their work under your instruction. I hope that you have gotten my letters by this time. I am cooking for myself at present. I make a gay old cook, but shall resign my position immediately on reaching that paradise (to me) home sweet home. I need not tell you again, my loving & much loved wife that you are the object of my thoughts, my best wishes and prayers. Write often darling

your husband & lover

E.S.

My health is exilent. All the troops arround Chattanooga except our Corps has gone to the front

Chattanooga Apr. 24th 64

Good Morning Darling

How is my darling this morning; how I would like to be with you this morning & get my ration of kisses & smiles & loving ~~words~~ words. I am glad that I am on the down hill side of my ~~term~~ enlistment. it is 20 & ~~25~~ $\frac{1}{2}$ months since that I enlisted & 19 months today since that I was mustered in to the U.S. service. ! O how long it seems since that I was sitting in quiet by my own fireside, in the enjoyment of all the blessings of life & the society of loved ones, whether I ever return to them again God only knows but I humbly hope & pray that we may be prepared for what in his good Providence awaits us. I recd. a letter last ~~week~~ Sunday & wrote you a long one in return, & have not written since I have been too busy the latter part of the week moving our log house. The 73rd Pa came & camped where we were & we had to move Friday I recd by mail a nice vest, by the writing on the wrapper I knew where it came from. thank you dear. it is a perfect fit. I have taken off the old buttons & sewed on some military buttons like the one I sent you. I have got me a new pair of trousers, although my old ones are very good yet. I expect a letter from you today. I am making a Salt Cellar (from Laurel Root) fro my dear wife ~~and~~ I think that it will be very nice. I cant get money for pipes as the paymaster does not come around & most every body are out of change. I have got about \$30. dollars ~~and~~ worth trusted out. shall probably get most of it. butter is \$95 pr pound here, potatoes \$1.20 pr bush. yesterday was very warm, but to day we are having showers & it is cooler

1 P.M. Mail has come & no letter from you. well I shall have to wait I suppose. I am going to write Knowles this afternoon so I will close this and write again in a day or two

Direct your letters to 154th N.Y. 2nd Brig. 2nd Div. 20th Army Corps
via Nashville
ever your lover & husband

E.S.

Killed a scorpion a while ago

Chattanooga April 27th

Darling

I recd. two letters from you yesterday, one mailed the 19th & the other the 21st. It had been nine days since that I had heard from you before but I see that it was not your fault that I had to wait so long for a letter. it is warm enough for good hay weather now. There is some talk of moving again. it is not likely that we shall stay here long I should dread the coming hot weather if I was in the ranks carrying such loads & marching in files. but now I shall have but little to carry & carry & can march by the side of the road or where that I have a mind to. I think that it will be verry hot here this summer. my health is good. & I haveno reason to complain about my treatment or of what I have to do, I have enough to eat drink & to wear. but for all this I do not live (except in the remembrances of the past & in hopes of days to come) I only stay.

you ask about ~~Wm~~ Wm Bigler he had the small pox at Bridge Port & it is supposed by his co. that he died as nothing has been heard of him since. ...

E.S.

HEAD-QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Chattanooga April 29th 1864

Special Field Orders No. 120

XX. Pvt. Emory Sweetland Co. "B" 154 N.Y. Vols. is hereby detailed to proceed to Washington D.C. in charge of Pvt. Alvin Hitchcock Co. "A" of the same regiment and deliver him to the authorities in charge of the Insane Asylum at that place.

Upon completion of this duty Pvt. Sweetland will return immediately and report for duty with his regiment. To be absent not to exceed Fifteen (15) days. The QrMr's Depm't will furnish the necessary transportation.

By Comd of Maj Gen Thomas Wm. D. Whipple A.A.G.

War Department Washington D.C, May 12th 1864

This order is so far modified as to allow Private Sweetland until the 22nd inst to rejoin his Regiment

By order of the Sect. of War

Louis H Pelonge A.A.G.

██████████ Chattanooga May 1st

My Sweet wife

I would be glad to sit by your side this morning, & look into your eyes, & see them light up with love for me; I know that you are true & faithful and if I could only see you this morning & hear you say Dearest & feel your soft arms about my neck & your warm kisses on my cheek & lips, I would ask no higher earthly pleasure. Well the days are wearing away slowly. I am verry much in hopes that the great preparations for the spring campaign will be successful in closing up the war this summer. there is a continual string of troops going by here towards the front. we are getting enormus armies to-gather & I some times grow almost heart sick when I think of the great battles that are soon to take place & of the thousands of widows & orphans that will be made God bless the right & subdue our enemies. I think that we shall soon moove as the 3rd Div. of our corps have orders to march at 5 A.M. tomorrow. I saw a regt. (10th U.S. Cold.) go past a few days ~~ago~~ ago the darkies looked ~~very~~ well & made a soldierly appearance. The weather is splendid, warm showers occasionally. the trees are draped up in their green suit & the grass is getting quite a start. I have picked some flowers & will send them to you in a magazine. My health is better here than it was in Va. I think it goes better with me here saw a big review & sham fight Friday. I would not have begrudged \$25. to have ~~seen~~ had you seen it, as you would have seen all the pomp & pagentry of war, & a battle without any of its terrible realities. (I stood upon a hill & saw the long lines of men & the bright brass cannon firing at each other blank cartridges)

We are expecting 4 months pay soon. I think I can send home enough to make what you have \$100. then. I am now with Dr Day taking care of him. he has got the dysentary quite bad. you spoke of sending me the account of the starvation of one of our 154th boys in Richmond. it has not arrived ~~yet~~ yet. I can not go to meeting to day. how I long for the time when I can enjoy sabbath & sanctuary privedges as well as home comforts & your society, smiles, loving words, kisses & embraces. I expect a letter from you to day by none came. I should like to have you send some tatting ~~to~~ to Mrs Knowles. She was verry kind to me

Monday morning mail is just going out. 3rd Div. have just past by. we have no orders yet & may not go for some days yet. Good by ~~my~~ Sweet Wife. With much love I remain ever your ~~loving~~ lover & husband

E.S.

Nashville May 20th

Darling

I have just arrived at this place safe & sound but very tired. no accident or delay on the road. am ~~well~~ all right now. shall start tomorrow noon for Chattanooga. I have found the Eldest Wellman here. he had the top of his left ear shot off. from him I have learned the particulars of the fight. Our regt. lost eight killed & 48 wounded & 10 missing. The boys as usual fought ~~well~~ nobly.

Shippy from Co. B & Bishop the color bearer are among the killed. Charley Hall wounded through the right lung. Markham right arm off. Col. Jones was brused by fall from a rock. these are all that you know that I think of at present. I want this to go out to night so I will close & write again from Chattanooga

With much love
I remain ever yours

E.S.

My fare was \$650

All is going well at the front. we have taken Rome^m Ga. & a brigade of Prisioners

Burnt Hickory Hills, near Dallas, Ga
10 am May 26th

Darling, I promised to write you from Chattanooga but I did not have time as the cars did not stop long but came to Kingston 76 miles below Chatta found the regt. there just starting on a march. The regt. lost 62 men killed & wounded & missing in the 2 fights that they were in. yesterday we commenced fighting at this place & have driven the rebs 3 miles the corps lost heavily in killed & wounded. we had two or 4 wounded. none killed, in the 154th. expect to have a hard fight to day & to pick them out. think we shall be in Atlanta in a week. weather verry hot. would write more if I had * time. the mail does not run now & may be I will write more before I send this God has protected me thus far. praise his name! much love to my darling ever yours

E. Sweetland

May 31st

My Sweet wife. I have had no chance to send out this letter & will improve the lull in battle to write again. we still hold the same line of battle that we did the 26th & have not attempted to take the reb works our breast works & theirs are about 40 rods apart & both sides keep up a ~~some~~ stragling fire with muskets & sometimes with cannon but few are hurt on either side as they are protected by breast works & only the head is exposed when they fire. we are well supplied with provision. the railroad runs to Kingston 22 miles in our rear 4 of our regt. have been slightly wounded since the first days fight. I think that we shall flank them out of their strong hold yet. the weather is hot. straw berries are dead ripe here (but verry few here) black berries will be verry plenty. the are 2/3 grown now, peaches to the country where we are fighting is all woods & quite hilly... the boys are not paid off yet... I am ~~with~~ with the hospital still

6 miles from Marietta Ga June 3rd 1864

My loving & much loved wife

I sent you a letter 2 days ago since which time we have mooved about 5 miles to the left toward the Chattanooga & Atlanta R.R. there is but little fighting going on & but few killed or wounded. both sides are in good positions and wel fortified & are trying to out manuver each other. My health is good & we get pleanty to eat such as it is. the boys are pretty well worn out marching & fighting so long. pretty much all this country is still in a state of nature. The mails come & go out verry irregular. I have not heard of any letters being received by our boys of a later date than May 16th.

June 4th Morning. it is raining & looks like a rainy day firing still continues along the lines. our boys are improving the time that we are lying here in resting & recruiting up. Sam (?), Kinyon Martin B. Watterman are well & with the regiment. I presume that we shall moove nearer to Marietta to day or tomorrow. I wish I could see you this morning I could tell you more in 5 minutes than I can write in an hour.... we hear that Grant is within 4 miles of Richmond I think that we shall have Richmond & Atlanta by July 4th. Last year we got Vicksburg & Gettysburg at that time what a glorious thing it would beto celebrate this year in the same manner as last year. I am getting more tired of the war every ~~day~~ day & long for the comforts of home & the society of loved ones. still I try to be contented & discharge my duty. we have had about 75 men killed & wounded since we started out from Lookout Valley out of 200 men that we started with. it is sad to think of. most of the wounded are slightly wounded..

Sunday June 5th

Darling we still are lying in the same place that we was when I commenced this letter, but expect to moove this afternoon of in the morning as the rebs have at last "dug out" & left us in possession of the field & their works. we dont know how far they have fallen back but I hope it is out of this vast wilderness. I am glad of the oppertunity of spending this Sabbath in quiet. I wish that I might go with you to the house of God. I truly feel the need of having my spiritual strength renewed that I might be better fitted for the trials that I have to encounter here in the army. Pray much for me your husband, Mary. It has cleared off & is pleasant this afternoon for the first time in 4 days. I think that the R. Road will opened down as far as Marietta in a few days. we had timber already framed & loaded on cars for every bridge between Chattanooga & Atlanta & it only takes a day or two to bridge a river if the rebs destroy one on their retreat. this is going to war by "Rail" this saves a great deal of hauling with wagons. I think of nothing more that would be of interest to you. I am in hopes of getting a letter soon, I wrote you from Nashville & once since with much love & c

E.S.

6. eve. all right

E.S.

no letter

near Marietta Ga June 12th 1864

My much loved wife

It is ~~so~~ rainy nasty weather. it has rained most of the time since the first of the month. we are still lying in the same place that we was when I wrote to you three days ago. we have not recd. any mail since I recd. your letter. the other corps have been mooving forward & fighting some but no general battle yet. our army are receiving reinforcements & the R.R. is finished down as ~~so~~ far as we are, so I think that we shall soon be mooving forward again. I have verry strong hopes that this campaign will close the war Grant appears to be successful thus far & we certainly have been here. Gen. Sherman is brother to the tailor Sherman at Randolph & looks like him. I have seen all of the Generals in the army that are of any note but Hooker is the King of soldiers in appearance. Tall, straight, well proportioned. his smoothly shaven face always in every time of danger wearing a smile & no matter how hot the fire he will ride up to see how matters progress.

10 A.M. Still ~~so~~ raining. how I wish that I could have you cook dinner for me to day & I would like to come in out of the rain & sit by your side. I hav'nt felt first rate for a day or two & I believe that you could cook up something full as palatable as Hard Tack. yesterday was 22 months since I enlisted. 22 months of the best of my life given to my country. I hope & pray that it may not be in vain that we thus sacrifice our lives, health & happiness I am reading the Testament by course am at the 13th chapt. Matthew read 3 or 4 chapt. pr day

near Pine Mountain Ga June 17th 1864
morning

Darling

I recd. your letter of the 2nd 3 days ago & have had no time to write as we have had our hands full dressing wounds. Our regt. commenced fighting about 3 hours after I recd. your letter we drove them about 3/4 of a mile that day. our regt. lost heavily in the two days fight. here is the list

Co. A. Augustus Rogers. Dead
" " Thomas Heafner. do
" " Elias Kenyon wounded Right eye out & across for Head
" " Colby Bryant, hip slight
" " J. Merkt shot his own finger off

Co. B. Bryan N. Carter arm
" H. Wolff side

Co. C E. Wright
L. Wright Dead

Co. D. J. Crowell. Through chest
B. Bently spent ball
D. Brand Dead

E. Sgt. Barnhart. leg slight
J.N. Porter shoulder
Sergt. J. Wilson foot
J. Quilliam hip & both feet
J Strain

F. Sergt Ames arm & leg
M Skinner leg

I Tom Mason shoulder arm & foot

Co. G. N. Cook, Jaw
Sergt. C. Cyer, spent ball

Capt Crosby side, badly making 24 out of one hundred & fifteen men. The reg & Brigade fought nobly as usual this morning the rebs have left their strong in our hands. we dont know how far they have retreated. we are just going to start in pursuit Col. Jones commanding the brigade I buried Rogers, Heafner & Brand & put boards at their heads with their names carved on them, Rogers was killed trying to help Heafner off the field. Brand died praying God to forgive him & Telling us to tell his wife that he thought of her to the last. I am with the Doct on the field in the rear of the regt ready Dress the wounds as soon as they are wounded. of course I am in some danger but God has preserved me thus far bless his name! Mails are verry irregular in going out & you must not be worried if you do not get any news from me I am sorry that you had to wait so long for a letter. I have recd. 2 letters from you since I came back & sent 6 this makes. Weather pleasant.... Kenyon is badly wounded but I think he will live. he has been one of our best soldiers always in every fight. he is cheerful & confident of recovery. he will be discharged if he recovers Send word to his folks if you can also to Augustus Rogers wife that I saw him well burried & the spot markt The things he had in his pocket A. Perry who will send them home when he has a chance it is most all woods here now darling goodby for this time I send much love & many kisses. ever your loving husband

E.S.

A number of miles from any where
June 20/64

Darling

- I wrote you 3 days ago & sent you a list of the killed & wounded in our regt in the fight & that we were about moving in pursuit of the rebs. well we passed over their works found them verry strong & in our hands could not have been taken. they were built of great logs about 6 feet high & as many feet thick & then dirt thrown over on to the front side & then at last a log was placed on the top of the pile & raised about 4 ~~feet~~ inches for the purpose of permitting guns to be fired without exposing themselves. we came into an open lot or plantation of perhaps 1000 acres the most cleared land that we have seen in some time. the rebs were on the opposite side of the clearing & commenced shelling us. our batteries run up on hills surrounding us & replied & soon silenced them. it was a grand sight. the shells played over us from every hill at them. we drove them about 2 miles to their fortifications & the next day we advanced slightly & made the fire so hot that at night they were glad to ~~dig~~ dig out & leave another long line of rifle pits & a post of much strength & made for 20 cannon. yesterday we advanced about 1 & $\frac{1}{2}$ miles & found the rebs again & fought them some. we fight & drive them some every day & the country grows more open every day it rains every day & is verry disagreeable weather & mud is everywhere. I tell you I miss the comforts of home verry much. but when I see how much better of I am than most of the boys I feel that it would be wicked to complain. I was taken vomiting the night that I wrote you & vomited 6 times during the night & was quite sick it rained hard all night & I could not help thinking how much better off I was than most of our boys who were lying close to the enemy without fire or shelter & exposed to bullets while I was on a good bed by a fire & had good care. I am well now & I think it done me good to get cleared out. had a mess of black berries yesterday. but one of our boys (James McFarland) Co. D. in leg) wounded since I last wrote you as we have been protected by breast works....

E.S.

June 21st

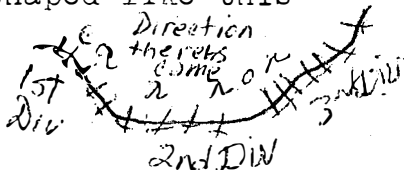
Darling. I have not had a chance to send this off yet, but expect to have a chance to send this to Ringold in the morning by young Farley of ~~Farleys Mills~~ Farleys Mills we have advanced some since I commenced writing this. There is steady fighting on some part of the line all the time indeed one scarcely had a moments cession of cannonade & musketry since the 25th ult. I am getting so used to the noise that I can sleep soundly whilst heavy fighting is going on near us. I am feeling well to day. our boys have been building strong Breast works today. it has rained every day but 2 this month & C how muddy we can hear the rebs cars from where we are today corn is from 1 foot to 4 feet high here, they plant but one stalk in a hill. the heat is not oppressive now since the rain it is getting to dark to write any more So good night love your loving husband

E.S.

Near Marietta - June 25th 1864

My Darling Wife

I recd. your short but verry welcome letter of the 13th yesterday was verry glad to hear that you were well & sorry to hear that my letters do not reach you, as near as I can tell no letters have been carried through for the last month but are stored in Chattanooga or Nashville there is but little encouraging for me to write for the mails are ~~not~~ stopped for the present going north... My health is quite good & I am getting along very well. since that I wrote to you last we have advanced about 1 mile to a large clearing of perhaps 1000 acres. we have long lines of breat works in the edge of the wood on one side of the clearing & the rebs have the same in the edge of the woods on the other side perhaps 1 mile off. 2 days ago about 5 P.M. the rebs made a great charge on the 3rd Division of our corps the lines of our corps are about 1 mile & a half long and shaped like this



The fight lasted about an hour & the rebs were terribly defeated & with verry small loss to us as ~~not~~ our men were protected by earthworks & the rebs had to cross the open field with all the cannon in each division in the corps plowing into them. I was where I could see it all & was not in much danger myself. The excitement among the boys was intense during the charge & when at last the rebs unable to stand the terrific shower of shells & balls gave way in the utmost confusion the cheers of our boys could have been heard for miles the rebs lost probably 1000 men killed & wounded in the charge I went on the field & saw many of the dead & dying lying around. I could not but pity them even though they were enemies. the rebs have great fear of Hooker & the Star Corps. three of our regt. have been wounded since I wrote last Martin Bushnell was hit yesterday in the ankle by a stray bullet fired by the rebs & has had his right foot taken off. he is doing well. he was a first rate soldier. J. Wilcox Co. H in hand James McFarland Co. D. in ankle, had his foot taken off. I send you a letter our boys found in a house near here. The mail is going out & I must close so good by with much love I remain your true & loving husband Emory

Morning June 26th 1864

My Dear Sweet Wife

I wrote to you two days ago & soon after recd your letter of the 4th & today yours of the 8th. Thank you dearest for your letters. I am glad to know that I am still remembered by loved ones. I am glad to be remembered in your meeting for prayer. I know dear wife that you will always pray for me. How I should like to go with you to that two days meeting. I think that some body over in Leon must have been in _____ business from what you write. I pitty Eliza Bigler poor orphan girl. I don't know which is the worst to be pittied Eliza or the one he married. you speak of your dream dearest. I could have told him that he would have scratched. Darling I know that you will be true to me, I have not a doubt in my mind that if I am permitted to return that I shall find you the same kind, loving & true wife that I left when I left my happy home.

Sherman was not badly defeated we wanted to advance our line the 27th ult. our corps done their part but part of the line did not succeed in advancing as far as they were ordered, & the 14th & 4th corps lost about 1500 men killed or wounded. the rebs probably 1/2 as many. of course we must expect to meet with some reverses, as a whole this campaign has been verry sucefsful, we have advanced 135 miles into the heart of the enemy's country. have killed & wounded as many as we have lost. (of the enemy) besides taking at least 10000 prisoners. our lofs in this army is about 15,000 killed & wounded; of which our corps has lost 6000. So you see which corps has done the fighting. our corps has made itself a name here of which many will be proud.

The poppers opposed to the administration persistently misrepresenting the news, belittling our victorys, enlarging rebel sucefses & making our lofs by battle frightfully large & saying nothing about the rebel lofses. A clique of secesh sympathizers & men that love gold more téhan their country are trying to win every thing in their eager haste to get rich. for some time now gold has been advancing. if we gain a victory gold goes up 5 percent, if the rebs gain an advantage it goes gold again without bound. & so with almost everything else, now there is no sense in this. it shows that it is all speculation, the bubble will burst by & by & everything will go down with a crash. that raid into Maryland does not amount to much. it _____ to try & draw off some of Grants forces. The damage done by such raids on either side is always exaggerated. there is rumors arround again that we may be going to the east again. if we do I shall try to get a place with Steward Knowles. I shall write ti him shortly again & send that tatting. I think it is verry pretty. the sick & wounded aren't back to Chatta. or Nashville & we know nothing more of them than you do at home. part of our troops are acrost the river & near Atlanta. it is dark so good by

your loving husband
E.S.

Those verses you sent me were verry good. I would like to write more but it is dark. a kifs to you
ever yours

Front of Atlanta, near Chattahoochee River July 6

My Darling Wife

I dont think that I ~~can~~ can send this to you in a number of days, but I will write & then send it as soon as I can. there is an order that stops the mail going out ~~for~~ for 10 days from the 2nd but I will try & get this out some way. I expected a letter from you today but none came. I wrote to you the 2nd I believe & that night the rebs evacuated their strong works again. in the morning we pursued them about 4 miles when we came to another line of works. all day (the 3rd) rebs came in squads of 2 or 3 to 20. our corps took about 1200. it is said that 4,000 came in to the whole army. this is the most wholesale desertion of the whole war they say that most of their army will desert as soon as they can get a chance. this looks something like the war closing. but still we shall have hard fighting to get Atlanta. The 4th we lay on a hill in sight of the rebs & our cannoneers amused themselves shelling the Johnneys. at night the rebs again left a long line of forts & breast works that must have cost them weeks of hard labor & fell back across the river or a branch of it and we pursued them as usual. we now lay on a ridge with the river in the valley below. it is most all woods around here & as soon as we came here I climbed a great bushy oak & got a view of Atlanta. it appears to be on a ridge in plain sight of us and about 10 miles distant. but I'll bet that we shall have to march 50 or a hundred miles to get it yet. it appears to be strongly fortified. 10 or 15 thousand negros have been at work on the fortifications for a number of months & of course they are strong. its hot here. I picked 3 qts black berries this morning and had a straw berry short cake for dinner. it was licking good but not so good as my dear good wife can make. wheat is ripe some of it cut & thrashed. saw corn yesterday ~~at~~ 12 feet high. but little fighting for the last 4 days. no body in our regt. hurt since I last wrote

July 7th I will now finish this & send it off as I have a chance. we mooved yesterday to the left about 4 miles & have gone into camp on a high ridge & shall probably stay here a few days (before we make another moove on Atlanta) to wash & recruit up. I have just washed my shirt Drawers & socks. my health is quite good. I am not bothered with diarhea's this summer as I was afraid that I should be. that & bullets are about the only disease that trouble us in this hot climate. Dr Van Aernam got back to the regt yesterday from home. but little skirmishing going on now. Cars are running to Marietta now...

E.S.

July 11th 1864 -
in camp near Chattahoochee River

I sent you a letter 3 days ago and shortly afterwards recd. one from you dated the 28th ult. My dear, kind loving wife "as cool water to a thirsty soul" so are your loving letters to me. Darling I can not tell you how much that I love you or how sweet I prize your loving letters. I often long for your society and think of the time when we were enjoying the quiet of our own home and almost all the blessings of life, now gladly would I hail the return of an honorable peace that would permit me to enjoy these blessings again. how thankful I am that our lives have been spared through our long separation O let us be faithful to our Heavenly Father.

You want to know what I am doing & what I get to eat &c. well I have been Orderly for the Dr's since that I returned & my duties now to deal out what medicines are needed in our regt. & in time of battle to carry a box of instruments & bandages & do up wounds. we follow the regt. when they go into the fights & get behind some knowl or big tree & do up the boys wounds as soon as they are wounded & then they are taken back to a hospital. we are in some considerable danger & also have an exilent chance to see all that is going on, we being just farther enough in the rear to see to advantage for the first month after I returned we had hard tack pork or beef, sugar & coffee to eat & my health not being first rate it went rather tough but since that we get beans & sometimes hams & flour & black berries & my health is quite good so I get along quite well now. I wash myself all over every day & have a far better chance to keep clean & have better food & a better bed & better chance to sleep than I would if I was in the ranks & then I do not have to carry much when I march

The rebs have all gone across the river and left another strong line of works. I should think that they would get sick of such works they have dug the ground all over from here to Louisville Ky (about 500 miles) since the war commenced. I should think that they would find them last ditch before a great while I presume that we shall cross the river today or tomorrow. there is a report in circulation here that part of the reb army (thinking it useless to stop our forward progress) have gone to Lee & if that proves true I think that we shall rejoin the army of the Potomac. but probably its a yarn corn is 15 feet high (some of it) & still rising. H. Whipple is a prisoner. we do not know whether Newbury(?) is dead or not...

2
June 13th morning

I did not get a chance to send off my letter yesterday so I will write again this morning. I am quite well & trying to pass away time as agreeably as I can but my thoughts are continually going back to other days when I enjoyed your society. but why repine at our lot. how many of those that enlisted with me are lying on beds of pain with mangled limbs or else have received the long furlough of eternal rest.

The main part of the army the 23rd 4th 15th & 17th corps have crossed the river some miles above here & took many prisoners. I think we can take Atlanta anytime that we want to. but we must wait Grants motion before Richmond. if we press the rebs to hard here they will all leave ~~for~~ for Richmond & crush Grant before he could be ~~re~~ reinforced from our army. the rebs work & build long lines of works when we march out on the flank & go there & thus render them useless as a means of defence. I saw an Atlanta paper that said that they had made over 300 miles of breast works & then been flanked out of there we have about 150,000 men in our army & the rebs about $\frac{1}{2}$ as many as near as we can judge but they have all the advantages as we have to be the attacking party & also they know all about the country & we have to ~~protect~~ protect our communications whilst theirs are safe. We mooved our camp yesterday a short distance & made a very nice one on a high oak ridge & its thought that we shall lay here a few days & be paid off. our pickets are on one bank of the river & the rebs on the other & by common consent all fireing between pickets has ceased for the present & Johnes & Yanks bathe in the same stream & carry quite a trade in coffee, sugar & tobacco. 3 or 4 days ago our ~~men~~ men captured 4 cotten ~~facttories~~ facttories about 10 miles east of Marietta much cotton cloth &c & 400 factory girls who were all sent north of the Ohio River. they had been engaged in making reb uniforms. There is a nice cool ~~breeze~~ breeze today Ive filled my sheet so I will stop another kiss love your husband

E.S.

evening July(?) 16th(?) 1864

My Dear Sweet Wife

I wrote to you two days ago & soon after recd. your letter of the 4th & today yours of the 8th Thank you dearest for your letters. I am glad to know that I am still remembered by loved ones. I am glad to be remembered in your meeting for prayer. I know dear wife that you will always pray for me. How I should like to go with you to that two day meeting I think that some body over in Leon must have been in Low business from what you write. I pity Eliza Bigler. poor orphan girl. I dont know which is the most to be pittied Eliza or the one ~~she~~ he married. you speak of your dream dearest. I could have told him that he would have been scratched. Darling I know that you will be true to me, I have not a doubt in my mind that if I am permitted to return that I shall find you the same kind, loving & true wife that I left when I left my happy home.

Sherman was not badly defeated we wanted to ~~advance~~ advance our line the 27th ult. our corps done their part. but part of the line did not succeed in advancing as far as they were ordered, & the 14th & 4th corps lost about 1500 men killed & wounded. The rebs probably $\frac{1}{2}$ as many. of course we must expect to meet with some reverses. as a whole this campaign has been verry successful. we have advanced 135 miles into the heart of the enemys country have killed & wounded V as many as we have lost (of the enemy) besides taking at least 10,000 prisoners. our loss in this army is about 15,000 killed & wounded & of which our corps has lost 6,000. So you see which corps has done the fighting. our corps has made itself a name here of which we may well be ~~proud~~ proud The pappers opposed to the Administration persistently misrepresent the news belittling our ~~victories~~ victorys, enlarging rebel successes, & making our losses by battle frightfully large & saying nothing about the rebel losses & a clique of secesh sympathizers & ~~men~~ men that love gold more ~~than~~ than their own country are trying to ruin everything in their eager haste to get rich. for some time now gold has been advancing. if we gain a victory gold goes up 5 pr. cent. if the rebs gain an advantage up goes gold again with a bound. & so with almost ~~everything~~ everything else. now there is no sense in this. it shows that it is all a speculation. the bubble will burst by & by & every thing will go down with a crash. that raid into Maryland does not amount to much. it was nearly to try & draw off some of Grants forces. The damage (done by either side) on such raids is always exagerated. there is rumors arround again that we are going to the east again. if we do I shall try & get a place with Steward Knowles. I shall write to him shortly again & send that tatting. I think it verry pretty the sick & wounded are sent back to Chatta. or Nashville & we know nothing more of them than you do at home. part of our troops are across the river & near Atlanta.

it is dark so good by

your loving husband

E.S.

Those verses you sent me were verry good I would like to write more but it is dark a kiss to you Ever yours

July 20th near Peach Orchard creek

Darling Wife.

I sent you a letter last Saturday or Sunday I forget which & Sunday we marched up the river about 4 miles & crossed the river & went about 4 miles towards Decatur (on the Atlanta & Augusta) & camped for the night & in the morning marched about 6 miles to where we are now camped the 17th & 23rd corps have swung around & cut the rail roads south & east of Atlanta & the rebs will now have to fight us & lick us or retreat & leave Atlanta it is most all woods here we are going to march & I must close

Good by

Peach Orchard creek Near Atlanta July 21st

My Darling Wife

I recd. your verry welcome letter of the thirteenth yesterday noon & shortly afterwards we ~~we~~ were advanced & shortly ~~after~~ afterwards the rebs made a great charge on us. they forced our division (which was farther advanced than the rest of the corps) back about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile & then we held them & drove them back to where we started from. The 1st & 3rd Div. were not striked back but held their ground. the attack commenced about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 O cl. & lasted until dark. we reestablished our lines & drove the rebs back to their forest thickets. they left a number of hundred dead and wounded on the field our loss in the corps was heavy, perhaps 1500 killed & wounded. our regt. was fortunate for once. one killed (Mathias Thisen Co. B.) & 5 wounded (Sergt. Marshall Perkins, shoulder Corp. Andy Hollister, face slightly Co. E R. Ker, foot, Co. D J. Wood Co. A head & calf of leg. Wm. Clark Adj. left arm slight and one missing he will probably turn up all right ~~some~~ some where in a day or two. The rebs massed all their forces on us to break our lines & ~~cut~~ cut us off from the river & in this they signally failed their loss must have been double of ours we took 3 or 4 hundred prisoners. it was a bad repulse for the rebs. We are fortifying & gradually advancing from knowl to ~~knowl~~ knowl & ridge to ridge. we are now 3 or 4 miles from Atlanta. some part of the line must be within 2 miles of Atlanta I must close for today & get wash my shirt & drawers.

July 22nd morning. all quiet last night. you want to know whether I am as fleshy as usual I am not but my health is quite good, better than last summer. it is no hotter here now than one month ago. The rebs in our front have fallen back again. I should not wonder if we took Atlanta to day or tomorrow. we get good ~~water~~ water here. I was much interested in what you wrote about Allie I am thankful for those kisses from my loving Wife & daughter. I will try & send this off this morning. Good by darling many kisses & much love to you & Allie.

Ever your loving Husband

E.S.

Near Atlanta July 25th 1864

My Sweet Wife

I sent you a letter the 22nd & shortly afterwards moved forward the rebs falling back & skirmishing before us. we advanced to within a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 miles of Atlanta. the steeples & tops of the houses are visible from here. our boys soon threw up a line of breast works. The rebs threw some shell at us as we were working on the breast works, but done no damage their forts are in plain sight of us & our batteries & the rebs answer themselves throwing shells "Kinda loose arround" We thro some into Atlanta & from where we are now can "knock the spots out of the citty" the day that we moved up here we passed over the battle field. many rebs were still unburied & were blackening in the sun it is now reported that the rebs lost 4000 men killed wounded & prisoners in their attack on our corps & our corps 2500 this all guess work we came by where our boys were buried. I saw a woman weeping bitterly. upon inquiry I found that her husband belonged to the 149th N.Y. & was instantly killed by a bullet through the head in the fight of the 20th it looked hard to see her. she had shared the dangers & hardships of war with him for two years & now is left alone away here in Geo. the 22nd the rebs made another fierce attack on the 15th & 17th corps but after several hours hard fighting were terribly repulsed with the loss of from 7 to 10 thousand men. Gen McPherson was killed he was quite a loss to us the rebs had one Gen killed & Gen Hardee wounded & taken prisoner our lines extend arround Atlanta in the shape of a letter U. I wish that we had men enough to close up clear arround & shut them in. we shall soon take the citty. I recd. a pk. of berries from my loving wife. Thank you love. I shall keep them until some time when I do not feel well. I get once & in a while now a mess of ripe black berries & potatoes, cucumbers or green corn or some such rairities. I have no more time to write now so good by love...

E.S.

Some grumble at prices north. I send you a piece of an Atlanta paper of July 1st with a list of Southern prices

1 barrel flour.....	\$250	00
1 bushel potatoes.....	24	00
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds beefsteak.....	75	00
1 chicken.....	6	50
1 doz eggs.....	3	00
1 pound butter.....	15	00
100 pounds bacon.....	500	00
1 bushel meal.....	16	00
1 muslin dress.....	140	00
20 yards ozuabergs.....	144	00
25 yards homespun.....	175	00
1 bonnet.....	300	00
1 pair lady's shoes.....	130	00
1 pair child's shoes.....	75	00
1 pair cassimere pants..	350	00
1 paper pins.....	4	00
1 spool thread.....	2	00

July 27th

My Darling

I commence this letter 2 days ago & have been waiting for a letter from you before answering sending it of but I guess I had better finish & send this off. we still lay in the same place as when I commenced this. we are sieging the citty & advancing our works slowly Last eve. we had an order read to us from Gen Sherman congratulating the troops on their achievements. it gave our corps loss (the 20th) at 1,734 killed wounded & missing; & that we drove the rebs back, they leaving 1,000 dead on our hands & having 5,000 wounded which were mostly taken off by the rebs. and also that the rebs in their attack on the 16th & 17th & 15th corps lost 3,000 killed (left in our hands) and 12 to 15,000 wounded & we took over 3,000 prisoners this is truly awful. but if the rebs want to hurl their troops in masses on us in this way & get so terribly beaten I am willing that they should. a few more such battles will use them up entirely & close the war & I shall be glad of it. our cavalry are cutting (?) with the Rail Roads in the rear of Atlanta & doing them much damage. we are glad to hear of the new call for troops. the rebs have every available man from the age of 10 to 60 now in the field & can not raise any troops to meet our 500,000 & this must close the war if it does not close sooner. O if it could but close & let me return to your arms & sweet society again. Sweet Wife wont that be a happy day my health is quite good for which am truly thankful I still keep praying & try too lead a Christian life but I have much to contend with & need your prayers. we have no meetings of any kind now & there is nothing to promote any growth in Christianity. we (the Doctor & myself) are camped behind a knowl near the regt. the rebs throw shot & shell over & around us. but we are safe as long as we keep covered by the knowl. there is continual fighting or skirmishing all the time

July 29th 7 P.M.

I have not had a chance to send this off yet so I will write some more & send this off by the noon mail. Night before last the 16th 15th & 17th corps were marched from the left of our lines to the extreme right & yesterday for noon they took a fort with 8 pieces of cannon and in the afternoon while marching towards the Atlanta & Macon R.R. (the only road that we have not destroyed) the rebs pitched into them & were badly whipped again leaving their dead & wounded in our hands & stands of colors & 2800 prisoners & last night there was a heavy fire in Atlanta all night. I guess they are burying their stores & ammunition of war preparatory to evacuating the place. The rebs stick to it better than I should think that they would as they continually have to retreat & are beaten in every battle. I think 30,000 men would be a low estimate for the number that they have lost in killed wounded & prisoners since that we crossed the river. being away off here in Ga I suppose that the papers will not make much of a fuss about it but if it had been done in the Potomac army there would be a great Hurrah over our 3 great victorys before Atlanta. Gen Hooker left us for Washington yesterday. I persume that he will take command of Western Va. & the "Defences of Washington". it needs some man like "fighting Joe" to make those malitia fight. he would make short work of those Raiders. but we are sorry to part with him. he is my Beau Ideal of a Soldier... I went berrying yesterday fore noon got 6 Qts in Afternoon washed Shirts drawers pants & stockings. I do not suffer as much with the heat this summer as I expected to & the watter is verry good

August 3rd 1864

My Darling

I now sit down to have a long confidential talk with you. sweet one I will tell you all how I get along & what we are doing &c. well to commence (?) all how we are getting along. pretty well as near as we can tell. we are sieging the citty & shall soon enclose the citty on all sides if the Johnes dont dig out soon. our corps has made a line of breast works (nearer the rebs) 12 feet thick at the base & 8 feet at the top. & 6 feet in height with a stick of timber on the top raised about 4 inches for to allow the guns to be fired & not to expose the head. about 4 rods in front of the works there is a row of sharpened stakes slanting towards the enemy, made by cutting rails into & driving them into the ground about 8 inches apart & after words sharpening them with draw shaves & ~~is~~ still in front of these is a heavy brush fence made by cutting down trees 6 or 8 inches in diameter & placing the butts towards us & cutting off all the small brush & leaving the limbs sticking out 7 ways for Sunday to tear the rebs clothes. so you see if the rebs should undertake to storm our works they would have to pass through these & it would take so long that we could mow them all down with grape & minie balls before they could reach us. The Doctor & I have our quarters in the old breast works about as far behind as it is from father Hs to Mortons from the right. The reb bullets & shells fly over here every day but we have got used to them & there is no danger as long as we stay behind the works. the boys are healthier this summer than last & I dont see that it is much warmer here than in Va. June was warmer than July. this morning a nice cool breeze is blowing & we have frequent showers to cool the ~~the~~ air. I have cooked my own food for a short time now as our cook is sick. make pancakes about twice pr. day & have coffe sugar pork of fresh beef & hard tack. So you see it is not verry bad living. but still I long for vegetables & milk & butter & pies &c. you want to know how I make a shortcake. well first we fry some pork to get some shortening. Then make a dough by mixing flour, watter, -salt, soda & cream Tartar adding the shortening & after kneeding q.s. place it in a frying pan a couple of hours in the hot sun to have it raise. then bake it between two fires, one before & one behind the pan I dont know as I have told you about the bugs, flies Wood ticks (or Ricks properly) Quicks, snakes, Jiggers & lice that are a perfect plague to us. bugs & flies are verry pleanty & are into & on anything that is laid down a minute. Snakes are no more pleanty than at home, but are more venomous, mostly black snakes, adders, rattlesnakes & Copperheads. Jiggers are a small black bug so small that they can scarcely be seen but their bite is verry poisonous causing a swelling like a bee sting followed by a burning itching. it ~~is~~ into a small sore & heals up in about a week. every one is pretty well covered with these bites, those that lay on the ground more than those that sleep on beds up from the ground. (the way I make mine with small straight poles & brush) I pick a wood tick off of me, they rarely burry themselves in the flesh The quicks are a large Lizard about 8 inches long & of all colors from a deep blue to a brown or black They have a flat head & verry black prominent eyes & they are the Quickest animals that I ever saw. whilst you are walking along you will hear a rustle in the leaves

continued

August 3rd 1864 continued

& away they will scamper so fast you can scarcely see their tails for the dust they kick up. they run up a tree & out on a limb & cock their heads up on one side & watch you & when you get up with them jump off & scamper ~~again~~ again. Last but not the least of all comes ~~the~~ the lice G R E A T B I G lusty fellows regular gray backs. I think that they are natives of the Sunny South for I have yet to see a southern man or woman that I did not think was lousy I dont think that I could illustrate their condition better than to tell what I saw yesterday

I took the Doctors horse & rode back (as I frequently do) about 5 miles towards Marrietta for black berries & while picking in an old bush pasture heard somebody talking. companions are not always desirable so far in the rear of the army so I thought that I would reconiter & see whats up. I carefully advanced ~~and~~ & parted the bushes & saw about three rods before me one of those miserable log cabins (about like our old log shop) we so often see here in the South. it was inhabited by a family I saw; one (a girl about 9 or 10 years old) of whom came out of the house & came around the house towards me & reaching up to the back of her neck unbuttoned one button ~~and~~ slipped off her dress which performance left her in the same condition that Mother Eve was before fig leaves came in fashion, now you know that I am a modest man & I was just going to turn away when I saw her pick up her dress & go to picking off lice & they were plenty I assure you. our boys are pestered most ~~to~~ to death with the varmints for days & some times weeks they have to sleep on the ground & in their clothes with no chance of washing or changing them. I have a better chance & wash my clothes often & my body all over about every day & so keep nearly free from them but like poor Pilgrim in his march to the Promised Land "it is a continual warefare" & O shant I be glad when I can live like a Civilized being again. but I guess that you have enough of this subject.... There is talk of being paid off in a few days..one of our boys that was supposed to be killed at Stony Face Ridge came in this morning & reports that 12 of our boys that was supposed to be killed are alive & prisoners. none of our boys have been injured here. well I think this letter will do for length I love you C so dearly & am counting the days of our separation day by day as they pass Good by love

ever your lover & Husband

Emory

August 11th 1864

My Darling Wife. I recd. your letter of the 1st last eve. and now hasten to answer it...it is 2 years today since that I enlisted How long a time it seems & how many scenes of danger & trial have I passed through I feel verry greatful to God for his goodness in preserving me & trust that with his Grace supporting that I shall retain my integrity and lead a Christian life. It is pleasant showery weather & we still remain in about the same condition as when I last wrote. I think that we shall have a long siege as the rebels have the citty so strongly fortified. We are shelling the citty day before yesterday we threw 2000 shells or thereabouts & yesterday we commenced throwing shells from our heavy guns & every little while as I write I can hear some brick house tumble down with our shell. I wish that you could be here & see how it looks & hear the din our corps lines are about as long as from the school house to the valley. The tents are all up in streets behind the breast works and the ground is all kept clean as ~~it~~ it can be swept. it is quite healthy here. Sam Monroe is sick with diarhea & in the hospital. Lieut. ~~Wellman~~ Wellman is with the regt. again. he is a good officer & a fine fellow. Brown the poet(?) & sergt. Johnson are discharged. Jef. Goodman (supposed to have been killed at Buzzard's Roost) is not dead but a prisoner & well. His folks live near Bro. Drakes send word down there if you can. you did not write anything about that the loyal & Patriotic people of Catt. Co. had resolved through their worthy supervisors to levy a Tax on the property of the county for the purpose of hiring negros, Jail birds & ~~every~~ every thing & any thing to fill up the war worn & battle strained ranks of that noble old regt. the 154th N.Y. & save their own precious hides. now most of our boys own small pieces of land which from their being away from ~~it~~ it does not bring them but little profit & the idea of their being out here and enduring all the toll & danger & being taxed to exempt their friends & neighbors does not ~~comport~~ comport with our ideas of right. I must say that there has been much cussing & tall swearing since that our boys heard by the Freeman of the course that our county intends to persue & every one are hoping that the committee will not meet with success recruiting & the men have to be drafted yet. write how they get along...

E.S.

Atlanta Aug 18th 1864

Sweet Wife

I will write a few lines to you this morning although I do not expect that I can send it out as the mail has been stopped for a few days. There is some great move afoot. I do not know exactly what, but a day or two will reveal. I recd. your kind loving & short letter of the 8th 2 days ago, & should have answered it immediately but for reasons above stated.

I am quite well at present & trying to pass away time as pleasantly as I can. but the time that I spend away from seems like entirely lost time to me. I dont think that it is much warmer here now than it is with you. Showers are still frequent & the nights are beautiful. The Johnes & our boys have had a great time shelling this morning. no damage on our side. good many rebs desert to us now. They appear to be discouraged. I think the move in contemplation is to try & bring on a battle outside of the works. we all have marching orders & rumor says the 20th Corps falls back to the river (9 miles) & protects the bridge & our communications whilst the rest of the army swings around to the south side of the city & make the rebs fight out side of their works or surrender. but this is mostly guess work. The Johnes have torn up some of the R Road track in our rear, but I dont think that it will amount to much & our cavalry are doing the same in their rear. I went to meeting twice last Sunday & heard two exilent sermons which done me good. My clothing year was up the 11th & the Government owes me about \$10. for clothing that I am allotted for but did not draw. just before the year was up I drew 1 pair of pants, blouse, shoes & 1 shirt. I did not know but that the same game that was come on me last ~~year~~ year might be attempted this & I would be sure of so much at least. it is a shame that our soldiers are not paid. most have 8 months due them & many have familys that are suffering for the want of it. we are in Carpet paradise here. All the boys have drawn & O such an amount of old clothes as lay scattered about. Thank you dear for the love & kisses you sent me. I return as much more. Please send the Photos & oblige your loving husband.

E.S.

Aug 21st

Darling. I commenced this several days ago but could not send it out until now. The negros have licked the rebs & opened our communications again. we got all ready to go back to Dalton when the news came that the negros had licked the rebs & so we were not needed & still remain in the same place that we were. Yesterday morning just at break of day our cannon opened all along the line for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. it made a warm place of Atlanta I think it was a splendid sight. we have once in a while green corn, apples (ripe) & peaches. it rains every day now. all are well that you know in the regt. I recd. your letter of the 12th last night & was so glad to hear that you are well

Chattahoochie River Aug. 31st

I persume that you are getting anxious by this time & wondering why "Emory" dont write. Well I will tell you. about 7 or 8 days ago I recd. a letter from you & immediately answered it and that night as soon as it was dark we struck tents & quietly mooved back to this place, which is called Paces Ferry. our whole Division lies on a ridge in a semicircle around the Ferry. The 1st Div. & 3rd Div. lay at ferrys below. The rest of the army swung around towards the south side of Atlanta to cut off the reb communications. we can not hear how they have made out yet. since that we have been here. we have been so busy fixing our quarters that I have had no time to write. We have now got good quarters up on a knowl that overlooks the river. we shall probably stay here some time & guard the communications of the army. our Corps has borne the brunt of the fighting thus far & are now placed in reserve so that probably have a good time for a while. Sherman can well afford to let the 20th Corps rest now. we are the only corps in the whole army that have never been repulsed. We have carved ourselves a name in history & have the respect of the whole Army. but at what a cost. our Div (The white star Div. as it is called in this army) had on leaving Lookout Valley 5700 men (besides tose who have come to us on the march) & now have 2700.

We have just been mustered for pay this morning & are to be paid off in a few days I have been mustered for 6 months pay which would come to 90 dollars. what was owing to me for pipes will be most of it a dead loss as the men that owed me are some of them dead or wounded and absent in the hospitals....

The weather is pleasant & it is healthy here. we have verry good watter to drink & the river to swim in. no mail yesterday nor as yet today. I am verry anxious to hear from you. it is almost mail time & I must close goodby dear, sweet loving & much loved wife

Ever yours

E S

mail has come & nothing for me Q shaw!!

In Atlanta

Sept. 4th 1864

Good morning darling.

Hurrah.! Atlanta is ours at last. The Glorious old Star Corps had the honor of taking the citty at last & my Division was the first (by about 15 minutes) to raise the flag in this, the commercial capitol of the Confederacy. Sherman's moove was totally unexpected to the Rebs. They thought that when our corps went back to the river that the whole army had mooved back & before they knew what was up Sherman with the 4th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th & 23rd corps had marched around to their rear on the rail Road that leads to Macon Since then we have had no direct communication with him but all we know of him comes through reb prisoners & deserters. they say that Sherman has whipped them badly & captured $\frac{1}{2}$ of their train & killed ~~Gen Hardee~~ Gen Hardee & that Sherman was going towards Macon. they also say that fort Morgan (in Mobile bay) has surrendered to us with 700 prisoners & 136 cannon rebs are deserting to us in large numbers I should that 5 or 600 had come in to our corps in the last 3 days. the rebs after they were defeated by Sherman commensed to moove out of this place & we made a forced march & arrived in this place about 10 A.M. the 2nd, the rebs leaving one side of the citty as we entered the other. They burned their ammuniton & Gun carridges but left a lot of heavy 64 pound siege guns about 10 feet long & as big as a log of maple. They burned over 100 cars loaded with supplies & stores & also 4 Locomotives. the citty is badly torn to pieces by ~~us~~ shells as we marched in our regt. sang the song "Down with the traitors & up with the stars" & the band played Yankee Doodle There were some who welcomed us to the citty by waiving of handkerchiefs &c every thing looks favorable to a speedy termination of the war. We heard to day of the nomination of Mc. & Fendleton by the Copperheads. Their supporters in the army will be about as scarce as Angels visits or Uncle Sam's green backs in the army.

The works around Atlanta are verry strong our regt. now occupies one fort. I have not been over the citty much yet & will write more about it when I have explored it I am expecting to be detailed back with the Division as Acting Steward to put up medicine the same as I did at Gettysburg. we have had no mail in 4 days but I am expecting one today it is about 12 days since that I heard from you I have no more time to write this morning so good by dear wife

your loving husband

E.S.

Atlanta Sept. 7th

My dear Wife

I recd. your welcome letter of the 24th yesterday. you may be sure that I was glad to hear from you after so long a time of waiting. you speak of sending me a letter one week before the one that I have recd. but I have not received it as yet. it seemed a great while to wait for a letter from you, my darling, but of course I do not blame you for the negligence of the mails in not carrying your letters safe. I sent you a letter 3 days ago since then we have been lying here quietly. large numbers of rebs continue to desert and come into us, all of them appear to be heartily sick & tired of the war. large numbers of Prisoners are arriving from Shermans army daily report places the number of Prisoners taken within the last 2 weeks at 10,000 Sherman had some hard fighting near Lovejoys on the Macon R. Road and totally routed the rebs. We recd. an order from Sherman yesterday stating that we had accomplished all that had been expected of us & that the campaign was over & the army would concentrate around Atlanta & rest for one month & be clothed up & paid up before starting on another campaign you speak of being verry busy. I do not doubt the industry of my little wife. but I must have some claim on your time. remember dear that I am all alone away from all of those that love me surrounded by wicked companions. your letters are the only visible link that binds me to virtue, honor, home & loved ones. write often darling, write long. I am often weary, home sick & heart sick & longing for the quiet of my home & your society; & your letters come to me like "Good news from a far country" "Or cold watter to a Thirsty Soul"

I am sorry that farrista had such a time for nothing of course you will tell me all about it when I get home you want to know if I have any thing to do with the wounded. we just do up the wounds of those that are wounded & send them back in Ambulances to Division Hospitals from 2 to 4 miles in the rear. I do not know whether it would be best to buy a lot in the Grave yard at present or not. I have never been in the yard and know nothing of the situation if you think best you may buy one. we shall want one some time. Dear wife I thank you for your words of love & kindness in your letters....

E.S.

Atlanta Sunday Oct 2nd 1864

My Dear Wife

I once more sit down to hold communion with you, my dearest & best earthly Friend. It is not of much use to write now as we neither receive nor send out any mail at present. Roving band of Rebs keep tearing up the track & annoying our communications so that it is only semi-occasionally that we receive mail. It is thought here that Hood has broken up his army into small bodies of from 500 to 5,000 men & sent them back to our rear to destroy our communications & starve us out of Atlanta but the game will not work. we have enough provision on hand to last for some time to come & I think fully one half of our army have taken the cars & gone back along the R Road to guard it & I think that the cars will soon be running through all right.

Oct. 7th I stopped writing last Sunday to go about my daily fore noons work intending to finish my letter & send it off in the afternoon, but before that time we learned that Hood with his whole army had gained our rear & was on the R.R. between Marietta & Big Shanty thus entirely severing all communication between us & the North & I knew that it was useless to write until the rebs were routed from their position. Sherman started Sunday morn. with all the army (but our corps who are left to guard the citty) for Marietta. doubtless ere this there has been hard fighting but I will risk W.T. Sherman with the best General that the rebs have. There is a rumor here that he has defeated Hood & captured 1500 prisoners & 11 cannon, but I can probably tell you more about this before I send this off. our corps have been at work for the last week night & day building forts & breast works close around the citty inside the old works. I caught a head cold Monday & I have been sick since that time but not so but that I have done my work. I have been doctoring myself & feel much better this morning think I shall be all right in a couple of days. I tell you I thought of you many times. I thought of the thousand little acts of kindness that your loving heart suggested to you to do for me when I was sick. I longed for your loving smiles & kisses

Oct. 8th Noon Darling I will now write a little more & send this by afternoons mail. last night was a clear, windy cold night & to day although it is bright sunshine overhead it is cold enough so that I have ~~been~~ worn my overcoat all day. I am feeling better today. I do not hear any more news except that Hood has been badly defeated & is retreating Westward into Alabama & our folks are repairing the R.R. so I suppose I shall soon get a letter from you I will write again as soon as one comes. it is too cold write more this time so good by love. ever ~~your~~ your true & loving husband

Emory

Oct. 8th Noon

1864

Darling I will now write a little more & send by this afternoons mail. last night was a clear, windy night & today although it is bright sunshine overhead it is cold enough so that I have worn my overcoat all day. I am feeling better today. I do not hear any more news except that Hood has been badly defeated & is retreating westward into Alabama & our folks are repairing the R.R. so I suppose I shall soon get a letter from you..I will write again as soon as ours comes. it is too cold to write more this time so good by love. ever your true & loving husband

Emory

Atlanta Oct. 30th 1864

My dear Wife

I am feeling quite uneasy & restless this morning, for I ~~am~~ do not hear from you, to be shure the mail has been verry irregular of late but I ought to receive some letters. mail comes every day or two now & when I ask if there is any thing for me I receive the steretyped answer "No Letters" Dear, write verry often & all of your letters will not miscarry. I have not received but one letter in the last six weeks from you & I am afraid that something is the matter. I have written every four or five days. some of my letters will never reach you I persume. The weather is verry fine here days, just warm enough for comfort, nights, rather cool, but little rain thus far this fall. my health is the best that it has been this year. we live as well as I could wish for with the exception of fruits & sauce. This morning for breakfast we had sausage, beef steak, Coffee Injun bread, Tomato pickles &c. our last great raiding party came in yesterday with about 1000 waggon loaded with corn, sweet potatoes, cotton & captured ammunition. This is the 3rd successful raid that our corps have made. they strip the country clean wherever they go. Our regt. have recd. about 40 recruits & number about 150 muskets now. yesterday we received orders to prepare for a 50 days active campaign. There are all sorts of surmises as to where that we are going. Macon, Mobile, Augusta, Knoxville & Huntsville are all talked of as points that we are to strike out for. I think that we are going alone or at least one corps with us. but all of this is but guess work & time alone will tell. but if you do hear from me very often you must not be concerned, be assured of this, darling, I shall improve every opportunity to let you know of my welfare. I do not dread this march as I have other marches as I shall have my house (waggon) along with me & my baggage carried. my health is first rate & now if I can only hear from you before we start. I think that we ~~will~~ shall start about the middle of the week from what I can learn. We feel much interest in the approaching elections. the few that were Mc. Pendleton men with us, a month ago, are now mostly converted. Dr. Van Arnam goes home soon I suppose & Col. Jones is to be made a Brigadier. we regret to loose them. Matthew W. is with the regiment. Sam Monroe is some better & is going home on furlough in a few days you will see him doubtless whilst that he is at home & he can tell you all about me what a shocking bad reputation I have here &c..

Noon Nov. 1st...active preparations continue to be made for a march. we may go in an hour & we may not go at all. I should as much think that our corps & a couple of other corps would suddenly be thrown into Va. to crush Lee out of Richmond as anything else. cars are running in forage & provision to Atlanta. Sherman is following Hood into Allabama. This morning I visited the great city of the dead near here. our Div.

continued

October 30, 1864 (Nov. 1) continued

have a yard by themselves in one corner of the cemetery, have surrounded it by a handsome picket fence, painted white, (the fence was taken from some door yard in the city) the graves are all in lines verry exact & neatly sodded & the grounds are ornamented with rose bushes & evergreens. all the graves have head boards, with names, company & regt inscribed &c. in the center of the grounds is a monument of the same style & some what larger than Mr Horace Hows in the lower grave yard in L.V. on one side of it is inscribed "In memory of" (on the other side) "Our dead Heroes" (The 3rd side) "2nd Div. 20th A.C." The 4th side has the names of all the great battles in which the "White Stars" have been engaged. (20 in number). on each side of the monument near the top is a large star carved in the marble. I think the whole is a credit to the division. Thomas Willis'es Grave is about 5 rod from the monument, has a good board up. he was wounded at Resaca you recollect & taken prisoner & died here. he lived on the Aldrich farm. well darling I must close

so good by your loving husband

Emory

Atlanta . Nov. 4th eve.

My Dear Wife

I am now in Dr. Vanaernams quarters & as he is now about to start for home I will send a line, as it may be weeks before you hear from me again as I suppose that we shall soon start on a great raid (or whatever you may call it) to Charleston or Savannah. I think that about 4 corps will go & enough forces will be left to keep hood here. There will not probably be any opposition to amount to any thing as they have no forces between here & there except a few cavalry. you will probably hear hard stories through rebel sources about our being all cut to pieces or captured but you must not believe them. of course until we get to the sea shore there will be no communications & cannot send or receive any mail. Sherman goes with us. we shall probably destroy what is left of Atlanta when we leave it. I have not heard from you yet. sent a letter to father today & two pictorials to you. My Papers (my Detail as hospt. Steward of the 42nd Col. Eng.) have been approved up as far as the corps & I am in hopes that they may come arround in time to save me this tramp. but if they do not I shall have to go along. I shall be glad if I can get back to Atlanta so that I can hear from you once in a while. I am in good health & well clothed. bought me a pair of good boots. paid \$4.15. very cheap. did not want to go on a long march this time of year with shoes, & will not make any difference at the end of the year if I buy my clothes or draw them. I have every thing to make me comfortable dear so do not worry about me. we shall live well off the country. sweet potatoes are abundant here. chickens & so forth will suffer we shall destroy the R.R. & bridges &c.

I have no more time to write & I have written this in a great haste. I love you as dearly as ever & think of you & pray for you. may the good Lord preserve us & bring us together in his own good time

Ever your loving husband

E.S.

Atlanta Nov. 12th 1864

My Dear Wife

From what I wrote you in my last letter I presume that you will be surprised at receiving a letter from me so soon, but we ~~are~~ still remain here, waiting for something we know not what. we have no patients in the Hospt. & consequently have nothing to do & as we get no papers we have nothing to read I never knew what "Ennuï" was before. If I could only get once in a while a letter from you I should be far more contented. since I last wrote there has been 2 good size mails & still no letter for me. where have you been directing your letters. They should be directed to 2nd Div. 20th Army Corps Atlanta. I dont know whether my letters have any better success in reaching their destination than yours do or not but I shall continue to write as often as ual & trust luck as to their getting through. we hear that Uncle Abe is re-elected by a ~~large~~ large majority, hope that it is so. The weatheris quite pleasant but most to windy for comfort. the morning of the 10th the enemys cavalry made an attack on our div. which was easily repulsed without any loss to us. they left one Lieut. & 2 privates (dead) & two wounded in our hands

fragment probably Dec. 15, 1864

entirely into. the rail roads are so badly destroyed that they will not be rebuilt during the war. the ties were piled up & burned & the rails twisted. the road bridges were also destroyed. Millions of dollars worth of cotton was burned also all mills & factorys & public buildings on the route (except churches & school Houses) probably 10,000 slaves have escaped with our army & are now employed in every capacity. I will write more about them in at some ~~future~~ future time. We shall take Savannah & Charleston before our campaign is over. the weather has been beautiful all the way through; nearly like our Indian summer. it has rained but twice in 30 days. Joe Cullen is well.

Dec. 16th afternoon

I have just finished putting up medicine for today. we have about 150 sick & it takes me most of the time to put up medicine. we shall send them north soon I suppose. Yesterday 150 waggons from our corps started for our new base of supplies on the Ogeechee, 12 miles distant. 9 waggons went after our mail, will be back to night or in the morning. wont I be glad when I can hear from you I expect that I will be able to send this north by a ~~Chaplain~~ Chaplain this eve, or tomorrow. Darling write long letters. did my money go safe. How is Allie. Kiss her for me. Dearest my love for you remains the same as ever, in dreams & in thoughts I am often with you, enjoying your society, smiles & kisses again. now darling goodby for this time as I think you will be tired before you read this long rambling letter. excuse the writing as I am tired & in a hurry. ever yours

Direct

E.S.
2nd Div. Hospt.
20th A.C. Savannah Ga.
Via N.Y.

Savannah Jan. 20th 1865

My Dear Wife; I wrote to you 4 days ago that we were soon to ~~move~~ move; the army with the exception of our Division were moving all day yesterday & the day before & we were to have moved this morning, but yesterday it rained a perfect thundershower & filled all the swamps & flooded the whole country & so the move had to be given up & the troops are returning to their camps. it will be a number of days before that we can get away now. I think that our wing of the army will go to Augusta & the right ~~wing~~ wing to Charleston the second Division of the 19th Corps from Va. relieved us. The news of the taking of Fort Fisher caused much rejoicing here, as it closes the last Port that the rebels had. Every thing looks bright for us now & we cannot but think that the rebellion is about played out. Col. Jones has been promoted to Brigadier Gen. is at home on furlough. I see that there is a motion before the house to let the army of Sherman have the cotton that was captured in Savannah. it would amount to 2 or 300 dollars ~~each~~ each to the men. I hope that it will pass dont you. Steward Pile has been promoted to Chief Steward of the Second Division Hospital & I take his place a chief medical steward. My duties will be to make requisitions for medicines and issue the same to the 17 regiments composing our Division. This will not keep me as busy as I have been heretofore. It is a nasty rainy day & as I have nothing to do I feel rather ~~a~~ restless & have wished 40 times today that I could spend this day with you. I want to look into your eyes, feel your warm lips pressed to mine & to fold you to my bosom once more. There is so much that I want to say to you & it does not satisfy me to try & put my thoughts on paper. The society around me is very uncongenial you would be very much shocked if you knew how much demoralized (in regard to morals) that 9 tenths of the soldiers have become. The lower class (both black & white in the south) seem to be totally ignorant of the meaning of the word "Virtue" & both officers & men appear to have cast off all the restraints of home & indulge their passions to the fullest extent. Many of the officers keep Quarters for private use. I will tell you all about it when I get home so I will say no more about it now. There is another evil very prevalent in the army & that is drinking . there are but very few in our regt. that do not get tight about as often as they can get liquor. & I scarcely know anyone that does not smoke or chew tobacco & generally both. it is sad to think of some many fine brave young men being ruined for life. I think if fathers & mothers knew the temptations & dangers that their sons were exposed to that they would earnestly pray ~~for~~ for the return of peace... Ships line the wharf loading with cotton for the north...

E.S.

Savannah Jan. 22nd 1865

Dear Wife

I have just received your short & welcome letter of the 19th. I was writing to father & the children & wound the letter up in about four lines so as to answer your letter this afternoon.... I have nothing new to write since my last letter 3 days ago, only that the great storm & flood has stopped all army movements for the present. the other Divisions of our corps had a hard time of it, out in the rain & watter. They are now lying on the Charleston R.R. at Heardeeville. I have nothing to do now but to eat & sleep as we have no patients in our hospital having turned them all over to the corps hospital. my medicines are all packed up ready to ~~be~~ put into waggons ~~and~~ whenever we are ordered to ~~move~~ moove. Gen. Sherman mooved his head Quarters to Hilton Head or Beaufort yesterday. it is clearing up & growing warm this P.M. and the watter begins to lower. Dr. Day has arrived at the regt. & is now on duty. ~~There~~ There is another ~~Asst.~~ Asst. Surgeon recently appointed whose name I do not know.... my time will be out ~~in~~ 8 months from ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow & then wont we be happy. there is a great talk nowadays about peace & some are very sanguine that we shall have peace in two months. I hope so but I am afraid that we shall have to give the rebs some hard knocks this spring before that they will cave ^{that} in. I believe that long for home & your society more, since I have been in Savannah than at any other ~~period~~ period since that I have been a soldier. My love for you dear wife continues unabated. I love to think of the time when that we shall be reunited. darling let us hope & pray that God will keep us & preserve us & finally reunite us around our own fireside.

Ever your loving & true husband

E.S.

Savannah-(evening) Jan. 25th 1865

Dear Mary

We are to move tomorrow morning at 8 o'cl A.M. according to orders. it is quite cool froze considerable last night, but thawed out today it looks like a storm again. There is nothing new since that I wrote day before yesterday. I expressed that box to you that I wrote to you about some time since. the freight was marked \$2.00 to be paid at home. you will find "The Dream Land" to be very nice work. Read that chapter "The Good Wife" & also the chapt. about children. I think that they are very beautiful. I send some articles from different battle fields, all labeled. I was just thinking that Wesley would be likely to go home from the war without seeing much more of the war, or of the world than he would have if he had stayed at home, whilst that I am likely to have the United States pretty well mapped over & to have visited all the principle citys in the Union also the great battle fields & seen all the great Generals in the army. some times I have seen a little more than I wanted to for a short time. Darling did you receive the star that I sent you from Atlanta just as we moved away. I have never heard from it....

Morning 27

Darling we did not go yesterday on account of the road being full of troops. but our trains are all loaded & we shall start in a few minutes. beautiful morning. excilent health. all O.K.

Good by my dearest & best earthly friend

E.S.

Feb. 1st 1865

My Dear Wife

We are now lying northeast of Springfield & 5 miles from the river (Savannah) we are waiting for the road to be built through a swamp on the South Carolina side of the river. The Pontons are already down & I think the road will be done in a couple of days. the 14th corps & the 4 Div. of the 15th Corps & our div. & Killpatrick's Cavalry are on this side of the river. The rest of the Army are on the other side of the river opposite to us. The country from Savannah (31 miles) is nearly a dead level & we came to swamps every mile or so. there is no timber except Pine & Cypress The limbs of the Cypress are hung with a specie of moss ~~or~~ or Lichen, often reaching nearly to the ground & giving a gloomy look to the swamps. I have seen a few Palmetto trees & some enormous Cactus plants with leaves 5 or 6 feet in length & as many inches in thickness. It is the commencement of Spring here & yesterday I saw robbins & blackbirds; but birds do not sing ~~much~~ much in this country. we were three days in coming from Savannah. found the roads very muddy most of the way. It is very pleasant weather now, just like our Indian Summer. The army is much healthier in this climate than in Va. I saw our regimental Reports of Sick this morning for the past month & it was but 4 per cent of the number of men present in the 154th & most of them but slightly indisposed, just enough to excuse them from duty ~~for~~ for a few days. no deaths in the month. We have about 25 patients in our Div. Hospital. 6 of them with small pox. I dont think that it is any more dangerous here in the army than the measles. I have been exposed to it so many times since that I have been in the army that I do not mind it much. of course I do not exceedingly expose ~~myself~~ myself. I have been vacinated 3 times since that I came into the army & as it did not work either time, I think that the old V. must be good yet. We shall send our sick back to Savannah when we move forward. Steam boats run up to the pontons ~~every~~ every day & I hope that I shall get a letter from you soon. I mailed one to you the 27th ~~ult.~~ ult. just as we were leaving S. I think that we had better number our letters ~~after~~ after this (will call this no. 1.) so that we will know whether we get all our letters. I am keeping a Diary now. Dont have anything to do to amount to any thing now as I issued medicine to all the regiments before leaving S. There is 8 stewards & Clerks that mess together. we have 2 cooks & two waters. My health is first rate (appetite ditto.) darling I think of you very often & dream of kissing you & enjoying your society ~~again~~ again. O when will this war end how many hearts would be gladdened by the return of peace. how does Allie 'carry sail' now. I wonder what she would say if she would see me now. I dont think of any thing more to write now so good by love

much love to you & Allie

ever yours

E.S.

Feb. 2nd eve.

Darling

I have not had a chance to send off my letter yet but think I can send it off in the morning.

I received your good long letter of the 18th ult. about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour ago. It did me good to hear again from my kind loving & much loved wife.

It seems strange to me to hear that snow is 2 feet deep in old Catt. Co. & at the same time here it is pleasant weather birds singing & frogs peeping &c The furlough you sent to Lt. has never reached me. nor has any of the 7 letters that are missing. I have not received a letter from Steward K. since that I wrote to him. I presume that his answer is keeping company with your missing letters. Write me who are drafted I am not afraid of the draft We have just sent off all the sick to Savannah & our Div. is detached from the rest of the army & are to operate with Killpatricks Cavalry. I think we shall start in a day or two on some great raid. I think to Augusta. the boys fare better when detached & sent on raids & they like it pretty well. the road is finished across the river. I dont think of any news yours as ever

E.S.

Fayetteville N.C. Sunday March 12th 1865

My Dear Wife

Through the mercy of a kind Providence I am once more permitted to write to you; my health is quite good & has been since that I last wrote you at Sisters Ferry (Ga) If I could be with you this evening I could tell you a great deal in a short time. but I will write off my diary & send it to you, as soon as I get a chance. We passed through Robbertsville, Blackville, Columbia, Waynesville, Cheraw, & Lumberton on our march, destroying all the Rail Roads, Depots, many cars & locomotives, Foundrys, Cotton, Turpentine, Rosin, all public buildings (excepting Churches & School Houses) & through South Carolina most of the private houses. We marched in four columns & took every thing clean for a strip from 25 to 50 miles in width We met with but little opposition although the rebs had from 20. to 25000 men. but Sherman out manuvered them every time. from here we go to Goldsborough or Newbern. I shall be here a couple of days I guess. our advance got into this place yesterday, but our division was the rear guard of the army today & we did not get here until this 4 P.M. came 14½ miles today. Small steamers run up the river to this place from Wilmington. three came today & I suppose brought some mail. they took out a mail but we did not get here in time to send out any letters.

We have passed through many swamps & as it has been quite rainy the roads have been verry bad. I think that we corduroyed one half of the distance from the Savannah river & pontooned 7 rivers. Most of the way the troops fared well but some times have been on short allowances. I persume that you have heard stories through rebel sources of our being cut to pieces & defeated. you may rest assured that it is all Bosh. the march has been a complete success & we have completely destroyed the rail roads connecting the confederacy & also destroyed an immense amount of supplies. the loss to them is irreparable & must hasten the end of the war. we found the inhabitants on the roads very desponding & wishing peace on any terms & at any price. if Davis does not give up soon, Sherman's great army will join Grants army at Richmond & compell a peace. This has been a long & fatiguing march but I have stood it well. have had health & plenty to eat, drink & to wear. for which I am truly thankful. I am very anxious to hear from you & to know how you are getting along & what is going on at home....The weather is warm & pleasant & the trees have commenced to put out their leaves a little./Two miles east of Fayetteville on the east side of the Cape Fear river N.C. March 14th 4 P.M. Dearest I have not had a chance to send off this yet but I expect to send it to Willmington by a doctor who expects to go to night in charge of our sick & wounded

Goldsborough March 28th 1865

My Dear Wife

We are safely through at last & have gone into camp with the expectations of staying here some ~~two~~ weeks. I sent you a letter the 14th of this month from Fayetteville & there we expected to have been here in 5 days. but we encountered mud & rain & rebs who delayed us until this time. We have had 3 fights with the "Johnnys" in the which they came out second best leaving many dead & wounded & well men prisoners in our hands. our regt. has not been engaged, being in the rear guarding train.

Our troops are sadly in need of clothing & rest & supplies as most of them have been 2 & a half months on the way & have worn their shoes, clothes & strength about out. trains now run from Newberne to this place & we shall get supplies & clothing & lastly (but not leastly) mail.

I do want a letter from you so bad. I guess that we shall get a mail today. I got into this place last night 2 o cl & we are busy putting up the hospital & putting things wrights this morning. very pleasant weather Peach & Plumb Trees are in bloom Terrys & Schofields troops are here & the 11th is here with them. I shall go & see them in a few days I have not time to write more this morning. I will write in a couple of days ago. So good by until then my own Sweet wife much love & many kisses to you & Allie

your true & loving husband

E S

NOTE: April 2, 1865, Lee left Richmond; Apr. 14 1865 Appomatox

April 10th

I reopen my letter to let you know the news although of course you will know all about it before this reaches you. last evening I went into town and attended church & whilst coming home the Telegraph brot the news that Richmond was ours. the troops commenced cheering & the bands struck up & played " Oh say can you see, by the dawns early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes & bright stars etc. which I thought verry appropriate. There has been a long night of deaths & desolation to our beloved country which (Thanks be to our Heav- enly Father) is now rapidly giving away & the war worn & weary soldiers can now see the dawning of peace & better days. The cheering was kept up until 1 a.m. We expect a mail today. The rebs were badly defeated & driven off the rail road & it is now about repaired. The reb Gens. in the west are no match for old Sherman. He is probably the best Gen. that the war has brot. forth. it is warm & pleasant this morning, but yesterday was a cold day. How I want to hear from you love. Kifs Allie foe me Tell her Pa loves his "good girl" dearest you have my prayers, love & best wishes

yours etc
E. S.

Raliegh N.C. April 15th 1865

My Dear Wife

I have a chance to write a few lines before the mail goes out. I knew of the chance but a few minutes ago. We left Goldsborough the 10th and made a quick march of about 15 miles pr day & arrived here at noon the 13th the reb army did not make much resistance. & we pressed them hard & captured some prisoners & wagons. The cars followed us up the next day. we shall permanently occupy this place. They have isued a paper already. I will send a copy also some late reb papers. it was a nice country that we passed through & but very little property was disturbed. Raliegh is a fine place & appears quite loyal. The rebs retreated by the way of Greensboro & we started after them this morning but came back to camp for some reason. rumors are flying thick & fast as I write that Joe Johnsons army has surrendured. we are confident that if it has not it soon will & then dear how happy I shall be. we expect a mail tonight. It is warm & pleasant corn & potatoes are 4 or 5 inches in height. I have no more time to write so good by dearest for this time many kisses & much love to you & Allie

your loving husband

E.S.

write often

I send this reb letter to you you can see what they think

8 A.M. 8 miles from Richmond May 9th

My Sweet Wife. After a long fatiguing march of about 170 miles we are at last in the vicinity of Richmond. I am, & have been well, but am tired. To day we are to move up nearer Richmond & we hear that ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow we are to be reviewed whilst marching through R. on our way to Washington. We hear that we are to be mustered out immediately. most of the officers think we shall get home by the middle of June. The weather is quite warm Thermometer over 90° in the shade in the middle of the day. We have passed through a good country coming here & the march was as orderly as it would have been through our own country, nothing taken or destroyed. The inhabitants appeared friendly. We expect a mail today.

Three miles from Richmond May 10th 6 A.M.

Dear. We moved to this place & this morning are to be reviewed by Gen. Halleck as we pass through Richmond on our way to Washington. I shall probably send you a letter in about 4 days from Fredricksburg we shall get to W. about the 17th one of our Drs. is going back with the sick and I am to have his horse to ride to Washington when we get to W. we are to have a review the 20th of the month & then we go to Elmira to be mustered out. Darling I shall soon be with you.. until then good by many kisses & much love

E.S.

Alexandria Va. May 23rd 1865

My Dear Wife

How do you do this pleasant morning; How I wish that I could call & eat breakfast with you & in fact, as far as I am concerned I should'nt mind staying & eating with you all the time, not but that I have enough to eat here, but it seems so much better to sit down at the table with my dear Wife & Child. Well dear Mary it will not be long before that we shall be reunited if our lives are spared. Orders have been issued by the War Department to immediately discharge all troops whose term of service expires by the 1st of Oct. next. so you see we are just inside of the order. our time being out Sept. 24th but you know "a miss is as good as a mile." we may get home in two weeks or it may be a month, according to which regiments are mustered out first. It is thought that we shall go to Elmira to be mustered out.

The night that we crossed Bull Run I got wet through & caught cold & have been about sick since, but feel much better this morning. This day the Army of the Potomac is to be reviewed & tomorrow Shermans. Washington is full of visitors. The army is being clothed up. I shall get a new pair of boots, pants & blouse. I shall express a small box containing all my surplus clothing, books & shot gun &c.. as they would be a perfect nuisance to me if we were dallying along the road two or three weeks. I was down to Alexandria yesterday & staid all day with Wesley. had a good visit. he does not expect to come home until Sept. unless there are some new orders issued.. he is rather thin, but says that he is well.....

There's many rough jokes got off at Jeff. D's expense (since he was captured.) by the boys. I heard one yeasterday which is most to good to keep. A crowd of boys were talking about Jeff. when one said " you know Jeff. has always said in his speeches that if driven from Va. he would next make a stand in N.C. & still contest every inch of the ground & make his last fight in the last ditch. which ditch said he he found in his wife's petticoat.

We expect Dr. Van Aernam here to day....

E.S.

Four Miles north of Washington near Mecklinburg.
May 26th 1865.

My Sweet Wife

I wrote you a long letter from Clouds Mills, three days ago. The next day the Army of the Potomac was reviewed & the 24th Ours. I got a pass & went over (from Alexandria) in a steamer at 8 A.M. The streets were crowded with soldiers & citizens. I went with the tide of humanity, which set strongly towards the stands that were erected for the dignitaries near the White House, & after an hours crowding & squeezing succeeded in working my way up near the stand upon which The President & Cabinet, Gens. Grant, Sherman, Slocumb, Howard, Rawlins, Hancock, Meade, Cadwalder, Augur & others were seated. Had a good view of them & also of the troops as they passed. every thing passed off well. you will get full accounts of the review from the papers before this reaches you so I will not attempt a discription. After the review we marched to this place, where we shall probably remain until our papers are made out. How long that will ~~take~~ take I do not know, as there is some trouble about getting the records of the regiments that were sent back to Nashville when we advanced to Atlanta. * as I said in my last letter I may be home in ~~two~~ weeks or it may take 4... We are having a cold drizzling rain this morning whilst ~~that~~ that I am writing. Crops of most kinds are not much forward here than when we started from Goldsboro. Cherries, Strawberries & green peas are in market in small quantities. What is headed out. This is a very good country where we are encamped, well watered by springs & small streams. Surface of the country quite Hilly. every hill top as far as we can see has a fort upon its top... saw some of the 9th Cav. yesterday among the number was Lieut. Sprague bro. of Lewis Sprague. they do not expect to be discharged very soon. I saw Steward Wilcox in Alexandria the day that I saw Wesley. He has improved in looks. Dr. ~~Van Aernam~~ Van Aernam was over to the regiment last night. I did not know it until after he was gone, so, missed seeing him. I am expecting a letter from you in this mornings mail so I will wait until the mail comes before I send this.

Washington D.C.
June 6th 1865

My Dear Wife

Once more I sit myself down to let you know of my welfare. Through the mercy of a kind Providence I am fully restored to health again and expect soon to be with you. The regiment have about finished their papers. tommorow will finish them and then as soon as we can get transportation will start for Home..about 15,000 men pass by daily on the cars; so it will not be long before our turn comes. Dear "Mary" now anxious I am getting to see you and sweet Allie and I can't see why you hav'nt written to me since the 20th ult. but I shall soon know the whys and wherefores.

The mail is just going out & I have no more time to write. Dont write any more as i shall not be here to receive it be assured of my continued love & respect. yours as ever

E S