

*Copies of
Surgeon Henry Van Arman*

Fairfax Court House, Va.
October 15, 1862

My dear Dora,

Well, here I am in "Old Virginia" and since I have seen you my life has been like a moving panorama. We left our camp at Jamestown on the 29th of September last about 4 o'clock P.M. I got aboard the cars about 6—filling 23 cars—arrived at Elmira about daylight the next morning. There the Army were supplied to the Regiment. While there I went to the Camp—saw Captain Woodworth and many of the Farmersville boys. They were expecting marching orders every day. I presume they are now in Virginia. Just at noon we left Elmira for Baltimore via Harrisburg and arrived at our destination about 10 o'clock next day. All along our route throngs of people were at all the Depots and road crossings greeting us with great hearty cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs.

Decrepit old age left its retreat in the quiet corner to give us God speed and even totting childhood caught the enthusiasm! This was really gratifying to us who were leaving all the comforts and endearments of home and subject ourselves to all the trials and self-denials and hardships and perils of a soldiers life in our country's cause.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
Pavilion . n. y.
We remained at Baltimore until late in the night and shipped once more for Washington where we arrived early in the morning, stayed about Washington all day getting ready to really take up Camp life. About dark we took up the March for Camp Seward about 4 miles from Washington in a s.w. direction. Camp Seward is on Arlington Heights a place owned by the rebel General Lee and was once occupied by the rebel forces. While there Washington lay at our feet in plain sight while Georgetown was a little to our left but hid from view by a high point jutting into the river. Washington arc encircled by 27 large forts which are located in commanding positions about 4 or 5 miles from the city—stretching along from Fort to Fort are strong rifle pits and entrenchments and stockades.—Within that circle of forts and rifle pits the new recruits are encamped. At present there are as many as 100,000 or more, while just outside of the Forts and rifle pits the old battered and scarred veterans who have been in the stom of all the horrible and bloody battles are encamped.—You know something how rough camp life was in Barracks at Jamestown—but that is only the beginning—a sort of intermediate stage between civilized life and real camp life—Do you want to know just how tent life is? I being one of the Field Officers have a tent 9 ft. sq. and 4½ ft. high at the eaves. It is, in fact, a little cloth house. In this little tent 5 of us are quartered, the 3 surgeons, Frank, the Hospital steward. Already we have encamped two nights on the open field without tents—one night very rainy at that—

Well last Sunday noon we left Camp Seward for this place—encamped or rather lay in the open field—and a rainy night—about a mile from the ruins of the village of Arondale. The village was burned last winter by the Union Forces under General Blenker—not a house left. It was sort

Oct. 15, 1862

of a nest for the rebels—but he broke it up thoroughly!!

All along from Washington here a distance of 18 miles nearly all the houses are burned and the whole country looks a dreary desolation—no crops—no houses—no cattle—no nothing! Such is war! At Bailey's Cross Roads, 7 miles from Washington we came across the rebel entrenchments and fortifications, which were erected to prevent our folks from advancing on this place and Manassas—and these works are all along the road as far as this place at least.

This place is about the size of Cadiz^(N.Y.) and in its day it must have had a woebegone appearance. Now it is almost in ruins. The folks owning the best houses were Secessionists and of course have left for parts further South. The soldiers have riddled and destroyed their houses. This is an old town being the County Seat of the County where Washington resided. His will is here recorded in the County Clerk's Office. The old Books are here in the Provost Marshall's Office. I have seen the record of the will. The place has been settled over 160 years. It makes one feel a sort of veneration for the old buildings, etc. when standing in the presence of each antiquity—But enough of this.
such

We are now almost in the front of the Army in General Segels' Corps. General Segels is one of the very best Generals this war has produced.

him He is a small bony active man about 45 years of age with light auburn and a sandy goatee and mustache. Looks dutchy and speaks quite broken. His headquarters are here in a smallish brick house. Carl Schurz the greatest orator in America is also here. He is about 50 years old, tall and lean with light hair with a long thin face—and awful dutchy look. Well, well I see I have written about 2 sheets and I shall be quite likely to weary your patience in reading it.

I am anxious to see you all, that even writing is a great solace.

Hasten the day when I can return once more to the quiet village and our pleasant home!

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
I know you will be a good girl. Be obedient and dutiful to Ma and Charley and write me often. I will write you again soon, should we remain here. If not, as soon as I can command time. Good night.

Your affectionate father

P.S. There are some 20,000 troops here and about 3000 beyond at Centreville.

Camp near Fairfax C.H., Va.
October 25

#2

Dearest Melissa,

After four days delay the mail came in last night bringing your two letters of the 12th and 15th and 17th inst. You can hardly conceive of the pleasure it gave me to hear from you and the children once more, though I was saddened to hear that you were too unwell to attend church and too weak to finish the one letter at once. I really hope that you are well now as you made no mention of illness in your last letter. Take care of yourself--do not expose yourself to cold or abuse yourself by work. Put yourself entirely at rest on account of any hardship and exposure I am undergoing in Army. I am really quite comfortably situated. You can hardly understand the multiple uses and how comfortable and convenient a small room may be.

Now here we are, Dr. Day and myself, occupying a tent 9' square which contains our bed, a good and comfortable one, a table for writing purposes and to hold our books and papers, a good fire arrangement in the shape of a brick oven or stove which leads back under the edge of the tent and then turns upward in the shape of a chimney. The brick was once a component of some rebels mansion--a large and fine one in its day, but our boys have confiscated the whole and there is not now one brick left upon another now. It was really surprising to see the assiduity and industry of the boys when they went into that house. We were a summer encampment and in two days there was a good brick chimney to the hospital and to nearly all the large tents. In approaching we look like a village.

*Prop. of Pav. Ctr. Antigua Shop
Pavilion 47 ft.*

I think I have written you a description of the camp. If not I will say that in our camp there are two kinds of tents - what is called a "wall tent" for officers--and the "fly tent" for the men. The Wall Tents are really small cloth houses - 9 feet square. The fly tent is a sufficient number of pieces of canvas cloth buttoned together and drawn tightly over a pole raised on crotches--the ends fastened to the ground several feet apart--in shape like the roof of a house--the gables composed of pieces of cloth attached loosely which serves as the door. The bottom is covered with cedar boughs or straw or hay and four men sleep in one of these.

There are in all maybe 240 of these tents--arranged in regular streets which are well ditched and clean, separated by a broad street just back of these are the "line officers tents"--20 in number. These are wall tents - one being devoted to a Captain and 2 Lts. in one. Still back and separated by another broad street are the Field and Staff Officers tents - 8 - and then back of these the Hospital - and large tents containing the Quartermasters and commissaries store - and back of these still are the wagons, mules and horses.

Thoroughfare Gap
Prince Wm. Co., Va.
November 5th, 1862

Dearest Melissa,

I wrote you a simple note this morning saying that I was quite well. Having a moment of leisure, I thought I would give you a hasty history of our trip from Fairfax here.

We are 28 miles west of Fairfax and 48 from Washington. The Regiment started from Camp at Fairfax Sunday at one o'clock p.m., came through Centerville and encamped for the night about a mile east of the Bull Run Battlefield. The ground where we encamp showed abandoned evidence of the conflict--the field being covered with shell and cannon balls. ed

Centerville is really strongly fortified--the rifle pits and dirt forts extending along the crest of a high hill for miles. The whole country from Centerville to ^{Monassess} junction is scattered over with log huts about 14 x 20 ft. with floors, chimneys, windows, etc., etc. which were used as winter quarters for their army last winter. I should judge from the stables that the forces here were mostly cavalry and artillery. The country from Fairfax to Monassess Junction has been thoroughly desolated by war. *Property of Pav. Center Antique Shop
Pav. N.Y.*

On Monday morning we resumed our march at eight o'clock and soon came upon the broken knolls and crests that I should have known from the descriptions at the time that we were approaching the field of the conflict of July 20, 1861. The rebels occupied a very strong defensive position and feeling their strength and security let our ranks walk right into the very jaws of death before they fire upon them. They had their batteries planted upon the brow of a series of broken hills--commanding fully the road and the stone bridge. They lay concealed and let our folks march over the bridge and then form in line of battle in an open field not 20 rods from their batteries. The east bank of Bull Run is a preceptive stony bluff and no way of retreating across the Run except by the Stone Bridge which was dozen hills fully commanded. History has recorded the dreadful events of that disastrous day--with equal numbers engaged, a "fool" could guess the result after inspecting the ground.

A little further along we came over the battlefields of the 28th and 29th of August last. Right side of the road hundreds are buried in common graves. From Gainesville to this place the country has been held by the "rebs" and we "now in a country without the semblance or claim

of a particle of loyalty in it. Everybody here are thoroughly and earnestly rebellious and our boys are trying the virtues of the Confiscation Bill on them fully.

Will write again as soon I can command time. Good-by. Love to you, Dora and Charley.

Affectionately,

Henry

#4

Hospital Georgetown
Nov. 28th 1862 ?

Dearest Lis,

I am still better and were I at home I could hardly excuse myself from attending to professional business as my health is now.--but I shall remain here until I am well. The expense is but trifling only \$4 per wk. including medical attendance, nurses and everything else, except personal washing. I have been here a week and heard nothing from you yet. If by any accident your letters have gone to the Reg't. the Lord only knows when I will get them. Write won't you? Make my apologies to Mr. Wing and Mr. McVean for not answering their kind letters.

Prof. Pav. Ctr. Antique shop

I am visited here almost daily by friends--Revill, Manley, Fenton and Van Horn and among others by Drs. Loundry and Persons of Randolph, N. Y. Give yourself no anxiety on my account for I am really doing well and am now quite comfortable so far as pain is concerned. God bless you. Kiss the children for me and I am as ever, your aff.

Henry

Do write.

5

Wash., D. C. Dec. 12, 1862

My dearest Lis,

I have written you once before today announcing that I was off immediately for the Reg't and left the Hospital about 11 o'clock for that purpose but when I came to the city I found I could get no government transportation until tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Providence permitting I shall then go without fail.

But the reason above all others why I write now is to say that I have just rec'd Charleys and yours of the 7th inst. and you can't tell how glad I was to hear from you, although I am sorry to hear that your neck and shoulders was troubling you again. I am glad that Charley is going to get a pair of new skates but he must be very careful and not skate where the water is deep under the ice for I am afraid he will break through and get drowned or frozen to death. I do not think my absence from the Reg't. on account of my sickness will interfere with or prevent my obtaining a leave of absence when the Reg't. goes into winter qtrs. I can form no idea now when we shall go into winter quarters as the whole Army is in motion--"on to Richmond" is the universal cry and the expectation is among military men that that pestiferous city will be "wiped out" before the cold weather drives our Army to winter quarters.

Prof. Paus. Ctv. Antique Shop.

The weather here is very pleasant and tonight the snow is nearly gone.

Be assured that I shall come home as soon as I can and stay as long as possible when I do come for I am as anxious to see you, Dora and Charley and home as you are to see me--and I shall let no opportunity slip of gratifying my desires.

I am feeling quite well tonight and hope this may find you all well. Bye the bye I think I shall be home sometime next month. Goodbye again. My love to the children--much obliged to Charley for his letter. Tell him to write again and want Dora to do the same.

Yours as ever

Aff. Henry

6

Camp Near Falmouth, Va.
December 17th, 1862

My dearest Lis,

I overtook our Regiment yesterday which is now encamped on a hill just back of Falmouth, overlooking Fredericksburg. The boys are nearly all well (?) and cheerful--in fact the health of the Regiment (I mean those we have with us) is much better than it has been before since we came to "Dixie".

I was somewhat fatigued with my journey (this place is 70 miles from Washington--near south) but feel all right today after a good night's sleep -- I have time to write only a few words today just to let you know where and how I am.

Prop of Pavilion Center Antique Shop

But I must say that this Fredericksburg campaign is so far a disastrous concern--worse if anything could be worse than McClellan's Campaign on the Peninsula. General Franklin gained a slight advantage on the extreme left--but here in the center it was no battle but a regular wholesale slaughter--whole brigades of our poor soldiers were led up and held right before their strong fortifications and thousands were cut down by their cannon and musketry--while the enemy were entirely protected by their works. At this point Burnside's forces did not cross the river because the "Rebs" let them do so as a matter of policy. Here was a battle extending along a line of ten miles and lasting three days with no favorable results to our side at least. It is true our forces did occupy Fredericksburg but they were all withdrawn Sunday night and at early daylight Monday morning the pontoon bridge was taken up, and the center and right of our army are now on this side of the river. Let the papers glaze the matter over as they will, I tell you we have suffered a great disaster--attended with an immense slaughter,--more killed and wounded the officers say than at Antietam or Corinth--I have been through the hospitals here and seen the mutilated victims of this disastrous and fruitless affair and know somewhat where of I speak, although every one seems desirous of being silent on the subject.

Pavilion, N. Y.

I have no doubt but that we have 200,000 troops massed in this army and I have no faith in their accomplishing anything this winter. In fact it is snowing a little today and everything looks more like going into winter quarters here than any move that would take us "on to Richmond".

Military matters look dark for the present--and success if at all in the distant future.

I am staying with Henry Fuller of the 64th until our folks get better quarters fitted up.

He is well and since connected with the army has been in the battle of Fair Oaks, in the Seven days fight on the Peninsula, at Antietam and South Mountain and in the three days fight here and Saturday nearly all day right in front of their Batteries yet he has never received a scratch. The 64th went into the fight with 250 and lost 67.

I found Frank well on my return and he was right glad to see me-- The regiment had been on the march 7 days when I met it.

I shall be home as soon as possible--as soon as we go into winter quarters. Remember me to Dora and Charley. I will write again in a day or two.

Affectionately

Henry

1

Hdq. 154th Regiment N. Y. S. Vol.
Camp in the field at U. S. Ford
12 miles above Falmouth, Va.
January 19, 1863

My dear Dora,

I received your kind letter of the 11th inst. last evening and was right glad to hear from you, especially so to hear you were all well. I was greatly surprised to hear that Ma has not received my letters regularly as I have always written home at least twice a week ever since I left home either sick or well and have generally done so every other day. Lately I have written twice a week. In my last letter to Ma I told her that our Brigade had been on an expedition for cutting roads to the river. When I wrote I was there in camp near Falmouth. The next morning after writing that letter we came back to the same place and have been here ever since, engaged in cutting more roads to the river and in clearing away the underbrush on the bluffs this side of the river for the purpose of planting batteries.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop Pavilion N.Y.

The Pontoon Bridges that were used at Fredericksburg are about a mile from here awaiting the finishing up the roads to allow their transportation to the river. We are in a very thick pine forest--nearly as thick as the pine grove in Camp Brown--Jamestown. Consequently all our operations have been covered from the observation of the rebs. Everything looks quiet over the river as well as on this side but in a day or two our Army will cross, or attempt to cross, the river here and without the rebels have evacuated which they probably have not--there will be another severe battle sometime this week. The opinion of the officers is that our Brigade will not cross the river but will be held as a reserve as we have been doing fatigue service for a long time. But whether we shall be in the contest or not may the fate of battle favor our cause and protect our brave corps.

I saw Capt. Wood several times during his sickness--he seems to have a presentiment that he should not recover and was very anxious to get home before he died. Poor man, his condition would not allow the gratification of his dying wishes.

I am quite strong now and am improving every week. The weather is pleasant--the nights intensely cold and the roads as hard as a pavement.

I would be glad to hear from you often. I expect you and Charley will be good children. I know you will and aid Ma all you can while I am away. Hoping to see you all soon and hear often from you.

I am your affectionate father

Give my love to Ma and Charley.

8

Headquarters 154th Regiment
Camp on Creek 5 miles from Leesburg and
about the same distance from Ball's Bluff
1½ miles above Leesburg and Chain Bridge Turnpike
Loudon County, Va.
January 21st, 1863

My dearest Lis,

I wrote you a hurried letter yesterday but fearing it might not get beyond the lines or miscarry and knowing how anxious you would be to hear from me and how long and weariful suspense you would suffer until the campaign was over, I thought I would write to you again today as it would multiply our chances of easing you. That is my only object in writing as I have nothing new to say beyond what I said yesterday.

We are just where we have been since Tuesday night--and "all quiet".

I am entirely ignorant of the reason why the whole army was sent up here on such forced marches and when we get here no appearance of the enemy in the vicinity--or anywhere about these parts in any considerable numbers.

Stanton's

We have occasionally, at intervals every day for the past two weeks, heard distant cannonading--but nothing like a fight with any considerable force. We don't know who it is that is firing--where it is but suppose it to be the light artillery (as Stanton's 5th Cavalry who are coming up and clearing out the Valley between the Bull Run and the Blue Ridge Mountains. I think the whole army is massed between Leesburg and Centerville with supports at Fairfax Co. H. and Vienna and the reserve artillery at Chattanooga.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop

In peaceful times this was indeed pleasant country. Loudon County was one of the wealthiest and best counties in the state and one of the greatest slave producing counties in the whole south. Of course it was originally inherently and intensely "secesh" and the poison yet remains unadulterated with the few who have not been swept away by the storm of war. *rec'd*

The other day when on the march here a few miles this side of Centerville Dr. Hovey and myself called at a Planter's Mansion away out in the fields from any road on which the army was passing to get some breakfast. We found it the residence of a widow of about 50 whose son was in the "reb" army and she was malignantly and intensely "secesh".

From the surroundings the old woman's story the family were among the most wealthy and aristocratic in this part of the State two years ago but they are thoroughly played out now. She says they have lost 50 valuable young field hands and any number of northern "niggers" in that time but added, with patriarch complacency, that she cared nothing about it. She reckoned that they were sorry enough that they had left and

would be glad to get back. She said this coolly while you could see the fires of disappointment and malignancy were burning fierce within her. She seemed a genteel intelligent lady, but, strange to say, she believes Lincoln was a negro or part negro and added, with ill concealed rage, that the South never would submit to being ruled by a nigger! Now here was one of the First Families--and apparently an intelligent Lady living within 40 miles of Washington who not only believes that Lincoln was a nigger but affirmed time after time on our denial of the impeachment that she "knew it". What wonder that such a people could be led blindfold into a rebellion against the best government the sun ever shone upon. Should the rebellion succeed one of the most absolute despotism would be built up on the ruins of the republic--the world ever saw.

The instituting of the south have blotted out the moral sensibilities of the people.

Now this widow in talking about her losses dwelt prominently on the 50 young valuable field hands and added as coolly as we at the North would talk about cattle that she had also lost 8 best breeding women there was about here!

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
What greater degradation can be left for a people than this. And yet we have people in the North who claim to be intelligent and decent who believe slavery the normal condition of the human family. Here we have positive proofs that the curse of God visits on all that come in contact with this atrocious institution. The free air of the north should blister the lungs of her ingrate children who believe or advocate a doctrine repugnant to the Gospel they pretend to believe!

Pavilion, N.Y.
We know nothing of the outside world--having neither mail or papers since leaving Centerville.

Write me often, for you cannot realize how glad I am to hear from you and home. Write often for a letter is the kiss of the absent--and were we together could we live a day without a kiss?

My love and kisses to the children, ask them to write me. I should be glad to hear from them and you at anytime. Don't wait for me to answer. I am awfully busy. Good-by.

Affectionately,

Henry

#9

Headquarters 154 Regiment N.Y.S. Vol.
Camp near Stafford C. H. Va.
April 11, 1863

My dearest Lis,

Yours of the 5th inst. I received and you can't tell how glad I was to hear from you and to hear that you are all well. Do write oftener!

Yesterday was a big day in the 11th and 12th Army Corps. Both were received by the President in the same place we were received the day before. The President was accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln and a little boy about as large as Charley and was escorted to the field by General Hooker, Sickles, Schurz, Slocum and Howard with a numerous retinue of Brigadier-Generals and citizens who came up from Washington with him.

The troops were stationed in the field at 11 o'clock. The Divisions in line of battle with the several Regiments massed with spaces between Brigades. The 1st Division of the corps forming the first line--then a wide street or space and then the 2nd Division in the same order and so on with the dividing--with the Artillery stationed away to the right.

At twelve o'clock the cannon on the right announced the coming of the President by firing a salute of 21 guns--a moment afterward the party came in sight. The President and General Hooker in the advance both upon horse--followed by a few horsemen as a special body guard--then the carriage with Mrs. Lincoln followed by a large guard of Lancers.

On approaching the troops the President bared his head and rode in front of the first line at a slow gallop with General Hooker just in the rear who was in turn followed by the immense bodyguard of Lancers and Cavalry. After passing the whole length of the first line he passed to the rear and rode in the same way in front of all the lines. I had forgot to tell you that the young Lincoln, a fat fair haired boy of 10 or 12 rode on a black shambling pony sometimes beside his father and sometimes in the rear.

The carriage in which Mrs. Lincoln and some other lady rode took a position some distance to the front of the troops on a slight elevation near the National colors. While the receiving party were passing among the troops the several bands played "Hail to the Chief" etc. in fine style.

After passing in front of all the troops the President took his position by the National colors and the troops by regiments passed in review before him.

The pictures carry a good idea of how old "Abe" looks--the most of them are exact likenesses--he looks careworn, anxious and fatigued. Mrs. Lincoln is a blonde, "fat and fair and 'Squishy'". She would remind you of Mrs. L. I. Mason--though rather prettier looking. She looks to me like a cow animal somewhat?, a coquetish, trifling woman without a single mark of greatness about her. Perhaps I am unduly prejudiced against her on account of her shameless conduct? and frivolity with General Sickles during the review. I wouldn't be surprised if old Abe had a good cause to shoot Sickles as he (S.) had to kill Key!!

I am glad the cow and old John are sold but if the heifer should make a live of it and come in you will still be tied up if you'd not- - - - -

10

Hdqts. 154th N. Y. S. Vol.
New Camp near Falmouth, Va.
Apr. 27, 1863

My dearest Lis,

I have just this moment received your letter of the 13th inst. and was astonished to hear that you had received no letters from me lately. I have always written home to you twice a week and generally three times sick or well ever since I left home and have done so since I came to this place. I have a letter from Dora of the 16th inst. with me while we were laying at the U. S. Ford and wrote her from there and I wrote you immediately on our return to camp.

It is true I am under the necessity of using a cane to enable me to walk but am improving in that respect while my general health is tolerably good.

Prop. of Pavilion Ctr. Antiquary Shop

Without much doubt I shall be home within ten days or two weeks at most when I can tell you. I think we shall be paid this week the payments is now in these quarters. I was right glad to hear that Jimmy Copeland had gone home for he was awfully home sick here. I have lived all winter while in camp and have rebuilt a cabin since our coming to this new camp an aristocratic log shanty covered with the "fly" from Hospital Tent. It has all the modern improvements all available in camp. The building is 14 ft. square with a good fireplace and good comfortable sleeping place for 5 and a warm cosey place for my writing desk in the corner. Our fare is of course rough and coarse but have plenty—such as it is. Frank is well now and has been ever since he came here and is very fleshey and he is nearly rid of that woebegone face of his. He will come home with me. Write often and kisses for the children and kindest regards for the inquiring friends I am

Affectly

Henry

Copy of original letters of Dr. Henry Van Cernum
owned by Pavilion Center Antique Shop.
Pavilion, New York #11

U. S. Ford, Va.
May 4, 1863

My dearest Lis,

We are just out of a terrible battle which is yet undecided and our Regiment has suffered considerably--tho I am not advised just who have suffered--this I know--Col. Jones is wounded and Sgt. Noyes probably killed--or perhaps a prisoner. Many of our wounded fell into the hands of the enemy as they drove us at first entirely from our positions. I was detailed as one of the operating surgeons from the Division, consequently have not been with the Regiment since the first day of battle. We have been shelled out of three field Hospitals already and I have had over 400 wounded pass through my hands. The appearances now are that the Battle has only commenced although in severity it exceeds Antietam, Bull Run and Fredericksburg. The fight is awful and I have had ample opportunity to see the sad side of the picture. Thank God I have escaped so far unhurt--I write this in the midst of the wounded--and I write hastily to let you know of my safety.

Will write you at length as soon as possible.

*Prop of Pav. Ctr.
Antique Shop*

God grant that this may be the last battle I may ever be called upon to witness. I think we shall succeed but after an awful struggle. Adieu! Kisses for yourself and children and with undying affection for you all. I am as ever,

Your

Henry

154th Regiment N. Y. S. Vol.
Old Camp near Stafford C. H. Va.
May 7, 1863

12

My dearest Liz,

Back again to an old camp fresh from the bloody field of Chancellorville where we have left 2/5 of our Regiment (dead or prisoners) or brought them back with us wounded. We are a sorrowing and stricken band. We went to a place named Wilderness on the map of Virginia which you have, on the night of the 30th with 500 efficient men--we now have 33 wounded in Hospital and left 169 wounded, dead and missing on the field--among latter Col. Jones our Adjutant Noyes and Capt. Vedder and Griswold. Among the privates of your acquaintance are "Jimmy" Copeland, Marvin G. Day, Henry Hill and John O. Fitch. Col. Jones is known to be wounded and is probably a prisoner as he has not been seen since the night of the fight. Noyes and Vedder are supposed to be killed--Jimmy Copeland, Day, Hill and Fitch I think are prisoners as they were seen in the woods after our boys left the rifle pits.

The battle commenced on Saturday about 6 o'clock P.M. by the enemy falling with overwhelming numbers on a portion of the 11th Army Corps which was posted on the extreme right--this battle is the old story of Fair Oaks repeated. Our folks were expecting an attack yet when it did come it was really a surprise and they were totally unprepared to meet it and were routed and driven about 1/2 mile before they could be rallied to make a stand again. Our folks were looking for the attack to be made either from the direction of Fredericksburg or Gordonsville but when it was made it came from the Culpepper Road and the "rebs" fell upon us like an avalanche.

Within 30 minutes after the Pickets fired the first guns the 11th Corps was used up and you can judge somewhat of the severity of this struggle when I say that our Regiment was not in the contest to exceed 20 minutes and 202 of our men were killed, wounded or prisoners and the entire 11th Corps was swept away like chaff and the rebs were in possession of the field. Our folks fell hastily to General Hookers headquarters where they formed a second line of battle and maintained their position in spite of the super-human efforts of the enemy to drive them back. Here the battle raged with terrific fury until a little after 7 to 12 o'clock at night when they retired from the contact--to renew it again at daylight the next morning with the same energy and determination as before and with the same results.

I never had a vivid conception of hell until I saw that night's battle. Our folks had the crest of a hill extending full a mile in a large field planted with cannon as thick as they could be worked and supported by more than 20,000 muskets yet notwithstanding the enemy came right up in solid mass in front of the deadly array. Every discharge from the cannon would mow down great roads through the living mass and hundreds would be shot down every moment by the musketry without checking them apparently in the least.

The living mass would move up to our front like an ocean wave with great furrows ploughed through it with gaps, canister and shells, which

5/7/63

would immediately close up like parted water and move on until close up to our guns within short musket range, when it would be checked, falter, fall back a little and then advance again to the deadly front. Then a bayonet charge would be made with the desperation and fury of fiends which was met and repelled by our boys. This struggle lasted for more than four hours when they withdrew for the night.

The sight was awfully terrific and grand! The field showed in the night one mass of flaming leaping from the mouths of these great guns and the thousands of muskets lighting up the faces of the combatants with a horrid glare that made them look more like fiends than human beings. The sound of the musketry was one constant roar and the discharge of the heavy guns appeared to make great seams in the sound which otherwise would have been constant and uniform--mingled with the fierce yell of the embattlement when a bayonet charge was being made. I had a fair view of the contest for more than an hour before I retired to the hollow in the woods back of the battlefield to attend to the poor fellows who had fallen in the fight. Here the sight was sad and melancholy in the extreme--too sickening to tell. Suffice to say that more than 500 wounded in every way and place that man could endure and fire army inflict--have applied to me for help.

The battle was renewed on Sunday morning at daylight and pushed with unabated energy until 1 o'clock when the enemy gradually withdrew and the firing ceased.

The enemy failed to drive one man from the fight but we did not pursue them when they retired. The news of the battle will carry desolation, mourning and sorrow to thousands of homes at the north and yet what availeth it? The Rappahannock was crossed successfully without loss and the enemy was taken somewhat by surprise and we chose the place of battle but we failed to achieve a successful victory when the battle was fought. We were not beaten--yet we were not successful. We held a large portion of our chosen ground but did not drive the enemy from our front. After the storm of battle ceased on Sunday everything was quiet along our lines until dark when our folks commenced a very extensive strong fortification and entrenchment reaching from General Hooker's Headquarters to the U. S. Ford a distance of 5 miles. These works were completed by Tuesday evening. Everybody thought on Monday that the battle would be renewed again perhaps on that very day--certainly not later than Tuesday but it seems that "strategy" demands our return to this side of the Rappahannock and "strategy" prevailed. Early Tuesday morning the supply and ammunition trains commenced a retrograde movement. Still we thought the Army would surely not go back but at noon of that day I became satisfied that this movement meant withdrawal of our forces for I saw the droves of beef cattle that were to supply the Army with meat were being driven away.

I never felt so depressed in my life as I did when that unwelcome conclusion was forced upon me. There were these Pontoon Bridges across the river at the U. S. Ford. As soon as darkness covered the movements of our troops the passage of the Army was commenced and those bridges creaked and

5/7/63

bent beneath the tread of the "Grand Armee" as it flowed in ceaseless stream all night long over them. Our Regiment crossed about daylight at which time 2/3 were already across--up to that time the enemy had not dreamt of our evacuation and I doubt whether they did at all until the passage of the river was entirely effected as we heard no firing in that direction. The evacuation was conducted quietly and skillfully as at Fredericksburg last winter. What the necessity was that impelled withdrawal I am not able to see. We were certainly not beaten although we met with heavy losses--but the enemy must have lost 2 to 1 as they were the attacking party and came right up in front of our heavy guns. We were on our chosen ground and well fortified and entrenched at the time of the withdrawal. The whole thing is a mystery to me. I do not speak of the operations of the Army at Fredericksburg and Banks Ford because I know nothing about them. We have not seen a paper in the last two weeks or more.

The 11th Army Corps shamefully fell back--a few regiments fruitlessly trying to stay the panic and skedaddle, among them stands out conspicuously the heroic 154th. There is not a coward in the regiment--every man is a hero and possesses the fortitude of a veteran. Jimmy Copeland, our boys say, is the bravest of the brave.

That they tried to do their duty thru thinner ranks and melancholy losses will stand as a perpetual witness. Nearly four weeks ago we left this camp with high hopes of a successful campaign--and here we are again not having suffered defeat--yet certainly not successful. I have lived a sad and eventful age in that short time which I pray I may never experience again. For these last two weeks we have been almost constantly at work scarcely sleeping at all--the wonder is that any of us are alive and so well as we are. Will write again tomorrow or next day. With kisses and undying love.

Yours;

Henry

154th Regiment N. Y. S. Vol.
Old Camp near Stafford C. H. Va.
May 7, 1863

12

My dearest Lis,

Back again to an old camp fresh from the bloody field of Chancellorsville where we have left 2/5 of our Regiment (dead or prisoners) or brought them back with us wounded. We are a sorrowing and stricken band. We went to a place named Wilderness on the map of Virginia which you have, on the night of the 30th with 500 efficient men--we now have 33 wounded in Hospital and left 169 wounded, dead and missing on the field--among latter Col. Jones our Adjutant Noyes and Capts. Vedder and Griswold. Among the privates of your acquaintance are "Jimmy" Copeland, Marvin G. Day, Henry Hill and John O. Fitch. Col. Jones is known to be wounded and is probably a prisoner as he has not been seen since the night of the fight. Noyes and Vedder are supposed to be killed--Jimmy Copeland, Day, Hill and Fitch I think are prisoners as they were seen in the woods after our boys left the rifle pits.

Property of Pavilion

The battle commenced on Saturday about 6 o'clock P.M. by the enemy falling with overwhelming numbers on a portion of the 11th Army Corps which was posted on the extreme right--this battle is the old story of Fair Oaks repeated. Our folks were expecting an attack yet when it did come it was really a surprise and they were totally unprepared to meet it and were routed and driven about 1/2 mile before they could be rallied to make a stand again. Our folks were looking for the attack to be made either from the direction of Fredericksburg or Gordonsville but when it was made it came from the Culpepper Road and the "rebs" fell upon us like an avalanche.

Center

Within 30 minutes after the Pickets fired the first guns the 11th Corps was used up and you can judge somewhat of the severity of this struggle when I say that our Regiment was not in the contest to exceed 20 minutes and 202 of our men were killed, wounded or prisoners and the entire 11th Corps was swept away like chaff and the rebs were in possession of the field. Our folks fell back hastily to General Hookers headquarters where they formed a second line of battle and maintained their position in spite of the super-human efforts of the enemy to drive them back. Here the battle raged with terrific fury from a little after 7 to 12 o'clock at night when they retired from the contact--to renew it again at daylight the next morning with the same energy and determination as before and with the same results.

Antique Shop, Pavilion, N.Y.

I never had a vivid conception of hell until I saw that nights battle. Our folks had the crest of a hill extending full a mile in a large field planted with cannon as close as they could be worked and supported by more than 20,000 muskets yet notwithstanding the enemy came right up in solid mass in front of the deadly array. Every discharge from the cannon would mow down great roads thru the living mass and hundreds would be shot down every moment by the musketry without checking them apparently in the least.

The living mass would move up to our front like an ocean wave with great furrows ploughed through it with gaps, canister and shells, which

5/7/63

would immediately close up like parted water and move on until close up to our guns within short musket range, when it would be checked, falter, fall back a little and then advance again to the deadly front. Then a bayonet charge would be made with the desperation and fury of fiends which was met and repelled by our boys. This struggle lasted for more than four hours when they withdrew for the night.

The sight was awfully terrific and grand! The field showed in the night one mass of flaming leaping from the mouths of these great guns and the thousands of muskets lighting up the faces of the combatants with a horrid glare that made them look more like fiends than human beings. The sound of the musketry was one constant roar and the discharge of the heavy guns appeared to make great seams in the sound which otherwise would have been constant and uniform--mingled with the fierce yell of the embattlement when a bayonet charge was being made. I had a fair view of the contest for more than an hour before I retired to the hollow in the woods back of the battlefield to attend to the poor fellows who had fallen in the fight. Here the sight was sad and melancholy in the extreme--too sickening to tell. Suffice to say that more than 500 wounded in every way and place that man could endure and fire army inflict--have applied to me for help.

Property of
The battle was renewed on Sunday morning at daylight and pushed with unabated energy until 1 o'clock when the enemy gradually withdrew and the firing ceased.

Par. Ctr. Antique Shop

The enemy failed to drive one man from the fight but we did not pursue them when they retired. The news of the battle will carry desolation, mourning and sorrow to thousands of homes at the north and yet what availeth it? The Rappahanock was crossed successfully without loss and the enemy was taken somewhat by surprise and we chose the place of battle but we failed to achieve a successful victory when the battle was fought. We were not beaten--yet we were not successful. We held a large portion of our chosen ground but did not drive the enemy from our front. After the storm of battle ceased on Sunday everything was quiet along our lines until dark when our folks commenced a very extensive strong fortification and entrenchment reaching from General Hooker's Headquarters to the U. S. Ford a distance of 5 miles. These works were completed by Tuesday evening. Everybody thought on Monday that the battle would be renewed again perhaps on that very day--certainly not later than Tuesday but it seems that "strategy" demands our return to this side of the Rappahanock and "strategy" prevailed. Early Tuesday morning the supply and ammunition trains commenced a retrograde movement. Still we thought the Army would surely not go back but at noon of that day I became satisfied that this movement meant withdrawal of our forces for I saw the droves of beef cattle that were to supply the Army with meat were being driven away.

Pavilion. N.Y.

I never felt so depressed in my life as I did when that unwelcome conclusion was forced upon me. There were these Pontoon Bridges across the river at the U. S. Ford and as soon as darkness covered the movements of our troops the passage of the river was commenced and those bridges creaked and

5/7/63

bent beneath the tread of the "Grand Arme" as it flowed in ceaseless stream all night long over them. Our Regiment crossed about daylight at which time 2/3 were already across--up to that time the enemy had not dreamt of our evacuation and I doubt whether they did at all until the passage of the river was entirely effected as we heard no firing in that direction. The evacuation was conducted quietly and skillfully as at Fredericksburg last winter. What the necessity was that impelled withdrawal I am not able to see. We were certainly not beaten although we met with heavy losses--but the enemy must have lost 2 to 1 as they were the attacking party and came right up in front of our heavy guns. We were on our chosen ground and well fortified and entrenched at the time of the withdrawal. The whole thing is a mystery to me. I do not speak of the operations of the Army at Fredericksburg and Banks Ford because I know nothing about them. We have not seen a paper in the last two weeks or more.

Property of Pavilion Center

The 11th Army Corps shamefully fell back--a few regiments fruitlessly trying to stay the panic and skedaddle, among them stands out conspicuously the heroic 154th. There is not a coward in the regiment--every man is a hero and possesses the fortitude of a veteran. Jimmy Copeland, our boys say, is the bravest of the brave.

Antiqueshop - Pavilion - N.Y.

That they tried to do their duty thru thinner ranks and melancholy losses will stand as a perpetual witness. Nearly four weeks ago we left this camp with high hopes of a successful campaign--and here we are again not having suffered defeat--yet certainly not successful. I have lived a sad and eventful age in that short time which I pray I may never experience again. For these last two weeks we have been almost constantly at work scarcely sleeping at all--the wonder is that any of us are alive and so well as we are. Will write again tomorrow or next day. With kisses and undying love.

Yours,

Henry

of Franklinville N. Y. Cottaravicus County to his wife Amy Melissa (Lis)
originals property of
Near Stafford C.H., Va.
May 15, 1863
*Pavilion Center Antiques Shop
Pavilion N.Y.*

My dearest Lis,

I was sorely disappointed tonight in not receiving a letter from you. I had looked for it so anxiously and so long that I could hardly believe our mail boy when he told me there was nothing for me tonight. I thought he was mistaken and had him look the mail over again and with a little ill concealed petulance he announced the result of the search "I told you there was nothing". I turned away disappointed and heartsick, etc., etc.----
But enough of this —

I enclose General Hookers address to his Army--I hardly know what he would call a general battle if the fighting on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd inst. is not worthy of being called a general battle. We here have only a narrow and partial view of the matter as very few papers have yet been permitted to come to the army—but as to character and effects of the fight I think General Hookers conclusion entirely correct. But you there can judge about as well or better than we can here because you have a broader field of view opened to you—although implicit reliance cannot always be placed on official reports even.

Pavilion Center Antiques Shop
I send also General von Steinwicks report of the part his Division took in the battle of Chancellorville. You will observe that he gives credit to Col. Bushbeck's Brigade—commending equally the 27th Pa Vol. and 29th N. Y. Vol. with the 73rd Pa. Vols. and the 154th N. Y. Vols. The real fact is the 27th and 29th both skedaddled without showing fight and all the fighting that was done by his Division was done by the 73rd Pa. and our own Regiment. Both these Regiments are worthy of great praise—much more than they get in the report. Our Regiment saves Weidrich's Battery from falling into the hands of the enemy and opposed a brave and heroic front to the advancing Rebels—no doubt but that these officers who are mentioned so complimentary in the report did their duty passing but every officer in our Regiment did his duty equally well and they are not even mentioned individually or collectively in this truthful and sapient report.

Pavilion N.Y.
It seems the "Dutch" Powers that be are determined to make a General of Col. Bushbeck, that is all right and proper if it can be done with justice to other parties, but if any officer in the 11th Corps has earned a commission as General for anything that was done in that rout Col. Jones is entitled to the position and all the officers and men in our Regiment did their whole duty and did it well too. Just now it is a reproach for a man to belong to the 11th Army Corps and the Dutch part of it did behave like slinks in the fight on the 2nd inst., but I am proud of the bravery, the heroism and the valor of the 154th!

Our ranks are thinned but our name is untarnished and whosoever of us may live to return once more to our family and friends can do so proudly and unblushingly! Col. Jones has just been brought to camp—he has a severe flesh wound of his upper thigh—though not dangerous. He was taken prisoner the night of the fight and is paroled until exchanged. He was over there

5/15/1863

among the Rebs nearly a week--had rather rough fare although he says he was used as well as they used their own wounded. Our wounded are now being brought to the hospitals under flag of truce and paroled.

There were not as many killed in our Regiment as was first believed. Poor Noyes was killed--died on Monday after the battle. He was a man of noble impulses and generous nature with a great amount of capacity and activity and somewhat rough in his manner. Would to God that his poor wife and orphaned children who have been so terribly robbed of a husband and father be comforted! Captain Vedder is a prisoner and gone to Richmond. John G. Fitch is wounded and now at Hospital at Brooks Station. Jimmy Copeland, I think, is a prisoner and gone to Richmond and they will be exchanged soon.

Par. Ctr. Antigua Hosp

Col. A. G. Rice has just made his appearance here looking after the good of the boys.

Parolee N.Y.

I wrote you about sending the money by express to Cuba--retain in your hand all you desire--be sure and retain enough for I may not be paid again in 3 or 4 months and let Woodruff have the balance. I have no advice to give you about business matters. Your own good judgment will guide you much more than any advice I could give.

I also enclose announcement of the Death of Stonewall Jackson together with some very just comments on the occasion. There is no indication of our immediate move. Good-bye with love and kisses for yourself and children. Remember me kindly to inquiring friends. I am as ever your affectionate

Henry

14

Near Stafford C. H., Va.
June 6th, 1863

My dearest Lis,

"No man knoweth what a day may bring forth" especially here in these stormy times! Two or three days ago I wrote you of the probability of our remaining here for a long time--mentioned the building of fortifications and the erection of a large ~~Bakery~~. *Battery*

The roar of distant cannon at irregular intervals for the past two days has admonished us of the coming storm, and now we have just received orders to be ready to march at a moments notice with three days cooked rations. Where we are to go I am unable to guess but I think to Fredericksburg as we have heard heavy cannonading in that direction occasionally through the day and there is rumor in camp that our troops again occupy the place--the main body of the "Rebs" having gone to Vicksburg. One thing I know is true that a heavy artillery force was passing to the front all night.

Par. Ctr Antique Shop

What the result of this move will be I am unable to say or even guess or what my own fate may be is hidden by a merciful veil.

I feel a sort of abiding conviction that all will be "well with me"--and that I shall soon return to my pleasant home. God grant it may be so. Good-bye. God bless and preserve us. God bless our dear children. Kiss them for me. With undying affection.

I am your

Henry

I will write again tomorrow if possible. Adieu - Saturday June 6 5 p.m.

15

154th Regiment Near Stafford C. H., Va.
June 8, 1963

My dearest Lis,

"All is quiet on the Rappahannock" again or at least appears so today and the ordinary routine of camp life is resumed. We have had no papers in the Army for three or four days and are consequently entirely ignorant of what is going on.

The Camp is full of all manner of probable and very improbable rumors and we know not what to believe--but the appearance is today that affair has passed by for the present. I will write you every day if possible until things become established either for a forward movement or a settling down into the usual quiet.

Par. Ctr.

I am compelled to write you upon this fragmentary paper for the reason that everything is all packed up--I hope tomorrow will allow us to unpack and feel at ease again.

Antique Shop

The agony of the suspense and the suppressed excitement in such a 'i as this is really more painful and trying than the storm of the battlefields. With kisses for yourself and children. I am always your affectionate,

Henry

154th Regiment Near Stafford C. H., Va.
June 9, 1863

16

My dearest Lis,

We are yet in our old quarters and everything means the usual appearance of camp life. Military matters running in the routine way, although the order to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a moments notice still upon us which kept us really uncomfortable as all our little conveniences--and they are few indeed--are packed up ready for a move.

Lt. Orran was out to the front yesterday at Falmouth. He says one Corps (the 6th--Sedgwicks) is across the river at Fredericksburg--or rather a little below where General Franklin crossed last winter. The Rebs hold the height about and around Fredericksburg, but they make no attacks upon our force yet. I think our folks are entirely ignorant of the whereabouts of the main body of General Lee's Army. The Cavalry are out seeing if they can scare them up anywhere but do not succeed as yet in finding their whereabouts. I am more and more convinced that this whole splurge is to prevent the troops under Lee and Longstreet going to Vicksburg. Should this Army succeed in holding them here, it will be much better than to fight and beat them for there is a surety what was left of them would reinforce some of the Army and probably to one opposed to Grant. Perhaps there would be no glory in holding General Lee's Army on the alert, for defense, but there would be a usefulness in it that would be much better than empty glory!

Pav. Chr.
I shall be home, dearest just as soon as I can get permission to do so but really it does not look just now as if they would let anyone off until all is quiet again. All furloughs are now withheld and men and officers were recalled who had started on furloughs that were granted.

Antique Shop
There should be stamps put upon the Woodruff note, the amount of the stamp depending upon the size of the note--the \$525 note requiring much larger stamp than the \$175 note. I don't know the size stamp it will require. Call Woodruff's attention to this matter and pay him for the stamps to put on.

I will write you every day if possible until all is "quiet" again. Kiss the children for me. Remember me to inquiring friends. Write often.

Affectionately

Henry

#17

Near Stafford C. H. Va.
June 12, 1863 11 o'clock a.m.

My dearest Lis,

We start for Catletts Station at 1 o'clock today--just received orders.

The place you will see by a reference map about equi-distant between Warrenton and Manasses Junction. I have sent you by express as before today a package of \$280.

Tell Woodruff about it. Those notes should have a proper signed stamp upon them.

Fav. C. H. Antique Shop

I think we are sent up there just to guard R. R. and not fight. Good-by. Kiss the children for me and write often. I will as soon as possible. Good-by.

Affectionately

Henry

18

June 27, 1863

My dearest Lis,

We are still where we landed last night and all "quiet". Perhaps we were - - - - here towards night but no appearance of it yet.

This part of Maryland is really a beautiful country, with a fine and romantic scenery as one would wish to see. The dim outline of the Blue Ridge Mountains are seen away in the purple mist and at the north and east the south mountains enclose Middletown and Bolivar like a huge amphitheatre. The weather is still cool with occasional drizzling rain,--just right for marching--cool and no dust and plenty of water. From what I can learn the whole army of the Potomac is up here with the left wing at Harper's Ferry and the right at Fredericksburg facing north.

Par. Ctv. Antique Shop

The whole country about here is covered with encampments since yesterday morning. Our army is like a large serpent--it has to gather itself into a coil when preparing to strike a blow. We shall remain here until the coil is perfected when the cavalry, the eyes and ears of the army, will be sent forward and we shall then move as they advise.

Par. Ctv. 71-4

Hoping this may be my last campaign and that I may soon be permitted to return home with the Rebellion crushed is my earnest prayer.

Love and kisses for yourself and children and regards to those who care to know anything of me. I am as ever your affectionate

Henry

Middletown, Md.
July 15th, 1863

20

My dearest Lis,

I wrote you yesterday that the "rebs" had eluded our grasp--and true enough they have!

We went from Hagerstown to Williamsport yesterday--for no other reason that I could learn than to gaze in blank amazement at the place where the "rebs" had slipped off!! They crossed the river at Williamsport wading a deep turbid stream--with a rapid current nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide and deep enough to come up to the armpits. I was sure men fleeing for their lives would find some way to cross a river like the Potomac.

They commenced crossing on Monday morning July 6th and the last of them got over yesterday morning about 7 o'clock--among the very last that crossed were Generals, Lee, Longstreet and Hill!!

Pavilion Center Antique Shop

There has never been such a blunder in the army as allowing them to escape. They were completely within our grasp and with energy, boldness and promptness that army and the rebellion could have been crushed at a blow! We were at Boonsboro on the morning of the 8th and could easily have reached Williamsport on the morning of the 9th. We should have then met a defeated and divided (a portion over the river) enemy--and what is more all that day they were without ammunition! We came here as I said on the 8th and unaccountably let day after day go by without striking a blow! Put a General's shoulder straps upon a man and he loses all common sense at once. He seems giddy with his elevation. Every private in the Army knew that every moments delay was disastrous to us as it gave time for the rebs to escape--to entrench themselves likewise.

Pavilion - N.Y.

But that idea never got through the Generals heads until this whole army had gone, and when citizens from Williamsport who were just released from bondage told them so, told them that Lee and his whole army were gone--they could not believe it, but straightway started for Williamsport with the whole army--infantry, artillery and baggage trains just to assure themselves that such was the fact! At least I concluded that was so, for they marched us down there yesterday through rain and mud a distance of eight miles and this morning at daylight we came back over the same road on a forced march to the Lord only knows where! When we were chasing the rebs, the boys, although barefooted and ragged and half fed, were cheerful on their forced marches, but today they feel chagrined and humbugged. They are silent and morose and what little they do say is damning the foolishness and shortsightedness of the officers. They are right for they have endured everything, braved everything for the sake of success, and success bountiful and lasting was within their grasp--but lost by the imbecillity of commandry. Our army is an anomaly--it is an army of Lions commanded by jackasses!!

This is the third time we have been at this place in the last 20 days--hope we may never come here again although it is a pleasant place. I haven't the least idea where we are going but I am of the opinion that we are to cross the river at Harpers Ferry and go to Winchester to intercept the rebs--too late! too late!

7/15/63

I am heartsick and discouraged and thoroughly disgusted with such folly and humbugging and shall try to resign as soon as this campaign ends, which must be before long for they can't march us much more for we have been marching or fighting all the time for the last month.

We were pleased and surprised today by the appearance of Jack Mitchell and Lt. Crosby in our midst again. They escaped from the rebs at Martinsburg on the 10th inst. nearly lost them by drowning in swimming the river. They are well. Capt. Cheney gave the rebs the slip that night before they did, but he has not yet reached us.

Proof of Pav. Co. Antique Shop

I think you will have hard work reading this as I have been under the necessity of writing this by firelight--lying on my belly on the ground. We have marched 3 miles today--the weather is hot and muggy and we are ordered to be ready to move tomorrow at 4 o'clock. Should we go to Harpers Ferry I think we should reach it tomorrow night.

I am quite well. My love and kisses to the children and yourself. Do write often.

Affectionately

Henry

P.S. We have had no mail for several days but hope to soon. I am very anxious to hear from you for I could be content if I knew it was well with you at home. I have heard nothing from Henry Fuller since I left Gettysburg.

Warrenton Junction, Va.
July 30, 1863

21

My dearest Lis,

I have just received yours of the 23rd inst. and you can't tell how glad I was to hear from you and home and to hear that you were all well.

We are just laying here as we were when I last wrote you and I think there is no prospect of an immediate move. What I say of future movements or quietude of the army is all "guessing" as everything in relation to such matters is kept a profound secret. There are no "leaves of absence" granted yet--as soon as there are I shall make a strong push for one.

The boys in the army here think dreadful little of the idea of standing a wall of fire in front of the "rebs" to save such traitors and miscreants as the rioters of New York City or their sympathizers in Cattaraugus!

Prop. of Pavilion Ctr. Antique Shop
You ask me if I was in as much danger at Gettysburg as at Chancellorsville. I think I was not--although a part of the time I was where the minnie balls were plenty--and all the while the shells were frequent and familiar visitors.

Pavilion - 7-4.
There were five horses killed by shells right about the hospital--two men wounded--and several horses wounded.

Our line of battle was in shape of a horseshoe--with rather a sharper turn than a circle at the toe of the shoe which was (the toe) directly south of Gettysburg and almost in the suburbs of the village. The key of our position--the toe of the shoe was on a height about like the hill east of Howard's house which was an old burial ground in which the "rude forefathers of the hamlet sleeps" a little east of the old burial ground and right in the very toe of the shoe modern taste had built a very beautiful cemetery--"Evergreen Cemetery"--among the trees the monuments sacred to the memory of the dead on those three eventful days were planted those huge Batteries that defended the position and decided the events of the issue after that long terrible struggle. The cemetery occupies the highest point in the semi-circle or crest of high ground--before and in front of which was a broad plain sown with wheat or meadowland--this plain running up the base of South Mountain which encloses the Village of Gettysburg in a perfect amphitheatre--along the base of the mountain in a dense forest in which the rebel army were concealed from sight except when the battle was raging. I will make a rough diagram of the field.

The situation of our hospital was such that the shells that passed over our line of battle either in front or right or left would fall in the hollow of the shoe, and, as on the 2nd and 3rd day, the great struggle was to break through our left. Shells, consequently, fell very thickly about our Hospital, especially so on the 3rd crest. For a while, from 1 to 3 or 4 o'clock it was a perfect shower. Henry Fuller was in the 2nd Corps and his division and Brigade was just where the figure 2nd is in the rough diagram. Alas poor boy "foremost fighting" he fell there. He was really the "bravest of the brave". In his short life he won a name and established a character that any man of hoary years might well be proud of!! But will the bauble fame or the recital of heroic deeds nobly performed "soothe the dull cold ear of death"? or restore him to his family or friends?

Prof of Pav. Ltv - Antique Shop

In the hollow of the shoe 300 pieces of Reserve artillery was placed, which could be sent to any spot needed in 20 minutes between the heels of the shoe were stationed as a reserve the 6th Corps--a part of the 5th Corps volunteers and Sykes regulars--during the contest if our line was weakened at any point some of these reserve troops were sent to their aid. The line of battle was well chosen and a strong one, being the crest of a gentle elevation--say some 20 ft. above the valley front. The troops were handled like chess men in the hands of skilled players. Aid was always thrown to right spot in the right time. Our line of battle from heel to heel of shoe was about 6 miles in length--the reb line being on the outside was consequently best description that I have seen of the Battle of Gettysburg is on the last page of the New York Independent (Henry Ward Beechers) paper of July 9th or 10th. Read it.

Pavilion - N.Y.

The weather is intensely hot and what with the heat the flies, the mosquitoes, the bugs and the pismires and bad water, camping here is anything but agreeable. Write me often for I am so glad to get a letter from home, and I think they will reach me here regularly as we now have a mail every day. With love and kisses for yourself and children and kindest regards to all who may care to know about me.

I am your affectionate

Henry

P.S. I enclose the organization of the Medical Staff of the 11th Corps. You will see that my duties do not require me to go on the battlefield with the Regiment. My duties are as Brigade Surgeon and as detailed in order to go with ambulance in the first place to select wounded for hospital. When there are patients at Hospital requiring operations to perform them. I have operated largely. My heart is sick contemplating the mutilations. I am more generally selected by the surgeons to examine wounds closely to diagnose cases requiring operations which is much more agreeable to me than to do the operating.

Near Catlett Station, Va.
August 4, 1863

22

My dearest Lis,

Since I wrote you including the printed organization of the Medical Staff of the 11th Corps we have been again on our travels. We have been up to Bristow Station - staid there 36 hours and then came back again to within a mile of our Camp at Warrenton Junction.

Since we have been traveling again we have had no mail facilities-- consequently I have received nothing and sent nothing away!

When we went to Bristow the appearance was that the army would be spread out over a large extent of country for summer camp and wait until the excessive hot weather passed by before there should be any more active campaigning. At any rate the 11th Corps was thoroughly separated and spread out.

Prop. Pavilion Centu Antique Shop

The 1st Division went to Greenwich, a small place toward New Baltimore. The 2nd Division went 1st Brigade to Bristow Station and the 2nd Brigade to Brentville, and the 3rd Division went on as a guard along the R. R. towards Fairfax Station. Friday and Saturday there was considerable fighting and towards Culpepper, and the Army is all massed again between here and Warrenton with Cavalry and flying artillery in front to harass the enemy and I think they are succeeding well, as there are a great number of prisoners being sent on the R. R. to Washington that are captured from day to day.

The weather is very oppressively hot here--the heat is almost intolerable for the past week. Old soldiers say there was nothing like it on the Peninsula last summer. There is one pleasant reflection about it--that this kind of weather can't last always!

Pavilion N.Y.

I shall make application today for leave of absence but I think with rather slim chances of favorable action on my application. I really hope for success for nothing except an acceptance of my resignation would please me so much as the privilege of visiting home now. How I want to see you all.

Don't set your heart too much upon my coming as the chances are that you may be disappointed. I am in for a thorough trial for "leave of absence" however

I have nothing new to write--with regard to the General Situation and movements of the army you know more about these matters up there than we do here. About all we know here is just what our Brigade and Division are doing.

Kisses and love for yourself and children. I remain, as ever

Your affectionate

Henry

Should my application be acted upon favorably it will be several days before the papers come through.

23

154th Regiment N. Y. S. Col.
Manasses Junction, Va.
August 19, 1863

My dearest Lis,

We started from our old camp at Catletts Station night before last just at dark--came on that night as far as Bristow Station--remained there until daylight the next morning--crossed Broad River and followed along the R. R. and arrived here about 5 o'clock yesterday morning. We came here in great haste to prevent the destruction of the R. R. by Whites and Mosbys and Stuarts Cavalry which was concentrated yesterday in great numbers between Haymarket and Gainesville. The 130th and 168 N. Y. Vol. were already here and one entire Division came as far as Bristow--the 2nd Brigade remained there and our Brigade came on to this place. I don't apprehend any attack here--everything looks quiet this morning. Our troops are occupying earth-works constructed by the Rebs before the 1st Bull Run battle!

We are on the very ground where the first great Rebel Army was organized and drilled--and that only a little over two years ago. Yet to look back over that bloody period seems an age--who can or would wish to recall all the details of this bloody drama that has been enacted since then--since the rebs dreamed of--aye and realized success on these very fields.

Let the newspapers, correspondents, and military critics say what they may--these works will ever remain an enduring monument to the engineering skill of Beauregard. I am free to say that they are altogether the best planned and constructed works for defense that I have seen since I came into the army.

Prof. of Parison Centre Antiquary Shop

If you think best to do so you had better send Dora to Alfred. I think I should prefer that to Randolph. Professor Love stands high in community both as a man and a teacher--but I can't forget his "putting away" his wife! There must be something inherently wrong in a man that could coolly sunder the ties that had been weaving for a dozen years? He may be all right but I should feel better to have Dora receive her instructing at some other school!

Send the Home Picture as soon as you can get it. The weather has been terribly hot--it is cooling off considerably and is now quite tolerable. I am quite well and hope you are all well. With love and kisses for self and children, I am as ever

Your affectionate

Henry

My dearest Lis,

A detachment of our Brigade of 500 (muskets) efficient men comprising the 73d Regiment Pa. Vol. and 134th and 154th N.Y.S. Vol. came to this place one week ago yesterday to do guard duty in forwarding conscripts to their destination. Being on a special detail since last January as acting Brigades General Staff (Brigade Surgeon) I did not get here until last night, as the Headquarters of the Brigade and one Regiment, the 27th Pa. Vol., were riding about the front doing Picket duty. We were a part of the time at Manasses Junction, then Greenwich, a beautiful place midway between New Baltimore and Catlett's Station--then Nokesville and finally at Catlett's Station where I left the Brigade Headquarters Saturday morning to visit the detachment on official business. I shall remain here a few days unless I obtain a leave of absence to come home for a while.

Property of Par. Center Antique Shop

I have been troubled with diarrhea for sometime. Was quite ill with it a few days--the sickness has passed off now but the diarrhea continues and I think I shall make an application to come hom on "sick leave" today. If I do not succeed you and Charley must come down and see me here! Dora, I suppose, would not like to leave her school while in session if she is pleased with it, otherwise I should want her to come along for I want to see you all badly.

There are now 151 in our Regiment, officers and men all told. They are encamped on the river bank just above the city and they are really quite well situated and I hope they may remain here for sometime as they need rest after the terrible ordeal they have passed through.

Enclosed you will find a photograph of *Pavilion N.Y.* Maj. L. D. Warner, formerly ~~Capt.~~ Warner, Co. "C" of Portville and your humble servant! You will see that care and anxiety and excitement and experience and sickness have chiseled away at that face of mine rapidly--doing the work of 10 years in less than one!! and to keep up the harmony of things my hair is well sprinkled with gray you will perceive.

I have three large pictures but I am sorry I had them taken now, for they exhibit the same wrinkles and careworn expression of the smaller one! But let it pass--my country demanded my services and I have rendered them cheerfully and faithfully--if not well!

I feel very grateful to you for writing me so often lately and should I not come home now I do hope you will write often hereafter.

Tell Charlie that I do not feel like neglecting him about writing but he hears from me every time I write you and what more could I say to him? I know he will be good to you and Dora and have a proper care of his chores and endeavor to learn well as he is almost a man now.

Kisses to yourself and children and kindly regards to all who may care to know about me. I am as ever

Your affectionate

Henry

25

154th Regiment N.Y.S. Vol.
Alexandria, Va.
September 10, 1863

My dearest Lis,

I have been kept in a terrible vexatious state of suspense and anxiety about the fate of my application for leave of absence for some days past and still the papers do not come around yet--but from their long delay I feel quite certain that they will be disapproved.

I am not sick--neither am I well--by a long ways. I am nervous and restless and feel greatly disappointed and could almost cry about it--and would if it would do any good.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
If it should turn out that I am right in my impressions about the fate of my papers, you and the children must come down and see me.

I am sure it would be a pleasant trip for you and children, pleasant for me too to see you.

Pavilion N.Y.
I know I am selfish about this matter but I did wish to see you at home--with our own surroundings--it could be so pleasant for me to be with you there, but I guess I must forego all that pleasure, but you will visit me won't you?

I should have written before but have been waiting from day to day to know exactly about the fate of my papers.

Kisses and love to all.

Affectionately

Henry

Lookout Valley, Tenn.
Nov. 18, 1863

My dearest Lis,

Inclosed please find a view of our Camp and surroundings. The "Reb Flag" and Batteries prominent on Lookout Point--and Chattanooga and our headquarters flag across the river in the distance. Just below back of the "Point" you will notice a small flag with a square in the "center" that is a "reb" signal station watching our movements. This view represents about a mile distance up the Lookout Valley occupied by the camps of the Regiments making our Brigade. My friend Dr. Trexler, 73d Pa. Vol. has done pretty fair justice to the residence of the chivalry only the houses are never chinked or mudded and nearly all look in R State--are without windows just the places cut out. These cuts appear much of them and what is true of these is true of nearly all of the south. It has been my lot to see only a few decent residences of the south at all.

This "Lookout Valley" is almost 2 miles wide on an average. I understand about 50 miles long and is very fertile.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
The mountain just at Chattanooga and south and east from there is "Missionary Ridge" divided from the "Lookout Range" by a narrow valley and making the west boundary of "Lookout Valley". It is the foot of the "Raccoon Mt." nearly as high as the "Lookout". The Tennessee River runs nearly west of here and the Chattanooga bends up north. I don't think we can lay here long just now. We are without a fight. There is no way of dislodging the "rebs" from Lookout Mountain only by sending a force to their rear and when we do it will be another "Chickamanga fight" and I think our folks are waiting to get a quantity of supplies ahead--to recruit the animals and men then awaiting re-inforcements. General Sherman's Corps will be today from Tuscombia, Ala. and there are Regiments and small detachments arriving daily. The army are in good spirit, generally healthy and confident of success when the fight comes on. The rebel army are fearfully demoralized. It would average as many as 100 deserters a day that come into one of the 11th and 12th Corps not privates only but Captains, Lieutenants and even their Colonels. They dare not entrust one man with

28

Academy Hospital
Chattanooga, Tenn.
November 26, 1863

My dearest Lis,

Our army are just through with another great battle--perhaps in its consequences the greatest of the war--and have achieved a complete and glorious victory. The Rebs are completely routed from Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and are now in full retreat and our forces are in pursuit. Our Regiment has had only 5 or 6 casualties and none killed so far--Thank God.

Property of Pavilion Center Antiques Shop

I am quite well but too busy to write anymore now. I think this will hasten the end and I hope to be home before many months go by. Do write me often.

Pavilion N.Y.

Kiss the children for me and believe me yours always,

Henry

Loudon, Tenn., on the Tenn. River
30 miles below Knoxville
December 4, 1863

29

My dearest Lis,

On the 27th inst. I left the Hospital at Chattanooga where I had been stationed during the battle of Chattanooga, to rejoin the troops of our Corps who were then pursuing the flying enemy. I came up with the Regiment on the 28th, met near Ringgold--General Hooker was at this time engaged with the rear guard of the "rebs" and our Corps was held in reserve--not going into the engagement at all. After about an hour and a half of sharp fighting the rebs were completely routed and the pursuit continued by General Slocum.

That night the Army was divided, General Grant, Hooker and Slocum and some others continuing the pursuit of General Bragg and General Sherman, Granger, Jeff. C. Davis and Howard and others turned northward to relieve General Burnside and raise the siege of Knoxville. We understand that Longstreet was repulsed before Knoxville last Sunday and we expect to meet him somewhere between here and there tomorrow or next day. We have a large force and I do not deem the result of the coming contest at all doubtful. Should Longstreet be routed as Bragg is--or annihilated--the Rebs will then have no considerable army in the field but Lee's and the Rebellion will be virtually wiped out.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop

Long before this you, of course, have seen the account of the glorious results of the battle of Chattanooga and I hope and trust tomorrow or next day will present as glorious a record as that. We have all been two weeks to the front--ordered to go out "light", consequently left everything behind except the clothes upon our backs and turned immediately from the battlefield of this campaign and long march and have suffered from hunger, cold and fatigue--but we are all happy and cheerful.

Pavilion T.G.

For my own part, I don't know whether I am sick or well and don't much care for I feel well and I am happy. Hunger and cold and the fatigue of long wearisome marches and ill health are all forgotten in the proud satisfaction of seeing the rebel army crushed and fleeing before us.

Our record since here is a proud one. We opened up Lookout Valley and fed the starving Army. Hooker charged and took Lookout Mountain and we were a part of the Grand Army that drove Bragg from Missionary Ridge and are now turning upon Longstreet. We have met with only six casualties in that late Battle--3 slight and 3 serious ones and one Corps has not lost over 140 in wounded and perhaps 20 killed. There are none of your acquaintances wounded. If we come off as well tomorrow I shall be thankful.

I don't know how or when I shall be able to send this but write by a campfire intending to send the first opportunity. Yours of the 15th inst. reached me out on the battlefield at Ringgold and I was right glad to hear you were all well. Curious you had received none from me for I have written often. I am confident of being home in the spring. Until then accept kisses for self and children and believe me ever your affectionate

Henry

Loudon, Tenn., on the Tenn. River
30 miles below Knoxville
December 4, 1863

29

My dearest Lis,

On the 27th inst. I left the Hospital at Chattanooga where I had been stationed during the battle of Chattanooga, to rejoin the troops of our Corps who were then pursuing the flying enemy. I came up with the Regiment on the 28th, met near Ringgold--General Hooker was at this time engaged with the rear guard of the "rebs" and our Corps was held in reserve--not going into the engagement at all. After about an hour and a half of sharp fighting the rebs were completely routed and the pursuit continued by General Slocum.

That night the Army was divided, General Grant, Hooker and Slocum and some others continuing the pursuit of General Bragg and General Sherman, Granger, Jeff. C. Davis and Howard and others turned northward to relieve General Burnside and raise the siege of Knoxville. We understand that Longstreet was repulsed before Knoxville last Sunday and we expect to meet him somewhere between here and there tomorrow or next day. We have a large force and I do not deem the result of the coming contest at all doubtful. Should Longstreet be routed as Bragg is--or annihilated--the Rebs will then have no considerable army in the field but Lee's and the Rebellion will be virtually wiped out.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop

Long before this you, of course, have seen the account of the glorious results of the battle of Chattanooga and I hope and trust tomorrow or next day will present as glorious a record as that. We have all been two weeks to the front--ordered to go out "light", consequently left everything behind except the clothes upon our backs and turned immediately from the battlefield of this campaign and long march and have suffered from hunger, cold and fatigue--but we are all happy and cheerful.

Pavilion N.Y.

For my own part, I don't know whether I am sick or well and don't much care for I feel well and I am happy. Hunger and cold and the fatigue of long wearisome marches and ill health are all forgotten in the proud satisfaction of seeing the rebel army crushed and fleeing before us.

Our record since here is a proud one. We opened up Lookout Valley and fed the starving Army. Hooker charged and took Lookout Mountain and we were a part of the Grand Army that drove Bragg from Missionary Ridge and are now turning upon Longstreet. We have met with only six casualties in that late Battle--3 slight and 3 serious ones and one Corps has not lost over 140 in wounded and perhaps 20 killed. There are none of your acquaintances wounded. If we come off as well tomorrow I shall be thankful.

I don't know how or when I shall be able to send this but write by a campfire intending to send the first opportunity. Yours of the 15th inst. reached me out on the battlefield at Ringgold and I was right glad to hear you were all well. Curious you had received none from me for I have written often. I am confident of being home in the spring. Until then accept kisses for self and children and believe me ever your affectionate

Henry

#31

Lookout Valley
January 4th, 1864

My dearest Lis,

I wrote you on the 31st inst. and sent the letter to Louisville, Ky. to mail by Henry Loomis. That evening I received yours of the 21st and you cannot realize how glad I was to hear from you and home and to hear that you are all well too! It was a real relief to me and I slept well and soundly that night for the first time for nearly two weeks! There is something wrong with the mail here--but what it is or where it is I cannot tell. We have had no mail since the 31st--and I intend to send this by Doctor Day who expects a leave of absence to visit his folks in Arcade.

I think my letters should you receive them all will post you in the part taken by our Regiment during the late eventful campaign but I do not know just what I have written, as the letters were sent away just as chance offered and some of them were written by the light of a camp fire after a weary days march!

I think perhaps that young Bowen was misinformed after all in the case of poor Horace Smith. I have just received a letter from John Manley of December 23, 1863 inclosing a list of our boys who are on Belle Island, Va., which list he received from Captain Casler and was made on the 10th of December--and Horace's name appears on that list and the Captain writes Manley they were all well there--December 10th--I sincerely hope it may prove true. There are 71 enlisted men of our Regiment yet there according to that list--10 of Co. D--among them one of the Hogg boys and Horace. By the bye--Manley says he sent you 4 of my photographs. They look more natural I think, not quite so crazy as the others. Jimmy Copeland is well and has been all the while lately. The boys in fact are all well. There is, in fact, only one really sick in the Regiment just now.

Prop of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
The friends of the boys from our vicinity can always understand their friends in the Regiment are well unless I write to the contrary. We have been through so many trying scenes together that these boys who are left with us seem almost like a part of our household and should any of them be sick with whom you are acquainted I should certainly mention it in my letters to you.

Pavilion, N.Y.

I wish you would send me an express as soon as convenient for you to do so, say 8 or 10 pounds butter in a close covered tin can or pail - 15 to 30 pounds good cheese and about 10 pounds first rate maple sugar. And if you think it would keep - some of the good cake you used to make and some mince pies if you have the material on hand to make them with and any other little delicacy in the eating line your fancy might suggest. Have them closely and strongly packed. Address to H. Van Aernum, Surgeon-in-Chief, 2d Div. XI Corps., Chattanooga, Tenn. By Adam's Express

31

Headquarters 2nd Division
January 7th, 1864

My dearest Lis,

Rev. Chas. Antiquy Chap

Yours of the 27th inst. is just received. I was right glad to hear from you but at this time I have only a moment to write as the Chaplain is already to start. He goes home in resignation on account of sickness. I will just say I am usually well. Dr. Day I think will fail to obtain a leave of absence.

Affectionately

Henry

Office of Surgeon in Chief
2d Division XI Corps
Lookout Valley, January 12th, 1864

32

My dearest Lis,

Yours of the 3d of January has just reached me and I am surprised and pained to learn that you had heard nothing from me since our return from the campaign of Knoxville.

I wrote you several times during that campaign and have written you often since our return and I am astonished to learn that none of my letters have got through.

I have received 4 letters from you since my return --15th, 23d & 28th Dec. and 3rd January 1864! The mail arrangements are as bad here as can be but where the fault is we can't learn precisely. We expect it will be better soon as the R.R. is expected to be in running order through to Chattanooga in 3 or 4 days. Now everything is brought from Bridgeport by steamer--a sort of scow on the Tennessee River. The transportation facilities are not equal to the needs of the Government--and the newspapers, to the contrary notwithstanding, the army here has been on short rations more or less of the time ever since we have been in this department. Hundreds and thousands of mules and horses have died here of sheer starvation--the forage can't be brought thru for them and the country is bare.

Property of Pauline Center Antique Shop Pavilion N.Y.

From your account of the draft excitement up there, the men that are left at home are devoid of all manly feelings and instinct and I would think were a set of pusillanimous cowards. The soldiers that are in the field have borne the heat and huthen of this war--many of them entering the service in the darkest hours of nation's history--in the summer of 1862--when there were days without sunshine and nights without stars--and through their toil and sweat and blood since have well nigh crushed the rebellion--and the Government calls for more men for one more great effort and a final victory and these patriotic stay-at-homes are making all manner of subterfuges to save their miserable necks from the draft--when the work is already done and they would be drafted to reap the harvest and share the of a final great victory. As you say, they have adopted a mean argument to turn these inexperienced and tender boys to take their places in the field. Really such manhood deserves no country nor home nor institutions! Notwithstanding, such demonstrations as these from home--and they are a real wet blanket to the feeling of the soldiers in the field. They have determined that this rebellion shall perish and all the Regiments like the 6th Cavalry when term of service will perhaps then re-enlist as Veterans are doing now. I know only one in the service that have served two years but that are re-enlisting again--not a few in a Regiment full all except a few whose health will not permit. These men know what war is from a terrible experience--they know the toil and weariness of long marches, the cold and hunger and hardships of eventful campaigns--the heart aches of the loved ones at home and the blood and terrors of the battlefield--yet they will endure all and brave all for the cause of the Government and they will succeed. One more campaign and the war is over--for they are now driven to their last extremity--the soldiers all see it--and all want to be in at the "death", and all I think who remain until June will be!

33

Headquarters 2d Div.
Lookout Valley, Tenn.
January 16, 1864

Dearest Lis,

This is the second letter I ^{now} saw by Dr. Day. I wrote one, two or three days ago expecting he would start the next day but by some unaccountable delay in his papers he has not yet gone and I write you again only to say that I am well as usual--that is, since my return here.

I have nothing new to say today only that the cars are running on the R. R. this side of Bridgeport somewhat irregularly as yet--but it has the promise of bringing us out to the world before long.

There is a rumor here that all the boys who were taken at Gettysburg are now at Annapolis, Md. I really hope it may prove true for the poor fellows must have suffered awfully from hunger and cold while in Belle Island.

All the boys are usually well.

Should you ever receive all my letters they will post you so far as we have taken any part in matters here.

Property of Pavilion Center Antique Shop

We have been informed that the Board of Supervisors of our County have raised funds to present one Regiment a stand of colors and the chairman of the committee having the matter in charge (Capt. Wm. Paul Johnson!!) has written down the names of the battles we have been engaged in so to have their names inscribed on the banner.

The matter was referred to General Howard who says we participated gallantly in the battles of "Chancellorville", Gettysburg, Lookout Valley and Chattanooga.

Pavilion N.Y.

Has the 64th Regiment - intitled as Veterans? I know of only one Regiment in the army whose term of service will allow them to re-enlist but that have done so! I should think such conduct in the part of the old soldiers would bring the shame to the men at home. If I am not better I shall endeavor to resign before the campaign opens in the spring. But whether I can succeed is somewhat of a question - medical officers are now let out of the service only on two conditions - viz - mental incapacity or physical disability. So you see my chances are somewhat promising on disability. I am very anxious to get home from this service and shall do so just as soon as there is a door open for me.

Hereafter until I write to the contrary address me as

Surgeon in Chief
2nd Div. XI Corps

as I shall get my letters sooner and surer. Dr. Day will see you before he returns. With kisses for you and the children I am always your affectionate

Henry

Lookout Valley, Tenn.
March 20, 1864

34

My dearest Lis,

Yours of the 11th inst. was received last evening. I was right glad to hear that you were all well. Accept my thanks for your kindly consideration in sending the inclosures. Items of local news are very interesting to me here.

Poor Wallace! I shall always have some self accusations on account of remissness of duty and friendly regard for his welfare. I feel as if I were somewhat accessory to his untimely death!

I will write Mr. Demy tomorrow thanking him for his kindly offices in behalf of that poor boy.

You can say to Dr. Walker if you please that of course I can have no objection to his settling in Franklinville and doing what business he can before and after my return. I could not of course bind myself or promise to engage in a partnership with any stranger. When I return if I practice at all (I really do not intend to practice (private)) I shall do all the business that comes to me if my health will permit. I am confident I shall fully recover my health when I return home, but if I do not improve from my present condition I could not do a very extensive business and might deem it a matter of policy to accept a partner to relieve myself from business during bad weather. I am tolerably well now with the exception of a slight diarrhea and a bad sore on the back of my right hand--the sore is improving. *Property of Parkin Center Antique Shop*

I think the war will be "played out" this season--and if my health permits I am somewhat anxious to remain to the end--but I am not so anxious to do so as to blind me to my own safety. If remaining is too great a tax on my health I shall endeavor to resign when I first see I am running down. I really expect to be home to stay by June or July at farthest. *Pavilion, N.Y.*

I inclose an account of Lookout Mountain and the view from it. It is really a good account. Back from the point or nose as it is called of the mountain about a mile and a half is a village--built up for a summer resort--with Hotel accommodations for about a thousand guests. It's glory is departed now of course. Write often and ask the children to do so. With kisses for self and children, I am always your affectionate

Henry

P.S. I was not at all surprised to hear of Benedicts death. Harry Wade and Fay will be fortunate if they do not share the same fate, and many of those young boys will likely be inmates of Hospital soon. The Government should detail Surgeons from the field to make these examinations. It would be much better for the Government and certainly better for the poor fellows who lack the physical strength and capacity and endurance necessary for field service. It would save a world of unnecessary misery and sorrow.

35

Lookout Valley, Tenn.
March 29, 1864

My dearest Lis,

I have just received your kind letter of the 20th mailed on the 23rd inst. and I assure you I was right glad to hear from you and to hear too that you were all well. It had been so long since I have heard from you that I was very apprehensive that some of you were sick and this letter is a relief to me surely.

I received a letter from Dom about three or four days ago dated the 11th and directed to me at Washington which accounts for the time in coming.

It was a real kind, pleasant letter and I was much pleased with it--and pleased to learn that she was doing so well this winter and liked the school and her boarding place. Dr. Day says she "looks rather pale and thin this winter". If she is not well I think she would be better to make a long vacation this spring. Dora is a good girl--and her health should be looked to above all else. The twigs I sent you were peach blossoms--but alas! the fruit prospect is all "up" here. On the 18th (at night) it froze as hard as it has any time this winter and on the 21st the snow was 14 inches deep! The snow and cold weather too are gone now but the blossoms are all dead from the frost and the orchards look brown and dreary enough! So you see the south is not all "Sunny"! There is rumor here--very current in camp that the 11th and 12th Corps are ordered to the Army of the Potomac again. The "boys" are all elated with the idea as it seems so much nearer home there and I fully sympathize with them in that idea, but really I look at the change somewhat with horror! The great bloody Tragedy of this years campaign will open with an awful battle in Virginia and those "Rebs" under Lee fight like devils. The fighting there I think will astonish even General Grant some. Braggs and Johnston's Army don't fight like these chaps and on that account I had much rather the regiment would remain here.

Prop. of Pavilion Center Antique Shop Pavilion N.Y.

I fully agree with you that Life is not so long that you and I can afford to spend much more of our lives in the way we have done for the past eighteen months. I mean to come home just as soon as I can--I hope before June.

I have just received a dozen Photos from Manley from my last sitting at Washington and send you six to please your friends. I also send one of Manley and one of Col. Jones. Manley's is a good one and the Colonel's badly done. I hope to have a lot of Photos of friends here to send you in a few days.

Do write often. Kiss the children for me, and I am always your

Henry

36

Lookout Valley, Tenn.
April 17, 1864

My dearest Lis,

Yours of the 10th inst. is just received. I don't think I want anything to do with that E. Gon matter you speak of for several reasons. The 1st is E. Gon is a dishonest tricky villain and I feel no desire to aid him. It might be paid when due and it might not and the title to any place he has had in his hands lately will be very questionable if not doubtful. There are so many judgments against him and what the lawyers call "Lependurs, etc. etc."

Pavilion Center Antique Shop

In the next place I do not care to place the money where it has too long to run for when the war does terminate it will be sudden and unexpected and there will be an awful collapse dreamt of

Pavilion N.Y.

Here are hundreds of thousands of people who are now in Government employ will be thrown at once upon their own resources and nearly the whole manufacturing interests of the country, both operatives and machinery are now employed upon Government contracts for army purposes and their "occupation" will be gone at once and the manufacturers will have to construct new machinery to be able to meet the new and changed demands and instead of having the nation for

Lookout Valley
April 28, 1864

My dearest Lis,

I am still somewhat better than when I wrote you before but am not well by any means. Were I paid I would offer my resignation or surgeon's certificate, but the Government owes me for four months or will day after tomorrow and should I resign my pay would be held to deminify for any government property I might have in my hands until I could get settlement, which might be years before my case could be reached. If the paymaster does not come soon, I will go home on "sick leave"--get my pay on my way home and resign there if necessary.

Pavilion Centre Antique Shop
There is nothing new here only large bodies of troops going to the front--and the arrival of Lt. Crosby and his squad of "Bummies" from Elmira. They came in today and are well.

Love and kisses for self and children. *Pavilion, N.Y.*

Affectionately yours

Henry

Lookout Valley
April 30, 1864

My dearest Lis,

I write today to tell you that I am still getting better, and to enclose the little buttons for Charlies collar that I have worked out of muscle shells found in the Tennessee River.

I hope they will suit Charley when they are properly mounted by the juveller.

Prop of Pavilion Center Antique Shop

Everything remains quiet here yet I am more and more persuaded from developments that this Army in the west is to serve a secondary part in the early campaign this year and move in conjunction with the Army of the Potomac, and in such a manner as to prevent the Rebs massing in Virginia as much as possible.

Pavilion, N.Y.

The weather is very warm for the season with a magnificent thunder shower nearly every night. Do write often. Kiss the children for me and I am always,

Your affectionate

Henry

May 4th, 1864 2 P.M.

My dearest Lis,

We are still in the old camp yet awaiting the arrival of the other two Brigades of the Division from Bridgeport but expect to leave tonight.

Par. Ctr. - Antique Shop

Having a chance to send this "out into civilization" by one of our men who is going to Washington with an insane soldier who is being sent there to the "National Asylum" for treatment.

Parlin N.Y.

I embraced the opportunity to say that I am still well as yesterday and think improving somewhat. Do write often. I will write you from every point possible. God bless you all. With love and kisses, etc.

40

Nashville
June 28, 1864

My dearest Lis,

I am getting better since I wrote you on the 26th. I had no chill yesterday and very little sweating last night and feel this morning more like myself than I have before--since I left Cleveland.

Part of Par. to Antique Shop
The weather is terribly hot today. Last night heavy masses of black clouds gathered in the north and west with lightning but no thunder or rain here. But somewhere up north there must have been a good rain as the air is much cooler this morning. There are two of our officers here--Capt. Hotchkiss (Olean) sick of fever and diarrhea and Lt. Barnhart of Chatauqua wounded in the thigh on the 16th inst. He says there has been 4 killed and 22 wounded since I left the Regiment. Crosby is badly wounded in the side--is at Chattanooga. There are only 70 left in the Regiment.

Pavilion - N.Y.
I think I shall be able to move on soon. Hope so at any rate as this is an awful lonesome place.

Will write you again in two days. Meantime be of good cheer. Kiss the children, etc.

#41

Before Atlanta, Ga.
July 24, 1864

My dearest Lis,

Sorry the 11th inst. is just read and I assure you I am right glad to hear again from you and home. One week ago today we crossed the Chattahoochie to commence direct operations against Atlanta and I have had no opportunity to get a letter off since Dr. Day went to the rear until now.

After crossing the river, as ours was the rear corps, everything was pretty quiet with us--except skirmishing with the reb. Cavalry until the 20th when our troops were getting into position about four miles Southeast of Atlanta. Our Corps was assaulted by two corps of Rebs--massed (Hardee and Polks old corps). The battle raged furiously from 3 to 6 p.m. when the Rebs were most thoroughly repulsed and driven back nearly a mile and a half. Our corps suffered severely, losing in killed, wounded and missing nearly 2500. The Rebs must have lost nearly as many--say 4000 at least.

Our poor Regiment was quite lucky for once having only k killed and five wounded--one has since died of his wounds.

The following is the list of casualties

Pavilion Center
Killed

Property of
Antique Shop

Mathias Thisen, Co. B from Dayton

Wounded

Pavilion, N.Y.
Adj. Wm. Clark - flesh wound of arm
Corp. Rich. Kerr - Co. D - 2 toes amputated
Sgt. Perkins - Co. D - flesh wounds shoulder
Pvt. Andrew Hollister - Co. E - fracture of lower jaw
Pvt. John Wood - Co. A - shell wound of head - later died

The rebs are making a determined resistance to save Atlanta. Gen. Johnston having been removed because he didn't fight and General Hood placed in command because he believes in making a stubborn fight now there. Our troops found some recent Atlanta papers in the abandoned reb camps here from them it appears that the people of the South generally and of Georgia in particular are clamoring to have the question fought on to here--saying that it must be settled by battle and might better be decided now and here than to have other districts of the South overrun and laid waster--and pertinently but despondingly asking the question "When shall we be stronger"?

They urge and appeal to the Army to stand firm to the rescue--life and liberty--and property and the sacred rights of honor and a national existence depending upon their valor and efforts. The papers promise their army that a success here will end the war,--as in that event the Peace party at the North would succeed in the election and the Confederacy would be acknowledged in 60 days afterwards and with the loss of Atlanta all is lost, as it would assure the re-election of the "Jester Lincoln".

7/24/64

Our folks are confident of success--considering the fall of Atlanta only a question of time. Our forces are now within about a mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the city--occupying a semi-circle on the east, southeast and south sides extending somewhat to the southwest. Our troops have destroyed the Augusta area and Macon R.R. south of Atlanta and hold Decatur.

The Rebs made a vigorous assault on the 16th and 17th corps day before yesterday but were repulsed after a terrible battle--General McPherson was killed and we understand the Rebs General Hardee wounded and taken prisoner.

Rest - family and business.