

Camp Near Staffords  
May 24th 1863

Dear Parents

it is with pleasure that I sit down to pen you a few lines once more I rec'd your letter of the 17th inst. yesterday and it was rec'd with pleasure. I am glad that you are all well. I am well as usual. it seems almost like being at home every time I get a letter. I came in off from Picket yesterday morning was out one day then in the afternoon we went out on Review was Reviewed by General Howard. we are having a fine time here now we do not have much of any thing to do have been here now it is coming three weeks we have drilled two days I have been on Picket two days that is all we have had to do. The weather is pleasant and very warm have not had any rain for about two weeks but when we do have rain here we have it in Showers it rains as hard as you ever saw it rain while it does rain then clears up and is warm it always rains in that way here. Our Orderly Seargeant Almon Guile is going home on Furlough at least he expects to now he lives there at Hinsdale. he will get there if he goes by the time this reaches you. and I wish Theodore or some of you could see him and if you have any little thing to send send it to me he will bring it I guess he is a pretty good sort of a fellow. you spoke about buying a cow with some of the money of I sent some more money I have sent \$17.50 I hope you have got it. I dont know but it would be as good a plan as you could do if you can get one reasonable what does good cows cost any way. I want the money put to the best use. how is business there this spring in general what are Farmers paying for help. Tell the boys I want them to put in what crops they can there this spring and do as well as they can for I am in hopes that the war will be settled this summer so that I can come home this fall. but I dont know I think if it is not settled this summer we will have to stay our three years. but I hope the land it will be. do you hear any thing about it there what is the opinion of the people in general about it write and let me know all you can find out about it we cannot find out much about it here. our Captain was not hurt any way. those that are killed out of our company M V Champlin Willis Guild and Robert Greynard. Seymor Sykes was wounded and died since. there was 10 of our company boys taken prisoners have been to Richmond and are now at the Parole camp at Anapilous we have heard from all of them & I am glad of it to. our Colonel was wounded and he has gone home his time is out he was a two years man and we miss him a considerable he was a fine little fellow he was an Irish but he was smart he resembles that Irish man that worked in McKe's shop you knew him pa, John Tracy Shoe maker. Our Agitant Samuel Noyce was killed he was a fine fellow too. Our Leut Colonel talks of resigning if he does we loose all his name is Henry Loomis we call him Uncle Henry but I hope that he will stay with us long as we have to stay

*[James W. Washburn, May 24, 1863, continued]*

I want you to write and tell me where to direct a letter to Aunt Lydia I want to write her a letter and I don't know where to direct. well I don't know but I have written about enough for one day. I have been most all day writing this. Yesterday was my Birth day I had a good day but I would have felt better if I could have been where I was one year ago I was chopping wood for Mr Nowlan little did I think then that I would be here now in old Va. but I live in hopes that I may see Old Catt once more. well I must close give my best respects to all. Wesley rec'd a letter from home last night he is well. good by for the presant. from your Beloved Son and Brother.

J. W. Washburn.

[James W. Washburn, private, Co. C, 154th New York, *National Archives.*]