

OCTOBER THE 5 TH 1862

DEAR UNCLE NATHAN WILBER

I THINK NOW I WILL WRITE A FEW LINES
 TO YOU I AM WELL AT PRESENT AND
 I HOPE YOU ARE THE SAME AND YOUR
 FAMILY WE STOPPED TO ELMIRA AND
 GOT OUR GUNS ^{AND} CARTRIDGE BOXES WE
 GOT THESE IN THE MORNING AND STAYED
 THERE TILL NOON AND THEN WE STARTED FOR
~~WASHINGTON~~ BALTIMORE WE GOT TO
 BALTIMORE THE NEXT DAY A BOUT
 ELEVEN O CLOCK WE STAYED THERE
 TILL A BOUT NINE O CLOCK AT NITE
 THEN WE STARTED FOR WASHINGTON
 WE GOT THERE IN THE MORNING THE
 TRAINS RUN VERY SLOW FROM
 BALTIMORE TO WASHINGTON I GESS THEY
 WAS A FRAID THAT THE RAIL ROAD MITE
 HAVE BEEN TOAN UP BUT THERE WAS
 NOTHING DISTURBED THERE IS A GREAT
 MANY SOLGERS GUARDING THE
 RAILROAD FROM BALTIMORE TO WASHINGTON
 WE STAYED TO WASHINGTON TLL A
 BOUT FIVE O CLOCK THEN MARCHED
 ACROSS THE POTOMAC RIVER IT IS
 A BOUT A MILE AND A HALF A
 CROSS IT WE ARE FROM FORE
 TO SIX MILES FROM WASHINGTON
 BUT WE CAN SEE WASHINGTON SITY
 AND OLD ABE LINCOLN HOUSE VERY
 PLANE OLD ABE HAS GOT A VERY
 NICE HOUSE WASHINGTON AINT

SO LEVEL A COUNTRY AS I EXPECTED IT IS
 ROLLING LAND A GOOD DEAL LIKE MIECLURE FARM.
 IT IS A VERY SITELY PLACE. A WHITE SANDY
 SOIL AND VERY WARM AND SULTRY. I HAVE
 SEEN MORE THAN I EVER NEW BE BEFORE
 I LIKE CATTARAUGUS THE BEST IT IS A
 GOOD DEAL BETER LAND I THINK THEY THIS
 PLACE WHERE WE ARE CAMP SEWARD ARLINGTON
 HIGHTS. THERE IS TENTS AND SOLGERS GEST
 AS FARE AS YOU CAN SEE I DONT KNOW
 HOW MENY THER IS HERE BUT THEY ARE AS
 THICK AS FLIES I AM IN A BOUT THIRTY
 MILES OF BENTLY I SAW A MAN THAT WAS
 IN BENTLY COPANY AT WASHINGTON. HE
 SAYS THAT BENTLY WAS WOUNDED BUT
 NOT VERY BAD I THINK I SHALL SEE HIM
 YET THERE HAS BEEN LOTS OF SOLGERS
 HERE THAT KNOWS HIM WE CAN SEE THE FORTS
 FROM THE CAMP I HAVE BEEN UP TO ONE OF
 THEM BUT THEY WOULD NOT LET ME IN ONLY
 AROUND THE OUTSIDE IT IS A STRONG
 PLACE. ^{THERE IS} SOME CANNON THERE THAT A MAN CAN
 CRALL IN TO. WHERE WE ARE THE FARM
 LOKS VERY DESELATE. NOTHING HAS
 BEEN RAISED ON THEM SINCE THE WARE.
 I GESS IT IS CUT UP VERY BAD WITH
 RIFFLE PITS THEY ARE FORTIFYING ALL
 THE WHILE MOST I SEE THEM DIGING
 RIFFLE PITS YESTERDAY O. F. WILBER

OCTOBER THE 14, 1862.

DEAR UNCLE NATHAN WILBER. I THOUGHT I WOULD WRITE YOU A NOTHER LETER I AM WELL AT PRESENT AND HOPE THESE FEW LINES WILL FIND YOU ALL THE SAME I WROTE YOU A LETTER AT WEAK A GO AND HAVE NOT RECIVED NO ANSWER YET I SHOULD LIKE TO HERE FROM YOU ALL WE HAVE LEFT CAMP SEWARD WE LEFT THERE A SUNDAY MORNING WE GOT TO FAKE FAX COURT HOUSE MONDAY A BOUT NOON IT IS A BOUT TWENTY ONE MILES FROM WASHINGTON A BOUT SEVENTEEN MILES FROM CAMP SEWARD WE HRE UNDER GEN SIGEL NOW AND I GESS WE SHALL HAVE TO FITE YOU KNOW THAT HE IS A MAN THAT WILL FITE YOU KNOW HE HAS BEEN BAXING WITH THE REBELS FOR SOME TIME WE EXPECT TO LEVE HERE EVERY DAY THER IS SUCH NEWS THAT WE ARE A GOING TO LEVE HERE TO MOROW MORNING SOME THINK THAT WE SHALL GO TO RICHMOND BUT I DONT KNOW WHERE WE SHALL GO BUT OUR CAPTAIN THINKS WE SHALL HAVE TO FITE RIGHT A LONG. ALL I HAVE TO SAY A BOUT IT I DONT WANT NO ONE TO TROBLE A BOUT ME ALL I WANT YOU ANT RACHEL TO PRAY FOR ME AND ALL THE REST OF THE SOLGERS I WISH I WAS A GOOD CHRISTIAN I TRY TO LIVE LIKE ONE BUT YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS EVERY THING TO LEAD A MAN A STRAY BUT I SHALL TRY TO DO THE BEST I CAN

10-14-1862

I THINK THIS WAR WILL CLOSE BY SPRING AND I EXPECT TO COME HOME YET WRITE AND TELL ME IFF YOU GOT THAT LETER I WROTE LAST WEAK WRITE AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS I WILL WRITE A FEW LINES TO MOTHER AND YOU HAND IT TO HER: OSCAR WILBER

DEAR MOTHER I AM WELL AND HOPE THESE FEW LINES WILL FIND YOU ALL THE SAME I AM IN FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE A LITTLE WAYS OFT FROM THE REBELS BUT THE LORD WILL SAVE US IFF HE THINKS BEST I DONT TROBLE MUCH A BOUT IT I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU ALL I HAVE ^{GOT} TO GO ON DRILL NOW AND I CANT THINK OF ENY THING TO WRITE I WROTE YOU A LETER LAST WEAK AND I HAINT RECIVED NO ANSWER YET HAVE THE BOYS GOT THROUGH HARVISTING YET NATHAN YOU WRITE AND TELL ME A BOUT THAT CORN WHETHER IT WAS TAKING CAKE OF OR NOT NATHAN WRITE ALL THE NEWS WRITE ME A GOOD LONG LETER GOOD BY UNCLE

ALL THE REST OF YOU MUST WRITE YOU HAVE MORE TIME THAN I HAVE SOME MAY THINK A SOLGER HAS A GOOD DEAL TIME BUT THAT AINT SO WE HAVE TO DRILL OR STAND ON GUARD OR SOMETHING MOST ALL THE TIME WRITE SOON OSCAR WILBER

WALLACE HOW ARE YOU A GETING A LONG HAVE YOU GOT THROUGH HARVISTING YET WALLACE I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU WALLACE WRITE ME A LETER. ANSON AND NELSON BE GOOD BOYS I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU TO BOYS YOU KNOW

10-14/1862

THAT I CANT ^{WRITE} ALL OF YOU A LETER
BUT YOU HERE FROM ME EVERY LITTLE
WHILE BOYS YOU AND MOTHER
WRITE TO GETHER WALLACE YOU CAN WRITE
ALONE.

OSCAR WILDER

NOVEMBER THE 6. 1862 WE LEFT THE
DEAR UNCLE NATHAN I WILL TRY TO WRITE
A FEW LINES TO YOU AND LET YOU KNOW HOW
WE ARE GETTING ALONG WE ARE WELL AT
PRESENT. NATHAN I GOT YOUR LETTER
TO DAY I WAS GLAD TO HEAR YOU WAS
ALL WELL YOU WROTE THAT THEY WAS
A GOIN TO DRAFT OUT THERE I HOPE
THAT YOU WONT HAVE TO COME ALTHO
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU BUT I DONT
WANT TO SEE YOU DOWN HERE I WILL
WRITE A LITTLE WHAT I HAVE SEEN AND
THEN YOU CAN TELL FOR YOURSELF
WHETHER YOU LIKE TO BE HERE OR NOT WE
LEFT FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE THE SECOND
DAY OF NOVEMBER A BOUT NOON WE
MARCHED TEN MILES THAT HALF A DAY
THEN WE CAMPED AND STAYED TILL
MORNING THEN WE STARTED A GAIN AND
WE MARCHED FIFTEEN MILES MORE THEN
WE CAMPED DOWN IN A PLACE CALED
PARTERS SWITCH THIS PLACE IS BEYOND
BULL RUN NOW I WILL TELL YOU A LITTLE
ABOUT WARE FIRST I THING I SAW WAS A
MAN LEG STANDING UP IN A MANS BOOT IT
HAD BEEN SHOT OFF JUST BELOW THE KNEE
AND I SAW A LOT MORE THAT WAS CABERED
ABOUT SIX INCHES DEEP AND LOTS OF DEAD
HORSES THAT HAD BEEN SHOT AND THE NEX
THING I SAW WAS A MAN THAT HAD BEN
CABERED UP AND THE RAIN HAD WASHED OFF
THE DUST OFF OF HIS FACE O HOW THAT LOOKED
YOU DONT KNOW HOW I FELT BUT I EXPECT

11-6-1862

THAT I SHALL HALF TO GET USE TO IT WELL I TELL YOU
 THE NEXT THING I SAW THAT WAS A MANS ARM
 THAT HAD BEEN SHOT OFF AND DRIPED DOWN IT
 WAS SHOT OFF BY THE ELBO AND THE NEXT
 THING I SAW WAS A MANS HEAD UNCLE
 NATHAN WILBER YOU DONT KNOW HOW BAD IT
 LOOKED THE REBELS BERIED THEIR DED
 BETER THEN THEY DID OURE MEN THE MOAST
 OF THE REBELS WAS COVERED OUT OF SIGHT
 AND A GOOD MENY OF OURS WASENT WELL
 I WONT WRITE ENY MORE ABOUT THAT
 FOR I SUPPOSE THAT YOU NEW THAT BULL
 RUN WAS AN AFFEL BATTLE AND YOU NEW
 THAT THERE MUST BE A GOOD MENY DED MEN
 THERE NOW UNCLE NATHAN I WILL TELL YOU
 BETER NEWS I WILL TELL YOU WHAT WE
 HAD FOR SUPER THAT IS I MEAN OURE REGTMENT
 WE TOOK A LOT OF REBELS CATTLE AND OURE
 BOYS WENT AT THEM LIKE WOOVES AND WE
 SHOT SIX OR EIGHT DOWN IN ONE MINUTE
 AND WE DREST THEM OFF AND HAD SOM
 FOR SUPER YOU WOULD OF LAUGHT IF YOU
 HAD OF BEEN HERE TO SEE WORK OURE
 COMPANY KILLED TWO OURE BOYS SAY THAT
 THEY WHIPED THEM AT BULL RUN FOR THEY KILLED
 A THREE YEAR OLD BULL HE TRIED HARD TO GET
 AWAY BUT HE COULDENT THE NEXT THAT OUR
 REGTMENT KILLED WAS TWO YEAR OLD HEIFERS
 AND COWS YESTERDAY OUR BOYS WENT AND
 KILLED A LOT OF HERS TO EAT AND TODAY WE
 WENT BACK OF OUR CAMP ABOUT REBILD AND
 A HALF AND WE GOT TWO HOGS THEY WOULD

THEY WOULD
 THEY WOULD
 THEY WOULD

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WEIGH ABOUT THREE HUNDRED A PEACE
 AND SKINED THEM AND DRESSED THEM OFF
 AND BESIDE WE KILLED TWO PIGS AND
 ONE SHEEP AND WE TOOK A SWARM OF
 BEES UP I DONT KNOW HOW MENY
 THE REST OF OUR REGTMENT KILLED.
 OUR MEN IS TAKING SOMETHING EVERY
 DAY THEY HAVE TOOK A NUMBER OF HORSES
 I WILL WRITE MORE ON A PLCE OF PAPER
 Uncle I want you to sell them sleds and
 that youk and staple and ring and
 if ransom hant got that other staple
 and ring have him git it and sell them
 all and send me the money and I want
 you to right to me howe much money
 that philow left his hol share
 comto and I want you to see id it
 for me you now that I am not there
 (No Delatation)

11-21-1862

NOV. THE 21TH 1862 DEAR UNCLE I
 THOUGHT THAT I WOULD WRITE ONCE
 MORE TO YOU I HAVE BEEN SICK WITH
 THE MUMPS BUT ARE GITING QUITE
 SMART I THINK THAT I SHALL GET WELL.
 MILO HAS BEN SICK BUT HE IS BETER
 WE HAVE TO FAIR PRETY HARD SOME NIGHTS
 WE HAVE TO LAY IN THE MUD AND WATER
 TWO OR THREE INCHES DEEP. UNCLE
 NATHAN YOU DONT KNOW NOTHING HOW
 A SOLDIER HAS TO FAIR HES OUT
 DOORS IN THE RAIN AND MUD ALL

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DAY AND THEN WHEN NIGHT COMES TO
LAY RIGHT DOWN IN THE WET MUD
WITH A LITTLE THIN CLOATH TENT
FOR A HOUSE AND THE RAIN WILL RUN
RIGHT THREW IT WE HAD ABOUT
ONE THOUSAN OF MEN IN OUR REG
TMENT AND I DONT BELIEVE THAT
WE HAVE GOT SIX HUNDRED MEN THAT
IS FIT FOR DUTY NOW YOU DONT
KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SICKNES OUT
THERE IF WE COULD HAVE YOUR BARN
TO SLEEP IN WE WOULD THINK THAT WE
WAS WELL PROVIDED FOR WE HAVE
TO FAIR HARDER THEN YOUR CATTLE
DOES SOME DAYS ALL WE GET TO
EAT IS ONE CRACKER A DAY AND A
LITTLE PIECE OF BEEF SOME
TIMES WE HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT
BUT AS A GENERAL THING WE FAIR
VERY HARD DO YOU THINK YOU
COULD LIVE AS WE DO HOW
COULD YOU SLEEP TO LAY OUT
DOORS WITH ONE BLANKIT OVER
YOU UNCLE NATHAN IF YOU ARE
DRAFTED YOU BETTER HIER A
MAN TO COME IN YOUR PLACE
IF IT COASTS YOU ALL YOU ARE
WERTH TO HIRE HIM FOR WHAT IS
A MANS PROPERTY WORTH WHEN
HE IS DED NATHAN I THINK I
SHALL GET HOME YET A LIVE PRAY
FOR ME THAT I MAY AND I WILL

11-VI-1862

TRY TO PRAY FOR MY JELPH
 NATHAN WHAT IS THE REASON THAT
 YOU DONT WRITE I HAVE WROTE
 A GOOD MANY TO YOU AND YOU
 HAIN'T WROTE BUT TWO OR THREE
 SINCE I HAVE BEEN A SOLDIER
 NATHAN I WISH YOU WOULD SEND
 ME TWO DOLLARS IN MONEY
 FOR I HAIN'T A SENT OF MONEY
 SEND IT IN A LETTER WRITE
 AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS. Good BY
 DERECT YOURE LETTER TO
 WASHINGTON D. C. 154 REGT. Co. G.
 N.Y. SV IN CARE OF CAPT. M B CHENY
 PLEASE TO FORWARD WE HAVE GOT
 BACK TO FAIR FAX COURT HOUSE.
 OSCAR WILBER

11/22-1862

NOVEMBER THE 22 1862. DEAR AUNT: I
 RECEIVED YOURE KIND LETTER TO DAY
 I WAS GLAD TO HERE FROM YOU AND
 HERE ^{THAT} YOU ALL WER WELL AUNT I
 HAVE BEEN QUITE SICK WITH THE MUMPS
 BUT I HAVE GOT ALMOAST WELL IT
 MADE ME VERY WEAK BUT I AM GITTING
 PRETY STOUT NOW A GOOD MENY
 OF OURE BOYS HAVE HAD THE MUMPS
 AND SOME OF THEM HAS BEEN VERY
 SICK SO THAT THEY HAD TO GO TO
 THE HOSPITAL THEY WANTED ME TO
 GO TO THE HOSPITAL I TOLED THEM I

11-22-1862

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SHOULD NOT GO TILL I WAS WERSE THEN
I WAS NOW I THINK THAT I GOT ALONG
BETTER THEN IF I HAD OF WENT TO THE
HOSPITAL MILO HAS BEEN QUITE
SICK AND HE HAS GOT BETER I
THINK WE SHALL HAVE OUR HEALTH
NOW IF WE ARE CAREFUL AUNT
YOURE LETTER COME QUITE UNEXPECTED
I DIDNT THINK THAT YOU WOULD
WRITE ME A LETTER O HOW GLAD I AM
TO HERE FROM HOME I WROTE MARY
A LETTER AND HAVE NOT RECIVED NO
ANSWER YET I WROTE ONE TO UNCLE
NATHAN LAST NIGHT I WROTE THAT
HE HADNT WROTE MORE THAN 2 OR
THREE LETTERS TO ME I DONT
KNOW HOW MENY HE HAS WROTE
BUT I DONT THINK HE HAS WROTE
MORE THAN 3 THREE I HAVE WROTE
EIGHT OR TEN LETTERS TO HIM
AUNT RACHEL TELL HIM TO WRITE
ME A GOOD LONG LETTER TELL HIM
I WISH THAT HE WOULD SEND ME
TWO DOLLARS IN MONEY I HAVE
GOT OUT OF MONEY WHEN I WAS
SICK I COULD NOT EAT HARD
TACKS AND I HAD TO BY SOMETHING
THAT I COULD EAT CHEESE IS
THIRTY CENTS A POUND BUTTER 40
CENTS LBS RIES 25 CENTS A PIECE
TOBACO FROM ONE DOLLAR TO TEN
SHILLINGS A POUND AND SO YOU

11-22-862

MAY KNOW WHERE A SOLDIERS MONEY
 GOES TO WE HAVE EXPECTED TO
 DRAW OURE PAY FOR MORE THEN A
 MOUNTH BUT I HAVE GOT TIRED
 A LOOKING FOR IT WE MAY GET
 IT IN TWO DAYS AND WE MAY NOT
 GET IT IN TWO MONTHS IF I DONT
 GET SOME I SHALL HAVE TO STOP
 WRITING I AM GLAD THAT I HAVE
 GOT A PLACE TO SEND FOR MONEY
 FOR I KNOW ^{THAT} UNCLE NATHAN BANK
 IS GOOD AS THE GOLD WELL I
 HAVE WROTE ENOUGH OF THAT
 AUNT REACHEL WE HAVE GOT BACK
 TO FAIR FAX COURT HOUSE WE
 HAVE BEEN TO THERIDUGH FAIR GAP
 THAT WAS A WAY BELOW BULL RUNN
 WHEN I GET HOME I WILL TELL YOU
 HOW BULL RUNN LOOKS I DONT KNOW
 HOW LONG WE SHALL STAY HERE
 I DONT THINK WE SHALL STAY HERE
 LONG UNCLE NATHAN I WANT TO WRITE
 ME A GOOD LONG LETTER AND WRITE
 ALL OF THE NEWS WRITE HOW OUR FOLKS
 IS GETING ALONG AND HOW MY CATTLE
 IS GETING ALONG UP HOME YEARLINGS
 I MEAN AUNT REACHEL I HAVE GOT THEM
 GLOVES YET I THINK A GOOD DEAL OF THEM
 I MEAN YOU SHALL HAVE YOURE PAY FOR
 THEM AUNT I MUST CLOSE NOW GIVE
 MY RESPELTS ALL OF FAMILY AND ALL
 INQUIRING FRIENDS GOOD BY WRITE SOON
 DERECT YOURE LETTER AS BEFORE OSCAR F. WILBER

11/27/1862

NOVEMBER THE 27 1862

NATHAN AS I WAS A WRITING TO OUR FOLKS I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD WRITE A FEW LINES TO YOU I FEEL MIDDLING WELL TODAY AND I HOPE THIS LETER WILL FIND YOU AND FAMILY ALL WELL UNCLE I HAINT GOT NO NEWS TO WRITE TO YOU. IT IS DULL TIMES HERE NOTHING MUCH GOIN ON NATHAN IF YOU WILL SELL THAT HEIFER THAT MOTHER SOLED YOU I WILL BY HER MOTHER SED THAT YOU SED THAT YOU WOULD SELL HER FOR THE SAME AS YOU GIVE NATHAN I WILL BY HER OF YOU I TOLED MOTHER BY HER FOR ME I WILL PAY YOU OUT OF THAT MONEY THAT I LET YOU HAVE IF YOU WANT TO DO SO OR WHEN I GET SOME MORE I WILL PAY YOU OUT OF THAT I THINK A GOOD DEAL OF THAT HEIFER AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO BY HER I WROTE AND TOLD MOTHER HOW OURE MATERS STOOD NATHAN IF YOU JUST AS LIKE DO SO WRITE AND TELL ME UNCLE NATHAN YOU MITE TELL MOTHER HOW MUCH MONEY I LET YOU HAVE AND HOW MUCH YOU HAVE PAID OUT FOR ME AND SHE MITE KEEP A COUNT OF IT I DONT KNOW WHETHER YOU WANT TO USE THAT MONEY OR NOT YOU

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NEVER HAVE WROTE ENYTHING ABOUT
 IT IF YOU DONT INTEND TO USE
 IT YOU MITE TAK YOURE PAY OUT
 FOR THAT HEIFER NATHAN DID YOU
 GET THAT LETTER THAT I WROTE TO
 YOU TO PAY WILLARD NATHAN IT
 MAY BE THAT YOU ^{HAVE} USED THAT MONEY
 IF YOU HAVE IT IS ALL AITE I
 TOLED YOU TO IF YOU WANTED TO
 NATHAN IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THAT
 TRADE YOU MAY TRADE WITH MOTHER
 I TOLED HER TO BY SOME HAY OF
 SOME ONE TO WINTER HER WITH
 IF GRAND MOTHER WANTS TO SELL IT
 I WILL BY IT OF HER AND IF SHE
 DONT AND YOU WANT TO SELL SOME
 I WILL BY OF YOU WRITE AS
 SOON AS YOU GET THIS. OSCAR W.

12-23 1862

NEAR FREDERICKSBURGE DECEMBER
 THE 23, 1862 DEAR UNCLE NATHAN
 WILBER I RECIVED YOURE KIND
 LETTER ABOUT A WEAK A GO BUT
 I COULD NOT GET NO TIME TO
 ANSWER IT THE MAIL DIDENT
 GO OUT TILL YESTERDAY NATHAN
 I AM WELL AT PRESENT AND HOPE
 THIS LETTER WILL FIND YOU AND
 FAMILY THE SAME NATHAN I
 RECIVED THAT MONEY YOU SENT
 TWO DOLLARS AND TWO POSTAGE
 STAMPS I WAS GLAD TO GET IT

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FOR I HAD GOT OUT OF MONEY. NATHAN
WE ARE TO FREDERICKS BURGE THE SITTY
OF FREDERICKS BURGE IS IN SITE OF US
IT IS ABOUT A MILD OFF THE REBELS
IS IN SITE OF US OUR PICKETS IS ON
THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER AND THEARS ON
THE OTHER NATHAN OUR COMPANY AND
ONE MOAR IS A SUPPORTING A BATTERY AT
PRESENT WE SHALL REMAIN HERE TILL
THE REGTMENT MOOVES A WAY WE ARE
ABOUT EIGHTY RODS FROM THE REGTMENT
NATHAN GENERAL BURN SIDES ARMY
HAD A HARD BATTLE HERE WITH THE
REBELS BURN SIDE LOST 10000
MEN HE LOST A BOUT TEN MEN TO THE
REBELS ONE SO THEY ALL SAY THE
OLD REGTMENTS CALL FREDERICKS
BURGE GENERAL BURN SIDES SLAUGHTER.
YARD THEY THINK HE DIDNT DO
RIGHT LEADING HIS MEN UP IN THAT WAY
NATHAN THE REBS IS FORTIFIED STRONG
AND OURE MEN HAS TO TAKE THE OPEN
LOTS FOR IT OUR MEN COULD ENT HARDLY
SEE THEM ONELY THER HEADS AND SHOLDERS
THEY STOOD IN THEIR RIFFLE PITS IT IS HARD
WORK TO HIT A MAN IF YOU CANT SEE HIM
UNCLE NATHAN IF THE REBS WOULD COME OUT
FAIR WE COULD WHIP THEM BUT AS IT
IS OURE MEN CANT DO NOTHING IN
FRUNT OF THEAR BATTERIES ALL THE
WAY WE CAN DO ENYTHING WITH THEM
IS TO FLANK THEM THAT IS TO CUM

12-23-62

UP ON ONE SIDE OF THEM IF GENERAL SIGLE HAD GOT HERE THREE DAYS SOONER WE WOULD OF BEN IN THAT FIGHT WE SHOULD OF BEEN HERE IF IT HAD OF BEEN GOOD GOING IT WAS A FUL BAD GOIN THE MUD WAS A BOUT SIX INCHES DEEP GEN BURN SIDES ARMY TOOK LOTS OF TOBACO FROM THE REBS I HAVE GOT SOME OF THE TOBACO THEY BROAKE OPEN ONE BANK AND THEY GOT THREE THOUSAN DOLLARS OF GREEN BACKS I MEAN OURE MONEY THAT THE REBS HAD TOOK FROM OUR MEN AND OURE MEN GOOT THREE THOUSAN DOLLARS IN GOLD AND SILVER OURE MEN HELD THE SITTY OF FREDERICKS BURGE ONE DAY THEY TOOK A GOOD DEAL FROM THE REBS IF I HAD THAT SIX THOUSAN DOLLARS THAT OUR MEN TOOK I SHOULD THINK I WAS QUITE WELL OFF NOW NATHAN I MUST CLOSE AND WRITE A FEW LINES TO MARY UNCLE NATHAN WRITE AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS AND WRITE OF ALL THE NEWS GOOD BY WRITE AS YOU GET FROM OSCAR WILBER TO NATHAN WILBER DIRECT YOUR LETTER AS BEFORE GOOD BY OSCAR WILBER

DEAR COUSIN MARY I WILL WRITE A FEW LINES TO YOU. MARY I AM WELL AT PRESENT AND HOPE THES

12-23-1862
Oscar Wilber

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FEW LINES WILL FIND YOU THE SAME MARY
I RECIVED YOURE KIND LETTER AND WAS GLAD
TO HERE FROM YOU AND THAT YOU WAS WELL
MARY IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME FOR NOT WRITING
MORE I WILL TRY AND DO BETER NEXT TIME
I SHOULD OF WROTE MORE TO YOU IF I HADENT
GOT TO WRITE A FEW LINES TO UNCLE BARBER
WILBER NOW MARY BE A GOOD GIRL AND
WRITE SOON AS YOU HERE FROM ME AND
AUNT RACHEL TO GOOD BY OSCAR F. WILBER

2-2-1863
NEAR FREDERICKS BURGE FEBRUARY 2 1863
DEAR UNCLE NATHAN THIS MORNING FINDS
ME TRYING TO WRITE A FEW LINES TO
YOU I AM WELL AT PRESENT AND HOPE
THESE FEW LINES WILL FIND YOU AND
FAMILY THE SAME UNCLE THE REST
OF THE BOYS IS WELL EXCEPT CHARLES
WILBER AND ^{DARIUS} DERION WILBER BUT THEY
ARE GETTING BETER I SUPOSE THAT
THERE IS GOOD SLEIGHIN OUT THERE
WE HAINT SEEN NO MUCH SNOW HERE WE
HAINT HAD ONLY THREE SNOW STORMS
THE SNOW ONLY FALLS ABOUT THREE
INCHES DEEP BUT WE HAVE A GOOD DEAL
OF RAIN IT IS VERY MUDY THE
MUD IS A FOOT DEEP IN THE ROADS
UNCLE NATHAN I HAINT NO NEWS TO
WRITE IT IS DULL TIMES HEAR
NOTHING MUCH A GOIN ON WE WILL
HAVE TO STAY HEAR TILL IT IS BETER
GOIN NATHAN WE HAVE DRAWN A LITTLE

2-2-1863.

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MONEY WE HAVE GOT OURE PAY UP
TO THE THIRTY FIRST OF OCTOBER
I DRAWN TWENTY ONE DOLLARS
AND TWENTY CENTS SOME OF
THE BOYS DRAWN MORE MONEY
THEN I DID FOR THEY DIDENT
GIT ONE MUNTS PAY IN ADVANCE
TO JAMESTOWN BUT THE NEXT
TIME THEY PAY US OFF THEY WILL
PAY US ALL A LIKE OLD UNCLE
SAM DONT DO AS HE AGREAD ABOUT
PAING THE SOLDIERS FOR YOU SEE
THAT HE IS OWING ME THREE MUNTS
PAY BUT I SHANT FIND NO FALT
FOR I KNOW THAT OLD UNCLE SAM
HAE GOT HIS HANDS FULL MOAR
THEN HE CAN DO TO PAY OFF THE
SOLDIER BUT I GUESS THAT HE
IS A LONG WINDED OLD FELLOW SLOW
AND SHURE AND SO I GUESS THAT
WE SHALL GIT OURE PAY UNCLE
NATHAN I WILL SEND YOU A CHECK
OF FOURETEEN DOLLARS IN THIS
LETTER YOU CAN SINE YOURE
NAME TO IT AND YOU CAN GO TO ENY
BANK AND DRAW THE MONEY ON IT
OR THEY SAY THAT YOU CAN GO TO A
STOARE AND THEY WILL PAY THE
MONEY ON IT UNCLE NATHAN WHEN
YOU GO TO OLEAN YOU TRY IT AND
GET THE MONEY ON IT THE CHECK
IS FOURETEEN DOLLARS THE RIGHT

2-2-1863

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NAME OF IT IS A TREASUARE NOATE
UNCLE NATHAN I WANT YOU TO WRITE
AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS AND LET
ME KNOW IF YOU GET IT UNCLE NATHAN
HAVE YOU PAID MY LAND TAX I WROTE
TO YOU TO PAY IT AND I WROTE
TO YOU THAT I WOULD TAKE THAT
YEARLING HEIFER OF YOU SIXTEEN
DOLLARS WHEN SHE WAS WINTERED
OUT THAT WAS WHAT YOU WROTE
THAT I MITE HAVE HER FOR NOW
UNCLE NATHAN I MUST CLOSE WRITE
SOON AS YOU GET THIS TELL OURE
FOLKS THAT I AM WELL AND TELL THEM
TO WRITE GOOD BY OSCAR F. WILBER
NATHAN TELL OURE FOLKS THAT IF THEY
WANT ENY MONEY THEY MUST WRITE AND
LET ME KNOW I DONT KNOW WHAT
IS THE REASON THAT THEY DONT
WRITE IF THEY HAINT NO MONEY TO
PAY THE POSTAGE YOU MAY LET THEM
HAVE SOME NATHAN TELL THEM.

2-21-1863

NEAR STAFORD COURT HOUSE
FEBRUARY THE 21 1863

DEARE UNCLE NATHAN I RECIVED YOURE
KIND LETER LAST NIGHT I WAS GLAD
TO HEARE FROM YOU I AM WELL
AT PRESENT AND HOPE THESE FEW
LINES WILL FIND YOU AND FAMILY
THE SAME UNCLE NATHAN I WAS
SORY TO HEARE THAT OLD MRS.

3-21-68

RICHMOND HAD BEEN TELLING
WRONG STORIES ABOUT YOU
NATHAN I NEW HER BEFORE I
CAME IN TO VERGINA NATHAN
I SENT THAT MONEY TO YOU NOT
TO OLD MRS RICHMOND WHEN I
SEND IT TO HER THEN I THINK
IT IS TIME FOR HER TO SAY
SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOT BEFORE
NATHAN DONT BLAME MOTHER FOR
SHE AINT THE ONE I KNOW THE ONE
THAT IS TO BLAME IT IS OLD
MISS RICHMOND SHE IS THE
ONE THAT IS TO BLAME NATHAN
I WROTE TO MOTHER TO GO DOWN TO
YOUR HOUSE AND GET SIX 6
DOLLARS OF MONEY I TOLED
HER TO SHOW YOU HER LETER AND
YOU WOULD LET HER HAVE IT
6 DOLLARS YOU MAY LET HER
HAVE IT AND THE REST YOU
CAN DO AS YOU THINK BEST WITH
IT IF YOU WANT TO USE IT
YOU MAY YOU KNOW WHAT IS
BEST TO DO WITH IT BETER THAN
I DO OUT HEARE I DONT KNOW
AS I SHALL WANT TO USE IT
UNTILL I GET HOME UNCLE
NATHAN WHEN I GET SICK OF
LETING YOU HAVE IT I WILL LET
YOU KNOW YOU KNOW THAT YOU
AND I HAVE HAD A GOOD EAL OF
DEAL AND YOU KNOW THAT WE ALWAYS

2-21-63

GOT A LONG WITH OUT ENY TROBLE
 AND I THINK WE CAN HEARE AFTER
 DONT YOU THINK SO AS ELDER TUCK
 USE TO SAY ME THINKS THAT I HEARE
 YOU SAY YESS NATHAN I WISH
 THAT I WAS TO YOURE HOUSE TO
 DAY WHERE I COULD CLASP MY HANDS
 WITH YOU AND YOURE FAMILY O WHAT
 A HAPY DAY THAT WOULD BE TO ME
 NATHAN YOU SED THAT MARTIN WAS
 A GOIN TO KILL MY DOG I AM
 SORY THAT I HAVE GOT SUCH A
 COUSIN AS THAT NATHAN YOU NEW
 THAT I THOUGHT A GOOD EAL
 OF LITTLE SPRING FOR HE IS A GOOD
 DOG NATHAN IF MARTIN HAD BEEN
 OUT HEAR AND I HAD BEEN TO
 HOME I WOULD OF PAID THE TAX
 MY SELF BEFORE I WOULD OF
 KILLED HIS DOG AND IF HE HAD
 ENY PRINCIPAL ABOUT HIM HE
 WOULD OF PAID ME BACK NATHAN
 I THANK YOU FOR PAING THE TAX
 FOR ME YOU DON WRIGHT IN
 DOIN SO NATHAN I GUESS THAT
 WE SHALL GET THE REST OF OURE
 PAY BEFORE LONG FOR THEY ARE
 MAKING OUT THE PAY ROOL AND I
 THINK WE SHALL GET SOME BEFORE
 LONG NATHAN I WISH THAT YOU
 WOULD SEND ME A DOLLARS WORTH
 OF POSTAGE STAMPS IF YOU CAN

2-21-63

GET THEM TO SEND FOR IT IS A
 HARD STENT TO GET THEM WE HAVE
 TO PAY FIVE CENTS A PIECE FOR
 THEM SOMETIMES I HAD TO BARROW
 THIS ONE FOR I COULD NOT BUYE
 ENY THEY ARE SCARSE HEARE
 MILO WILBER IS HERE AND IS WELL
 I RECIVED MARYS LETER AND HAVE
 ANSWERED IT I SHALL HAVE TO CLOSE
 WRITE SOON GOOD BYE OSCAR WILBER

2-27-1863

NEAR FREDERICKS BURGE
 FEBRUARY THE 27 1863
 DEAR UNCLE NATHAN I RECIVED
 YOURE KIND LETTER DAY BEFORE
 YESTERDAY WHICH TOLED ME
 WHAT YOU WAS A DOIN I WAS
 GLAD TO HEARE FROM YOU I AM
 GLAD THAT IT IS GOOD SLEIGHEN
 OUT THERE SO THAT YOU CAN DRAW
 WOOD AND STAVES I AM WELL
 AT PRESENT AND HOPE THESE
 FEW LINES WILL FIND YOU
 THE SAME AND FAMILY I SUPPOSE
 THAT THINGS ARE GOIN ON OUT THERE
 AS THEY USE TO UNCLE NATHAN WE
 ARE IN FREDERICKS BURGE YET I
 DONT KNOW HOW LONG WE SHALL
 STAY HERE BUT I THINK THAT WE SHALL
 STAY HERE SOME TIME FOR IT IS THE
 MUD IS TIME THAT I EVER SEE THE MUD
 IS KNEE DEEP

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GENERAL BURN SIDE HAS GOT DEFEATED.
A GAIN THIS STORM STOPPED HIS PLANS,
WE HAD GOT ROADS MADE DOWN TO THE
RIVER ABOUT TEN MILES ABOVE
FREDERICKS BURGE AND STARTED TO
GO THERE AND THEY STARTED WITH THE
PONTOONS BRIDGES AND IT COMENCED
A RAINING AND RAINED ALL NIGHT
IT GOT SO MUDY THAT THEY COULDNT
GO WITH THE PONTOON BRIDGES AND THE
CANNON A GOOD MENY TEEMS GOT STUCK
IN THE MUD IT WAS THE WERST TIME
THAT I EVER SEE WE WAS OUT ALL
NIGHT IN THE RAIN AND MUD WITH
OURE KNAP SACKS ON YOU CAN GUESS
HOW WE FELT WET ALL THREW OURE
KNAP SACKS WOULD WEIGH ABOUT SIXTY
POUNDS I AM A GOIN TO STOP WRITING
RITE HERE A BOUT THAT MARCH FOR I
DONT LIKE TO WRITE A BOUT IT AND
A NOTHER THING I CANT WRITE FOR I
HAINT NO PLACE TO WRITE I DONT
BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN READ IT A
MAN CANT WRITE SETING DOWN ON
THE GROUND NOTHING TO WRITE ON
ONLY ON HIS KNEE IF I HAD YOURE
TABLE TO WRITE ON I SHOULD LIKE
TO WRITE NATHAN YOU WROTE THAT
YOU WOULD WINTER THAT HEIFER
AND SELL HER TO ME FOR SIXTEEN
DOLLARS I WILL PAY YOU 16
DOLLARS FOR HER AND YOU MAY WINTER
HER YOU MAY TELL WALLACE

2-27-63

THAT I HAVE BOUGHT HER YOU
MAY TAKE YOURE PAY OUT OF THAT
MONEY THAT YOU HAVE GOT WE
HAINT GOT OURE PAY YET BUT
WE EXPECT THAT WE WILL
GET OURE PAY BEFORE LONG I
WILL WRITE AND TELL YOU WHEN
WE DRAW IT NATHAN I WANT
YOU TO PAY THAT LAND TAX OF
MINE NATHAN WRITE AND TELL
ME HOW MY LAND TAX IS AND HOW MUCH
YOURS IS TO NATHAN YOU CAN KEEP
A COUNT OF WHAT YOU PAY OUT
FOR ME AND TELL OURE FOLKS TO
AND THEY CAN KEEP A COUNT OF
IT NATHAN WHEN I GET HOME
I WILL PAY YOU FOR YOURE
TROBLE NATHAN WRITE AS SOON -
AS YOU GET THIS TELL OURE
FOLKS I AM WELL AND SHOULD
LIKE TO HERE FROM THEM GOODBYE
OSCAR WILBER WRITE SOON GOODBYE

NEAR STAFORD COURT HOUSE

MARCH THE 8 1863

DEAR UNCLE NATHAN I RECEIVED
YOUR KIND LETTER LAST NIGHT
WHICH TOLED ME THAT YOU
WAS WELL AND YOUR FAMILY
I GOT THEM POSTAGE STAMPS
THAT YOU SENT I WANT YOU
TO USE MY MONEY ENOUGH TO
PAY YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE
NATHAN I WANT YOU TO RECKEN
UP HOW MUCH THAT YOU HAVE
PAID OUT FOR ME AND
WHAT LITTLE THERE IS LEFT
YOU MAY USE IF YOU WANT
IT WITH OUT INTREST YOU
MAY WANT IT IN A NOAT
AND LET MOTHER TAKE IT I WANT
YOU TO HAVE THE USE OF IT
ENOUGH TO PAY YOU FOR YOUR
TROUBLE A GOIN BUSINESS FOR ME

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NATHAN I WANT YOU TO SEND
ME TWO DOLLARS SEND GREEN
BACKS FOR IT IS A HARD STENT
TO PASS ENY OTHER MONEY I
HAD MY LIKENESS TAKEN AND IT
COST ME TWO DOLLARS AND SO
I HAVE GOT SHORT OF MONEY
WE EXPECT THAT WE SHALL
BE PAYED OFF WITH IN TWO
WEAKS AND THEN I SHALL HAVE
LOTS OF MONEY TO USE I SINED
TO SEND HOME NINE DOLLARS
A MONTH AND THE REST I CAN
HAVE TO USE YOU SEE WHEN
I DRAW MY MONEY IT WILL
BE LIKE THAT TREASURE NOAT
THAT I SENT YOU YOU'RE
NAME WILL BE ON THEM
GEST AS IT WAS ON THAT
ONE THAT I SENT I THINK THAT
IS THE BEST WAY TO SEND IT
DONT YOU NATHAN WHEN
A SOLDIER SINES THAT

3-8-1863

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PAPER TO SEND HIS OWN MONEY
MONEY IN THAT WAY HE CAN
CANT ALTER IT OR HE CANT
SPEND ENY OF THAT MONEY
THAT HE HAS SIGNED TO SEND
HOME I THINK THAT Foure DOLLARS
A MONTH IS ENOUGH FOR ME TO
SPEND WE SIGNED THAT
PAPER WHEN WE WERE IN
JAMESTOWN ALL OF THE BOYS
SIGNED IT BUT A ^{DERIOUS} ~~DERIOUS~~ WILBER
AND LYMOND WILBER THEY WOULD
NOT SINE IT AND THEY HAVE
DRAWED THE PAY AND SPENT
IT ALL THE BOYS IS ALL WELL
BUT DRY HE IS IN WASHINGTON
I THINK HE WILL GET HIS DISCHARGE
NATHAN YOU WROTE THAT WOULD
JEROME WILBER WANTED TO
HIER MY MONEY IF YOU
WANT TO USE IT YOU MAY
OR IF YOU CAN MAKE
ENY THING BY HIREING IT OUT

Received
3/25/63

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YOU MAY HAVE ALL YOU CAN
MAKE NATHAN IF YOU
WANT TO DO SO WRITE AND
LET ME KNOW NATHAN I
THOUGHT THAT YOU WAS A
SPECTULATING MAN BUT NOW
I BEGIN TO THINK THAT YOU
AINT WHY DONT YOU GO OUT
SOME RAINY DAY AND MAKE
FORTY OR FIFTY DOLLARS
I HAVE FURNISHED YOU THE
MONEY NOW NATHAN I WANT
YOU TO MAKE ALL YOU CAN
ON THAT MONEY AND YOU
MAY HAVE ALL THAT YOU
MAKE ON IT NATHAN YOU
MAY THINK I AM A FUNNY
FELLOW NOW NATHAN IF
YOU CANT MAKE USE OF
IT YOU MAY PUT IT IN
THE BANK IF YOU USE THAT
MONEY YOU CAN HAVE IT TILL FALL
WRITE SOON AS YOU
GET THIS GOOD BYE OSCAR WILBER