

Sandusky Ohio }
Mch. 8th 1864 }

Dearest Lister,

Yours of the
26th Ult. came duly to hand. —
I have not heard from Edwin
lately, in my last to him, I
wrote that I should not sell out
to him for the price which
he offered, and that I thought
that the Estate had better be
divided. — I have not yet
legally appointed Mr Arnold
as my Agt. — I should like to
have my loose property sold
off at Auction, or otherwise,
I think that you made
a very judicious selection
in appointing Mr Welch for
your Agt. He would have
been my choice, had I thought
of him. —

We are quartered in the
2nd and 3^d stories of a large
brick building, the lower
floors of which are used for
dry goods and grocery stores.
Each Co. has its separate room
on one side of which we have
built our "bunks" one above
another like berths in a steam-
boat. Each room has a cook-
ing stove, and in our Co. each
person does his own cooking.
we can buy all the fresh
fish we want, cheap, and all
other extras that we wish. —

Many of the boys board out
at the hotels in the city. —

Mr. Williams came down
for me a few days since,
and took me out for a good
long ride in the country.
I have been to his house, with

him, to dine several times.
"Mary Ellen", has been sick,
but is getting better now. Mr
Williams informs me, —
he is up to my quarters almost
every day. —

Please write again
soon — & oblige

Yours truly
G. N. Truesdell

on a little too long a
journey - and the Pies
a little troubled with
the blues. - but owing
to the admirable way in
which the things were
packed, nothing else was
injured by them, - I never
saw a Box as well packed
as the things you sent
were, - the Apples were
somewhat frozen, but
not spoiled, - - Mary.
Many thanks for the
Express Parcel, -

This forenoon, being
Washington's birthday -
we had a Parade - on
the fair grounds in
the City, Mr. Williams
was there, said Mary

Eileen was sick, troubled
with the palpitation of
the heart, by the way
she sends much love to
you,

Let me hear from
you again soon -
I oblige

Yours Affly
L. M. Lusk

May 1, 1863

Yesterday they had some heavy Artillery fighting on our left - and they have been at it sharp on our right; several days past - the firing on our right has been some distance off - but to day it is nearer, - it is thought that Hooker is up the river and is driving the enemy down - and it is also reported that their communications with Richmond are cut off - last night, an Order from Gen. Hooker was read to us, stating that the Enemy would now be obliged to ingloriously retreat, or come out and fight us on our own ground, it is a great thing for us, if the enemy can be ~~got~~

forced to leave their fortifications
opposite from here, without
the use of the bayonet, and
if Hooker's strategy can do
what would cost thousands of
lives, to accomplish, — then
good bye, to McClellan,

The Army is in splendid
condition — good spirits — good
health, and confident of success,
God grant that we may not
be disappointed, —

We are constantly expecting
to move across the river —
either here, or further down —
while we are drawing the
attention of the enemy here.
I think that most of the
fighting will be done on
our right, and left. —

Fredericksburg is held
by the Rebs — but the bluffs

on our side of the river
are covered with guns — ready
to open upon the city, at any
time, they are probably waiting
for the enemy above, to be driven
down, —

We have had a good deal
of rain lately, but to day the
sun is shining hot, and the
mud drying up rapidly. —

Don't worry about
me, if you don't hear from
me again for some days
as I may not have a chance
to write or Mail letters. —

With much love for
yourself & family, I remain
Yours &c
S. M. Russell

completed soon after sunrise.
The bridges are at the same place
where our Division crossed before,
about 2 or three miles below
Fredericksburg, - our Brigade
has not yet crossed over, but
lays on the north bank of
the river, - there are, I should
judge, about six or eight
thousand troops on the other
side, while the rest of our Corps
remain on this side, our
men hold the ground for a
mile or so, back on the other
side. -

Another Corps have laid
bridges a few miles below us
and have crossed over, it is
said they have taken the
R.R. Depot on the other side
and quite a number of prisoners.

May 1st 1863

Dear Sister

Your letter
from Mystic, came to hand
a few days since, and I
take this opportunity to answer
knowing when I may have another.

Old fighting Joe, is now
fairly on the rampage, and
I suppose is enjoying himself
hugely. Most of the Army broke
camp, and started for the
right and left of the enemy,
several days since - our
Corps, (the 6th Gen Sedgwick's)
remained in camp until the
28th ult, when our Brigade
was detailed to take the pontoons
to the river, the boats were
unloaded at dark about one
mile from the river and we

~~and we~~ Carried them down, to where the bridge was to be laid, during the night, we had to use the greatest caution, making no noise, as the enemys Pickets lined the opposite side of the river, and they had a heavy reserve within one fourth of a mile from where the boats were laid.

our duty was dangerous but honourable, the night was just what we wished for, there being a thick fog, so that we could not be seen ^{from} the river, we worked, as I have never worked before, and at four o'clock the next morning the last one of the one hundred boats, was on the river bank, — strange as it may seem, three or four thousand men, had been at work within a stones throw

of the enemys Pickets, without being discovered, — as soon as the boats were all ready, they were filled with troops from another Brigade, and started for the opposite shore, when about half way across, they were discovered by the Pickets, who fired a volley, and ran for their reserve; several of our men were wounded, but they returned the fire with interest, and pushing on soon reached the shore, and jumping out, started after the retreating Rebels — at their reserve we surprised them, and took a number of prisoners, among ^{them} a Major. — one Brigade of our men were taken across in the boats, and then we went to work and put the bridges down, we had two bridges

the lines, as we toiled up the steep hill, one could see pale cheeks, but no trembling hands, the lips were compressed, the eyes fixed and determined, the step firm and proud, =

On we go = the crest is almost gained, and the shouts from our Comrades in the City - begin to rise above the roar of musketry: forward = forward = the enemy's fire begins to slacken, = forward = the breast-works are reached - and in a moment we are upon them - and the Stars and Stripes are given to the breeze - as thousands of hearts give vent to their feelings and Cheer after cheer carries terror and dismay to the now flying enemy. — this was the proudest moment of my life.

Camp Near Palmaruth, Va.

May 10th 1863

Dear Sister,

We are now, again "settled down" within half a mile of our old Winter quarters, and I will give you some of the details of the Second Fredericksburg Battle, and inform you what was done by our (Major Gen Sedgwick's) Corps. In order that you may better understand, I will give you some of the sub-divisions of an Army. Most of the Regts in the service, numbered one thousand men, when the first came out, but

2
now the average number is from two
to five hundred, - there are usually
five Regts in a Brigade, and Col
Shaler, now commands our
Brigade, - Three Brigades compose
a Division, and our Div: is
Commanded by Gen Newton,
there are three Div's in an Army
Corps, and seven, or eight Corps
in the "Army of the Potomac";
before the Battle, this Army had
150,000 effective men. -

Sunday, was the day on which
fighting commenced in earnest,
and the attack was made by our
forces, - from day-light until
about 11 o'clock our Batteries

3
poured shot and shell into the
fortifications back of the City of
Fredericksburg, - at this time, part
of our Corps was at the City and
the rest at the crossing place
three miles below, - at 11 o'clock a
charge, led by Col Shaler, was
made upon the heights, - (those
same heights which Gen Sumner
lost over 5,000 men, in endeavoring
to carry at the last Battle here,)
and although our comrades fell
at every step, - and death seemed
before us, hurling his shots thick
and fast, - not one faltered, nor
one looked back, - glancing along

a short one, that I was over in,
 the 10th Mass Regt did nobly. —
 they held the stream front on our
 right, until nearly dark when
 our Regt relieved them, and
 they were withdrawn from
 the field, that night our Regt
 did picket duty on the field.
 The next day the enemy were
 busy endeavoring to surround
 us, while they skirmished
 on our front, to attract our
 attention, we knew what they
 were about, but could not advance
 on account of their superior force,
 and durst not attempt to retreat,
 until night, when we did some
 pretty tall running towards
 a ford, where during the day
 a bridge had been laid —
 some six or eight miles above
 the city — our retreat was
 very successful — we losing
 but one piece of Artillery.

The first remark I remember
 hearing, after we had taken
 the heights, was that of a Col
 who exclaimed "this will bring
 the price of gold down" —
 but there was other work to be
 done, and at it we went, —
 shooting, and taking prisoners,
 it was glorious fun, and exciting
 in the highest degree, —
 There was one battery, some
 distance off on our right, which
 continued to pelt away at us,
 and annoying us considerably
 and our Regt was ordered to
 take it, — off we started, but

before we would reach it, the enemy retreated on a full run, the men throwing away everything they had, behind a hill where this battery was posted, there was some two or three thousand Rebs, and they all skedaddled upon the approach of our Regt - we numbering about six hundred men, (we had over a thousand eight months ago) =

On the heights, our forces took thirteen of the enemy's cannon, and a large number of prisoners, - it is said thirteen hundred. —

by the time we had cleared the heights and surrounding Batteries of the enemy, the whole of our Corps had arrived on the ground, and we started after the retreating enemy, who had gone on the Gordonsville road, — —

it seems that the enemy retreated about four miles, when they rec'd large reinforcements from their ^{left} ~~right~~ wing - which had been fighting our main Army on our right, = we came up to them about sun-down, as they lay in some woods, this was Sunday night, and here we had the hardest fight, for

May 10, 1863

9

If we had taken the heights
back of the city of Fred's and
gone no further, we could have
held them, and all would have
been well with us, but in
regard to the rest of the Army,
I know but little, but reports
state that they were badly
whipped; — but one thing is
certain, the army is, even
after this defeat, in good
spirits, and better condition
than at any time — when
Burnside had command. —

What is to be done now, I
cannot guess, it is the wish

of the Army; to go to some
other State - to leave old
Virginia where the Party
acting on the defensive, have
such immensely superior
advantages, —

I saw Myron Taylor - a few
days ago - he was in the
fight; and came out, all right.
Please write soon -

I oblige

Yours —
S. N. Fessenden

North, and I believe to cripple
Lee's Army, - if the Militia
of the Northern States, can be
got out promptly. Lee's Army
must soon "face by the rear
rank" - and I believe it impossible
for him to slip through our
fingers as easy as he did last
fall. = In regard to your
anxiety about me, I can assure
you, that I have not contracted
one bad habit - nor have my
morals become in the least
contaminated, since I have
been in the Army - and
I believe that if I should
ever return - my Sister
will never be ashamed of
the character which I bear.
Hoping that your next dream
will place my character in a
better aspect. I Remain
Yours of course
Sgt. Townsend

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June 19

Fairfax C. H. Va
June 19th 1863

Dr Sister,

Yours of the
10th is rec'd, also package of
Papers. many thanks for them.
~~Edwin sends me the Republican~~
quite regularly. = We have
made a "Change of base" lately -
from the Rappahannock to the
Potomac. = and I will give you the
particulars of our journey -
we crossed to the South side of
the Rappahannock at our old
crossing place, below Fredericksburg
about two weeks since, = our
Division crossed the second day,
after the bridges were laid, -
we built strong fortifications,
and after laying there a little over
a week, when we left them, and
came on a forced march, to

this place, where we arrived yesterday, we had a hard time of it, on the old Battle ground, below Fredericksburg as we were kept under arms, night and day, expecting an attack, and our Regt was on picket forty eight hours, with their enemies Sharpshooters, constantly "pecking away" at us, on our picket lines, we had a company of Sharpshooters, which were raised in Mass. about two years ago, - they did good service, and enjoyed the fun of picking off the greybacks, highly: we recrossed the river last Saturday night, without loss, and the next morning commenced the toughest march we ever experienced, the weather was extremely hot, and during the last of the march, the road sides would be covered with poor fellows who had dropped

down, dead, and dying, from the effects of the hot sun, the dust, and the long, tiresome march, -

To day, we are laying by, resting, but are constantly expecting orders to march, we may go to Alexandria, but I think it more likely that we shall go north or west, perhaps to Leesburgh, and across the river to Poolesville Md. or to Bull Run mountains, - last night I saw eighty Rebs. (prisoners) who were taken at Aldie, below Leesburgh, and now, as I write, we hear cannonading in that direction. — —

In regard to the movements of the enemy - the invasion of Md. and Pa. pleases me more, than it would to hear of the capture of Vicksburg, it is just the thing needed to put down the Copperheads, to instill a little life into the

is kept, and sold, to Commissioned Officers, and I am sorry to say its business is very extensive, — there are but few Officers in the Army — comparatively speaking, that do not sooner or later, get into the habit of using Whiskey,

Enlisted Soldiers do not get it except on occasions of great fatigue, and occasionally before going into a Battle, — — —

Furloughs are given for only five days, now, and I could scarcely go home and back in that time, so I think I shall not get to Somers this Summer, — My health is good, and I enjoy myself as well as could be expected, under the circumstances,

Please write soon, & oblige

Yours truly,
S. M. Truesdell

Camp Near Galmouth, Va.

June 1st 1863

Dear Sister,

Your favor of the 18th ult., — bringing intelligence of Ellen's sickness, came duly to hand, and as I have not heard from you since, I trust that when this reaches you, health and happiness may again reign in your household, —

We still remain in Camp near our old Winter quarters, and shall probably remain here some time, unless the enemy withdraw part of their force to send to the South, or South west, or make an attack upon us. — Every thing is quiet, and we are leading a dull monotonous life. — we drill four hours, each day, and the rest of the time "lay around" — read newspapers,

write letters, play ball, &c, &c,

We have a News Office in Camp, and are supplied with New York, Phil^a and Washⁿ papers at 10 cts each,

In regard to the rumors of Gen Hooker being drunk, I have not seen him since our last movement, but there are many unfavorable reports concerning him, — Myron Taylor was here a few nights ago, and stated that a member of the Co. to which he belongs, was at Gen Sedgwick's Head quarters that day, when Gen. Hooker rode up, so drunk that he fell down twice before getting into the tent, — and that he had to be carried back to his own Head quarters, in an Ambulance, — and it is the general feeling of the Army

that he is too fond of "the flavoured liquid called 'Whiskey'". To have Command of 150,000 men, — in one respect Gen Hooker is very popular with his soldiers, the Commissary department is better supplied under him, than it has ever been under any Gen before, we have fresh bread every day now, fresh beef, four times per week and a good variety of other rations, — Col Shaler, our Brigade Commander has been promoted by the President, and is now a Brigadier, he has just rec'd his Star, and to day the Officers of the Brigade are on a drink at his Head quarters, — in each Brigade there is a "Drog gery" in connection with the Commissary department, where 'Whiskey

Gettysburg Pa }
July 4th 1863 }
1 o'clock P.M.

Dr Sister -

I am well
and without a scratch,
had a hot time of it yesterday
and our Regt. lost heavily.
We drove the enemy, captured
Gen Langstroth, 15 Stand of
Colours, and several thousand
prisoners, - to day it is all
quiet, and it is thought the
enemy ~~are~~ retreating, we are
now feeling for them,
the woods around here
seems to be full of stragling
Rebs who are coming into
our lines constantly.

Will write again as soon
as the thing is over, and give
particulars, - dont worry
about me, - Good Bye

Yours truly Sanford,

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July 4

Shipping for
July 1st 1864
1/2 dozen 8/4

for later
our well
with a lot of
and our best
We drove the evening
the landscape is
color and general
point, and it is all
spirit, and it is
interesting. we are
the words around here
seems to be free of
Also we are covering
our lines constantly.
We write again as soon
as the thing is over, and give
particulars about every
about me. Love
Mum

Compassive safety - behind our
fortifications, we had them
now in a tight fix. as they
could not retreat; without
reposing themselves, as much
as we did, while coming out. -
at last it grew desperate with
them, and they attempted to
make a charge upon us, but
they could not stand the leaden
storm, and retired behind the
wall again. soon after one
man waved a white handker-
chief above the wall, but he was
immediately struck down
by an officer, - they stood it
as long as they could, and at
last, broke and ran, to the rear,
we gave them such a parting
salute, as they will not soon
forget, - and those who remained

now gave themselves up to us,
we took about eighty five
prisoners, after the firing
ceased, we went across to the
wall, and found the dead Rebs
piled up, one upon another, as
thick as they were at any place
on the bloody field of Antietam,
there was no more firing here
after this, and during the day,
our Brigade was sent to different
portions of the field, and were
under some pretty severe
shelling, but were in no more
infantry engagements,

the next day, (the 4th) it was
quiet, all day, except some
slight skirmishing along
the picket lines, - and on the
6th started off in the retreating
enemy, ^(four Corps) we followed them
up closely, and gave their

waggon train a shelling occasionally
but they had a very strong rear
guard.

We are now about five
miles from Boonsboro, on the
Hagerstown road, the enemy's
lines are about a mile in front,
yesterday we were out skirmishing
while the Cavalry fight was
going on here, - our troops
are now throwing up earthworks
in our rear, between us and
Boonsboro, and it looks as if
we were making preparations
for being driven back, or for
falling back - We gave Lee
a sound drubbing at Gettysburg
and I feel confident that we
can do it here, if he does not
get across the river soon.

Please write

Yours
S. J. Frisvold

as fast as our legs could carry
us, but O! how the bullets
whistled, our companions
dropped at every step, and it
seemed impossible for one of us
to reach there alive, - but when
once there we had the advantage
of the enemy, they were behind
a stone wall, between twenty and
thirty rods distant, which ran
at such an angle with our
fortifications, that we had
a raking fire on them, and
we improved our opportunity
each one of us was supplied
with sixty rounds of Patent
Cartridges, with which we could
load very fast, - and before we
got through we used them
all up, and got more from the
rear - our fire was sharp
and effective, while we were in

Boonsboro Md }
July 11th 1863 }

Dear Sister,

I sent you a
line from Gettysburg, a few days
since, and I will now give you
a more detailed history of the 122^d
during the past few weeks, -

I believe I wrote you from
Fairfax C.H., but have not yet
recd an ans to my letter, -
from Fairfax, we marched to
Centreville, where we remained
two days, while there our Regt
went on Ricketts on the old Bull
run Battle field, here we found
many sad indications of the
severe struggle, still remaining
from Centreville we started
North, on a forced march,
crossing the Potomac at

Edwards Ferry, near Leesburg,
and passed up just east of
Frederick, through Westminster
Md. and camped one day eight
miles north of that place, here
we received marching orders,
and started for Gettysburg, at
eight o'clock P.M. and marched
all night, and all the next day,
until five o'clock P.M. at which
time we arrived on the Battle field,
this was on the second of July.

we immediately took our
position on the field, but did
not have much to do, until the
next day (the 3^d) - on our
last march, we had twenty one
hours of steady marching, with
only a halt of twenty minutes for
Breakfast, and half an hour for
dinner. On the morning
of the 3^d, our Brigade was

detached from the Corps, and
sent to the assistance of the 12th
Corps, which was hard pressed
by the enemy, who were attempting
to break through our lines, on
the right, arriving there we found
that our lines ran through a
deep ravine, with a high bluff
in front, which sheltered our
troops from the fire of the enemy,
about fifteen rods in front of
our lines, was a breastwork, to
which our Regt. was ordered, - a
Regt. in the 12th Corps had just
fallen back from this place, they
being out of Ammunition, - to
reach it we had to cross a space
of about ten rods, fully exposed
to the fire of the enemy, we
crawled on our hands and
knees, to the top of the bluff, and
raising up, ran to our position

4 that Charleston is their destination.
the 37th Mass Regt, (the one that
Myron Taylor is in) left about
two weeks ago, with orders to report
at N.Y. — There will be no very
extensive rioting in N.Y. City
when they commence drafting
again there, if they get a few
Regts from the Army of the Potomac
among them, — I will assure you
of one thing, there would be no
blank cartridges fired, nor no one
killed who might be peaceably looking
out of second or third story
windows, — By the way, why don't
they hurry along with the draft,
the men should be here now, so
as to be ready to go in, and close
this thing up this fall, it can
be done, and I believe it will be,

1
Warrenton Va.

Aug 15th 1863.

Dr Sister

Yours of the
"Tues. eve" was this morning
received, it finds me in Camp
about two miles West of Warrenton,
where we have been laying for two
or three weeks past; and the prospects
are that we shall remain in this
vicinity for some time to come,
probably until the Conscripts arrive,
and get some of the "Arts and
Sciences" of Warfare drilled into
them, — We are comfortably situated,
and enjoy ourselves as well as
could be expected, under the circum-
stances, the weather is most approp-
riately warm, and we are having a

steady pull of it; no cool days mixed in, as you have them up North, but day and night, week after week the intolerable heat continues, — — —

In regard to furloughs, I also "see by the papers" that furloughs are again ^{being} granted in Meads Army, — but like many other things I "see by the papers" are taking place in the Army, we here get our only information of it, from the papers, — No furloughs have been given from our Corps, and I have not heard of any being given in any other, — I have just asked our Adjutant, and he says that no Orders have been received relating to furloughs, — and considering the weakened condition of this Army, I think it very

doubtful about many, except sick and wounded, being allowed to leave at present; there are large numbers of Officers and Men, gone North, to guard the Conscrips, and bring them to the Regts in the field, — our Col, with a guard from each Regt in the Brigade has gone to Elmira N. Y. for this purpose, they have been absent for several weeks, and probably will not return for several weeks to come, — besides those gone after Conscrips, quite a large force has gone somewhere, and nobody seems to know where, — a day or two ago, a whole Brigade from our Division started for New York, it was reported that they were to remain in N. Y. City to enforce the Draft, but it is now thought

about two months ago, - our Regt went out to drill, - we went into a field of tall grass, - (the men that used to live around here, are all in the Rebel Army, and as there is no one to cut the grass, it is grown up with grass and weeds all over the country,) but as I was saying we went out to drill in a field of grass, but we had not been there long before we got into two or three bumble bee nests, - and out they come by dozens, and pitched into us, and we had a regular battle with them, and what was the worst of it, we got whipped, yes, we changed our base, and that means that we retreated, and in fact we skedaddled,

and that means that we broke ranks and run, without orders, yes we run - and run as fast as the Rebels did on Fredericksburg heights, when we charged upon them last spring, and that was about as fast running as you or I ever saw, - Our men, who could stand the rebel bullets, without flinching, could not stand the bumble bees, and when one of them got stung, he would yell as loud as if he had been hit by a bullet, - it made fine sport for us, but we did not learn much from that days drill.

The idea of procuring a substitute never entered my mind, until I read your last letter - I have no intention or

desire, of leaving the Army, until I receive a regular, and honorable discharge, - I am in, and intend to remain in, for "three years, or until the close of the War!" -

Your letter directed to Corp'l S. N. T. reminds me that I have not mentioned my promotion to you, since the battle of Gettysburg, I have been promoted from Corp'l to Sergeant, with \$4 per month increase of pay, so hereafter you will please direct your letters to Serg't S. N. T., - or plain S. N. T., without any prefix, which would perhaps be as well,

Please write soon, as it does do a soldier so much good to receive letters from friends -

Yours Truly &c
G. N. T. Russell.

The troops here are much pleased to know that the draft, has really commenced, and to know that the President is bound to put it through, but we don't like the \$300 exemption, we want, and had ought to have every drafted man, or his substitute, - no matter what they may say, or do at home, let them once be placed in our charge here, and they will make no more trouble, no matter how Copperhead they may be, they will be loyal enough after they have been in one raising good battle, -

Ellie's sending word of the bees stinging his foot, reminds me of what occurred in our Reg't, and I will write him about it. -

Least Friday, for the first time since we left the Rappahannock

Camp 122nd Regt N.Y.L.

Near Culpeper C. H. Va.

Sept 25th 1863

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 5th Inst came to me some time since, at Warrenton, - since which time we have advanced about 25 miles

"On to Richmond", at present we are encamped on the road leading from Culpeper C. H. to Harpers Ferry, about 4 miles from Culpeper, the locality where our Brigade is encamped, is known as "Stone House Mountain", - we are on the stream right of our Army, - we are now under orders to be ready to march at a moments notice, but I do not think that our position will be greatly changed at present.

The enemys cavalry have lately been making some demonstrations on our front, but I do not think that they will be foolish enough to attack us here, neither do I think that our force is sufficient to drive the enemy from their entrenched position the other side of the Rappahannock, it is well known that Lees force is divided, part being sent to the South West, but since the Battle at Gettysburg, they have been reinforced by conscripts to a far greater extent than we have, I have been through different portions of our Army considerably of late, and one Squad of 125 is all the conscripts that I have seen, or know to have arrived to this Army, - I have read in the papers of 1000 conscripts passing through Washington daily, but I am sure that they dont come here.

The Draft it seems to me, is a shameful failure, — and if it is true, as it seems to be, that all of the Patriotism of the north, is already in the Army, and the people remaining at home, are not willing to sustain an effective Draft; then they are not worthy of enjoying the privileges of a United Confederacy. —

The health of the Army is excellent, was never better, there has no death from our Regt. occurred for several months, except those killed or wounded in Battle, while in our Co: alone we used to have two and three per week, for a while last winter, the Army is well organized, but not large enough to make an attack, in a place where the force acting on the defensive, have such advantages as they do in this country. —

In regard to the old Homestead, — I don't think it would be advisable for me to "settle down" there, and I know of no reason why Edwin could not buy the place, and pay for it, in a few years, by cutting off the wood, and perhaps selling a small portion of the farm, — Edwin sent me the sum total, of the appraisal, which is more than I supposed it would be, — I think that when I get a furlough I shall sell out to him, — if I can make satisfactory arrangements, —

If you please, you can send me a Needle, and about two needles full of blue silk, if you have it handy, and a little black thread, — in about a month or two I should like a pair of Mittens, with a forefinger, — Enclosed please find 5 cts to pay the Postage on the letters which I have sent, and please send two or three Stamps, don't send many — as I cannot carry them. —
Write soon
Yours affec^{ly} Geo. S. Trussell

without getting wet

Castles Station, Va.
Oct 5th 1863

Dear Sister,

Your welcome letter of the 29th Inst is at hand, - Since my last to you, our Division, (the 3^d of 6th Corps) has "faced by the rear rank", and marched about 20 or 25 miles towards Washington, and now we are assigned to the duty of guarding this section of the Orange & Alexandria Rail Road, -

We are detached from our Corps, and quite likely shall remain here, until next Spring, the 11th & 12th Corps have been sent away, probably to reinforce Rosecranes, but it is not known certain where they have gone, there are now only 5 Corps remaining in the Army of the Potomac, but since the two Corps have been sent off the remaining Corps have been rapidly filling up, with Conscripts, or rather substitutes, - we are now encamped near the R.R., and can see several trains go down every day loaded with them,

We have got our tents fixed up, so as to make quite comfortable Winter quarters, and I understand that our Brigade is ordered to entrench, and be prepared for an attack at any time, but at present there is no danger of our being disturbed, unless the guerrillas try us, which they will not be apt to do, when we came here, we marched about 20 miles on the R.R.,

and in the whole distance did not see but 2 or 3 houses, all of the buildings near the road being burned, I have not seen a field of grain of any kind since I left Lemppur. —

When we started for this place, we were supplied with eight days rations, and during our march, it rained most of the time, and most of our Rations got wet and spoiled. — and as we have not had any more delivered to us yet, the boys have to depend upon our ~~stutter~~ for provisions, this morning I bought a Codfish at 25 cts a pound, a pound of Butter for 60 cts, and to day I have been living high on Codfish, in cooking Breakfast I forgot to freshen my fish, and it was rather salt, but with my Dinner & Supper, I succeeded famously. —

In regard to home affairs, I am very sorry to see such a feeling manifested, as seems to exist between you and Edwin. — As near as I can make out, it is like this, our over sensitive Edwin, magnifies the importance of some remark you may have made, feels that you question his honesty and abilities, — and smarting under this feeling sits down and writes you such a letter, as in his better moments he would be ashamed of. — and now you, on your part, have not Philosophy enough to "take it cool" — my advise to you is, to make no hasty bargains — merely for the sake of

of "getting rid of this thinking" — in regard to what occurred while you were at Wilbraham, don't for pity's sake, let me hear from such matters again, if the changes which you speak of were made and Edwin is not satisfied, you must arrange matters with him for his own claim, but I will have nothing to do with it; — Edwin did not propose to buy my share of the estate, but I proposed the subject to him — but no sum has been stated by either of us, regarding the value of it. — I suppose that Edwin's partial offer of \$1200 for your share, did not include your claim to any future right of Mother's third, did it? —

~~you sent me yet.~~ I have the night cap you sent me yet, and it is almost as good as new. — during our unprecedented march from the Rappahannock to Gettysburgh, most of the boys threw ^{away} every article of clothing, except what they had on, and every thing else except their gun and cartridges. — I threw away my extra clothing, cut my blanket in two and threw away half of that, and every thing else except my Testament, and sleeping cap. — I have no needle book, but would like one very much, if you send me any let it be small and light. — I got a very nice one from the Rebels Knapsack that I got across the Rappahannock last Spring, but sent it to Edwin, at the time I sent you the Rebels furlough, did you get the furlough I sent you? — If we remain where we are now it will be a fine place for me to receive a Box, as we are within a quarter of a mile of

the R.R. Station, and it would come through in
three or four days, - we are now in the pleasantest
camp we have had since we have been in the service,

Hoping to hear from you again soon, I Remain

Yours affly

S. N. Friedelle

Oct 7

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the leg - cutting it off - so that it
 just hung by the flesh, at that
 moment their Regt was ordered to
 move, and they went off, leaving
 him alone, the poor fellow, without
 making the least noise, took out
 his pocket-knife - cut off the
 remaining portion of his leg -
 tied his handkerchief around
 the stump, drew his bayonet
 from its sheath, run it under
 the handkerchief and twisting
 it around to draw the handkerchief
 tight, - and sat holding it for
 at least half an hour - until
 they came with a "stretcher," to
 carry him from the field -
 when I see that Regt again I shall
 endeavor to learn that poor fellow's
 name, and residence.

We captured three Rebel Colonels
 in one fort, and a fourth
 attempted to escape by wading
 the river, when he was about
 half way across - see 5th page

Rappahannock Station
 Nov. 10th 1863.

Dear Sister

Yours of the 3^d Inst
 is at hand, - the needlebook, and buttons
 came to hand in due season, they are
 just the things needed, many thanks
 for them. - We left Centerville the
 day after I wrote you last, and
 went to Warrenton, where we remained
 until last Saturday, the 7th Inst,
 when we broke camp early in the
 morning, and marched to this place,
 coming 18 miles in 6 hours, carrying
 8 days rations, which with our other
 "traps" weighed from 60 to 70 pounds, -
 the quickest march we ever made, -
 we found the Rebs here, and the sight
 of them made us forget our fatigue,
 immediately upon our arrival, we
 commenced operations, three Co's of
 our Regt deployed as skirmishers,
 and led the advance, the remainder
 of the Regt was ordered to the support

2nd
of the two Batteries, which soon commenced shelling the forts, the enemy directed their Artillery fire to our Batteries, and gave us a pretty severe shelling for a few hours, one of their shells dropped into a Company next to ours, and exploding, killed two Sergeants, and one private and wounded a Lieutenant, and two Privates, — while the shelling was going on our Skirmish line advanced upon the enemy's Skirmishers and drove them into their earthworks, and then one of the most glorious charges was made by our whole Skirmish line, upon the enemy's forts, and rifle pits, that I ever saw, looking upon the line as the charge was made, it seemed as though each man, was rushing forward to meet with certain death, but still there was no wavering, every man doing his duty nobly. —

3d
The enemy remained in their works until our men had reached them, and then after a short hand to hand fight, threw down their arms, some surrendering, others getting across the bridge, and escaping, —

The force which captured the forts was very extremely small, the enemy outnumbering them, largely, the Sixth Maine, was one of the Regts in the Skirmish line, and proved themselves heroes, every one of them, they lost heavily, a few rods from our present camp is a row of about thirty graves, of members of the 6th Me, — Among the incidents of the fight, was one of the coolest performances I have seen during the war, while we were supporting the Battery, the 10th Mass Regt lay in line of battle about 8 rods in our rear, a solid shot came over and struck one of their men in

Skirmishes with the enemy, and generally
came out first best, taking in all
several hundred prisoners and some
Artillery; the "Johns" were particularly
hungry for some of our waggon trains
but I understand we got them all through
all soft, = Our Corps is now on the right
wing of the Army, about 3 miles North of
Centerville. The Army occupies a very
strong position, on the east banks
of Bull Run, and History may have a
Bull Run fight No. 3, to record,
every day since we have been here, there
has been Artillery firing on the front
several miles to the left of us, but as
yet the enemy have made no demon-
strations on the right, most of the
skirmishing has been done by Cavalry
and Artillery so far, whether, ~~or not~~,
the enemy intend to attack us here
or not, I cannot guess, but we are
digging entrenchments, and getting
ready for them, = I fear they will

give us another M^d. Campaign,
but enough of war matters.

Edwin sends me Republicans occasionally
hereafter if you will send them I will
depend upon you, = our Shirts cost us
\$1.30 just what they cost the government,
would rather have other things sent in
Box, if any is sent, = no furloughs,
probably, will be given from this
Army, until we go into Winter quarters,
you need not send a thimble with
the needle case, as I do not use one, —
we get black pepper with our rations
occasionally, but not often, = when
our rations are spoiled, or get behind
hand, — they give us more rations
in the place of them, when the Brigade
Commissary gets them, but our
extra expenses are made up to us, in
no other way, = a Box should be
directed as follows, S. N. Friesdell, —
1st Brigade, = 3^d Div: 6 Corps, =
Washington D. C., = it is essential

we should be in complete range
of the enemy's fire, they had
strong entrenchments on the
top of the hill, which would
shelter them from our fire,
their position was said to
be as good to them, as forty
thousand men, - when we
retreated we left the front
at 8 o'clock P.M., and marched
all night, without stopping to
rest once, and recrossed the
Rapidan at sunrise, the
next morning, and that day
came to this camp, the same
which we occupied before the
move, we were gone from here
just one week, and a harder
week's work we never had
but once, and that was on
the Gettysburgh march,

Brandy Station, Va }
Dec. 4th 1863.

Dear Sister

I write to
give you the particulars of
our last trip on "Dunn
Brown's Express Line" -
Soon after I wrote you last,
we came to this place, and remained
until Thurs. morn Dec 26th,
(Thanksgiving,) when we broke
camp at 4 o'clock A.M., and
started for the Rapidan, -
all day long, we kept on the
march, without even stopping
for dinner, and reached the
river at about 11 o'clock P.M.,
and crossing over, lay down on
the south bank, for the night;

we were called up at 4 o'clock the next morning, and kept ready for the enemy until afternoon, when we were moved out to support the 3^d Corps, which had become engaged with the enemy in front of us, - that day we were not called upon to go into the engagement, and at night we lay down until 12 o'clock, when we were called up and sent to another portion of the field about 6 miles distant, - that day it rained all day, and we had to stand and take it, without tents, or shelter of any kind, the next day ~~we~~ we were sent to the front on the extreme left of our lines, where we remained until we retreated, - the enemy sent us a few shells occasionally

which kept us laying close to the ground, while we were here, and one of them striking in the Regt at the rear of ^{us} Killed six men, but none of our Regt was injured, - the weather, after the rain was very cold, and had we had a general engagement almost every wounded man, must have died, - Probably you think strange that we did not give the enemy Battle, after taking the trouble of finding them, - but I think that Mead showed good judgment in declining to do so, the enemy were in position on the top of a high hill, at the bottom of which there was a creek of considerable size, - and while we were crossing this and ascending the hill,

Soldiers Letter

200
122
C. A. Merrill

Col Giles I'll be
Cochran's Brigade - Gen. John
Division - Gen. Franklin's
troops - Gen. McCallan's army

Capt. V. E. Remondell
Co. H.

C. A. Merrill
Little Compton
Rhode Island

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Nov 7



1863

Mrs. Rev. L. A. Merrill
Mystic.
Conn.

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July 4
" 11

NOT A STAR MUST FALL,



Soldiers Letter

A. W. Dwyer

A. D. 122nd N. Y. Vol.

Mrs Rev W. A. Merrill
Little Compton
Rhode Island

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Mar. 10th



Mrs. Rev. G. A. Murrie
Alyptic
Conn,

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Jan. 22



Mrs. C. A. Merrill
Millville.
N. C.

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Oct. 16th





Mrs. Rev. C. A. Merrill
Mystic
Conn.

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Feb. 22

Soldiers Letter

J. M. McKesson

Chaplain 122 Regt



My Dear Rev. Lieut. Merrill

Mythic
Conn.

Due 3

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Dec. 4



M Sophia Merrill

Mystic.

Conn.

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June

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