Winchester, N.H. July 24th 1861

Dear Father & Mother, Brother & Sisters I again take this opportunity to write you a few lines. I let you know that I am well except my back has been hurting me for a day or two. Dr. Radcliffe arrived here yesterday. I rec'd your letter was glad to hear that you were all well. I have nothing much to write as I wrote to you not long ago. We did not get to fight any where I was when I wrote to you last. I give you the wrong name of the place. I could not find out the name of the place until after I wrote the letter. The right name is Darksville. I must quit & go on Drill. We have come off of Drill. Our preacher preached us a fine sermon. He come from Wake County. Geo. He is a Baptist.
preacher. I think he is a fine preacher. He is a well-educated man. I seems to have a knowledge of Scripture and almost everything else a man never knows how much. People are untill he is thrown amongst them as I am now. It is nothing but oaths from morning till nighttime. We were drawn up into a line of battle at Darksville. But the enemy did not appear. There was several false alarms. Come to us while we were there last Friday. Night we were all woke up about midnight. But no enemy appeared. The all seemed perfectly cool no excitement at all. It was a hard matter to keep them awake long enough to see whether the enemy was coming or not. We came back to Winchester from Darksville last Sunday. We walked all day. Long. I was worn out at night. I'd like to have made 3 miles. I had a
not ever a part of the knight
And I expect we will march back
There before long. There are 31,000 Jagers at Martinsburg. They are
well fortified, our general thought
it best not to attack them without
number of men. They being so well
fortified. And having about 13,000
more men than we had. The general
said he thought 82 would be muddy.
To give a sacrifice to attack
them at that place you offered
to fight them (with our 13,000) if
they would come to us. But they
would not except his offer. When we
do attack them we will have
army on both sides of them in order
to keep them from retreating.
When ever they leave Martinsburg
to come this way, Beauregard will
march in behind them with his army
and our C (Johnson) in front and you
will hear of blood being spilt from
certain
Beuregard is at Harpersferry I don't know how many men he has got there but a large army though. We are only about 50 or 40 miles from Harpersferry some of the boys that have been there say it is meanest place in the world. Mr. Pendeviant is here from Fumarville and will stay a few days I will write you a letter by him. I forgot to say that I received three shirts and drawers you sent me. They were thankfully received. I wish you would send me three or four lots of good tobacco by Mr. Finney or any one that you see coming out here. Tobacco is scarce I think here. Sappa. I wish you would come with Mr. Finney. I would be glad you could come. I don't think you would ever regret your time nor the money you would spend in coming. Direct your letters to Winchester Via. In the care of Capt. Winsome of the 9th regiment of Georgia. Write soon. We are very busy now but remains your very respectful servant William G. Stronum
Dear Father & Mother
Brothers & Sisters

I take the opportunity this evening to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. Don't awful tired & worn out. Being on a forced march ever since yesterday at 12 o'clock. We are on our way to Mansassas Junction to help Beauregard. The Yankees have given him a very hard fight. They fought all day yesterday & were to go at it again this morning at 7 o'clock. I hear that Beauregard has whipped them. We had about 20,000 men and the Enemy about 5,000. I saw a man to day that was at the fight yesterday. He said there was a great many killed on both sides. But he thought Beauregard had killed about 5 to 1.
The report is that Beauregard claimed about 2000 of the enemy. I never saw so many trees men in our ranks at one time as we had last night. We marched all night until about 3 o'clock. We then lay down and slept one hour and a half.

We are now waiting for the train to take us to the enemy. Where we expect to fight it is 6 o'clock through the battle. I will give you all particulars. I think we will have a fight at Alexandria. We are not a great way from Washington now. Old General Scott has made a proposition for both sides. To take five thousand men apiece and have a fight and decide the question. I don't know whether he will be taken up or not. It is my opinion we are going to leave within three days. Right away. I think their intention is to whip us right off the can.
The Boys are all well except Robert Wood & Frank. That is from our neighbourhood. And they have got the Measles in Winchester. I think we lost about thirty of our men sick, not able to travel. One of our Company died the other day with pneumonia. His name was ... P. Atlin. He came from the neighborhood down about Hawkins. He was a very stout healthy boy. Will you must quit writing as this time. Write to me Direct your letter to Winchester. I have not received but one letter from you since I left home. Give my respects to Delphi & Margaret & Mr. & Mrs. More Montgomery also. Nothing more at present. But remains your son
until Death.

Wm. C. Agnew
Bull Run 8 miles from Manassas Junction
July 29th 1861

Dear Father + Mother, Brothers + Sisters,

I sat myself this morning to write you a few lines & I am worse at present except a feeling in my side that I have had for some time. Christopher Brook got a letter from Harris Stroop and the same that you had not heard from since I left if you have not received any letters from me. It is a strange thing for me to recollect of & I think I have wrote more than that to you now and while I think of it I want you when ever I can come to send me some paper & envelopes certain for I am where I cannot get them. The health of our camp is not so very healthy at this time. Measles are plenty we have 35 or 40 of our company down with the measles and not able to do duty. 2d. We marched from Henrardock, Winchester, on the 19th of this to a station on the Railroad, called fieldmont. Where I wrote you another letter of distance of 25 miles. We had to march day & night. We had to wade Henrardock River in the Knight. Politeness forbids me telling how high the water was stuck to us enough to say we had to hold up our shirt tails which you know was very short anyway. There was between 100 - 150 Thosands along with us. I forgot to say that Tom Brum & Johnson both have the Measles at this time. (Send me two or three good lead pencils & my Knapsack)
Now I will say something about the fights that has been fought here. The first battle on the 17th of this month. We killed 970 of the enemy while they killed 12 of our side 4 wounded about forty. This is the statement as far as I know of the first fight. Lincoln then addressed the crowd to bury the dead. The next day which was granted to him was on Sunday the 21st of this month. He attacked Beauregard (that is Scott) with 11,000 (it is supposed) from ninety to one hundred and thirty thousand men while we only had about sixty thousand here. And not more than 20 thousand of that number were engaged in the fight. They fought from 6 o'clock until 5 in the evening without a cease during the whole day. It was a continual firing all day. It is said by the brave men of the battle to be one of the hardest fights that has been on American soil. I probably the bloodiest one.

Our loss is supposed to be 25 hundred killed and 4 wounded while we killed 9 wounded about 14 thousand of the enemy took 14 thousand prisoners 300 wagons a great number of horses 27 thousand stand of arms a great number of pistols & ammunition. Also 3 batteries. Sherman is brag & celebrated a huge battle by the north we got every piece of it. We got all the cannon they had along except 12 or 14 pieces which was some thirty pieces or more. We achieved a great victory. The picks storks makes Alex & cooking utensils of our shape & form. It is estimated to be worth one million dollars so says our president Jeff Davis (a good face for us)
Drinking good water for some time But we have excellent water now You write to Uncle John & John &
I tell him that I saw Calvin & he is as well as usual I wrote Mr Montgomery a letter not long ago tell him to write to me as soon as he gets mine
Also Samuel Mosely Dr Simmons & Bill Sibley I want you to ask them if they got mine tell them to write me certain I wrote Sam Mosely one over a month ago tell him I am looking every day for an answer from him I believe I will close nothing more but remains your son until Death

Win G Ogens

Direct your letter to Manassas Junction Tell all regiment.

I my love to send this with this hand I don't know whether I can get an envelope or not I have got one of my own

Be certain and write as soon as you get this Give my respects to all the friends

I also write to Jesse Long time ago I have never received but one letter from you.
Camp Barlow, Near [Missouri], Augh. 20th, 1861

Dear Brother & Sister,

I take the pleasure of replying to your long looked for letter which came to hand to day. And you may be assured that I was glad to hear from you. For I began to think that some of the Yankees had got you into their possession. First the health of our camp is very bad. There are 104 sick men in our regiment. Nearly every eighth man. Second I hear is making a start. Gus Wheeler is lying not expected to live. Son of Dr. Wheeler.

You wanted me to give you all the particulars of the battle. Summit & Manassa Fight. I expect you have them all. But I will tell you my tale. And you can compare them together. And see which tells the best tale. First they commenced fighting at 3 o'clock A.M. & fought until 7 P.M. When the Yankees took to their heels & double quick'd at the rate of 2.46 a minute. But our's followed after them & would still give them a few of Jeff Davis' balls occasionally to check their speed which they done with great success. Our cavalry followed & cut them off.

The time before they got to Centerville. When the cavalry got to Centerville they took from the Yankees 1200 bottles of Champaigne.

Tell Bessie & Tursie. Don't you know the boys had a fine time.

O! how I wish I had been there to have filled myself on Yankee Champaigne & Turkey. They were badly not only badly wounded. But they were unmercifully whipped. & took nearly all of them that we didn't kill. Killed 20,000. Took 8 prisoners.

Taken 3 Batteries 2200 stand of arms. 200 pickets. 2000 pounds of blankets, clothes. Cooking utensils & every thing necessary to carry on a war. 600 wagons & horses turn over.
one Movable Blacksmith Shop & Tools | Barrel Ground Coffee

Do I think 3,000 Bushels of oats you may judge they were well prepared for a big fight. Though they say that they did not expect to have much of a battle they expected to whip us directly. They had us whipped several times during the fight but the rebels who say are such D--a fools they don’t know when they are whipped. Had don’t give up when they do know it. The loss on our side is said to be about 2500 killed wounded I taken prisoners while they only 1500 found them out 6000 nearly everything they had a them message to one of the Generals Bemerceur would have had them entirely. McCullough has whipped them badly in Mobile. The enemy’s top about 2800 that I have not room to mention. In this Epistle you spoke some thing about going to Mobile of war. Just let me tell you you are out of the scrape now. My advice to you is to stay out. I will give even if you were never to get into a fight. Because you are taking things as they come. As chance for backing out. On this chance I can get the chance to pay for the fellers or not I will of changed. But I am more certain of you getting my fellers for my machines I told you. Certain. If I don’t pay for him you must not be except give me respect to your father. Mother I all Greetings in the care of Capt. Jones to you & Good bid nothing more & Remain your Brother

Yours G. Agnew
Camp, Barton, Lee's Manassas, Aug 20th 1861

Dear Father & Mother Brother Sisters,

I take the liberty this morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am tolerably well I have got a bad cold & my bowels are not exactly right though I think I will be all right in a day or two. I cannot write you a long letter for I don't know anything new to write at this time. First there are a great deal of sickness in our camp. Gus Wheeler is lying not expected to live with Typhoid Fever & sat up with him right before last his bowels are running off constantly. About twice every hour. We have no other in our company that is dangerous. Both is sick this morning. I am on hope we will leave this part of the country before a great while. There is some talk of moving.
all the Georgians down about Savannah. That is a report I can't tell how true it is but I do wish it to be so. I am tired of old Virginia. It is thought that Lincoln is going to send a force down about Savannah or some where down on the sea coast. If he does we will be shipped down there. I suppose you have heard about the fight McCullough had on Missouri. I suppose he gained another great victory. If the papers are true the loss of enemy is about 250. And the loss on our side 100 or so all. We took 1 cannon. Their stores, and a good many other complements of war. They acknowledge themselves that they are badly whipped and that another such a one will ruin them. General Folsom was killed. I believe that is the only distinguished man killed. That I hear of. I wish we had the last one of their head leaders.
But I think they will give it up before a great while. They are now praying that the Lord will be on their side as he is always on the strong side. I think they are beginning to see the evil of their ways. Some of them anyhow. While you can't make some of them believe but what their course is right. Well I am about through. I believe there is no such thing as a fight on hand. Though there may be Beauregard. I was told that his coat knew what he was doing. I can't say I can compose by that no one knows anything about what he is doing or what his movements are. There are about 115,000 soldiers that draw provisions at this place. I don't know the number of the sick. In all but there are 104 sick in our regiment which is about every eighth man. To tell you the truth.
I don't believe we can stand through the winter. We have plenty of good water, plenty to eat such as it is. But we are opposed a great deal. We have a great deal of very much sickness. Well, I must quit. Write as soon as you get this letter, and tell me all about the crops and how my horse is coming on. How all your horses and colts are doing. I wish I was at home to eat some peaches and watermelons. Let me know if you have never received a line from him. Give my respects to all party. Be sure to write soon and let me know what is the general opinion about the war in your country. Nothing more. But remains your son

Wm. G. Agnew
Camp. Boston & Manassas Junction, Aug. 29th 1861

To Mr. and Mrs. Free

I dealt myself this evening to inform you that I am in tolerably good health. I have a bad cold which makes me cough a great deal more at night than any other time. I wrote you a letter the other day immediately after I read yours. Mr. Thedford arrived here this morning. I will send this to him. We have just received orders to move three days. I think I expect we will march to Fairfax in a day or so. More than likely will be ordered before morning to leave this place. But I will tell you more about this before I close. I want you to send me a good blanket as all the boys have from 2 to 4 apiece. I will quit writing for the present.

Aug. the 30th 1861

U. Free.

I received a letter to day from Uncle Mack. He says they are all well. And he heard that Mrs. Westbrook was dead. I can’t tell how true it is. I think they are up about Fairfax or fishing. We have no marching orders yet. Don’t know what minute we will get them probably not soon. They are still having picket fighting up about Fairfax. We are just going out on Battalion drill. I am not going myself, but our Company is. We have fifteen men in furlough this evening out of about eighty. That you hear of the Yankees says the Yankees would run off if they
were to see that company. I think there would be a break up of the war. General Unclerouch thinks the war has just commenced. I wrote to him and told him I thought that one more victory such as the one gained at Manassas on the 21st of July would break up the war. I also told them I thought that we would in Washington city. If we were to get into another fight you can see on the papers from the way they talk. They are uneasy. They are afraid Jeff Davis & Beauregard will march on them. To take the city. Lincoln is still calling on troops to come and protect the city. But you may rest assured if Beauregard & Johnson ever undertake to take Washington they will do it certain. I think they are doing some dark planning. I have been for some time. And I want you to be certain and come whenever you hear of a fight. That is anything like a general battle. I believe it will yield. Be sure to send me a blanket. But remains your Son until death.

Wm. G. Agnew

I say again tell John that he had better stay at home as long as he can. For going to the war is not a small matter. I know if he was to get into a battle he would want to know where home was. W1 would be worse than the chicken screech certain. I would like to see John to see a cannon burst. To hear the remarks he would make. If he knew he would run to take a gun or a wagon pulled by four horses. I guess he would want to know where the brainard was. Then you tell your farmer of a cannon does not irritate. The sound of a plough or a shot gun either at working or at night with a rapid sound the end of June.
Camp Barton Near Manassas Aug 9th 1861

Dear Father & Mother:

I don't intend to write you a long letter. I am luckly well at this time. My cough is getting better. To day we have drawn pay for 18 days & our clothing. The whole amounted to $7 dollars & some few cents. And as we expect to draw soon again I am going to send you 20 Dollars by Dr. Precedil. As we have got to a place where money is not needed by me at least not much of it. Papa give Mamma five dollars of this money & you can dispose of thus as you see proper. I would like for you to give forty to me & I have never given her anything of any account and this is not much. But probably I will have the chance to give her more before this war closes. I have always thought that this war would not last long. But I am afraid now that we are going to have a long and bloody war. And my reasons are I don't think that England & France are going to recognize us soon. And if they don't you may look for a long war. I have nothing now to write to you. In regard to the movements of Bemegrence & Johnson I understand they went some where in picking out another battle ground. Be sure I write me often nothing more but remains with you. Until Death, excuse any mistakes. I am writing for Mrs. Agnew I had to write this almost in the dark & on my knees at that
Camp, Barton, near Manassas Junction
Sept. 8th, 1861

Dear Father and Mother,

I take the liberty this morning to drop you a few lines to tell you that I am still on the land of the living... And enjoying very good health at this time. I have nothing interesting to write to you. But it has been some time since I wrote to you, so I will have to say something. Our camps are tolerably sickly at this time about one half of our regiment as able for duty. Capt. Slanghorn has got typhoid fever. And is tolerably bad off. I think that will ruin him a close race to get over it. He is gone toRichmond to the hospital. Joseph Harris has been bad off for a few days with something like neuralgia. Frank Henderson and Robert Wood have been sick. But are getting better. I will quit that subject. I will tell you what I know about war matters. And that is very little. Beauregard I suppose is in possession of Munson's Hill. And in a good condition to take the Chain Bridge on the Potomac. Munson Hill is above Arlington Heights. It is said that Washington City is in full view of that Hill. Some say it is a better place for fortifications than Arlington. I think Beauregard is aiming to slide around the Arlington Heights. He will be most certain to cross the Potomac on the Chain Bridge. If he crosses it anywhere, he may be trying to draw them up there. So that it will give him a better chance at Arlington Heights. I heard last night by a man that has been helping to build a bridge.
Across the Bull Run. About three miles above here I heard Cannon firing all day yesterday & night before last & expect we will have hot times on the Potomac before a great while. We are expecting to be called on to leave here almost at any time. As I have nothing of interest to tell you I will close. I have not received any letters from you in a good while I received a letter from Andy Roberts & Uncle Willie the other day. They are all well. So I will quit writing as soon as you get this. Nothing more but remains yours truly

Wm. G. Agnew

John Attridge has arrived with his company I think he has gone up about Centerville. I saw Andrew Norrook not long ago. He was stout & hearty.

Wm. G. Agnew
To Fairfax, Va., Sept. 18th, 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I again take the opportunity this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well. But I cannot say that for our Company. I regret I have not been able for duty. It seems when a man takes sick on camp, it takes him a long time to get well. Many have become sick and getting discharges and going home. And as many as ought to be discharged and sent home can't get off from the fact. They make a good outward appearance of a man gets to discharge here. This business must have that the is a diseased man. Our Capt. W. H. Stoghorn is now sick with typhoid fever. He is either on Orange loop or Richmond. We have not heard from him since the 7th. Thos. Y. Week is getting along very well. Thos. Tull on Salem. Frank Henderson and Robert Wood are sick. Frank has the chills. I don't think Rob. Wood has the fever not but will be before long of the sort come from the old camp at Manassas. They have not come from the old camp at Manassas yet. The balance of our regt. and our boys are all well.

I will now tell you about our March 9th. We left Manassas at daylight on the morning of the 9th and marched in the direction of Fairfax. I suppose it might be called a force march. Anyhow, we are in four miles of Fairfax. On the 9th night about 11 o'clock. We went all going to try doing orders came that we must march.
Immediately. But not one of us knew where we were going so we threw on our clothes for our fighting implements and was off in less than fifteen minutes without any thing to eat or either cooked or uncooked. Boy! all dark as full of Five Shilling rain and a little expecting to get into a fight next day. But about 10 o'clock it commenced raining hard. And I think it was certainly the darkest night of ever saw. My assurance you it was not the Old Mr. Hetherington had bright when the Killed the hawks. It was so dark that we could not see our file leaders. We had to catch one another by the great sail to get along at all. We we were sometimes half price deep in mud and water. And sometimes we were lying broad side in the muddy road. Happened not to get down but once during the march. I heard one man say he was down four times before he could get upright. And I have no reason to doubt the word at all. Well we arrived about 10 o'clock at Fairfax Station where we called a halt about half past 12 giving us orders to fall out to one side of the road about to Fife town and rest until the could find. The General he was to report the (But instead of us lying down in mud and water our Company made up a fire fire to stay up) The soon returned telling us that our men had whipped the enemy and we would go back to our camp in the morning. You may imagine there was some toiling and yelling about that time this was about 2 o'clock.
In the morning, the woods was covered with fires in a few minutes. Some were trying to dry themselves. Some were sitting and some were collecting for whiskey and others for water. I came very near fainting for the want of water. One of our boys happened to have some and came to me and gave me what little he had. I forgot to say that some lost their shoes in the mud. Some of their pistols and some of the officers lost their swords. Found the swords next morning but the shoes and pistols were buried so deep in the mud. Both lost one of their shoes which caused them to have to buy a new pair. He bought an old pair that night for fifty cents. He said (by ginger) he didn't like that way of having to buy two shoes to get one to wear. He had one hand and only wanted one to match. I told him he ought to have done like the others. By ginger he never got about that. So we returned next morning finding the road a great deal worse than we expected. It is a wonder to me that we ever got along on the Knights at all. So I will quit that subject as it is a bad one. I thought I had been much before but I never knew anything compared with this case. It is not certain here that they had any fight on the 11th of that was the report that night but I have since heard it contra decide. So I can't tell anything about it with any certainty. Though we are expecting a fight every day the pickets fight every day. There is no doubt of that. The day before we left the Junction
Our men brought in 4 negroes that were helping the Yankees. 2 women & 2 men. One of the women Capt. of a Company. Another offered our men 17 hundred dollars to let them go again. Also brought in 8 white men as prisoners. I received a letter from Joseph Mitchelson of Courthouse. He said they were effecting an attack almost at any moment, I heard guns firing all night fast where we are now Camped. We are now in 10 miles of the another one & forgot. The name of Capt. Mitchell is all close of a hair bridge across the Potomac. That is where they got the water. We have the Potomac under possession. They have a boat, but another.

You must look over all, there are mistakes. I have wrote this. We have Rice's orders not to leave our lines. I post. But be ready to march at any moment. So nothing more but remains.

Mr. G. Agnew

Continue to direct your letters to Manassas until further orders.

If you receive this and the letter W. G. Agnew
Camp Near Fairfax
Sept 28th

Dear Father & Brother,

I take the opportunity this morning to let you know that I am well. We came back to camp sooner than I expected.

I wrote you a letter while at Falls Church. I expected to stay up there several days when I wrote the letter. But returned back to camp that evening. The letter I wrote to you while at Falls Church I sent off immediately. But fearing that you will not get it. And knowing that you want to hear from me, I have the pleasure of dropping you a few lines this morning. (In haste)

In the first place, our camps are getting tolerably healthy again. All the boys from our neighborhood are well except Henderson. They have not come to camp yet.

Dr. Rhinehart pays good attention to the sick of our company. I like him fine. I think he will do this part as well all of this Company except.

I wrote to you that we came very near Striking a battle while at Falls Church. We were running up about 32 or 4 miles above the church. And saw the enemy advancing. Col. Stewart threw out one piece of artillery at Bollingford. The horse battery while the infantry was drawn up onto a line of battle in the edge of a lane which was....
The Enemy returned the shot with their cannon, killing one, two, and wounding one. We taken one prisoner, wagon & horse. He said that we killed 15 or 20 of their men. There was about 60 of them to one of us. It makes no difference how many there was of them. One piece of artillery made them leave in double quick time. Their picked told us the most of them was willing to make peace for they had found out that they could not whip us. They said their was only a few leading men that was keeping up the war. The most of them was willing to make peace. They would curse us and call us negro drivers & bullies, call us Rebels & devils. They said they though they were going to fight human beings. But they say we are fighting devils. I heard them say it. Our Negro would ask them if they didn't want to go to Bull run. And would ask them if they had another day left to go to Richmond. They asked they were going to be in Richmond for Christmas. I think the signs of the are tolerably favorable for another battle soon. We have orders to keep constant on hand 3 days provisions. I will have to bring my letter to a close as the mail will start soon. I am enjoying very good health now except a cough I have which troubles me a great deal especially at night. But I am in hopes it will soon wear off. Send my love & the opportunity be sure. I sent your 5 dollars by Lewis. Belgium let me know if you need it. Give my respects to all, nothing more. Yours ever, C. Agnew.
Camp near Fairfax, Va., Sept. 30th 1861

Dear Father and Mother,

I take myself to day to write a few lines. In fact I have nothing of importance to write to you. As I just wrote you 2 letters within the last few days. But as John Cleburne is here and will start home to Bright or soon on the morning. I have concluded to write a few lines. I wrote you all the particulars about our picketing expedition. Also about the battle we were in on the 25th. I understand this morning that our artillery killed 30 of the Enemy. I believe I wrote to you that we were not in musket range of the Enemy. Though we were on a line of battle ready to fight whenever the word was given. The Commanding officer I suppose one hour and a half. The Washington Artillery has gained a great name. There are 15 pieces of cannon. They have been in every fight that has been fought in this part of Virginia yet. The men are all large sturdy well made hearty men. They are Indepedent. What they get in a battle belongs to them. They are kept up by the wealthy men of New Orleans. They started out with 600 dollars a piece into this war. And if ever I go to war again I shall go Independent. Certain then I can go when I please. I came when I pleased. Since I wrote I know the Yankees have taken Manassas Hill & Burnt Hills Church and are now in a few miles of our Camp, our men have all fell back near Fairfax. Oh! Oh! Oh!
It looks like our men are trying to draw The Yankees away from Washington, Alexandria & Arlington Heights to get a fair chance at them. Our men never fired a gun at The Enemy when they took Mansions Hill. They just give back and run. Though it may be for the best. We are looking for news here before a great while without a change from the Justice Be there Christmas at Furnace as Col. John says YF before Christmas to Richmond before a great change. If you don't hear from me, they will get up in another half of YF. I will bring my letter to close. I want you to write a little letter. I think I will write to you so when I don't get one. I have not received a letter from you. I have written to you. In two weeks. I have not heard from you. I remain your friend.

Wm. J. Agnew

P.S. If you receive a letter from Samuel Blair, show it to anyone till I get your answer. He had it (Chesser)
Camp, Near Fairfax, Oct 11th 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers & Sisters,

I have just received a letter from you dated Sept the 30th. I was very glad to hear from you & that you were all well. It had been so long since I received a letter from you. I had come to the conclusion that you were not going to write to me any more. And if I had not of got your letter to-day I certainly have given you a talking. I have no news of great importance to relate to you. We are expecting a big fight here before long. In fact we are expecting one every day. We have been kept on the footrest for some time. But I think you will hear of us having warm times in this part of Virginia in a few days. The two parties are getting too close together to back out now. They will have to fight now or one of the two parties will have to back out. And I don't think there is much danger. But what our boys will stand up to the backnight or no matter. Our orders are now to keep our canteens full of water. Night & day to keep ourselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning. We have on this part of the line 120,000 men. 30,000 of them are unable to bear arms. It is reported that the Yankees have on this side of the Potomac 200,000 men. I can't tell anything as to the correctness of this report. We came off of picket last night had a fine time except one night rain on us. That was not altogether acceptable.
We were out five days. Saw no Yankees but could
hear them beating their drums. I think they have 4
or 5 men to beat drums day and night. They kept a
Continual beating all the time during our stay on
picket. I did not like our place near as
well as I did at Munson's Hill. We staid at
just after my return to camp. I believe I have
wrote you all the particulars.

In possession of Munson's Hill & Falls Church.
Our Regt. received the 11th Bty. Regt. on picket;
Cavalrymen & two horses fell onto the hands
of the Yankees. He was up a chestnut-tree upon
get down. If he got him and two horses. There
was two Yankees taken while we were out, not
by our Regt. though. They were taken on some
sides are keeping a close lookout. Every step
I will have to quit on this sheet. I have told
all the war news that I know of at this time.
Fairfax Station, Oct. 11th 1861

I will finish by telling you that I am enjoying very good health except my cough. I received the letter you sent by Dr. Dinneen. I received all the articles that were mentioned in the letter. Mammy you said something about sending me more bed clothes. I say don't send them for they will be destroyed. Wait until I see what we will take up winter quarters at: There is strong talk of our Brigade being sent back to Georgia to guard the coast. This winter, I hope to the Lord it is so. And if you have not sent the box of provisions don't send them for I call the time lost & money spent for but little profit. But the boots I want very bad & very soon certain. I want you to be certain to write what these boots cost that I have. And probably you had better not send Nielson until you hear from me again. We never know in war one minute what we will do or where we will be the next. I don't know now whether I can finish this letter before some order might come for us to march immediately. I tell you we have pleasant times here about now. We are liable to be marched into a battle at any moment now.
I wrote to you that I don't want a man to free my place. I think I will be able to send the campaign. Poppa I sent you five dollars by Mr. Wilcox. On a letter let me know if you received it. I got the things Mama you sent on my pants. I must quit as it is now late in the night. And I am writing by a bad light. Poppa Bill Goodwin sends his best love. Respects to you 9 days. For you to write him a long letter. He says he saw you at Alpine just after you had received a letter from me. But I must quit. All our boys are doing tolerably well. Thou today has something the rheumatic pains in one of his legs. I think we will be in Georgia before long. Henderson & Wood have not come to camp yet. I can't tell how they are getting along. Wishing more.

Yours Respectfully,

Wm. J. Agnew

If you must overlook all mistakes for I have wrote this in a powerful hurry. Write soon. Be certain.

Give my respects to all.
Camp Centreville, Oct. 18th, 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brother, and Sisters,

I again have the opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I have not received a letter from you for several days and I think you are due me several. Since I wrote to you last we have retreated from Fairfax Back to Centreville. Not because we were compelled to do so, but the object is to try to draw the enemy as far from their dens as possible. So when we got them under a retreat we might have some chance to kill some of them before they can face behind their breastworks. It would be useless for us to attack them behind their breastworks, but if we can draw them to Centreville, my notion is we will make another bullrun scrape of it. Papa, it would be a perfect show to go. Just to be here now and see the troops we have at this place. I think I can say without stretching there are thirty-five thousand troops National at one mile square at this place. Some say there 50,000 National. But I will put it down to 85,000. Besides the artillery & cavalry, both of which we are well blessed with, some say the Yankees are advancing. Others say they are still at Falls Church where they have been for some time. Some of our troops are at Fairfax. Oh yes, get but
They have all left Fairfax Station. When they left they burnt up the whole country, never left a thing that would benefit the invaders one particle. Our troops are fortifying this place as fast as they can. I suppose they think the enemy will soon make an attack on us. But I think of the enemy as if it will be several days yet. I haven't much idea they will venture this close to Bull run to fight us again. In some instances there are a great many troops at Manassas and the place is a great deal better fortified than it was at the time of the battle in the 1st of July. From all the movements I think our generals are expecting a general engagement before a great while. If we believe our generals are anxious for another battle here before going into winter quarters I think they will do it. If we believe they are doing everything they can to bring about a fight and if the enemy will follow us to this place I think they will be apt to get a few doses of old Jeff's bile. We have a few yet on hand and some mighty good hands to administer them. I can't tell whether I will be a good hand at the business or not for I have never been tried on Yankee scalps. I used to think I was tolerably good hand at squirrels but I look like a man that couldn't hit a squirrel. The understanding night bring one in a pinto. I believe I have told you all I know in relation to war matters at this time.
Charly Price landed here on the 14th. He says the corn crop is very fine in your neighborhood. He says he thinks you will make 10 barrels of corn per acre. If you make any for sale you will certainly get a good price for it next spring. I don’t suppose it is worth much now, but then it will certainly be a good price by spring. The boys from our side of the mountain are all up except old Adam. He and Bob Johnson & Bob Edmondson. They are all at the hospital in Richmond, Va. Man Noldkins is there with the rest. Henderson & Wood & I have not heard from them. In a long time, I can’t tell how they are getting along. I suppose they are doing pretty well or they wouldn’t write to us. Our Regt now reports 575 men able for duty. So you see we have over 300 sick yet. I consider that if I have been well blessed in regard to health since I have been in the army. It is true I have had a few brushes that last would last a day or so at a time. But at the same time I know I was subject to those little but home. My cough is getting better. I think it will wear off after awhile. Our Capt is not very well at this time. He has been complaining ever since we came off of picket the last time. I have not seen Calvin Agnew for some time. He looked well the last time I saw him. The boys all day with me. I have received one letter from Uncle John Agnew since I have been on the army.
But I must bring my letter to a close on my return this B'z Glarry Price. I understand he is going to start home Monday if he does I will send it by him as you will get it soon. This way than by mail: I have not saw the bot you spoke of Monday travel goes to the Junction after the mail. I have said he has seen nothing of it yet. I fear no time to reach it was all a fudge. Give my respects to the neighbors generally tell Peter. I have been off hand I will bring them with me if the are not worn out.

Nothing more but remains your son

Wm. G. Green

Sirs
Direct your letters to Manassas
In the care of Col. Goulding 9th Regt. Va.
Vol. Comp. B.
Be sure to direct your letter on this way.
We are ordered to fell tents to fine immediately.

The object was find out two many empty cartridges took man too many rounds of each as our quota. We are ordered to cut down our clothes in this manner so we can double quick with them on or means. The balance of our clothes will be sent to the Junction on the morning of the 19th.

With respect to Mrs. Margaret with warmest regards.

Wm. G. Green
Oct 12th 1861

When I finished my letter yesterday Charley Price said he was going home Monday. So I concluded to send it by him as you will hear where I am much sooner by mailing it that way. He says our letters are from 10 to 140 days on the road. That is a strange thing to me. I very often get your letters on your day after they are mailed. I get them nearly every time from 10 to 20 days after they are mailed. That day, that those that I get from Carolina nothing strange has occurred since yesterday near this place as I know of. I heard early this morning. I think it must have been below Alexandria. Our clothes are all folded up and sent to Washington for safe keeping I suppose except a change of clothes. That is all we have with us in camp. Besides our blankets. Our Capt. started this morning to the hospital in Richmond. It looks a very much like our camp is on the decline again. For my part I feel very well to day. Heard from R. A. Wode and Grange Henderson yesterday. Robert wrote that he would be in camp before long. He did not say whether Henderson was coming or not. Thos. St. John & Capt. Heighorn I suppose will be in camp in a few days. Thos. St. John has not been with us since about the 25th of July. I would like to see the old place very well. Chris & Albert.
Oct 21 47

This is the coldest morning we have had. We have had but one frost this fall: The cannonading I heard on the 19th I understand was at Evansport near Acquackonock. Our men sunk two vessels & took two. We have not heard all the particulars yet, but hear this evening I expect all about GT. It is thought that we will take a long march before long either to Kingsbridge or Acquackonock. There is not much hope of a battle for I would like for them to do something soon.

I am in the cold & frozen. I am writing on the floor, as I have no desk. I am wanting my books bad and missing all my friends. I will try to write all that I can. I hope all is well.

With my best respects to you all.

Yours affecT.

P.S. I have 93,000 men here in three hours notice.
Centerville, Oct. 24th, 1841.

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers & Sisters,

I now address you a few words to let you know that I am well. All the boys from our valley that are here, are well. Bill Wood has come to camp. But does not report himself able for duty yet. Frank Henderson has not come. Robert Wood says it is very doubtful whether he comes at all. His widows, I suppose, are affected.

Camps are no place for a diseased person. That is, I mean in this country at this season of the year. Thus of Capt. & Lieut. W. E. Boglehorn are at Warrenton yet. It is feared Lieut. Boglehorn will lose his mind. I understand his mind is very scattering at this time. If this is so it is a great pity.

Capt. Young has gone to Richmond to the Hospital. He has been on the decline ever since we came off of Picket. The last time she has something like the flux. All of our recruits are sick except one. It seems those that come here late cannot stand as well as those that come early. The weather is very cold here for the last few days. I hear and talk of winter quarters yet. Can't tell yet where they will be yet.
On the 21st of Oct. there was a battle fought at Leesburg. The enemy, being about three to one, General Evans was our commander there. He had one Brigade. He whipped them badly. Killed a great many took 530 prisoners. Burnt the balance up to the Potomac River. Whether they were drowned or what became of them, I have never learned. Also taken 2000 stand of arms & 8 cannon. This as reported as reliable. We hear this morning that they reinforced their army (that as the gambler) attacked Evans. The next day & after few hours fighting, Evans had to give up his position. But still he took 120 more of the invaders. This is a rumor afloat here at this time. Can't tell you anything as to the correctness of the rumors. Another battle at Occoquan Creek yesterday, the 23rd. It is reported this morning that another battle was fought at Occoquan Creek. This is somewhere below Alexandria. I can't tell you precisely where it was. Anyhow, it is reported our men took 700 prisoners there. No clothing more has been heard from that battle. So I will quit writing for the present and give you the rest as it is confirmed.

I have just finished reading the particulars of the Leesburg fight. Dated Oct. 23rd. General Evans with 2500 men was attacked on the 21st by 10,000 Federalists. The fight lasting all day...
The loss of the Federalists: 9 killed & wounded 400; nearly 600 were taken prisoners and 300 were drowned in trying to recross the Potomac. We captured about 1200 stand of arms & 6 pieces of cannon. Our loss: killed & wounded was about 300. Among the prisoners was several commissioned officers: 1 Albertson. One Col Baker from Oregon was killed. The celebrated Republican. This is the report as it have from the Richmond Dispatch. Up to the 23d the dispatch says there was not a cannon fired from our side during that battle. I hear nothing of Evans falling back from Fredericks the next day. I think the report is false. I will be apt to hear from Knight whether it is so or not:

Oct 25th 1861

I have heard nothing more of importance since yesterday. No news by last evening mail or at least I have heard none. I have heard nothing more of the Occurrence. I doubt but what there has been a fight there, for heavy cannonading was heard. In that direction the 25th I will hear from there about this night.

We are expecting an attack here, what I understand the Yankees are advancing but whether they are advancing in squads or the whole army I can’t tell. But still...
I was promised here that they are advancing by the main army. One of the prisoners told me they were going to whip us the next time. Chris said they had 110,000, but told him that we could whip that number. He also told him that it would take another half million to whip us here. I am very much surprised to get a letter from you this morning. I am very glad to hear from you. The book you sent has much I like. I would like very much to see that book arrive here. I want to read it. I am nearly bare and I cannot hear from you often enough. I must close. Give my respects to Mrs. C. Agnew.
Spencerville, Oct. 1861.

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers, and sisters,

I take this opportunity this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well, and have nothing new or strange to write to you. As I just wrote you a letter a few days ago, we have been out on pickets for the last three days. We had a fine time out there. Plenty to eat and nothing to do. We have five times except when stretched out on a forced march. And I don't think we will be marched much more this winter. At least I have ideas we will have to take any more long marches. Soon I understand there is not a Yankee on this side of the river up about Leesburg. It was reported that they were in possession of Leesburg a few days after the battle. But I learn that our men hold that place, and the Yankees are entirely absent. I think their motion is to come on on the coast somewhere. I heard last night the Yankees had sent a floating batteries & a ship of flue down the Potomac. They sailed by Evansport. Our men fired on them but did not affect anything. They are going to effect a landing down about Aquia's Bridge. The fleet supposed to number about 1000, which was a tolerably large squad. Off there was that many.
We heard firing in that direction while on retret, but have not heard whether there was any fighting or not, times are quiet about here at this time. No probability of a fight soon. Some day we think we are and calm for a while. This is the way they have been able for us to know anything about it. It seems from here our motion to hold this place if we can. I will do my best. The doctors think he will not get well here. The news from the box you sent me. I am afraid I will never know when it started. How are you. Miss Agnew. Give my respects to all.

Write soon.
Centerville. Nov. 9th, 1861

Dear Father & Mother,

I take this opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I received your letter the day before yesterday, dated Oct 28th. There is no news of Importance at this place. The prospect of a battle here soon. This is the general opinion of our head officers. We are building up great breastworks here & have a few cannon mounted at last. They fired off several times this evening. I suppose was just trying them. I can't tell how well they shot, but I know they roared away loud. I think the garrison could hear them far enough to Washington. I don't think the whole army that is here will stay here long. One Brigade left here this evening for Winchester. I learn that will be their winter quarters this winter. I cannot see where ours will be yet. I have no talk of us taking quarters anywhere. I reckon they think we can stand it in our tents. I suppose we will know soon what we will do & where our winter quarters will be.

Well I can say to you that I have received my pay at last. Came to Manassas yesterday. Brought it to camp this evening. Have just opened it & I found an awful mess. The bread was nearly all ruined & I only saved a few of the meat cakes. The rest of the cakes was ruined. Some of the apples was rotten & a few of the potatoes was rotten.
Tell Mrs. Standish I am a thousand times obliged to her for the potatoes the last one. The bottles ofgars all come safe & Sounds none of them broke. Tell Mrs. McCallough I am also very much to her for the bottle of cough medicine & money. And of course I should extend that compliment to you for what you sent! If you Mrs. McCallough & Standish will come over one of these days we will have a family meal. The butter have not reached us. Other things too. Sections to mention are very enough: candy, apples, etc. But to fit the box I also got the letter that sent on the 13th. I must quit now. Got done just in time. This morning. But they are powerful tight.

The health of our camp is a concern. The man was A. J. Conly. I suppose Richmond: Turner Whorf is doing very sick. He has not been very sick since he has been there. Tell Mrs. Whorf I would have said something about him before now. But thinking that he would be very uneasy about him I did not say anything. We have not heard from him for some time. I heard from Mrs. E. E. She was doing very well. I have a letter from The Balance of our boys are all well. Nothing more to write.
As Nelson wants to come so soon, and I would like to have him awhile, just hold on till we find out where our winter quarters will be. I think that will be soon. Tell me to have all his teeth pulled out. If he will not be troubled with the tooth ache, if he was to come now, I would have no tent for him to sleep in. I must close. Give my best respects to Mr. McCullough & Standifer, and accept the same to yourselves, clothing more than remains for you.
Pappa I would send you some money now if I had any way to send it, I will send some by the first one that do passing. He was paid the other day up to the 1st of Sept. They owe us yet for Sept. & Oct. which I suppose they will pay before a great while. If you can see my horse for a good price I will need the money for him. He died.

I will write again in a few days.

Mrs. R. Agnew

I love write this letter to a great hurry.
Dentsville, Nov. 19th, 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brother, and Sisters,

I again have the opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I would have wrote to you before now, but we have been on picket for the last three days, clothing strange or new, has transferred since I last wrote to you. Only our cavalry picks brought in 32 panthers and 30 heavy horse wagons loaded with corn. Last Friday night was the 15th. I learn this morning that 10,000 were brought in last night. I think in place of landing them in Richmond, we ought to keep them there and make them throw up breastworks. If we have to guard them I think they ought to pay for our General's. Still ask they expect a fight here soon. But that has been the chat for some time. I can't tell what causes them to think that we will have a fight here soon. But the Yankees have not advanced any in six weeks. They are still at Falls Church. The nearest point from this place is where the Yankees are stationed, is about 13 miles. And again I think of there was any probability of a fight there. Ten days there would be more fire among our Generals. They seem to say on their guard. Deep close. But seldom we can ever see them out at all. I saw one Richmond Dispatch this morning, an account of a fight at Athens. After two days of fighting our men were completely conquer. 1000 killed 7000 made prisoners. This is the northern account of the battle. They claim a complete victory. Which is, if their accounts be as true one. We will be apt to hear in a few days, all about...
I believe I have told you all the particulars I know of at this time, except the Tilla scrape they have had at Fort Royal near Savannah. I know you have heard all the particulars as it has become an old thing. I will say nothing about it. I received a letter from Uncle John Agnew two days ago. The both say times are very excitable in old Carolina. Andrew Robt. Popp will be off in a short time. Uncle John Agnew says times are very hard. Money scarce. No market for their cotton. I saw Calvin this morning. He has been chillsing for the last two weeks. I don't think he will stand the winter in this cold climate. The ground was froze hard here last night. Well I must close. Banning

The boys from our valley are all well. I'll write to the folks. The Patsy are now in camp both as yet as a bear. Haman in Richmond yes. I understand he is well. He will be in camp before long. I suppose you have heard that Adolphus Neat is dead. He died the 7th of this month. Also Mr. John Davidon of Bullock's creek. He came to Virginia to wait upon his two sons that was sick. Took the fever at Charlottesville and died. That Nancy is dead. Robert Anderson is off sick. I believe this is all the news I have at this time.

Write as soon as this comes to chance to give me all the particulars. I have got my cape at last. I will say there are two degrees at work on Broadwater's. This place will soon be well fortified. I remain your son

Wm. P. Agnew
Spartanburg, December 3rd, 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brother & Sisters,

I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. The rest of our Valley boys are well except C. A. Johnson, he is still complaining. I think he goes on the Mend now. I have been looking for a letter from you for several days but have not received it yet. Nothing unusual or strange has occurred since I last wrote to you. We have just come off of picket. Have been fifteen days I think or colder with line of C. S. The weather is great, especially the first night. Our company with two other companies were put on post. The first night we went out, which was the 28th of October. We bivouacked all night. It was very cold, but allowed no fire or cook, of course we were obliged to supper at little. And I am afraid we were far better off. If we have to be on post this winter I fear the weather will come this morning is very cold and windy. I believe the weather is more changeable here than it is in Georgia. The day that we went on picket there was some excitement among the pickets. The fact that we received word that we would certainly have some trouble before we came off, the Yankees had run for our cavalry. We know where the general before. But we saw none of the cavalry the next day. They said the cavalry pickets ran away without a cause. None of our cavalry are ever very excited anyway. There was no excitement on the line while we were out. I don't think there is much danger of our army. Though some think we will have a fight here this winter yet. But I think not.
There is some talk of us going into winter quarters in about ten days at Bristol some six miles above Munson, Pa. We will be compelled to go past some kind of a hut soon or have new tents for our old ones are about done. Though we do finely on the one that I stay on. We build us a chimney to our tent that answers very good purposes. We can't cook at it. But all can sit around & keep comfortable while in the tent.

I understand the Governor of Ala. has called out the militia. I want to know if it is so.

It doesn't seem reasonable that the militia would be called out when the troops that are out have not all been supplied with guns yet. The 19th Ala. has left Huntsville & gone to Mobile or below some 12 miles. They have not got arms yet. I must quit & go on General Review. Smith's Division will be reviewed this morning by Smith Beauregard & Johnson.

14th

Owing to our General Review yesterday I didn't have the chance to finish. It was a grand sight to see our boys trained out in fine Infantry, cavalry & Artillery all together. It would have been show to any one that never saw the sight. I hear our Generals are most sure that we will have a fight here before ten days. Some think it will be about next Sunday. But I hardly think they are going to fight us here. Ourickets to move into a Regt. of Rangers yesterday killed four & brought 16 men as prisoners. None of our boys were hurt. I must close.
Centerville, Dec. 11th, 1861.

Dear Father, Mother,

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines & sending by Mr. Wardlaw as he starts to Morrow morning for home I have nothing special or interesting to write. The boys from our Valley are all well that is in camp. To be Edmonston I understand is getting well. Farnas Fred was well the last time we heard from him. Our camps I think are generally healthier than they have been since we have been out. And the boys are more reconciled & better satisfied. I have heard no talk of winter for the last week or so. Great many are drawing new tents that doesn't look much like putting up quarters. Only as we are. If we stay in tents I think we will fair badly. The notion among the soldiers generally is, there will be no fight here this fall. I have not heard the opinion of our leaders for a few days; I think they have lost all hopes of the enemy attacking this place. As I have said all the time I think they have & more sense than to try to whip us behind our breastworks. I see in the papers there has been a peace measure laid before the Federal Congress by a man from Delaware, but how it will take I can't recollect as the papers said it
was said over for further consideration. Now I will tell you of a sight that I saw on the 24th. There was a regiment from Louisiana called the Tiger Rifles. They are as much like tigers as human beings can be. They don't care for anything at all. Some time ago two of them charged on the 24th. They were Court Marshalled, found guilty of sentence to the shot. On the 24th they were taken out each one placed with his back to a stake some ten steps apart. 12 of their own company was marched up on a proper distance 12 guns to each man. I shot them dead. They fell over at the crack of the guns. I don't think either of them ever breathed again going out to where they was to be shot. They were dancing, laughing and talking all the way. Didn't think to mind it any more than if they were going to a ball. There were thousands out to see it done, but I must bring my letter to a close. I received a letter from Andy Roberts yesterday, stating that he would be off to the war in a few days. There is no chance for a jalousy to be had there yet. I wrote to you that I had received my boots and Gemini's hide. Write as soon as you get this and give me all the particulars. Nothing more. But remain your son

Wm. G. Agnew.
Dear Father & Mother,

Came to hand East Knight. He truly glad to hear that you were all well. The boys from our valley are all as fat as buck's. Familiar faces in camp yesterday. Well and hearty. Tell Miss How Lanier Co. enjoying good health and has grown a great deal for the last six months. Well I have nothing new or interesting to write. Only there is some talk of us going into winter quarters soon. We will move near Manassas, and there build our own tents if we want them. The talk is that we will move between now and Saturday. I think our generals have come to the conclusion that old McClellan will not try this stand with us this fall at this place. Some of our wagons went the other day in one drive of a half of the potomac. The Yankees heard the battle of the wagons. For there was about twenty of them. And sent two men up on balloons. I suppose to see what it was. The wagons were after provender. So you can see of our wagons go in one day a half miles of the potomac for forage. I am not settled for the enemy. There is no danger of a battle at this point this winter. I understand they have gone into winter quarters at Alexandria & Washington. I think they will try and fix it up by spring without any more fighting.
Brother, you want to know how we get along these cold nights? We're sometimes when we are out on picket we feel bad. But when we are at home and in our tents, we sleep as sound as a log in a log. We all have two blankets each. These are sewn together to cover the balance. That way each of us does better. And more than that, we have a chimney in our tent. That's a great help in a cold night.

Now needs most for us for we are doing fine. And whenever you get into winter quarters you may send me that bed tick. The green coat I want you to have it made like this. The days, only in the place of sewing the cape to the coat I want it to button on. Then I can take the cape off in good weather. It just fits on. On black Mary Aggie can tell you how to make it. Make it and send it as soon as you can. Cut out the pattern that I gave you. This coat was cut 13 x 3 as all the others. And I will be the handsomest soon. For whether we have a chance to come home this winter, I must quit. I will send this to Mrs. Perry of Poplar. Send the letter with this.

Mrs. P. [Signature]

Papa I could save you twenty dollars. But if you get a furlough I will send it as soldiers on furlough must pay half price. I will send it if I don't come.
Centerville, Dec. 24th 1861

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers & Sisters,

I take the opportunity this cold windy morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that we are well & expect a bad cold which you know is very common with us. This season of the year. Ans so also common at camp at this time. We have had a beautiful winter so far. But I think winter is more on us. The health of our camp is tolerably good. Though we buried Two Muster of our company yesterday in one grave. Mr. C. McDonald of Epistle, were both buried together yesterday. Middleton died with Pneumonia. I have not learned what Whitey disease was. The boys from our Valley are all well, James King is well & hearty.

I am afraid of the Pneumonia this winter we will be too much exposed to cold & we. I wrote for a great many of our boys to suffer. I just learn from Dr. Thimke's that we have another bad case of Pneumonia this morning. I went to see Calvin two days ago he was getting along finely. But Frank y Hiram I think has the Pneumonia. He is very sick. He seems to be on a great deal of misery.

I will now tell of a Little battle that took place last Friday at Dranesville, some fifteen miles above Centerville. Last Monday morning Gen. Stuart with 15th Cavalry, 4th Field of Artillery, 114th Regt 14th & 17th S. Va. Regiment Left Centerville to attempt the capture of a
federal annoying us at Franksville. When
Gen. Thrust got across Franksville he found the
jankees about 1500 strong. He only had
about 5000 but determined to give them a
small scratch anyway. From the best
information I can get the fight lasted
about four hours when our men fell back.
In order to get a better position I and I expect
a little wanted anyhow. The enemy's gun was
satisfied by this time for they never fired on
the Confederates after they fell back. Our Regt
of the 13th N.C. Regt went that night to
reinforce Thrust but before we could get
there the jankees landed on the other
side of the river. So we loaded up our dead
which was about 35 or 40, and brought them
to Centreville in their right. Our Loss on all
we killed wounded and missing is supposed to be
about one hundred. The Medical Department
reports our losses greater than ours: One
account making 470 and another third
wagon loads of killed and wounded. I hardly
think either of their statements are correct
as I have thought by some that we had as killed
and wounded as the enemy did. For they had great
advantage both in number of men and
position. I will now name some of the
killed: Wm. Harmon, James Sanders, Wm. Atkinson.
Of whom Wm. Hamilton, son of Hennelly Hamilton, was
wounded, several others were killed. I wounded from Chester & Josh Don't know that I know. Nearly every one of our Men that was killed was shot in the head. Some were shot in the mouth & some had their heads shot clean off. I tell you it was an awful sight to see them murdered so brutally.

To believe I have given you all the particulars of the fight. Anyhow I have just given it to you as I heard it.

Now I will say great many of the soldiers are building cabins at this place. I suppose our Brigade will winter near Manassas Junction. The place is picked out & I guess we will soon go to it. And I don't care how soon for it. Tell you we are certainly have cold weather before long. I can't hardly tell what will be the chance for so furlough I understand some are getting furloughs and going home. But whether we will have that liberty I can't tell. When we get our shoes put on I am going to apply for a furlough of one month.

Well I must bring my Epistle to a close. Give my respects to all the friends. Write as often as this reaches you & give one all the particulars.

I remain your son,

Wm. J. Azinno
Also I there have that coat made as soon as you can. I send it to me as I am needing one, heart made large enough for an overcoat, after the same style of those flannel ones of these days. Only I want the cape to button on instead of being sewed on. If you have not commenced to work as you get this, I hope it will reach you. I have, by my last, sent you just an opportunity presents itself to append a word to your.

And now the boys on my mules are Joe T. T. Harrie T. H. Byrd H. St. Henderson 24 W. W. T. Montgomery 1/2 A. T. And we want you all to throw in & make up a box of provisions uncooked such as some butter potatoes and such things as you can send them to us. We can get such things here by paying 3 prices. But like to eat something occasionally that comes from home. You can tell them once if they are writing to our request.

Nothing more.

But remains your son,

J. G. Smith.

By the way, tell Mr. Montgomery about heavy rice being killed.
Gentlemen, Jan the 3rd 1862

Dear Father & Brother,

I have been in receipt of your letter of the 21st. I trust that you are in good health. I was told that you were well when you received the letter. I would have written to you before now but I have been too weak to write or set up. Much since I was taken sick which was on 22nd of December. I had a slight touch of pneumonia which I am told would have been fatal off by Dr. Phineas Hart of Fort Monroe. My doctors were Mustard plasters and I do not think I am on the mend yet. I am going for a Richmond or some other town to recover. I expect to go on a Hospital for a few days and then I will hunt for a private. I stay at uncle to get well. There has been nothing stranger happened in this part of the city. In relation to war matters as I have watched of lately all soldiers are now building winter quarters. Some are very near done while others have barely commenced. I have not seen any of our Union the relations for several days. Franklin Henry was terribly bad off with pneumonia. The last time I saw him I was Reun. The boys from our Family are all well. I got word that T. J. Harris is both complaining of his back but I think they will be all right in a few days.
Tell Catry I will very thankfully accept of the cap that she wishes to give me. It would feel mighty good these Knights. Well I must close. I will write to you again soon. A few days you need not be uneasy about me. I think I am on the gaining ground now. A great deal better. In a few days I feel to you all.

Yours,

C. Agnew
Winter Quarters, Camp Blanepsav
Jan. 24th, 1863

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers & Sisters,

I enjoy this privilege of writing you a few lines that you may know that I am still numbered among the living. Enjoying good health, I am about well except my eye, I cannot see them alone. I wish I were in camp. Well, I cannot say that I have anything of much worth to tell.

But we are on our winter quarters at East Living at home and boarding at the same place. Having dinner better than we have been doing in our tents. Yet we have way of getting about these as the Force go about half the day in some places. January has been a very wet month. So much so that the Camp is in a very damp condition. We do anything at times. The health of your boys is very bad. We have about 500 non-able falcy officers and men. Sometimes too sick which makes the duty very heavy on those that are well. I have never missed any duty. Accept the building of our winter quarters which has been a tedious job. As for news I have none at all, everything is quiet on the defense. We hear heavy cannonading to day on the direction of Monmouth Hills about three miles from camp. Whether a fight is on hand or what we will. The Yankees may be firing off their cannon at Alexandria which they do often. I think from the way the big guns are booming a fight must be in hand. Though I don't wish it to be declined. That such a thing is going on that one can't. Some think we will be shipped to Cape Henlopen in the Caroline before long. Their reason for thinking so I can't tell.
But I am thinking our Regiment will stay for a while as long as the war lasts. For this part I wish they would ship us to some place where we would not have to much marching to do. I am tired of being run from place to place especially in D.C. Now we have to go on picket to Harpers Ferry about five miles from here. The west road of D. Road will be gone four days and I am thinking we will have to stay here. As to follows there is some loose yet and if they dont commence coming soon we will not be done at all as the time of the year will soon come when all done that are able for them will have to stay in camp. The boys from our Valley are all well. I will bring your son letter to close. Give my respects to all enquiring friends.

I remain your son

Wm. G. Agnew

Mother I want you to send me a pair of pants the first of proponent and put in any tale Tripe as I am tired of seeing them. Also send me a pair of socks, cotton or woolen, I dont care which. I received a box of Cigars the other day. That Uncle Willie sent me. Send us the box of provisions as soon as you can, so I will just write after I come off of picket. I am going to apply for a furlough as soon as I think there is any chance to get one. I am looking for a letter from you every day.

I remain your son

Wm. G. Agnew

Write soon
Dear Brother:

Your letter dated Jan 17th came to hand this evening, was glad to hear that you are all well. I know that you still keep in good spirits. I have but little of interest to write at this time. I have no war news at all. Everything keeps quiet along the Rappahannock. She had made some signs of another movement last week. But it Thundered cold & wet & the troops become so bad & muddy they had to abandon the idea. We have had a beautiful winter. notwithstanding a deep snow is now on the ground. It fell early before yesterday to the depth of 8 to 10 inches. Yesterday & today the troops have had fine times snowballing. Regt 3 brigades form & fight as if they were fighting sure enough. I saw them in battle several times. Charges go a yelling like a negro horn. It is ready amusing to see what life and energy these Rebels have. It seems that they would become weary of it soon. But have a few ways so they are ready for anything that comes before them. Our camps are really neat. Much more so than they ever have been and do it by the blessings of the Conscription. I believe a good many of them spend the most of their time in the hospitals.
But the boys that come out first have become
Climatized & stand without braces
I have written you several times lately about sending
with John as I don’t think it need any longer if he comes.
I think I will be able to visit you for the first time in
20 months. There is no body here that knows anything
about his age. If he wants to go in an Infantry
Camp this is the place for him. But I believe he had
 Something else he would join a Cavalry Company. I know
the Cavalry service is much easier than infantry.
Yet you must let him do as he pleases this time.
I must just write these a few times write as soon as you
get this & give me all the news.
Wm & Catherine

Well and I must say a word or two to you & Frances. All is can-
gas is I am here & ready. Cooking, eating, drinking, all is get-
Aid with all this. I am not stout as I was when I left
home. But I think if you were here you could make
more money than all of you at home. All the time I have made
more clear money to lay than all of you. On occasion all
make enough to buy what apples & eat tobacco & eat
& have what whiskey I drink which is very little
But I wish to get one now or where you are going to plant
Come & how much I need & how much I know if couples has this gray
Hand in Colly. Frances, you & I must have news for back again.
I came home, I am entirely unaware now I thought the whole
was 5 or 6 hours off & midwinter. I love you. Wm & Catherine

Dear Father Mother Brothers & Sisters,

I once more enjoy the privilege of dropping you a few lines. That you may know that I am enjoying tolerably good health. I have nothing of interest to relate. The hardest I was in camp yesterday during the snowstorm for all the things you have sent are now in the oversoak file & put away. I could not find a better place if I had of been there myself. I made must the way I wanted to. I will send some money for you whenever I earn it off again. We have not been paid off since the last of October when I will tell you how dear & come of Canning in the house. Our Army was most sending down from each company for recruits. Four men from each company was to go. And I was appointed by the Capt. as one of the four from this camp to go as a recruiting officer. I had our papers on hand and was expecting to start the next day. But that order was cancelled, and only two were allowed to go from our company. One being Lieut. The commanding officer of the 97th. The appointing of them and by this means I was badly disappointed. Certainly Tin Allen & Jabez Jones are the two that are going from this company. And I will send this to them. I would have made of 100. But our plans have brought good many things that's trusted, such as pork, butter, eggs, hickory, and I bought a hog about the first of Jan costing $12. And we have nearly gone through it. We are living finer. Although times are so hard. For we have made two rings out of one hog. I send to you which I think will be nice when they becomecolered. They are all the go here now with love.

The Boys
I wrote Frances one I think by mail the first letter I wrote I must just as The boys are about writing write as soon as you get this I give me all that is new. The Sears guys are all that do all the people here. I can't till when I will have the chance of coming to see you. One thing I will say don't let John think join the army as long as you can help it. The boys coming to attend the campaigns. Well boys I am very much obliged to you for your letters. Letters to you for the over cast. I don't think it will hurt me now at all. I have not received any letters from you for two months only. The one by Mr. T have almost fooled my eyes out. Hop it Write and let me know how you by things now when you get for them. Oh if you go off with them let me hear what choice you took 9 what kind of things you got. I must close. Clothing stores. But remains your son.

Mrs. Grefenst
Camp, [Name] Jones
Feb. 19th, 63

Dear Brother,

I have the privilege once more to drop you a few lines that you may know that I am well at present.

I can't say that I have anything of importance to relate at this time. The last letter I wrote to you I said in it that I was unwell. I was, but I am now in tolerable good health.

The rest of my chiefs are all enjoying good health. I think we will get along fine if no accident befalls us.

We have rain, snow, and mud. Our abundance here I know you never saw anything half as bad. In fact it is almost impossible. Some down wagons dead horses are going thick over this country.
Now I want you to send me one pair of pants, don't make them as large on the legs as you did my last pair. May also send one or two pair of cotton socks. The shirts you need not send as I have plenty at present. The pants and socks you can send anytime between this and the first of May. But as soon as you get this I want Pappo to have the two stout pair of boots made and them by Lieut. Otten without fail. If Pappo is not at home get some body to attend to it for you. Boots are much the best for this Indian country.

The ones you did send are almost entirely worn out I want you to get leather from McCullough or Baker. I want no more of Dorsey's leather on my feet if I can help myself. My boots have been no count at all.
The bare and send me 2 pair
and I will send you the money
as soon as I draw a C. I will by and
send forty dollars the next chance I
have. I's the Southern Confederacy owes
me now about sixty

These are worth
here from $2.50 to $3 a pair. Boot
from $5 to $10. This is the reason I send
home. And moreover I had rather
the people at home would have my
money than these settlers that I know
nothing about. For I believe one half
of them to be bandits.

Let me
know if you want any postage
stamps. If you do I can buy 1 and
send some the first opportunity. I could
send some by Mrs. Montgomery. If
I had the right kind of money to
buy them with, which must be silver
or Confederate bonds. And that Article
as Berry scarce now on Wamps C.R. C.
Tell Appy to write & let me know what he is doing & what kind of prices he got for his horses also again what terms he sold them on.

I will quit for this time but Montgomery can tell you now we are all getting along and what kind of a country we are living in.

I will say there is no possible chance to get home soon so you not look for us soon nothing done but remains yours son give my respects to all inquiring friends.

Your son

P.S. Tell Graham to make them boots a little higher on the insteps than he did the ones that I have got or Omed to make them a little better.
Orange, S. W. March 22nd

Dear Father & Mother

I take the present opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the land of the living. I am in the enjoyment of good health. I have nothing very interesting to write at present. I can only tell you of the evacuation of Orange. On the 20th of March we have had for the last two weeks. We left Centerville on the 8th inst. and are now camped near Orange. I do not suppose for a short time I shall see long enough to rain the country of Crowder, which an army of several thousand troops can soon do...

We first marched four days on a stretch and then called a halt for three. Marched then three days to this place & have stopped again. I can't tell why we move.
So slowly. Neither do I know where we are going to stop at. Some say, we will stop at Gordonsville. Others say we are going to Richmond. For my part, I don't know, and I don't think anybody else does accept to be some of our big men. We had rough times on our march. Had to carry all our clothes and blankets on our backs which caused some of us to be very tired. In fact, our feet got so sore it was almost impossible to get along. For my part, I stowed the trip tolerably well. Yet my feet & legs were very sore.

When we left Manassas Junction, the cavalry I understand burnt everything that could be of any use to the Yankees. Large amounts of clothing were burnt that was lent by the soldiers to the poor. I expect my quilt...
was burnt. I boxed the gun I enelled the skin of bed ticks up & I think good many of boxes was burnt.

I don't expect I will ever see the box you sent me. I am afraid everything will be destroyed. I would like very well to have something good to eat now as we are living rather straitening at present. And are not allowed to leave the Regiment to go off and do any long thing. Our Generals and Generals close don't care how we get along so they get plenty. We have a good deal of rain at this time but not cold rains.

I must close as I have nothing of interest to write. We are looking for our Recruits in 2 days or so to land on Camp. I understand we will get some 25 or 30 Recruits more than I thought could be clustered up out of what there is.
I believe I have not got any letters from you since Mr. Montgomery left. Write as soon as you get this. I want you to give me all the particulars and let me know how you come out with your horses. I remain your son,

Mr. G. Agnew

Excuse this short badly written letter. I am sitting flat on the ground writing on my knees without any board.
The weather was encouraging the forces of good. They wanted more supplies. Johnson was occupying the position. With the drenching of the infantry, a large number of men were slaughtered. I understand the drenching of men, because Johnson ordered the retreat of some of Johnson’s. He couldn’t get out of that place without a general agreement. He could go through the hole without being soldered.

Fog up, that we have been in a tolerably warm country for the first month.

Some men of the 1st Division & their baggage over the roads that we have traveled as no serious job. I never knew what had been done when the Division marched. The night of about 3 miles where the drenching was actually done. Each person threw their load to the other. I went about half an hour and eat at twice, enough to and then also. We drench, the night, which was hardly worth change. Moreover, a saw them move up the night it had to be pulled out. I was all so. You may imagine we have about six miles, and getting about half enough to eat at times, enough to and the man. The night, we had to. Thin some of the other. The rest of the horses get home safe. I can see at twice worth the Two of any heart. They were here of, all the way from our whole we would accept James Saffield. He is very well with him.

I think it don’t fine about this Rodriguez. But I must close with as often as you care. I don’t want to hear from you. My respects to you & all. Greetings.

I remain yours truly.

Jno. P. Cooney

A horse that has four legs & earn. Stand up will bring 300 dollars more. Come over & see us if you can. In the event that this
year (Country) the king has Richmond. If he's not & will & friends.

of &
Camp Manor, Chickahominy River, May 11th 1862

Dear Mother & Brother,

I once more enjoy the privilege of writing you a few words to inform you that I am well. I have not heard from you in a long time. I am sure you must have feared you see to death if you would write oftener. You must not wait to get a letter from me for every one you write for I have been placed in such a condition for the last few weeks as it has been impossible for me to write. We have been marching and on picket duty, even since we landed at this camp which has been nearly one month. We landed at or near Yorktown on the 16th of April Major. There in the trenches on one side of the channel where the fort may now be seen. At 12 o'clock we being left as a Reserve to cover the retreat of the Army. We have been in the road one week had a fight last Wednesday last Monday lost a great many men killed and several prisoners. I saw them myself for our Division was not in the battle we are held back as a Reserve. Had another little engagement in the rear yesterday taken 46 more prisoners which is all I saw them yesterday. We are now on line of battle some 12 miles from New Kent C. H. about 16 miles from Richmond. The greater portion of our line between us and the enemy. I understand the enemy occupy New Kent C. H. with a large force. No doubt we will have a fight to-day or to-morrow. And then if we get around to Richmond where we will make a permanent stand and by our stand and the Yankees if they have the means, they will have their flag to Richmond or I'll not doubt some of them will get to both places.
Camp near Yorktown, Va.
April 24th, 1862.

Dear Father & Mother,

I take this present opportunity of dropping you a line to let you know that I am quite well and in good health. I have not heard from you since I left Orange. I hope you think my letters come rather scattering. Well, to tell you the truth, I have had but little time to write since we started. In fact, we have been going almost daily to march without stopping, to get a rest. The mail has been while it was at Richmond which was last Sunday one week ago.

Well, we are now on the continent between York and James River, have been here nine days, expecting a fight to come off every day. We had a little brush here on the 18th but our boys were not actually in the fight. But to come of, there was one from Ben being where we were, three regiments of our Brigade was engaged in the fight. So we were held back as a reserve. Though we were being at close distance, close enough for the enemy's balls to whistle all around us. One spent was brought you Harris on the shins when we were laying down not shooting him any or those wounded were all there...Two of our regiments were wounded by a shell from the enemy, while going into the engagement.

Tell you it was warm times for about three hours. But our boys made a charge on the enemy and the enemy to the water boys. We carried 37 of the Yankees off of the battle ground dead, seven wounded and several taken prisoners. Some are now floating on the James river.

The way we are situated here. We have dug ditches and thrown up breastworks from one river to the other. And when the Yankees attack us they have to make their way of water which is no crowd as they come. And then we can cut them and drive them back. The battle extends from one river to the other where we...
are situated on one side & the Yankees on the other on sight of each other. If they do fight as we hear, I think it will be one of the bloodiest battles that has been fought for. I believe the Yankees are between 150 & 200 strong, while I suppose we are 10,000. We have batteries erected all along the road opposite the dams that we have built across it. We have 50 men & 1 gun. We have been here 7 days & have built in the trenches near all the time. where the main of it was over for a month, and in some places there we have to sit in one place & watch the rebel sharp-shooters & Knights. Good many of our men have been killed & wounded. & The strength of 70 & 100 are sick. In my heart I believe I am getting on the way & I believe I am writing to the present as 1 hope to see you all the sooner. I do want to help some poor & I hope we will have to go. On the trenches tonight again. I have met a good & one good Knight & have come to this place. I forgot to say that in the fight we had the other day we and 32 to press & 22 Federal wounded, & they were all Carolina. a few of Harris's boys are well. We will be forwarded to where whenever I go. Express this fare writing & allmistakes as I am writing & I must. With my respects to all friends & accept the greatest friendship. To yourselves, I remain your son,

From, Richard

Direct to Major Henry B. Mahan
Monday morning June 30th 15

I would have finished my letter yesterday, but was on the drive and good portion of the day. The Enemy is facing back, we advanced some two miles and a half yesterday.

It is thought McClellan is now crossing the James River below Richmond, aiming to attack us on the south of Richmond. Jackson is between them & the Chickahominy. We are following after fighting every chance. The 7th & 8th Regt. charged a battery. The 10th fell, got it in possession but could not hold. Our reinforcements could not get there in time. Col. Jarvis was taken prisoner. Our loss was heavy. Hugh Smith was slightly wounded in the chest with piece of a shell. Liza Cheat was wounded in the arm. basis was not hurt. They got wound in the evening previous to the charging of the battery. Our regt. was not engaged that day at all.

I must close

I remain your son

Wm. C. Agnew

Brother, I have a nice mistake pipe to send to you, the first opportunity. I said nice one certain, I would like to get today one. I wish you could. The fandies left a great many things in their camp. Coffee & the Baking Powder, Park candles & everything imaginable.

I have not received a letter from you lately.
Camps near Richmond, Virginia, April 24, 1862

Dear Father & Mother,

I have concluded to give you this line this morning, as I have nothing particular to do, would have wrote to you before this, but have not been very well for several days. I have had everything here still, & what I do eat, do me no good. My Stomach seems to be doing much out of order. I would like to have a good lot of Vegetables. You that I can't get here, I price and deliver. The other day for 150 lbs of onions, well we have had some severe fighting for the last two days. Hill, Longstreet, & Jackson attacked the men on the left near Hanover C.H. I have succeeded in driving them the six miles before the men to part. We also had fighting one on the right but not so heavy as on the left. Our brigade was out. It is yesterday evening. I don't know whether they will have Charles to fig or not. The Harris, got his finger that off; there not I heard whether any of our company are wounded or not. I understand he board on a piece of a broadside bullet near him. Good night of our Brig was killed & wounded. I think we will have it right in a few days. Our men are tired of being tempted & shot at so much by the enemy. I think they will have to fight too close or leave here. Some think if we give them a good whipping here we can drive them soon. Clyde. I hope to see that back home. I saw many Georgia the other day & several of my old friends, I am well & hearty. I reckon when he gets up of a morning he can get his eyes open without having his fingers tied. Rome as he used to have to do, he will close it while writing.
Richmond, Va.
May 18th, 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

I beat myself this Sabbath morning to inform you that I am enjoying very good health at this time. There is nothing new or interesting to write. Only our Army has come back to Richmond. We landed here last night. That was our Division. The greater portion of the Troops are in front of us. The Chat here at this time we will hold Richmond, if we can. And by the time we can do it provides we can keep back their gun boats. That is all I fear. If the blockade which we are sailing away from the river now is 7 miles below Richmond can be strafed effective before the Try to take the place. I will then say we have the dead voted on them. But as you notice them they can whip us on water and have some enough to Simone 67. If we had no other way of fighting only by water we might as well give up the ghost to them. The Yankees gun boats undertook to stop our Batteries on the river the other day. But were driven back. One boat set on fire went by burning rapidly. It is reported she was run ashore that night. Can’t tell you time of day.

If the Enemy fights us here at all. My Opinion Co. It will be done. Some think they must fight us here at all. But I think they intend to make another dashing effort for Richmond. This Co. is not going to be a Manjoras scrapes. When this Battle Co. fought
There is going to be another fight. It will be the big fight of all the fights. I believe I have wrote to you since the Williamsburg fight, which was the 1st of this month. The engagement lasted about 9 hours. Our Division was not there. Our men had to charge several heavy charges while engaged. I suppose Calvin was in that fight. I have not seen him since left York Town.

The loss was heavy on both sides, supposed to be much heavier on the enemy's side. We lost several pieces of cannon and about 400 prisoners. I saw 30 of them myself. But I think I have written all this to you before. If I have not you have seen it in the paper before now. Therefore I will say anything more about it. The news has come & I am looking for a letter from you. So I will quit awhile & say nothing for a while. So I will close. Will as soon as you get this I give all the particulars. Our dally boys are all well. Let me know if any of the chins are talking of coming to our Company.

It makes me think when we talk of being conscripted. I receive a letter from Uncle John White a few days since, stating he would leave for camp in a few days. Now I must extenuate this badly written & poor composition letter.

So it is to warm & the gentle breezes so I can hardly set here.

I remain your Son

Direct To Richmond

Wm. P. Apnels
Dear Father & Mother,

I wrote you a few lines some ten days ago. And as I am not briskly engaged otherwise to day I will try to write again. I have not received a letter from you for some time, would like very well to hear from you for some time, would like very well to hear from you how you are all getting along.

I received a few lines from Susan & Margaret a few days ago. The news from young men are very scarce about him or where he lives. I would suppose that to be the almost all over the Confederacy. But many people does not like the Conscription Law. For my part I think it one of the best acts Congress has passed. I would like to have your opinion on the case; such Chaps as Dennis for instance are compelled now pitch in just what he or they ought to have done at the commencement of this outbreak. Since over thirty five years old cannot stand what we are exposed to here. I am opposed to old men coming. Unless there is no other choice. The Knop left us while we were at Forttown & went off to some Hospital. I have not heard from him since he left. Charles Saffield is also at the Hospital. I believe the rest of our boys are all here enjoying common health. I will now state to you that I have quit the Company. I am driving the ordnance of our Regt. It is the wagon that has the ammunition. I take those gun who go off to hospital. The 1st. I know is the Ordnance Sergeant. He has control of all the ammunition that belongs to the Regt. We have to follow the Regt. whenever it goes. In time of a fight we will
be placed on the rear so as not to be in danger of the Enemy throwing bombs onto our wagons. I have a much easier task now than I have been having for the last twelve months. This must be so, as we are seeing five times as much. I think I will be too lazy ever to write again. Of course we should be so fortunate as to get home. This is a much better place.

I thought the Enemy is leaving this place. Our men I think are making a forward move. Old Stone Wall Jackson whipped the enemy. The other day at Port Royal took two negros prisoners. He also whipped them at Winchester. Took 2000 prisoners there. Making a move about 4000. This the climax with the loss only of about 100 men. The last account we had of him, he was on hot pursuit of the Enemy. I say he intends to capture Banks and his men. We heard last night that Jackson was on 24 hours' travel of the Federal Capital. I hope it is true.

This is the reason we think the Banks are leaving Richmond. If Jackson should get into Washington ahead of McClellan's grand army, would it not be some, who, as is that would not hinder Murrah, for Johnson & Jackson. All tell you the men that have longer heads than Joseph's are all dead. If he has taken the enemy away from Washington, so as to let Jackson on them, I think of a grand scheme. The enemies force are reported to be small at Washington. We may all be up about Manassas & Centreville before this great while. As who knows but what I may soon be walking the streets of Washington. But I must close.

Let me hear from you soon; I believe I received a letter from you the other day. Little have forgotten of when I first commenced writing. Nothing more.

Direct to Richmond

Your son,

[Signature]
Camp near Richmond, June 5th, 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

Yours dated 26th May. Came to hand yesterday evening. I was truly glad to hear from you. I received one from B. last week ago. I started now one. The same meaning as got this.

I have nothing new or interesting to write. Only we have had a fight lately at this place. On the 31st of May, the enemy rushed our out batteries some 6 or 6 miles from where we were stationed. Our men fell back a short distance so as to let them cross the Chickahominy River. After they crossed it commenced raining. This was on the 20th of May and it rained so as to raise the river to a point where we could not get back. General Longstreet next morning made an attack on them. The heavy rains lasting a whole day fought our boys like thunder. They fought valiantly after dark. Hand fighting all day. We drove them back some three miles yet got all their camp equipage 100 barrels of whiskey & I understand 200 barrels of ground coffee. Part of Longstreet's Division kept in the Yankee tents. That night, when they put fighting that night the weather dry on water & had been fighting that was the greater portion of the day. Our men were refreshed through times in trying to change the enemy's batteries. But charge after charge they made until they succeeded in taking 22 pieces of cannon on the 67th. 60 pieces on Sunday. The loss on both sides are terribly heavy. Brig. Gen. Kilpatrick is greatly many wounded. General Coulter was wounded. Bvt. Col. Irwin not dangerously. Keep commending about 2 miles from me at this time. We may have a big fight to day.
Calvin, Frank, Knop, & Robert Anderson. I expect we were all in the fight the other day. They are in General Division & this division was on at all day. I would like to hear how the men out. I saw in the Richmond papers great credit given to the 30th Ga. troops for their gallantry displayed while in the engagement. Some shrugs were awfully cut up while trying change the enemy's Batteries. We had no retreat on the field that day. Our fighting was over principally with the Georgians. I think we'll have at it in the few days. Two Armies can't stay so close together long without doing something. I wish how soon it may come off for I'm tired of being pulled & dragged about every day from place to place. I have to follow the best where to go with the wagon over some of the worst roads you ever saw. If a man ever gets out of the road, horses & wagon both go under. Just such a place as we are now on. I have never had before I can hardly get a place for my wagon I have to stand on.

Then there the opportunity send me two pair of drawers 2 pa socks 2 shirings. I don't want any more boots unless fall your men send me a good pair of shoes if you have them. I must have. This paper is too bad I can't write on it. We pay two dollars & twenty five cents a guinea for paper in Richmond.

Give my respects to all enquiring friends. Nothing more but remain

Your son,

Wm. C. Akinson

Pappa let me hear how your clover is doing in the big field. I forgot to say the wheat is out as fine in this country as it ever was anywhere. What especially
Camp Near Richmond, Va.
March 19th, 1863

Dear son, I am happy to hear from you. Although I had not heard from you before, I was glad to hear from you now. Although I had not heard from you before, I was glad to hear from you now.

I have been ill for a few days. I have not been able to write. I am hardly able to walk. I think I am getting better. That is just what I was writing. I have been troubled with this complaint ever since I left home. I had it when I left home. I have been so ill that I have been unable to do anything. I am nothing now but a skeleton of my bones. Don't let this alarm you. I will get better when the weather changes. That is what the clothes you sent by Mrs. P. fit. They fit well. They fit splendidly. The pants I have been using are too long. They are too large enough. I could only pattern them to add one inch to the pants. I am sorry I didn't write to you a week ago. I don't want any coat for the winter. Just two or three pairs of socks would be splendid. The first child I think I place. It is in the winter of highsmith's. It came home, and there is no linen. The! beside you sent some O. I made a few cubes of sugar. Earl said I could only get some beans and cucumbers. O. I think they would be all right.
The past I am glad to hear that your clover is blooming as well as what it has. I wish you had a good six of clover on all that fresh land on the bank. I have got to be a powerful Clover man near us is hard to meet. In fact all the Celts the bd. and the rest of you people are fine. I have no means of war to write. Every thing of late this part o' the year is very dull. I must close. Hoping to hear from you all soon again.

I remain your son,

[Signature]

This is a very bad for 4 wrote in a great hurry.

I have a cough which pesters me a little especially one at night. I got up the other evening which caused a terrible request of you. I hope to put me up jar of Brandy Peaches. This is a want.

Dear Father & Mother,

I once more have the pleasure of writing you a few times to let you know that I am in good health and enjoyimg it. I have not heard from any of you since I left Richmond which was on the 15th of August. And I suppose you are in the same fix for I have not had the chance to write or send a letter since I left Richmond. I will send this by Capt. Rhinehart as he expects to start home in a day or so.

Well I suppose you want to know something about my travels. Since the 15th of August we have been constantly on the move. We have had but little rest. Our army is almost worn out but we are riding now. In a great many are coming in that have been sick & left behind because they had no shoes. I suppose you have heard all about the Manassas Fight. That battle was fought on the same grounds that the other was. And I am told the retreat commenced on the very same identical spot. It was a complete victory. I was on the battle field that morning (it is a portion of it) and Mr. Fry & you. The ground in some places was almost covered with dead Yankers. I hear it
was much worse on other portions of the battlefield. But I can't tell you anything about the loss on either side, as I have not read a paper since the fight. But rest assured the loss on both sides was heavy. Three of our company was killed in that fight. I heard wounded by Montgomery shot in the arm. Hugh Smith slightly wounded with shelled. There was only 7 or 8 of my company that came out safe without a scratch. Andy Roberts, Calvin & Robert Anderson. Come out safe. Peter was hit on the foot but not hurt much. Well we followed on after the Enemy as far as Fairfax, C.H. There we halted a day & night. Then made a march into Maryland, crossing the Potomac River at Whitemarsh M. Near Bostwick where General Evans fought them last fall. We run so many into the river & into Maryland we marched on the 7th of Sept. went to Frederick Town. There stopped two days & nights. From there through several other little towns to Harpers Town where we halted a day. Went from there back to Boonsborough where the first fighting in Maryland commenced on Sunday the 14th. Ending on the 17th. There join many not assured was hard fighting & many a poor fellow slaughtered. There on the 17th Joseph Harris was shot through the heart. Never spoke four or five words. That was Bogs they have killed one. But I think I have slain several of them. Joe was a brave
fellows and were liked by all the company.
On other one of our company was killed. On the 17th there was skirmishing all day. But no regular fighting. That night we were able to cross the river as bridges had been burned. The Yankees close on our right. So we made a stand at the river. The commanding general on both sides, but the Yankees could do no damage. One division of the Yankees were allowed to cross.
Old Home well Jack. Jackson got after them, got too drunk for them. They broke to run. I captured one of them & picked nearly all the rest as they crossed the river. I suppose you have heard of the same. Old Jackson made at Warrenton some time ago. Captured between 10 & 15,000 prisoners 2000 horses, 1 million dollars worth of ammunition & implements of war. Over three hundred wagons.
I fear such states I think would make old Abe Lincoln say yes. But I must writing so it is getting late. I will try and write you a more interesting letter in a few days. This was done in a great hurry. Robert Wood & I shall here to stay. I was glad to see him & hear from you. I am in hopes the time will soon come when I shall be permitted to see you all again. By the first opportunity send one some stocks pair boots & a glass of good brandy. Talk with Dr. Rhinehart. You can write your all about my condition.
My bowels are hurting me very bad to day constant running off which causes me to be very weak.

But I must close. I will write again the first opportunity. You must write soon to give me all the particulars.

Nothing more but remains your son,

[Signature]

Cappa got Dr. Rhineheart to stay all night with you & he came here very fine of it. He is a splendid fellow, none better to be found any where.
Camp, near Winchester, Va.

Oct 14th, 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I have received three letters from you lately, 1 by Thos. Harris & two by mail one dated the 17th. I have not the 19th. I also got one from Uncle Farrow stating that Grandfather was dead. Found dead in bed this morning. This is the first opportunity I have had to write to you since we left Richmond. I wrote you 3 years since one long ago by Dr. Rainesheart, which anyone you have got before this time. Well I hardly know what to write, but as health is generally the first thing. Besides after this leave me in tolerably good health. The boys who are here. We are now. Camp near Kinsley. In a very nice grove getting plenty of fruit, beef, bacon & good water. I understand we draw to stay two days, ration of fresh pork, then a suction. We will have the Colored, ham, bacon. In this country, & hickory is about played out. We have not drawn and for the last ten days. Some Tom & Jim bought 20 small middle lemons which we will pay about 40. per hundred. Everything is awful high here. But me wonder of that because there has been an army here ever since this war commenced. And all the join. The citizens are going to be hard man to live in this part of the world if some change doesn't take place soon. That very soon.
I have not saw Andy Roberts since the fight in Maryland, but I heard he was not hurt. Calvin A. Green was shot in the leg. I had to have it cut off so I am told. I have not seen myself. Frank King & J. E. Anderson I have not heard from. It is thought hostilities will cease here for a while. I hope forever. For I want to live a private life awhile. I am tired of public life & private starvation. The two don't work together so well. One thing certain this war must close soon if we keep it go on this way long. Men can't last always & fight to. And it would do to bring out the women for I fear they would make poor sentinel. They couldn't keep the countersign too scared after dark. I can't see how long we will stay in this part of the country another day. I don't think we will come have every thing eat out of then leave here. He may be back to Richmond before Christmas. This would then surprise one in the least.

Man and I hope your dream about peace being made in February may come to pass. But I fear it will not be so soon. Though she can't tell anything about when that will be. If John B. had to go. My advice is to join some Cavaliers Company as I think it much easier than fighting. There is too much marching for a boy like him to stand it long. We don't know anything about marching until he gets the command.

I stepped off about ten miles. Then he would wish he was on a horse. He would then have something to stand for.
I want him to stay at home as long as he can with credit to himself. I promised you I'd do something about sending one substitute if I wanted one. I don't want any as long as I am able to. And when I get to do, I can't do that. Then there is some chance to get out of the army without substituting. Our company left Summerville with 84 men. Since that time we have had about 30 recruits according making in all 114 men. Eight out of the 114 myself, Jesse Vanfer, from Chaffoag, are the only two that have not been off from our duty at some time. We have never been in a hospital nor off on furlough. The rest all have been bragging you think that speaks well for us so far. From our arrival nearly 16 months do you think you have another 16, that can stand it that long. I think not. I tell you they are scarce in this army that have not been off at a hospital or been on furlough. But still there is one telling how soon I may have to go off. Be sure to tell you I feel very well at times, notwithstanding I am a great deal off. Now than I was some time ago, mother T. H. Harris could only carry my stock of books from the place he got off the cars by the said the stopper come out the bottle of brandy & the most of it run out & he drank the balance. The cheese he cut up & give away. Could not carry the apples or onions I suppose the same way.
My boots fee very much Pappu send me a pet the first opportunity. There is no chance to get me here. I cannot get the mail is about starting. Write soon to give me all the news you can and if you have any motion of coming out I would like very much to visit Winchester.

I remain your son

Wm. G. Beigun
Camp near Winchester, Va., Oct. 13th, 1862

Dear Father and Mother,

I received a letter from you a day or since stating you have not heard from me lately. But I suppose you have heard before this. As I wrote to you by or Rhinehart & one also by mail since the Harris came I would write to you once every week. But letters are so uncertain about going now, and there is no good prospect for us to leave here soon. Some think we will go to Staunton & some think to Gordonsville. If we should go to Gordonsville Letters will be more apt to go. We will have to leave this country soon for everything is nearly eaten up. It is a very hard matter indeed to find forage here for our horses. Also for ourselves. Though I get plenty, yet I hear great many Complaining in the Regt. We get no bacon only what little we can buy in the Country, and that we pay 25c. per lb for. But I hope for better times to come sooner get ou on but little to predicate such a hope upon. At present, some things we will all be at home by spring. But as for myself I can't be the place when this thing is going to wind up. The rumors we get from the west shows, as that Bardinow has been whipped at Corinth. If this is true the Yankees will be more eager to continue the war than ever.
Mother I am in hopes your DREAM may come to pass. I would be perfectly willing to stay there another February. If I only knew I would then be released. If you can get a furlough this winter you may rest assured I will take it quiet. Your hands and body are getting furloughs at this time. I think E will put on the worst looks one of these mornings by my luck. I am a little better than I was in the summer. Papp'd be sure to send me a hat by Capt. Egleston. Also one good blanket. I have plenty of wearing clothes. To do me for a while. I now got the brandy you please you send by Capt. Harris could not carry them after he got off of the lake. Carson Jones landed here on the 11th day. I have not seen him yet. But think E will go over to stay. We have had two days of cold wet weather. I think winter has commenced. It freezes us very close. I will not write you a long letter as I have nothing of interest to tell you. I want you to write as often as possible. I have received 2 letters from you by mail since I left Richmond. All the boys that are here from one part of the country are well. The small pox is reported to be in our Brigade to have not sand a case of it yet.

I must close. Give my respects to Uncle Nothing more but Remains your love,

1 month ago to day I left Sumter.
Nov 15th 1862

Dear Father,

I received your letter last evening dated Oct 29th. I was truly glad to hear from you but very much surprised to hear that I have one. The day I thought you had quit some time ago. Pappas I would like very much to meet you in Carolina, but I reckon it will be out of my power. We are expecting a fight every day near Culpepper, so there is no chance for a furlough at present. I think we will fight here soon or fall back near to Richmond. When you come to Carolina if you take a notion to come to see me you will find me. Near or so or Gordonsville. But I haven't heard you will come. If you don't come I want you to send
And a set of onions & sweet potatoes be certain
I will write to you again concerning my going into a cavalry
company. In respect I am doing as well here as I could do anywhere,
but I must close.
Give my respects to all inquiring friends & relatives. Write to
me when you get this. Let me know what you done in Carolina
you must excuse my writing this morning for it is so cold I
can hardly hold the pen.

P.S. Remain your son,

Wm. G. Agnew

Be certain I send you
a hat the first opportunity
for I am about out. Baker
certain I can't get one here
on my price.
Camp near Fredericksburg, Va.  
Dec. 4th, 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

Capt. Cleghorn arrived yesterday evening. I went to see him this morning. He only had a letter for me. The clothing has not come yet. Expecting it on Friday. I must not say I was glad to hear from you. We have such dull times in camp. I call this a very poor country about Fredericksburg. We hear nothing to cheer us up. Very seldom hear from home. Very seldom get a chance to write a letter. And I think one half those that we do write you never get, at least you write as if you hear from me often. I think if you will inquire, you will find that I do about as well in the letter writing business as any member of my company. Remember Mam as that very dear.
I have always tried to write every opportunity and expect to do so long as I stay in the Army. For the last 2 or 3 months there has been but few mails sent out or brought in from our Brigade. The reason for I cannot see. Maybe to be carelessness or negligence on the part of our officers. I wrote to you some 2 months ago about the death of Calvin Agnew. It seems from the way you write in your last letter that you have never received such a letter from me.

Uncle John Agnew was in 2001 as of one & never lived 21. I went over to see him as soon as I heard he was out, but I was one day too late. I have not seen any of our relatives or friends lately. I think our Generals are expecting a big fight here soon. All our forces are there. General is here somewhere. I think they ought to do something shortly for we have pretty weather for fighting. For when winter does set in it will be
be winter sure enough: Our camps are very healthy, but little to do & plenty to eat, such as blackeyes & beef & bacon.

I have been living prune all this past... occasionally by pork & mutton & such things as our soldiers family much. But I fear if we stay here long we can't get much to buy for it is not to be found in the country. And as for cooking we are what can we do? I am up to Thomas Breck & I have a man with us that is a splendid cook. Colonel & Sergeant are allowed 2 men besides the driver. To help in case he should get in a pinch. This is how we come by our cooks.

Just hear, Mother: I hear from a letter I wrote to the King by one Harriet W. Knows that you had taken up the idea that I had all the cooking to do in my books which trouble me very much. Although she said I am sure that I never wrote as much to you on that subject. Now I would like to learn if you will ever have any more of the discussion or if you even heard it from anyone, or if you have even talked about it.
She wished one to write to you and let you know all about it. Well I can say when Thos D. C. had the cooking to do we both had an equal share in it & when we got it cooked both of us always eat until we got enough Thos Mon always helped me both in cooking & finding for & raising, Boys would help do when the work was with us so I hope you will be relieved of your chores. Somebody has been meddling. I don't know who it is. I would like to see you talk to good while. Send John out & let him take my place for a month or so & I'll come home. This town can do very well if you see proper & I would be very much for you to do it. John will have to come out here before long anyway. So if you dispersed when you get this note I wish John with our best, Bill McCormick of Our Town, Bailey, who is at home wounded I will be sure to understand by Christmas am going to send this letter to Calhoun to a man going wrong of the 7th Regt otherwise the same circumstances as mine. His brother has come to take his place to start to Morrow morning for home Study about this. But don't let Dundie & all hands are willing & I must close with my best respects to you all.

Wife Smokey

"Yours Truly,"

"(Mrs. G. Arey)"
Camp near Fredricksburg Dec. 21st 1862

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

This leaves me enjoying excellent health and fine spirits, hoping this may find the same. The Yankees have made another effort to drive us from the Banks of the Rappahannock River. But have certainly failed, whether they will try it here again or not is more than I can tell. They have all gone back on the other side of the river. Satisfied with what they got of us on the 13th Inst., at least they have made no effort to cross over again.

It is thought they are falling back on the Potomac.

I suppose you have heard all about the fight before this time. On the 11th they commenced shelling the town of Fredricksburg & such a roaring of Cannons & musketry heard before. It seemed that the whole country was in an uproar, and the 12th was but little better. They crossed the river that night. Saturday the 13th the fight commenced with a rage on our right & left. In a few minutes our wounded were coming in from every direction giving us feeling a wonderful talk show how the battle was going. We only had two divisions engaged, A. S. Hill on the right & R. H. Anderson on the left. Longstreet was not engaged at all. The loss was heavy on our side, but nothing when
Compared to that of the enemy, some think their loss one to four. But I think there can be such a difference, though they might have suffered greatly, or they would have been again the next day. I saw while they buried 120 in one hole, 1832 in another, 40 in another. This is the way they bury. They lost great May officers killed & wounded, the last two Generals Biz. The 15th Coat of Col. Osborne, Gen. of I, E. Biddle, I wounded Coat of E. B. But I know you have seen an account of the fight. So will not write again the newspapers.

I wrote you a letter some time ago requesting John to come out & stay in any place a month or two so he will have come before anything. It would give him some idea of camp life. I wish he could have been here one month ago for we have had a beautiful spell of weather. Write as soon as you get this. Let me know if you intend John to a Cavalry Company or not. Write & give me all the news just came. Come out if you can and I will give you enough of money to pay your expenses. I have so dollars I can let you have.

I must quit. Write soon because

O Remain your Son

Send me some socks

Just Chances

Mrs. J. Ayres
Fredericksburg, Va., Jan. 1st, 1863

Dear Father & Mother,

I received a letter from you last night dated Dec. 27th. I was glad to hear from you. Especially to hear of you all being in good health. Camps are very healthy. There now I have been for a long time. There is no indications of a fight here soon again. The boys seem to be satisfied that they can't go to Richmond yet another. I believe though they will make another trial before they give it up. They seem to think know that the James River will be their next front for our Capitol. My notion is we can give them a good whipping at Fredericksburg. I'm in Tennessee. The war will not last much longer. I think the most of them are getting tired of it now. Some are still offering peace measures, that is the leading men of the South.
I have no idea there will be any more fighting in the West this winter. But least this army will not fight any more. This has been a beautiful place for business. The month of December has been very warm, a very little rain and one small snow. But this morning being the first day of 1863 is tolerably cold. But the sun is shining. I think we will have a nice day. No talk about snow coming. So far as standing the cold, here it will be a matter of the sun shining. By the time he can get there snow the winter will be most past. But I must not insist whatever you do I think it will be perfectly right with one, I will not think the least harm if he does not come. In fact, if this reaches you before he starts I believe I will stop to you and send him. If they get a chance to come
This winter as I never have been off from my regiment, General Longstreet's
headquarters has sent around an order wanting a list of the companies. Also how many
men that have been off on furloughs who have not been off. It may be they are going
to give us a furlough. I have never been off. If that be the case, I for one
will get to go. Myself and two others of my company are the only three
that have not been off. We have been on hand all this time. Now nearly
19 months. Myself, Jackson & Wood of Summerville are the only. If you do send John H. Must
Come Under age so that I can substitute him in my place.

What you do will be perfectly right.

I must quit. My best respects to you all.
Clothing more, I remain your son
W. C. Ewing

Sister.
A brisk morn on staffords hills arose,
Where marshalled ranks confront in short of foes;
In Rappahannock rises the invading sand,
Advancing war awakes all the land.

Artillery roars—the rolling death shot up,
Brute guns gleam for to-read banners went on high,
The maidened war-horse bounds along the plain,
And shouts arise of Eurus wrath loud plain.

Dr. Robinson it was whose wrongs for vengeance call
Obliterated, his former hat—tho' slain—they fall;
Beard—Longstreet—Warders—dreadfully in their rear
And Johnston's flag Robinson sweeps the air.

The winds disperse—The sun gleams out fierce ere
But battle-clouds and blood before the scene,
Prove in the dust the gray courser lies,
Beside his rider, motionless to rise.

The field is wrong that crimson field of flames—
Expul's, to South—The foe desert with the chamois,
The virtue flies his boldful wings, and dies back,
Conquering to his lands and scantly dies,

Victories fair sisters of the radiant South
Here hand-crowned, come bold weapon for the
Victory for the slain, bright daughters of the sun,
Who cover me. more from battles fought and more.

Georgia cannot the gallant and the brave,
Thy plantations bold stands in the battle-ground
Honor with his deeds and, in death account tell
Hercu great his life, how gloriously he fell!

Observe Caroline Under the fiery brand
The well-beloved Reggy hath bowed his head
Withing death, the mighty man could not control
His lofty mind, nor save his head from death.
Hamilton, Crowding, Dear, Frederick Hayburn
Nov. 10th 1863

James A. Agnew,

Some, etc. to have nothing to do with this writing
I will write you a few lines to inform you that I am
enjoying excellent health. The health of our soldiers here is generally
good. The sick are well and hearty each in good spirits.

Well is quiet here about our times. I don't think the family
will have another effort to fight us at this place. But the
reason is they have somewhat kept affairs. The war is not
over yet. I am afraid 1864 will not delay it. I know Davis may
get a chance to try your plans before it is done.

We are living right as such as eat and bread. Some bacon occasionally
and sugar. I wonder if J. don't come with Montgomery. I was
heated to send one some onions and potatoes. But I left Carl and
John in his care. There is a chance for feathers some time and
I think the chance will still be open. This winter would like to
be with you an awhile. I think it is only chance that I know of
for B. to send you a few more of letters which will make
you more interested. I want you on them to get in a quick
11 from time at School. The thing has been sent to George
F. 11 to know if you are going to School. To F. I said all about it.
Tell me what has become of Willy the more I hear about
someone. I reckon it is because of Harvey the must be FWing about
somewhere. I reckon it is because of Harvey the must be FWing about
somewhere.

I am writing some pants to look every shade
Also, need one shirt.
Hamiltons, Crossing Near Fredericksburg, Va,
Jan 28th 1863

Dear Father & Mother,

This leaves me enjoying excellent health and fine spirits, hoping this may find you all enjoying the same. The health of our camps are generally good, a few cases of pneumonia, & from the small box in camp yet that I have heard of V was vaccinated the other day but I am afraid it is not going to take well. I received a letter yesterday from Uncle John, he said they were all well except Anna; so she was very low with rheumatism and able to move arms & legs, also stated that his was now Frances a gover Pheny that had died, recently, old Mr. Hardwick, Caroline More & Miss Clara The Knight, Samuel Allrich died in Oct, with small pox,
Rec'd a letter from you the other day
would have answered it sooner. But expecting
sent Cullen to go home on furlough was
detained a few days. He goes off just though
think'd it doubtful. I have had a turn and for
the last week to send by him. Concluded this morn-
ing not to wait any longer on such uncertainty.
if the are go I expect to send a litter someday
if he don't come send such things as you have
found by Frank Henderson. Also if you are going
to send John, then would be a good line.
We have no up a good tent & a chimney, etc.
which makes us comfortable any kind of
weather. Everything keeps quiet along. our lines
the enemy on one side of the River as on the
other. It was reported the other day that the enemy
had up, but it has since proven to be a mistake.
While some let me know what coffee done while down
month. Give me all the news you can.
I remain your son
G.P. Bedinger
Hamlet to Copley near Fredericksburg
Feb 10th 1866

Dear Father & Mother

I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the land of the living. Have been doing for a letter from you for some time but don't get any. I heard the other day that Mr. Montgomery was dead which indeed I was sorry to hear. The health of our camp is quite small, but has not got amongst us very bad yet. But I fear it will be before the army gets the idea of it.

I have no news from any at all. Nothing that would be worth writing. I don't believe I have wrote to you since Lieut. Allen
Corry, June 14th, 186... I am in my room writing to you... I am looking forward to your next letter... Starting, I sent by him one hundred dollars. Let me know if you need it. I find out that Major Jones will not take a substitute under age. So John can't substitute. Major is eager particular. I think we'll tell him as if he knows with me. An uncle. From you can send John to this Reg't if you want to. But I would advise him for his own ease to go to a Cavalry Company. If you have already started him here before you get this, why I will try to get him in any place. But I have moved a camp. Send me all you can by order of Allen. I don't expect a chance to come home until this Insurrection war closes. Which I know it will be done soon. Let me know whether John must stay in this Reg't or if he comes or will I send him back home. I remain your son Wm. Peckney.

Be sure to write soon. Tell Pappa to write.
HAMILTON'S CROSSING, Va.
Feb. the 16th, 1863

Dear Father & Mother,

This leaves me enjoying excellent health & fine spirits. Hoping this may find you enjoying the same blessing, I am very sorry to hear of such distressing times in the country, as you have heard of late. Lord Chich arrived here yesterday evening. Boys were all glad to see him. I have not seen him yet but have received the letter pantos & coats you sent me. My boots fit fine, have but one objection. That is the legs are too long. I wonder how it was that you got so much leather. Did not think leather was so plentiful in Ohio.
You need not bother about sending any more clothes in the near future. I have plenty to do here for some time. I only need a hat to be rigged off right. Send one by Allen if you can.

I wrote you a letter yesterday giving you all the news I had. A. S. Tanner is writing to his mother. I will send this with him.

I suppose Frank Henderson has told some very bad tales on the boys. You need not be surprised to hear of Frank's being rode on 2 rails when he returns to camp. He has told things from what I can hear. That is not to add one word of it. Toler the biggest kind of stories on Tamar Knop also on several more of the boys. I expect he has told some on you. Let me know what he did tell on you.
I get these books well & hearty. He has just come to our tent. He tells me that he understood I was barefooted. Well the fact of the matter is my boots was very worn out. But I have never been barefooted but once since I have been in the army. And that was when we were in Maryland. The reason of that was, somebody stole my shoes one night. But I bought another pair very soon.

So I will close.

I remain your son,

Wm. B. Spring

The Lord, says you are talking of sending John about the first of March. Well, if you can't get him in at home or a cavalry company, I expect this will be the best place for him. But I rather he would go in a cavalry company if possible, very.
George Agnew

Mrs. Knop will please forward to oblig[e] Mr. [illegible]

Wm. [illegible]
Camp near Richmond

March 1st, 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

I received a letter from you a few days since, and would have answered it immediately, but the weather has been so bad I have been moving about so I have not had a chance to write. In fact I have nothing new or interesting to write. Weather is very bad and times hard. We left Fredericksburg on the 17th of Feb. Was 8 days on the road. The ground was covered with snow all the time. We saw hard times. Certain I have caught the worst cold I have had since I have been in the war. My lungs seem to be loaded with it.

The boots you sent by that are not worth one copper. They are already coming to pieces. My feet are cold as well as the rest of me. Perhaps I was not smart enough to let somebody see anything from him that you sent. I seem to think you ought send the anything. To earn a Decoration you had been quite trying, and as far as I know I seem chance I can't get sick enough to get one and I know it is only in the way. I am too busy to do any. My bowoes are better now than they have been for several week.

We are near Richmond waiting orders to be sent whenever we are needed. The letter where I will be sent to depends entirely upon the movements of the Enemy. Wish they would send us to Charleston or Savannah.

I don't care much where but not Frederickburg any more.
Tell Mr. Selden, I received his letter the other day, I will answer it soon as I can. Don't feel like writing much to day. If you have not started John when you get this, don't start him for a month or so as it is very bad weather here at present. Give my respects to all Inquiring friends. Accept the same for yourselves. I remain your son, Wm. Prentiss.

P.S. Tell Mrs. Montgomery I am as thankful to her for the hat as though I had received it. These are worth from $15.00 to $20.00 in Richmond. Have also the fortune that you sent me.

Mrs. P. Prentiss.
Camp near, Richmond, March 17, 1863

Will Angria,

As I have nothing to do this morning I propose to answer your letter which I received some time ago. I have no news at all to write, things are moving on in camp after the same old style. Boys are enjoying very good health. As for myself I feel somewhat poorly but I am enjoying very good health, except a cough which justed me a little caused from cold caught on the march from Fredericksburg. That was the hardest trip I have witnessed since I have served, and I expect we will have to go back to Fredericksburg before long. I hope it is not so. I had rather go almost anywhere else than to make that trip back again. We have had a great deal of rain lately, which makes this rather disagreeable situation. Hope this will soon close so that I may cleanse myself of this Virginia Mud but I am afraid it will hold me long enough to bring you and Davis both in before it closes. I am the only Agnew in service that I know of. That is of our regiment. I think I suppose will by his place now. Bill John he must stand up to it like a man. And when the goons get after him. Not to run and holler where is the home. Would like to be in a cavalry company with him but there is no chance to be transferred from one army to another. You wanted to know what I was doing up to date of Wright Williams and what I was doing anything particular about. I have every hope correspondence with him and the reason why I am not up to date but I must close.
Write as soon as you get this & give me the news you can. Tell Pappa to write & let him know if he can't come to see you this spring. When he comes bring some good old ham of Bacon the might make something while we were.

But I will close. My best respects to you all.

I remain your father

Mrs. C. Agnew

So. C. Agnew

Pappa I think you ought to plant a large crop of corn this year & be careful of this year. The harvest continued the prospect at present is good for it to last two more years & you are going to plan.

Also this sugar cane I think is a good thing. To plant Mulattoes is worth at Richmond $10 per gallon. Cabbage $3. Sugar $1. But the main thing is plenty of wheat & corn. If you have plenty of that then there is a prospect for Bacon which will be worth one dollar per pound before next Christmas. It is selling now at Richmond for $1.25. Per Mr. Burch Joban worth $1.6. Chickens against $1. Butter & eggs at 10c each.
Savory Camp near Sulpher C.H.
March 26, 1863

Dear Mr.

I read my self this evening to reply to your letter which came to hand in blue time and which I was very glad to see from you. I beg that you will excuse me for not writing sooner as on the next morning we had to go down to the battle field.

Dear Mr., on the 17 of the present month the Yankees came a crop. The Rappahannock at Kelly's ford which we had picketed down there. They broke them in a check for some time but at last they came too many and our men out of these rifle pits as soon as the smoke came we were ordered to saddle up and we rushed down there and met them. I suppose a limit two miles this side of the river and with the fight commence. The first reg. charge them through. They were regular and had to fall back though I can't begin to state the fight like it was. So I shan't attempt to though we lost about many men killed and wounded. Our Capt. George Smith was wounded very bad with me here to day that he died last night about 10 o'clock. James Horn was shot and killed things he was not hurt himself and with I am thankful to say that I come out my self safe and all the rest of the boys except Smith and Wm. Wood got here by this house falling with him. Will with Bollie as soon
Shall of needless but I think that you are under a mistake about this here being my letter for I have got any though from what I heard I expect that you are 80 kind to be married you must and for get one if I am so fare off perhaps I could get aboutings. Miss Mollie I wish that this war would come to a close and let all of the soldiers go home I think if I could see peace once more that I could enjoy any self better than I ever did in my life well as it is now time for me to go out I must close so this leaves myself and James quite well and hope that those few kinds may fine you enjoy the pleasures of this world so one more this time. Good bye
So I remain your friend

[signature]

James is writing home now,
Miss Mollie you must write to the room and give me all the news.
CAMP. Near Richmond,
March 27th 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

I take this opportunity this morning to write you a few lines that you may know that I am alive on the land of the living and enjoying good health. I would have written sooner, but expecting to get one from you every day caused me to put it off this long. And it seems that you are going to write to me wire and send a few lines, I have nothing fresh or interes-
ting to write. Only we have had another large snow since I last wrote to you and luckily for us we were in it all as usual on the 18th about 14 hours before daylight we were rousted in order to be ready to march at daylight and not knowing where we were going to, was in hopes it would be to Charleston but not to take pcraft D.
So we are yet in our comfortable
quarters below Richmond, but don't
know what moment will leave
We hear good news this morning from
Vicksburg our batteries sinking one
of the enemy's gun-boats & disabling
another wish we could sink 2
Disable the last one they have got.
I think the Yankee infantry lying
Charleston soon & I am afraid
when they do attempt it they will be
successful. If we should force Charleston
Vicksburg it will be bad on us certain.
Wells I don't suppose there is any chance
now for any more furloughs to the men
Genl Scott Peters is sending a good
many back Disapproved. I started one
day before yesterday & when I went to
Major Jones, he took it & tossed it in
the fire. I never said anything all right
Cribbaly he might & make out his to a
private before this war closes. He had signed
tome for the Company I suppose. He said
About sunrise we started towards Richmond, everyone thinking we were going there to take the Caro. But before getting to town General Hood made the boys a speech, telling them that a fight was going on at Fredericksburg. When we were going there it had to make a hard March. All the boys did not like to hear, yet they give the boys a few cheers. So on we moved that day about 20 miles. General Hood receiving orders to halt. There we stayed all night. Next evening received word to return to our old camp. And just about this time commenced snowing. Snowed all night & next day. Edited some 15 inches deep. Poor boys, you must guess we had a raw time.

The fight at Fredericksburg was nothing more than a Cavalry clash. Like all others of that kind born over with it. I'm liable to get up an excitement. What's about all this are good for.
Co (18) had all better send up for furlough.
There has been no order how many should go.
Gen Anderson said he would sign all that would come to him until they got further orders.
There has been a great many furloughs issued lately. Some going I suppose.
All my judges back if I ever have the chance and now of course I think I ought to ask him again to sign anything for me if worthy of same otherwise.
He can't be an officer always. But am not.
Just give my respects to all enquiring friends. Accept the same yourself.
I remain your son.

[Signature]

P.S. Nothing about this. Keep your peace for a furlough. Disappointed most Anderson & the last line of song is it came back last night.
I have some powder ready to send you but the first opportunity for my part I am sure to get a carriage home. So that I could get out of this trap I would certainly.
Camp near Petersburg

April 6th, 1863

Dear Father and Brother,

I long looked for your letter. Came to hand yesterday dated March 23rd. I was truly glad to hear from you. I thank God that you were all well. As for myself, I can't say that I am as well as I was some time ago. Yet I don't think I have a right to complain. My bowels have been more or less deranged for the last few days. If I had or could keep laudanum and medicine all the time I might have help. But I think it useless to buy laudanum as I could keep it all the time. I have been afraid this has run on until it has been a chronic disease. I am afraid nothing will do much good. I have a good appetite and can eat anything. If you have any chance this spring send me some ham and butter. Most crave all the time. Ham is worth here 1.25 per lb. Butter 3 in 34 lb. Money is almost as scarce as ever. Tell Eliza to come out...
This spring I bring some things of the pane. I know his chance is good now. But probably the may strike an opportunity after awhile. I hear that looking for the home now. As furloughs have played out. Until there are some more fighting done. We have commenced the camps already. And expect to continue it until winter again. We are now 3 miles below waterbury. Very comfortably situated, but don't expect to remain so long. We are liable to be jumped up at any moment. Had to march yesterday. But it was contermanded. I expect the next time you hear from me will be down near the water. Near suffolk. in or carolina. I received a letter yesterday from cony. Roberts. He is well but like myself can't get a furlough. He says he is expecting a substitute to come. I receive him. I think he is tired of the war as well as some others I know of. and as for a substitute for myself I don't know. Moreover, I don't think I could be satisfied at home. I have concluded to stay here.
as long as I can be of any service to the army and when I get to I cant do any good. Then I think the authorities will send me home. Am I right or am I wrong in this conclusion. If you can get a substitute for John do so. I would be glad to hear of you getting one for him. He is young and knows nothing about the ways of the world. If he does go to the front it will be the best schooling he ever got in his life. I think I have done a good part by John in advising him to go to a cavalry. By all means your infantry is going to smell the feathers this summer. Certain to be on the March or in the field of action. My brother, this summer's campaign will be the hottest to ever known, and if wheat & corn crops should fail with us, we are lost lost forever. We are in a whispering station certain. Get all your rations are growing thinner. We are on dry horses get a little more than half rations. But let us be content. I thank our maker. These things are as well with us as what they are great many poor people are now on the point of starvation.
The women around and in Richmond made a charge on the speculators of Richmond taking Irish things as their need led to sustain life. They charged with clubs cracking men on the head as going where they pleased, but I must close.

I have just received a letter from Cousin Brig while you are all well the days Uncle Brack was gone. I say he is the Man for these times. We have no time for gall and Prom. So I will close. Give my respects to the family Sally with the rest.

I Remain as ever your son,

Wm. G. Fitzgerald

I will send the Stamps if I can get them at Petersburg. I sent for them this morning.

Tell John to write to me when he goes off to them. Yours, as Morris both says.

Hannah the older, Lucinda, Virginia.
Camp near Cairo
April 27th 1863

Dear Father & Mother,

I have just landed in camp from a trip north to Carthage on a foraging expedition. We have been about eight days. I went along with a train of wagons that was sent out from our brigade to buy corn & bacon. I found that I was able to buy some potatoes & eggs. But found both to be scarce articles.

Also, I thought it might help by boning to change my way of eating. But I find that corn bread & whale is the worst thing I can eat. I was sick nearly all the trip. The people generally were very kind to me. I gave me anything that I asked for & charged me 20 cents. I am afraid I will not be able to stand this summer's campaign. I would like to have another bottle of medicine. If you have a chance send me 20 cents.
also a bottle of good red wine. I don't care what it costs. Keep an account of it and I will pay for it. I would give 10 for a bottle of wine at this time. This is a very low woe ping woods country. If we stay here this summer I am thinking it will be deadly. Though I don't think we will stay here long. I have one idea General Longstreet intends taking or trying to take Suffolk. The Yankees have got too strong & hot on the place. I think the notion for coming here was only for a point, merely to draw the enemy from some other point. So that our troops under Dix or Jackson might do something. Also there was some corn & bacon in this region of country which we missed. The only way to get it was to come with a tolerably strong force. So we are living high. There was corn & bacon which is very small but there. When we first came here bacon could be bought at 25 per lb. Now it is worth 50. Corn $3 per bushel. Now worth $9/20.
Things soon take a rise where Rebels go. When they want anything they will buy it—nothing else will do. But I suppose the policy of the Yankees is to lie low this summer. They fight any but finish us out. But I am thinking they can be very far from doing that if they only be blessed with good crops this year. But if we fail to make good crops I am thinking the joke will be on us with us.

But I have just for the present. When I came from there I found a letter from you dated the 8th. This is the second letter I have wrote to you since I came to this poor country. When I need any clothes I will let you know. I will need some good Western clothes most winter while snow I will give you all the news you can send me. The first letter you get from John Dunning.

Your C. Son

Mrs. G. Ayres
April 28th

It is raining this morning. I hope we might have a nice fall. Anyway, I wish you would write to Mr. and Mrs. Hendler and see if there is anyone in his company that wants to be transferred to the Indian company. If there is, maybe we can get up a package that would suit. I want to change the climate, I don't know that much. I always have made one thing I don't think we can only get one. I don't know all about it as soon as you can. I am having an easy time here. But they are now.

No letter has been in my condition. I have rather been less than any other. Do I, and only have good weather. This time you write let me know John Niel's address and I will write to him.

Mother, when you write let me know something about father. I hardly ever heard from her. Tell her I want to know if she is coming to visit old mother. Tell her to give me one of the letters.

To the time this closes, I know stupid would want something to work the place. If I don't get a good deal. Wonder where I am at present.

I don't expect to write again. I am glad to hear that they are going to move. I wish they could find good schools for the time being. They would have a good education. But I must close. Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I accept the same. I remain your son

[Signature]
May 1863

chickamauga tennessee

dear father and mother brother and sister take up pen to let you
know that i will write a letter from you did a man. it
was glad to receive to hear news
of all except bolt your is works

knew to hear me was sick

i went around to bing the I saw
you with gilling of horses

as common tomorrow to you let me
know if it given you to come home

i herd they was fighting at

vicksburg the Yankees repulsed Ten

times but there driving back

with great loss I expect the

morning will cut it came home

at what harvest it is raining

rain for the first time in three

week what looks together well

in tennessee direct your next

letter in the care of clint conster col
there is so great want of our men wanting furloughs at harvest. Last fall you said you was done plowing corn the first time to twice more and come up. Now I must close write and give you all the news nothing at present but remains your son until then.

I am yours

Jr. Aynew
Tennessee May 3rd 1863

dear father and mother brother and sister I take up my pen to let you know that I am well at home I have been moving about is the reason I did not write sooner first burnt bridge below chickamagga i heard the yankees have burnt cedar bluff me and my boy and font is in a mess to gather I like this place very well if papa comes in a moth send a pair of cotton pants. There is no chance for a fellow getting home bags no how write soon and let me know how you are getting along with the crops direct your letter chickamagga tennasa write in your next letter Where william is so I can write him a letter I have nothing more to write but remain your son until death I Agnew
July 14th 1862

camp fortes etouch go
dear mother, I take opportunity to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well, hoping this few lines will find you all enjoying the same blessing. I must recall you a letter about one hour ago I saw kind, Smith last Sunday, he saw Lena last night. I going home I am getting along very well I saw good yesterday, he was walking about I will send this by mister Stat. miss
hood sends her love to you
we are camp write at high tone
bridge mother when you come
bring George we have enough
to eat and not to much
drilling. I will look for
you in a week or to write
soon and let me no how you
all are getting along with
the crops. From of Otney

to Jane Otney.
July 12, 1863

camp foster, stowah
dear father and mother
brother and sister i the
opportunity to drop you
a few lines that i am
well i received your
letter dated July 7 was
glad to hear you were
all well i expect we
will know her before
long will go back to
the bridges 1st army
is at chattanooga morgan
started home last friday
i did not know nothing
about it till he was
gone it rains here mighty
every day the yankees
have vicksburg and are
fighting jackson mississippi
and charleston i wish
i could get to come home
but there is no chance
you and mother must come and george we have good water and i think we are at a healthy place i will write in a day or two and let you know whether we move or not i have got more clothes than i want i would like to send my uniform home or sell it nothing more at present still remain your son until death

john s grieve

margaret let me know where john at jesse were when your letter was sent and what day it was sent to they say tommy and tom harris are both killed your mother come over soon
Camp Foster, July 19

Dear father and mother.

Brother and sister, I take the opportunity to drop you a few lines. I am well, I have nothing new to report. It is hot. Times now. They say there are fighting at Savannah. Some talk talk of us going there we hear that brig has moved some of his wagon to some. It looks like the Yankees are pushing the pote now. I was at preaching today at Cartersville. Comes soon we may not have here for some time if we do move you can come anytime if mother can't.
general in question
they want some big thing ever
Sunday Jesse is well
I would like to come home and there is no
chance send me a few peaches by end morgan
if you have any and if you get this before
he starts write soon no more at present but
still remain son until
death I F of new
Camp 1st Co Ca Cavalry
Near Fredericksburg, Va.
Jan 19th, 1863.

My dear Mamma,

I find by close observation that you are with only one exception a most excellent correspondent in fact you are I believe the best one I have and if you will only cure that exception you will be as good as one as I could wish and that exception is your letters are too short. Whereas I have a correspondent I always in writing endeavor to engage their attention in reading at least five minutes. Now are you well enough pleased with our correspondence to continue it and occupy a little more time in answering. I always look very anxiously for your letters your last was received in a most opportune time as I was suffering with the Headache & Blues. But your letter dispelled the latter and ended greatly to alleviate the former. You always say that your letters are uninteresting, you make too many positive assertions. How do you know they are uninteresting? Have you any right to judge? I will tell you as I do some farmers when I ask them about thrage it will be the judge suffice it to say I will always take very great pleasure in answering them.

Tell Miss Butler ever since I received your letter I have been looking over my circle of acquaintances to find you a West Point and I have found it a very hard task. I think you deserve a most excellent one and I cannot find one you observe that this is Leap year and you ought be more
observant of it for you will not have a chance for four or five long years again so I will tell you the situation I have made for you is the best I can do it is myself so "catch me now and do your fastest I will be pretty hard to catch. There are your young ladies up at camp to see me every day, Col. Black says that he is almost nigh to order them out of camp and there are three in South Carolina. Counting my whole family for one, you see I tell you all the disadvantages you will have to endeavor with and it will be your own fault I dont don't succeed. Why I had almost forgotten that you also had one for me let me know who she is so that I can approche her of the fact and give her a fair chance. All the young ladies that are waiting for my heart are exceedingly pretty. I will admit none other. How I have been very communicative I think you might return allow me to know some of those thoughts that so closely concerns myself. I am a most excellent confidante. I know when I can have the pleasure of a visit to Appomattox but I will certainly come Which is the nearest depot. You must excuse this paper there is not a sheet in the department and I haven't one. Rindy remember me to your sweet excellent parents and miss Allen and while distributing my regards reserve and accept a very great portion for your self. write soon and observe my above injunctions.

Very Respectfully

Your Friend

Monroe Wetherum
A. A. Office / St. Lo. Co. Carr
Pineapple Island
July 19th, 1874.

My dear Miss Mollie,

You are no doubt very much surprised to see that we are in this glorious old state, but it is nevertheless true we left Virginia on the 18th March some with feelings of pleasure and others with feelings inexplicable while others a very few left the old state in which they had fought and bled for their Confederacy with feelings near akin to sorrow and I among that latter few. You may ask why, but before I answer let me assure you that I deeply and sincerely sympathize with you in your great affliction, such poisons as you speak of it has never been my lot to experience and I sincerely hope that I may be spared that affliction with due difference to the great sorrow that is weighing in your bosom.

I pass on to the first subject of my communication. On the 14th of March we received orders to report.
to Genl. Beauregard at Charleston as soon as practicable it was my bad fate to be compelled to come on the Erie while many others came through with the stores. I should have liked to have come very much, for I should have come to see you, but everything always works wrong with me. We encamped in Columbia S.C. about six weeks. The inhabitants especially the ladies were very attentive to our every want. Many parties and dinners were given to us and we had in the abstract a good time, but to your question. My sorrow at leaving Virginia. Do you not recollect I said you when I had the pleasure of being at your House, that I wished to find a home in Virginia. That I did not wish that heart to return to South Carolina without feeling the Pincers of Cupids Dart, nor has it done so and that has cause the sorrow that I felt at leaving for I did not then think that I would ever see or even hear of the one that had by her goodness and beauty had charmed my thoughts to her but how mistaken I was. Do you wish to know who that young lady is? So, you have no curiosity to know but need I tell you, have you never seen an indication of my love, Have you never seen by vague hints that you were the one that first
inspired the feeling of admiration in my bosom which afterward ripened into a pure love. And that love was only repaid by an affection of friendship. It is true I never made an open confession but by my hints I ascertained that you only felt for me an affection of friendship. I ought not now to tell you of this love I bear you but I think it due you for the unceremonious manner in which I broke off our correspondence after leaving Virginia. I never expected to hear from you again and now when I have no idea of ever again seeing you in my last letter I must tell you of my feelings towards you. You will not be tired with me but forgive me for loving you. Will you not? If you can condone so unite to me let me hear from you often. I hope you will excuse me for introducing this subject to you at this time but I could not write to you without doing it. And now let me bid you farewell. May your footsteps be guided through a Path of Flowers by the Hand of God, and may he watch over and bless you evermore.

W. Thomas Stedman
James Island
Charleston S.C.
Miss Nodlee

No. 1 August 10th 1864

Your last letter came safe to hand but I have not had the pleasure of writing to you before now. I record you heard that I have had the Fever. I had it very bad. I was out of my head for nearly two weeks. I did not know any was going on but I am improving very fast. I hope I will get a furlough next week and come home. I am getting home sick. I was very sorry to hear the death of you brother. How is dear I understand that several deaths have occurred in your neighborhood lately. Diarrhoea is the principal disease in the hospital now. Jacob tells me that the contracted meeting will commence at New Hope next Sabbath. I should like very much to attend if I understand that there will be none at Liberty but I hope to return if I come yet home. We are very dry here. I write this short letter to a close as I suppose excuse mistakes & omissions.

Yours truly, John D. Ferris

Good Bye.