Alfred Ryder
Jan. - June
1862
To day begins the new year and a pleasant, indeed
I watched the coming of the new year last night on
圮Ter and also watched
the coming of the rebels.
We have been on the march
for the last 4 days as my
night showers forced having
been in these parts. One
of our men was shot last
night while on picket—I
was shot at but a few days or
nights ago while on the same
post—but they could not com
It is a kind of anomaly with me, well on which I remember very well. They will last a long time. Who can tell what the end of this year will bring. It doesn't look very prosperous and to me just I hope for the best. Here I well as in Curry, but I haven't seen him yet. You think that he will get his discharge soon getting his discharge. Why don't he do
Jan 16th 1862

If he ever think the life as I am doing there do count he wouldn't like driving home in the army I know, it requires too much patience for him. But I trust that he is in good hands among good friends. I am well and doing well and I hope Elmer can everything I am glad to receive frequent letters from home. I tell you Yours with a

A B Eyde
Dear Friends,

Yesterday afternoon at 3.00 o'clock we were put under orders from Gen. Burt to prepare for a march at instant warning. As soon as we could learn there was an unoccupied battery near the Hills Ferry about 15 miles distant immediately all was expectation sure but what sharpening up, then makes this point to practice with their muskets. Three days rations were cooked and packed in our haversacks three feet of water dusted on our saddles. Our quintals were drawn up all ready and lashed to the saddles also. Our mules were also loaded with dust. But still there lingered on till night and yet no order to move. Some had even their horses saddled. All was expectation till noon a clock when the "rpcs" sounded and we were ordered alone to 2:30 to 3:00 a.m. and to keep in perfect readiness in case we should be called. Some had a sleepless night but as soon as we slept round enough till morning and we were all all ready. The cavalry went in their order and got their guns performed to inspect them. They considered themselves safe. Our advance guard was sent out but has come back this morning so I guess it's all smoke. The wind is two or three makes day, and it's just cold. I'm well. Yours Truly D: B. Henry.
Dear Brother,

Your letter was very welcome received to-day, you forgot to put the date on so I hardly know where to direct my letter. For your furlough may be consumed and you be back to Detroit. You ask whether I have received any letter lately from you or not, I have not, but I wrote one to you a few days ago, that's not accounted for.
I'm glad that you are satisfied with what you have already experienced in soldiering. You will be likely to think better of it when you get somewhat older in the business. At least I would give your son time to get home when I was in Detroit than any time since. But I can tell you that there are plenty of home sick boys here. Billy Evans has gone home and probably quite agreeable to himself. We have been reconstruing things here for a day or two. We have been marking a big hut, the built it up about three feet high, then covered it with our tents, two tents together. We shall go by the morning by mouth longs. There are
nine of us together. Our
enjoy ourselves just will
always be full of some
kind of news. While
I wrote all is hurried
and confusing but I'm so
sure it is that I don't trouble
me in the least.

Your letter was first
only being full of news
I don't believe you will hear
Detroit as quick as you
believe. Enjoy yourself
while you can.

Yours forever,

J.C. Ryder

Gen. Banks' division
Frederick Md.

What's the name of your Capt.
Cam, Broadhead
13th Jan. 62

Dear Friends,

Two months ago tonight was my first night of soldiering from home. And how well I remember that night and no compliments to it either, with all I fall rather taken in that I conquered all such feeling since. The question now is how many more months will find us in camp. The general opinion is that we shall be back less than a year any way and if we is dictated with England if we could not...
go back I think surely that there would be a mutiny in my Michigan regiment. There is a good chance of it almost being most all the time. We came near going to the fight the other day at Hancock. If the rebels had not retreated after burning the bridge and destroying the telegraph the whole division would soon have been after them. I think now we will have some fun fighting is fun long before spring. Surely if it ever to be done it should be done before this. I got a letter from him that very day and wrote him in reply. He writes a post note letter. I hardly think that they will
January 14, 1862 - p. 2

was to call in of ordaining dons rain in demand. It takes a long while to learn the basic drill. And a long while to learn the sword exercise without paying any thing about the months that it will take to do the horse.

There is some snow on the ground now with the cool, pleasant weather.
Dear Friends,

Five months ago we dug our stove in Camp fries. But it don't seem so long as that. It don't do much of anything now, but the cavalry is very busy in building stables for the horses. They are cutting down the limbs in every direction. The men that own the woods said that he would not have taken any offer for what has already been done.
This land is very cheap. I was commonly surprised when they told
that land was worth only
from 15 to 20 Dollars an
acre. Here and there on
almost the very borders of
Maryland. I've been all
over the country round about
and had very considerable
chance to view it, with the
people. I kept to myself,
sometimes in silence when I
hear the people talk.

They say "right smart news".

right smart chunk of a hunk
etc. besides all sorts of oddities.
They are good natured
but very ignorant. The
common people seldom
knowing even the rudiments
of an education. Our
Boys in crude cheat
Them out of their very teeth. They consider Michigan men regular figures.

It's the greatest bother in the world how to get postage stamps. We can't get to the city and they don't keep any to sell here. I want you to send me a dollars worth just inside of thick paper and let them come. The boy send to say for a lot also.

We enjoy ourselves in our letters. If the mail come every one is anxious to receive his share. Our letters have got 15 in one day. And I always sign my name.

All is well. Yours forever,

A. G. Ryder

No letter from home in quite a time.
since I wrote the above we have each of us drawn a large indiarubber cord out which will inverteable be of immense service to us very often when in a marsh or we can use it for to keep the damp out ground from affecting us.

C.E.B.
Dear Mother,

I received your letter two or three days ago—and gladly too. That being the only letter I've received from home in a long time. And glad was I to hear that you were all well—You had no idea how to value good health in Chick. O. wrote me this day and I'll tell you how some of our fellows have been and suffer for the want of it. But still do generally healthy in our Camp, though the Maryland boys in that way.
across the street are said to be infected with a very mortal disease. In fact,
I hear the drum, but mournful airs to the memory of some
poor fellow near every day.

It's called the black spot.

You write about my being
dismissed on account of
disfigurement; Gracious heavens!
I haven't heard of such a
thing before. Stand as firm
as I am in all my belief
of them. I have been for
now I can hear considerable
from my right ear which has
been perfectly deaf. I shall
come out all right. I think
by the end. I hear that
Young is at home sick with
measles. It's hard to be sick
But he will find that it is just
terrible to be sick at home there.
January 24, 1812 - p2

...for many. It is unjust to think that we can exist in the

promised rest and enjoy it. A soldier's life is a life of expectation.

I mean not listing in money to

whom I have written to Charles

and Elizabeth - also to Mrs. and

Angelina Shutt. I shall

never write again till they

write. I'll write as soon as

an opportunity offers to the one

you requested.

It has been very bad within here

of late, continually raining or

snowing. The snow melting as

just as it comes down in the

mountains where presently it

all remains. You remember how

you like the blue mountains on the map

eye can see - but are now all

white - with snow again you need not be troubled

about my not reading it. I'll build

with my

Wash. Yr. S. B.
Camp Brothend
30th Jan. 42

Dear Friends,

The day being cool and rainy and having nothing to do I thought I would write a few lines, although I've received no letter in a long time. This is a beautiful country for travel. The soil
mossing up for full six inches in depth. If it wasn't for the government roads it would be impossible to get away.

I suppose in the dry I endured the earliest when you the poor infantry folk had weather
new duty in the main.

I hope you all get along well.

date
one that used to belong to

Mr. Funk's body guard.
The fellow that owned him

got nearly killed by a kick from

another horse and the horse

coming back to the regiment I

got possession of him. He

traveled home that I had a time

since I gave up to the fellow

on his return and I sold a

good bargain for and yet

the smallest looking fellow in

the Co. some say that we will

have to go home or enlist in the

infantry. I can't tell what

I should do for I should rather

to go in the infantry but the

wast of durability. Bills

of 5 and 10 dollars are pretty

good and better that we go

home on three weeks. But I

think yet our chance is good

for quite a lengthy stay.
January 30, 1862 - p2

I hear that they have burned the enemy into an artilleryman. But I doubt -

We are joined again a few days ago 25 dollars. I have lent 10 to Walter Fisk. He ran to the Mississippi and was driven by Wills. He goes on one -

The men that we moved in - I carry - being a man -

...and our former friend John Anger

Waterman, Jellicle son of Jemima

...and a fellow by the name of Harry

...and made their lives in one. And it goes by the name of Elmwood altogether -

...and being called Elmwood boy. Your's truly

A. J. Ryder
Dear Friends

[Handwritten text not legible due to quality of the image]
Some say that we go to escort prisoners to a place of safe keeping. And some of the act as scouts in reconnoitering the country and guarding the telegraph wires. But no one knows. I can tell you that if that is ever any enterprise in demand our company will be the one to strike. The captain is a different man just fit for any undertaking.

I have received your kind letter of the 26th with all stamps and all. I'm glad that the men are distanced. Young comes out all night. He would have found soldiering in Maryland somewhat different from
in Detroit.
Rogers Town is 38 miles away. We are ordered to be in readiness to march barelegged toage tomorrow morning. It will be hard for the horses being so extremely muddy, but heavens, how different - for the men from going on foot -

How true is that old maxim which affirms "Then knowest thou what a day may bring forth."

Yours Forever, A. E. Ryder
Hagerstown
Feb. 4th 1862

Dear Friends

I have marked as I write on Sunday morning last and arrived in this town about 9 o'clock in the evening. And I can tell you we were all glad to hear the word "disarmament." We are now quartered in the four ground buildings. Our duty consists in guarding the telegraph line from Frederick to Fair View, a distance of nearly 40 miles. The telegraph line has been so frequently cut in this part that it's considered necessary to have a guard. Also the secret has a manner of throwing an apparatus...
Feb. 4, 1862 - p2

They fled with us, as good speed as possible. One of the citizens told me that many of the farmers, here about, got away this very day for a flight on the mountains. Among them was a man having his horse up and harness. The only 6 miles to the Pencilwaukee line.

I moved all day yesterday making comfortable sleighing to-day. This is a hard mountainous section of country. I bade good sleighing on the mountains for a long time.

All the boys are well. Hoping this may reach you all the same. I remain

Yours Forever,

A. G. Ryder

Trust all letters as usual.
Dear Friends,

Although I feel somewhat tired and sleepy today, I thought I would write you a few lines if I do have nothing but a pencil in mind. I’m well with the exception of a cold and the usual morbidness. I left out at 9 o’clock last night and rode till 3 this morning, riding near 30 miles up hills and mountains. It seemed as though I only went down hill to go up one still higher, riding to one of the highest peaks of the Cumberland Mountains. It is called Belmont for the county can be seen from many miles around, but it was midnight when I was there so I could not see much.

I can tell you that it is a fellows-ness, thinking when traveling over these strange roads, in the night with nothing to amuse or arrest one’s attention but the clatter of the horses and the jingle of the sleigh. After today we go clear to Hanover which our coach will run over 320 miles. The boys are all well. Yours sincerely,

A. B. Ayden
Hanover
Feb 17 1862

Dear Friends

Today finds me as you see in Hanover. Our turn being as hinted from Fanmore to this place 6 miles further. I started from Hanover at 10 a.m. and arrived here just past 12. I am sure all there is to see and with nothing to do I feel uneasy. As I thought I would write you a few lines for direction. This is rather of a busy bustling place at present. The citizens here all as usual to the sole occupation of soldiers. Soldiers soldiers...
in every State army and dwelling, all soldiers, civilians and rebel, and all round.
I can look about the room
and in where the swast and
their guns planted to blow up
the city. I don't look but a little
way. The men only being
sincerely about 70 and which
I was expected to though it can
be easily faked. I thought
the general opinion, that will be
shelled. But so long as an agent-
To the burning of Hermitage Town
and I believe it would be had
through a successful battle.
They have great advantage
over us on position—having
high mountains to shut from
wheresoever pushing a town
in companionly. Most
of the soldiers came from
Connecticut. Though south.
are many. Permission
Grant Williams to my command
here his office being is an
adjournment upon from when
I think I go back to
main
command.

I have new
uniforms and they are
insubstantial warm too. For
this reason Bill will
Yours truly,
N.C. Ryder

1916

I'm back to
camp and a man kinds
fellow you never seen
into that's nothing for
I'll get over that
with some.

P.S. R
Nagerstown
Feb 11th 62

Dear Friends,

I received your kind letter yesterday, and was glad indeed to hear from you. True, we are marching toward home slowly. But although we find plenty of fresh in this part of the country, nearly all of these little towns you know I flushed the rebel flag with the military among them. Frederick, for instance, was intended as the rebel capital of the State. We have been having quite interesting times the moving with a recluse prisoner. He was driven out and rather than to be captured as a prisoner,
by our scouts gave himself up as a deserter arrested from Williamsport. He was brought down here for safe keeping last night and this morning was sent on to Gen. Burnes head quarters. He was a fine looking man mounted on a good horse with poor clothes and equipments and a smart talker.

And now if he can authenticate his pretensions before Gen. Burnes he will be all right.

He said that he was at Falls Bluff and that there were 70,000 secret soldiers at Winchester and that we would have a hard fight there. In fact half of the people in this part are secret soldiers. As truly the home rebels are trekking down to them that they dont deserve to
We enjoy ourselves as well as could be expected all being well.

Your love to church twice since we have been here. All of the church and every intelligent person I have met has been kind to hear that the grudges are gone and you and again that the Lances are disbanded.

I hope to hear from you again. That this may mean you all again will be soonest with yours Torquay

D. S. Hyde

[Note: A later note reads:] I'll put this in at Frederick for I start for there at 9 o'clock tonight. - D.S.
Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter yesterday. And I can assure you that I was glad to hear from you. You report hard times in the Rangers. Ah! you will know from what few days you served the realities of soldiering. Don't believe because I don't write hardships that they are some here to endure. Ha! heavens! I could tell you stories that would make your eyes tear out, but it would be far worse than useless, so I shall never make the attempt. I'm glad to learn that you are well again, and hope that they will prove the trip for you. The men are like unto them, like it or not.

Well, I'm not writing or news for you know more about the war than we do here. In fact, what we know about it is chiefly we gain from the few papers we receive from Old Michigan.
The boys are all well. Uncle I remain yours in ever to night. If he has put for him as I did coming back from the other day 30 miles to him in hard storm of rain.
Blowing in my face nearly all the way near blowing me off sometime down the sides of the mountains, it being all the time almost like Egyptian darkness. But there is nothing to particular so you needn't write a short letter this time. Pray offer my very best to Miss . I remain Yours sincerely.

J. E. Ryder

[Signature]

C.R. [illegible]
Dear Friends,

Many interesting events have happened since I last wrote you. Monday morning we started from Hagerstown and arrived that afternoon in Frederick. Tuesday we found our regiment 14 miles toward Harper’s Ferry. That night we slept on the ground having pitched our tents. Wednesday we were under marching orders all day but night came and we moved no more. It seemed hard to consider to an adjoining house to rest but we had no more than got fairly in our rest-they orders came for an immediate move. All men up on a hurry and out in the darkness to saddle. The mud was thick and running. We were all in mud and marched in the darkness through deeper mud than you ever saw toward the Ferry near four miles when a comrade came and we were put on the return. We went back to the bivouac place at night by day-light to relieve our nights journey. We arrived at the selected place of Harper’s Ferry and quarreled there for the night. It was a very picturesque town although the people have all left mainly. Houses worth thousands of dollars have not other occupents but rats and spiders. Its original was burnt down by our troops and the earth turned two splendid bridges. Once there were 15,000 people there but they must of fled or a hurry for
great confusion was everywhere manifest, although they had been gone 3 days. We were to send 3
columns toward this place and were ready by daylight
for the same. On coming up to the town we saw nothing
military of any sort so we rushed through on a dead run
burning the opposite side we saw the rebels flying
with the greatest speed they could muster. The three battalions
were divided one going each way. Our battalions
were chasing the 15th. But they were good runners after
chasing them a good many miles out to return, capping and burning with no loss we went 12 hours
and less of their flour and some musketry that the
rebel nattles dropped. On our return the battalions
passed the adjoining hill and marched slowly through the city singing
The Star-Spangled Banner and The old white
and blue. So we have the honors of first
entering to occupying the place. Now there are
a good many thousand soldiers here. The people
here looked at us as though we were barbarous old
morning I saw cry and going women look mad
we are quarreled on a meeting house although
we have been very badly since all the time
I was on guard the first night the very first time toward the recent. All the rest of the points were
drawn in battle. Some of our boys were taken
prisoners. We expect a battle soon. Our peeks
and they is in sight of each other this day. Artillery
are arriving from Washington. We expect the front
But I shall hast to done for I expect to keep up with the company after the bundles of plans the soldiers have not for using.

This place is the one that hung John Brown the prison and court room, and but a few rods from me. I'm well and doing well. I hear that company IEDD lost 14 men in taking a battery of 14 guns with a colt and some little soldiers.

Yours Truly

A. O. Ryder

I've received no letters last and don't know where you will get this or not.
good thread
in public
Fayetteville, Carolina, March 31st, 1862

Dear Friends,

The sun shines out bright to day in a strong and we need it as it is very muddy. We have been out plowing every day since we came here but to day. We have captured near 300 barrels of flour since we came here.

After I finished my letter to you the other day our company went out and took 226 barrels. We found it put away in a close house on the railroad between here and Winchester. We put it on the old cars that were there and pushed it by many forces till out of danger.

I never worked harder in my life. We expected the men would come out the opposite, but they were too much scared when we came in town. There was about 60 soldiers in town when we came but they mistake our guides for black faces and I can tell you what they may have thought.

I'll put a bill of receipt money in I suppose it will pass well there. But if it does I can tell you that they may have hatreds.

Yours forever,

A.C. Byler

Company G 15th Ill. Inf. 63d Division Virginia
Charlestown, Va.
March 24, 1862

Dear My Friends,

Today is a sad day in our Company. One of our best boys is dead of a mortal wound by the hands of his own friends. But I'll explain. Day before yesterday our squadron was detailed to reconnoiter and picket with the enemy near Bull-brooke about 5 miles from this place. We started at sunset and travelling faithfully passed through the enemy's lines a long distance, searching the country round about without any appearance of them in force. We returned to our picket post without any appearance of
danger. We had joined the Union and found Col. Maulbeys Maryland Home Brigade there. It was about 11 O'clock at night when we arrived at his pickets. We were glad to see the boys for we had known them at Camp Broadhund. They sent a messenger on to camp to warn them of our approach. But even then our 2d Regiment was thin and had spoken to them. We passed on supposing all was right. The camp was in full sight and our boys were congratulating themselves with the prospect of warning them by their fire. The men were making by two some had run inside camp, all were but a few rods from it. When, Great Heavens! Volleys of muskets were pouring in upon us. Their camp, justly alarmed with the flush of firing muskets, I saw horses and men falling around me. I
could hear the bullets whistle in every direction, but mostly above our heads. It said to be hard to stand the fire of enemies, but it is much harder to stand the fire of friends.

For our conscience would not allow us, or knowing them to return the fire, but then we were as targets and had to take the cold hand of our own friends. At last, we made them understand that we were with our fellow soldiers of themselves, who they went with true soldier's hearts.

But it was too late, one man had been mortally wounded and knew himself killed. Andrew Whiting of Fort Darder said on till 9 o'clock yesterday P.M. when he was hit and fell dead. We and the Breathed no more.

He attended his funeral this afternoon. It solemnly reminds us of the uncertainty of life. It is satisfying with our eyes close to him when he
fell. All the boys are well. I feel first rate
I shall hope to have you send on some more lumber as
soon that you sent are nearly all gone.

Mr. Alfred G. Regler
1st. Whick saisy
Parenta prissn
Cam wanhill

Dear Olad

[illegible]
Winchester, Virginia
March 16th, 1862

Dear Mother,

I received your kind letter of the first but a day or two since. And I shall attempt this to write you a few lines in reply. I was almost continually at work and so I don't have but little time to myself. I expected a severe fight when we entered this place. The artillery threw shells at them twice before we gained the town. Our Company was the first in. We have a storm with them almost every day. They run three miles yesterday for us. The people here have taken your money and hard times ten, twenty dollars a pound. Cabbage six dollars. Boots was 2.5 dollars a pair. Some things that could be bought by you for 1 dollar
I am to here. The common article, sell them and the people before we come 2.5 dollars a bushel. War is worse than famine.

I hardly can believe that the war will cease as soon as you speak off. Although I can't tell how much as you could think we don't get any news only by what we hear. I almost sometimes think that I should forget how to read it so long since I have read any.

The report is now that we go to Washington very long and from there to Texas. But I can't believe it yet. At least I hope its not so. The weather is sometimes changeable. One day it will be my winter and my day it will be cold. Therefore we have a good many hard colds But it is getting dark and cold and I shall...
draft to quit. I think that I have done plenty well to-day.
I have been out-furrowing grain
and drawn my washing and
enjoyed your letter.
Writ again and give us all
the news for I cannot write as
much as I think. Having no
work or book or figure or
stamps or anything else.
Yours truly,
Thos. Byrden

A.C. Byrden
Cedmon Station, Va-
April 15th 1862

Dear Friends,

It has surely been a long time since I have written but it's no fault of my own for we had not a stamp or no mail chance of getting any. But today I received a letter from Jimmy dated 25th March. It's over a month now that I've had no news from home—no syllable of anything transpiring around you. A long time indeed. Since I wrote the letter to you, at Winchester we have been continually on the go through day time and often by night. The next day I believe after I wrote we were ordered for a march to Centreville. Hard crackers and salt pork all prepared for a
days much we started on our
journey. We crossed the
Shenandoah that day and
joined Abner Doubleday's brigade.
That is our starting Co. 1 st & 2 st
Camping or stopping rather not
for from the river for we
had no time. It rained that
night but that was nothing. Next
day we journeyed on 20 miles
further and stopped the night.
That night and the next day many
we could hear the cannon's thunder.
Fumers were sign of the battle
raging at Winchester. That day
at 5 o'clock we were ordered back.
We went back to the river that
night. The bridge was gone we
couldn't get over. But now we
built a bridge across back. And
then ordered on a return to Cent-
ville. From Centerville we went
to Manassas. We found our
The battle field of Bull's Run
Such desolation and destruct-
ion you never witnessed as exists
there. We repaired our sight at
Washington. But went on to
Garrettson, Station No. 1-day.
Between Carthage and the
Station there are no signs of
a living being—fences all
gone—trees all distressing—
every thing desolated. Log huts—
themselves are scattered in regular
villages all along the road.
We occupied one village while
then, built and previously occupied
the famous Mississippi Tigers.
Very good quarters, too.
The men work and exult that
they have been to in building a
fortifying cannot be imagined
than told. From the Station
we came to traveling city from
there to White Plains from there...
To Middlebury from there to Upper ville from there here. Middlebury is famous for raising the black flag. Our company chased the rebels out of the town before we came here yesterday there were about thirty French soldiers here but they much tractors from there in command of Col. Gray famous in Kansas Col. now of A. C. Wall. Two of his companies are here with us I am well and so are the rest of the boys. We are skirmishing with the rebels nearly every day. Sometimes it's fine and sometimes it is not.

But as the fellows say I don't think there is much danger for if we should get cut off, practically, the secret point that we have that would preserve us to many generations to come. Though our guns might be somewhat disheartened and our teeth knocked out of our jaws and my begin to list.

(Yours sincerely) J. E. Carter
Richmond Station
April 12th, 1862

Dear Brother,

I feel and tonight I

Two of our best men lie dead in the room where I write. Maliciously shot—contrary to all rules of warfare among civilized people. To begin with, we were retiring to the westward of this place, among the mountains, unconscious of the stealthy foe; when the crack of their rifles from their hiding places demanded us, and I looked and beheld two of our number fall from their saddles. Although they were enjoying themselves as well as could be expected now they are much in death. Both from Seville and one a private named Kilbride.
The other a sergeant named Bellforn both brave and gallant men. Four of us were detailed behind in charge of our dead. The last words of the sergeant was "Boys pray for me." As soon as we had placed them in a conveyance for camp, two of us joined the company, and found them choosing the stables but with no possibility of catching them for their hiding places are secret and unknown. So we went on our way three miles farther, in an oblique direction. And coming back nearly the same way we found a farm near to the spot that one of our fellows recognized as the identical shop that killed one of our men. And we had him under guard to night. The cattle was generally our worse enemies than the soldiers.
But enough of that. I now conclude and I'll write you all tomorrow. It's not very pleasant weather, and quite in contrast to what we have been used to having.

I can't tell you that your letter was very welcome—having not heard from Michigan in over a month. I hope that you will write often. It's almost impossible for me to get time to write. I got that letter from your home that I did your letter. I think that it will take longer to tell this war than you imagine.

If we get home within a year, I should be satisfied—in fact, if we ever get them, I shall be dead. I fear it is with you as well as with us. Everyone must take his turn. I think that it would be unnecessary to send writing paper.
or envelopes and as for stamps you must enough for a long time as must privy to your
difficulties. I am rather dry
Write and give the news!

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

[Name]

Director General Bank's Division
Virginia
Dear Mother,

Being somewhat unwell today and having the privilege of pen, ink, and paper, I thought that I would write you a few words that you might know that the same sun that shines upon your books down upon me in health. I was glad to receive a letter from home dated 24th April. Can you esteem the value of a letter here, with us, almost isolated in the world as it were. We know nothing much of what's going on in the world except the little space immediately surrounding us.

You have believed in us by that letter that our Co. has been in the Winchester battle, but have been misleading. We have been in no real battles yet; although we have frequently fired on and been fired at. The rebels always fire and run; they are sneaking onwards and burning villages entirely unfit for to
complete in honest warfare. They are guerrillas and desperadoes and the Indians are worst of all. I see that sickness and death is with you as well as with us. Almost the last to cherish on our leaving our native country, was Daniel McCracken. He said he should be glad to see us all return and pass more years before any of us. And almost the only thing being that I saw and knew in the west country that we left on the morning of Detroit was Millie Brown, and now she is gone. And John Burnell is, all gone forever. I'm left get and more exposed to dangers and disease. Life is a jungle. The boys are all well and will be. But I've no more time to write. I trust that you may receive this all well and dispense with all for the future. I remain yours forever.

In my regard well.

A. J. Ryder

In Banks' Division

Virginia.
The Star-spangled Banner in
triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free, and
the home of the brave?

Sedmont Station Ca
May 31st 1862

Dear Mother,

I received your letter of April 17th yesterday, although I was very glad to hear from you, I was exceedingly sad to note the way you speak. I know not whether you will receive this, but if you do, I think that you will others as you do this, for I have written a number of unsatisfying explanations for you have them in the other letters. You have seen likely that it is foolish to make haste to believe in my misfortunes. Should I complain, when Virginia furnishes me with 30 pounds more flesh than Old Michigan ever did, and better health and spirits in the bargain, quite the contrary. I feel better satisfied, with myself every day than you may know that my idea used to be first of
all an education. That was in my mind constantly; whether at work or elsewhere, that was my chief thought, and I measured everything else by the success of that. And I thought in order to know anything, it would have to be classically learned. But I believe now, that if I have I shall not, in the end, be the loser, in regard to that. For I tell you, that one can profit in this world from observation, and reading is some kind of a substitute for its facilities, in that time of learning. And, in that, we have plenty of books since in Ta... Citizens desert and learn their literacies, which we often in our leisure hours improve by reading, your advice relative to me having the battle at Yorktown, as although well said, quite amusing to me. It reminds me how little you realize the laws of
In the army. You can believe my truth, that we are entirely at the disposal of "Uncle Sam," and will instantly keep to be up to time, whenever he may see fit to send us. W. Farley reported dead, is just as full of life as ever. Ruben Burrell is well, active, and spirited, but probably like myself, frequently looks over the mountains toward Michigan—and thinks. I got the letter you spoke of with stamps, but I guess you had better send me some more for they don't grow in this county. I'm just although it's a splendid country, yet there is nothing, but niggers, niggers, niggers, seems to grow well. Some farmers have a hundred of them! But they don't seem to sell well now days. Write all, remember all. Yours in thought, and died forever.

A. Osborn
Dear Mother,

receive and take care of these—let me come over, write through them for your health. Thank you and let them remian in peace.

A. F. Ryder

Of H. 1st March

D. W. N. Reed
Put up 120 letters of A. G. Bicke's
First Month, Cast Co.
In care of
Mrs. G. D. Pyle

Chautauqua Co.
Wayne E. Finch
Dear Father,

Although I’ve written since I have received a letter from home before yet having time this morning I thought that I would pen a few lines than some hurried this morning! Albert though of Carson and one other of our boys was captured day before yesterday while off dispatch duty to Front Royal by a herd of rebel cavalry. They were on the return and as far as finding why they met with 14 of the 26th P. V. I felt that they knew. Whence they all stopped and were uncauliflower when it is reported that 600 rebel cavalry rode down from the mountains upon them and they were taken unawaresly. They shot some of them slightly but we can’t learn who ones. Other boys had the male and probably some for me which was likewise taken.

Eben Fawell and another went through the place 15 minutes after it happened. They went back left the place when they went through dispatch business is very dangerous we give up to go near the enemy and zipe when they are con by unlike or the look out!
...for the story and not daring to attack in battle. We are now said to be in Mr. Lowell's battery. We are under command of Gen. Geary. This place is on the Manassas gap, about 5 miles from the gap. We are surrounded by mountains almost, the Blue Ridge mountains, the Bull Run mountain, and the Coble's mountain and so on. The rebels have a good chance to hide themselves for especial use and they improve it.

Yesterday morning I got up just like and found my horse gone. I started in pursuit encouraged often by circumstances I kept a going going till I saw two gray ants coming around the top of a hill. I had no idea of retreat to the woods when they returned I found my horse. To give a soldier's life no one thinks this morning about them that have been lost. We are all drunk in our Baclia. We supposed him to be a brave and fearless man and my own equal for his post. But no. He's a coward and blue-throated scamp. And certainly ought to command American soldiers. Although he may never especially mismanage me but others often have drunk deep the cup of sorrow from him. But never mind there are 60 men in the Wig that even goes with battle - that would like to see a bullet through him.
It is an ordnance by Geo M. Johnson to
punish against an assault the said the
murder and the crime to work now.
Now a few words in regard to our army and
I will close. The army is in uncertain
that we can put much reliance in it.
Thinking of my efforts since have been to do
such to your orders on 26th I am without
your information I am you know the draft will bring into one but you
and I don't feel anything. We are
The draft before long when I shall return to
Dollars draft home right and tell if
you can sell it anywhere I guess and I'm told
for a bit on reason the get of 20 dollars that
what you had more. They are sent
our overcomers home to the United States by express
We bottled the best White Horse Champaign in
care of American Express Co. I want a letter
to Charles Hoy. He knows all about it
but my aunt. Can't communicate the express
and lost mine to clear it for a hundred
of the boy says, yours. He is very pleasant
but the words are dismissed with feeling.
The sign is all beautiful and I want to
from the other day and former Washington
Changes as usual or in case of the
From these our uncle James
A. B. Rogers
for the story ones not being to others
in bodies. We are now said to be in
M. Donnelly's possession. We are under Command
of Gen. Sidney. This place is on the Manassas
gap railroad about 5 miles from the gap
more surrounded by mountains almost.
The Blue Ridge mountains, the Bull Run mountain
and the Cobb's Mountain range and so on. The
soldiers have a good chance to hide themselves
for especial use and the Improved.

Yesterday morning I got up with cold and found
my horizon gone. I started up hill and relieved
myself of the cold. I kept
a going very late and saw two of my men coming
around the end of a hill. I had no arms to
I retreated to the woods when they returned.
I found my horse. J. gave a soldiers tug
and one thinks this morning about them that
were here last. We are all dressed in
our C digging up copper and lead. The man and
my was qualified
for his part. But not so. He's a coward and
black-hearted scamp and inbitch unfit
to command American soldiers. Although
he never especially missed me but others
of the same drunk their with a cup of wine from him
and never mind their were 70 men in the 70 if
he ever goes into battle that would like to
see our bullets through him
We are ordered by Geo. M. Donnell to judge against an object the said the goods and the case to walk now from a few words in regard to our voy under I will close. The mode is to understand that we can not put much reliance in it because I suppose some have taken a draft to your order on U.S. If I am understanding correctly the draft will bounce as one know you if I come if I forget anything. We will be judged before long when I shall send a 100 Dollar draft from any one tell it you can sell it anywhere I guess, and I'm told for a provision. I've got 500 Dollars that I wish you had now. I agree and our cases come from the other day by express we labeled the box Charles Hunt Chittenden in care of American Express Co. I want a letter to Charles Hunt He knows all about it get my case. Say Charles the express man and he must to clean it up a little. If the boy ever wins it. It is very pleasant here the prayers are different with feeling. The sky is all beautiful over. I wanted to take the other day and Johnny Washington direct as usual or in case I can. Many things. All these boys are well. Yours truly

A. D. Aydelott
You kept this letter in my pocket three or four days without the letters of buying and the letters of corn, and I am not to be had for love or money. Do you think I will send it and let you pay it? A. E. Ryde.
Manassas Va.,
May 9th, 1861

Dear Friends,

Although it is not long since I wrote you, but having an opportunity to write, I thought I would pen you a few lines. There are a great many changes since I wrote before. We left Cudmont the 24th day of June, in consideration of the advance of an overwhelming force of the enemy. Although they did not wish to fall back without a fight, but the necessity of war made fall back necessary, so we had to go. We had fortified the place against an attack of twice our men by orders of the General. We joined the main command at Cudmont, and covered the retreat of the army, and crossed White Plains where we arrived the same night of battle in sight. The enemy was in sight before we left and was advancing all night. That night in was in saddle all night, with an attack. The infantry and artillery were again ordered to retreat which they done during the night. We remained until 11 o'clock in when we again left with the enemy near a thousand. There are 2 companies of our regiment in command of Major Mitchell. We overlook the battle of that day near the last time we went and found our men in better to an enemy advance any fire. We kept the two men against our will so instantly. The men left everything nap, Quarters, filled with private and government property, tents, all. There were thousands of dollars worth of goods
left on the field. We were again on guard and this time only our company. We were ordered to burn every thing that we could get our hands on which we then unwittingly did. The depot and telegraph office filled up with every thing were all burnt—camps, and every page on which we left for the geyser where we had to stay the order read against any words like the army got—prospect of our leaving. We left the geyser where we could and we were here like the same night there had better believe that a temperature of eighty degrees of fahrenheit never lived then we were. I had not slept for four months nights. We came new feeling of our houses. Some of our boys lost them but and could have got them by simply going off, but were to hard to do it, so they went up just along their hands. After we got here I got off and walked out to take my saddle off and brush my horse who was I lay down upon the ground and threw my blanket over me and then you had better believe I slept. I turned and put me through to theflush it come splashing in my face, and me down my back but good gracious I did not stop, struggling for that. But I got up in the morning feeling much better this way yesterday. Yesterday we all expected a fight. Yes, Shields Poe, McCandless, avery, all day and have you in print of the men. I was over to get off thearmy. There is a very thorough although left here yet. Only from men on state are here, from Indiana, Ohio, I land Vermont New York Pa. all have lovely here.

I can not be and on the various fronts that the soldiers built and the long lines of entrenchments
May 28, 1862 - p 3

That found the field all, of which would probably be used against them in an attack. Some grounds are numerous.

But I pass my letter is getting long enough to ruins this day. I won't end it as the other boys. Well I've the dinner since I went the above as I guess I'll wait a while any way. We have some times but some danger in a death to even in before us, but my last letter from Sonny gone to the hospital, the same with you. You don't seem how the death of J.T. Smith strikes me. I don't seem possible as I thought it all could be so. I've had many good times with him that can now you forever. If I return home changed all will appear. Many that I left in health are now silent in death. Then that are left are married and committed to religion or changed their dwelling places. Changed in looks actions and feelings. But we are to prove this I know I guess better any way. Tell Sally that this statement in regard to Francis is not a wish I wish to accomplish - I feel like repeating the old Indian command.

I'll go to my bed and he down in despair. I'll paint on with black and sulk my heart. But now more for the present.

Yours forever.

Direct

I suppose you get my letter stating that Albert Hough was taken prisoner at Linden the 17th of this month with others &c. &c.
Washington, June 24, 63

Dear Friends,

The news in this city 23rd May by order of Gen. Winfield Scott and took up quarters on the old busses of the chief Indians north of the city. I was very hard but intended to write immediately. But we were suddenly ordered on an expedition toward the mountains. We started from here a week ago to-day and went as far as to Brainsville the scene of a fierce fighting last summer when we first got here. That night we went on through the famous city of Fredericksburg to a village called Waterford where we again stopped. It was reported that 6000 rebel cavalry was near at Hillsbourn. The search was on high points with the idea that they would take our C.S. Marines at Fredericksburg when we went through the city and would send out their little children to Hollond for Jeff Davis. But the people of Waterford are all friendly people. They went into the houses of their Union friends when we came in the town. They thought we were might to negro soldiers and Ham for the passing on hunting them out. They are quarters as well as living. They all had to go to Maryland last summer. They voted our measure 2 to 1 against, 18 to 30 for it. That day they expected things there and after the
found out all our principles. They asked us all in
their several houses where we ate and talked as we
did in old times. After going over the country, we
returned to stay with the people of Luray, the most
interest in old Virginia. But we should have said that in
the same time that King was abroad and open
the courts went with him. The Luray people said
that in cold times they were with much force to
the court, however. We quartered in their courthouse
and bring our horses in the yard among two flags
here. The street rang national songs and music
generally. They would stand round on the
sidewalks by the hundreds but distinct by anything.
The famous battle of Belle's Bluff was fought
in sight of this place. The Court wondered of
that battle. But enough of that. We got home
yesterdays, and we again in greater. Although
I believe I should prefer to live among the mountains
of Virginia. I don't know the intention in
bringing a horse. Half of the regiment are here
but it is said that the is another expectation
not gathering up and that we are recruiting for
that purpose. But how ever I have taken everything
else I am taught to believe it. I have written
a good many letters and been necessary built.
I wrote 3 or 4 letters one day at Manassas but never have
received any answer. All well. I hope that this will find me
in the same,

J. F. Byler

Yours forever, J. F. Byler
Washington, D.C.
June 10th, 62

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter of the 23rd of last month. I can tell you that I was glad, very glad, to hear from you. Being the first letter I have received from home in a long time. You sent more stamps. We are using them all stamps come going so I was almost sorry that you sent them but then I may see the books that they may be useful. You speak of the things that we sent home being all right. That will give the friends of Washington. I suppose, nothing of his things and it is always also.

We are having just, good times here and always. I think that the mountains would be better for us. I was all over town yesterday I went all through the Smithsonian Institute. Then I went and beheld the Senate of United States in session. I sat in the galleries about 3 hours among the senators. That of the were Senator Wilson Wade James Harriss and the Senate. The vice president was also there and the Clerk.
others that I learned. They were trying the case
of judge Piatt for impeachment, the senators and representatives and judges and
foreign ministers were nearly all present
and I can tell you that it was my delight.
It swarms to-day my head to a great
many again. But I guess I want another
very long letter to day. We are all
well. Write soon. Yours sincerely
A C Hyde.
I enclosed 3 dollars to day. I sent to
The N.Y. day,
Great Xmas. 17 March 1803
Washington, D.C.
Fredericksburg Va
June 17th 63

Dear Friends

I am well today with the exception of a severe cold upon my left shoulder that almost deprives me of the use of my arm. But I have reason from what I have to do to be thankful for only moist applications. Ruben Farwell had a chill of the ague with fever yesterday but is somewhat better to day and I'm in high shill hour now since we arrived here last night after severe snows of 3 days it having rained a considerable of the time and we having nothing in use to shield us from it or from the commands that every night brings. We came through Alexandria and farm
Thence to Dumfries and Stafford county seat. But what a contrast in that country and the valley of the Shenandoah. This being a rough and hilly country that one of the most beautiful countries that the eye ever show upon. What fine little towns that we met with was the memorial of antiquity. Dumfries a little town of a dozen buildings the occupants told us was once a flourishing city of many thousand. It was the second town settled in Md. They told us this is a fine looking city nestled along the banks of the Potomac river. I was in morning and a little while ago. That is the river not the city. There was a W.P.
quaint screening in their too disgusting looking object in lieu of the sight of

We expect to move again tomorrow morning but I won't have to move again although I don't mean any. I have written 4 or 5 letters without securing any reply. Just 40 dollars in them if you receive it I am glad if you don't do not de-

ference with me for I am still enough and to spare. Good and remember and give my love to all the friends.

Yours for health J. A. B. Pend.

Although we are with Mr. Daniel

Dorset Cottage, Mitch
cαι Washington

or to your best knowledge also.
June 21, 1862

Dear Friend,

You know that I was still among you. I almost began to believe that the ways of men are just finding out at least in military matters. Yet I know a matter little while ago you and I were engaged with good will and I had hopes to recover to work. One of my friends managed to bring me to the garden with almost intermittent disease. It seemed to me to belong to the past. Being wounded once more, I have been sent from Washington, and now to through various events to the place. Last week I landed at the hospital and this never went to the patient. A surgeon had afterward. I was attacked by the disease to return home him.

The time is in your best men a hundred yards away. The best is in a place of the distance and not with the wind. I am in the shade of a large oak. He is there but not and anything is possible as could be expected. He once knows how we were a sound last and now know that it was in Washington.
The course may be set. The small fox and the wolf will have our game, for we have been with them by day and by night. We have done all we could. There is a man detailed in the world to take care of him, and this, that must hold it a first rate fellow. I try to have it, but no difference, for I am getting restless in regard to such things as what I used to be. We have all got to die some day, and only being a question of time, yet life is sweet to each one of the world, but if death is a necessity there is more of raising a hand in fear. If it's hard to
just walk over, how long has it been my most friend ever since I left home? We were always together and I always found him pleasant. But still I hope that he will not break his long silence with him. I suppose to-day that we will again enjoy our regular meetings both. I don't know what you mean this in your letter. Yours affectionately, J. Ryder

I thought I wrote you a little complaint change is an amusing thing, sympathetic if there are any.
Fredericksburg, Va.

My Dear Capt. de S.

June 23rd. 62

My dear Friends,

I feel very well this morning and I really think that I look pretty well for I have just put on a new suit of clothes. I think I am considerably better. He looks alive once more. I can tell you that he has had 4 hard days. He is worse not all over, but the doctor told me this morning that he will have it remarkably mild. We all do our best for him. We all have been very used and in some cases have come down pretty well also have it very light. At least found no trouble for that the day is
The evil there of " especially where there is no possible want of making a difference. This is the usual reports in camp relative to ourselves but nothing that would probably interest you. I do get much regular here but I get more from home but they appear to get some before full. When is foreign and I thy that they don't want what they might consider of very trifling importance is worth a good fraction here. I can tell you. I suppose their crops there are about as far as they are here. Wheat begins to ripen and I've seen some corn that was last year out but this is by no means the St. Lawndale valley.
There was a force of 70 contrabands to work on the road a few rods from where I am. They were such gossipy sorts as his kinsman and bids them proceed. And they took up as much as possible and say, "all right, men."

Give my respects to all and believe me yours,

A. G. Reed.

Delaware Co. H. I. Mhere since Washington, D.C.
Centerville 26th June 1862

Dear Friends,

I trust finds me here in one of the most peaceful places I have been in. You can imagine what for a soldier place it is when I tell you that I have counted no fewer than 3 dead horses together. It's all I'm well; and thanks for something to be thankful for when I tell you that the 3 boys that I enlisted with are all in charge of the medical department. Bill, Harley and Farnell. Farnell we left at Fredericksburg in charge of Kings division surgery getting taken prisoner first mile. He'll be with us.
again in a few days

Early went to Washington

the night before we left

that is night before last

on the cars sick. And our

is sick with us so they

are all down but me.

We are ordered back to

the regiment double quick.

But the way through the

mountains seems to be

impassible, so we go

round by Washington and

through Maryland to

Harpers Ferry and from

there to the regiment

I'm sure that there is work

ahead but I hope to different

work from what we've done.

It's hard to see you for a few hours, I could

It you knew then I could
I thought I would write you these few lines not knowing any way that I could make them. But I'll do so if it's possible and that will any way to me have had once more—lure enough—but we carry them on our horses. They are of good service. We make provisions after this. That is when you are not well to dine, but I'll wish you good fortune.

Yours forever,

A C. Byrds

28th Washington. I had no chance yesterday to make the above so I'll make them to-day I don't hear anything.
about Rosewell or Fairly, since we left Fredericksburg. It is said that we start to-morrow or next day for Harper Ferry. I conjecture that this may bring you, as well as my subject, some news from your friend J. C. R.
about 6a.m. or 7a.m., since we left Fredericksburg. It is said that we start to move to-morrow, or may to-day for Harper's Ferry. Nothing about this was ever given you, as well as my notes concerning your friend A. B. stiff.