Alfred Ryder
Jan. - July 1863
January 8, 1863

Camp near H. Scott
Jan. 8, 63

Dear Sister,

I received your kind letter when at Camp and a few days ago and also one from home last week and have had no time to answer it. The war relented yesterday and came my turn but I don't know how long we will stay maybe till we are finished. I received a letter from Pennsylvania but a day or two ago, he is getting better fast. I hope we will soon be all right.
I am sorry for the
poor fellows that were
killed that you mention
and glad indeed for
those that escaped.
It seems hard to believe
that there is not a man
that dies but what
mourns for many many
loved ones but it is
certainly true. I am
glad to hear that Anna
Mary and Angelina are
well. I hope they are
will write in your next
about them. I hope
Grandma sends it well
yet it seems to me
that you are doing good
business in farmer and
days in old Michigan.
Jan. 8, 1813 - p. 2

But I expect that there will be something to keep up the excitement and it doesn't matter what, much worse or better. Tell me that I very gladly received the package of things I asked for. I have been in camp and am much better than I expected to find him, he has had the bullet taken out of his shoulder. He has lost one of the balls that shot him and the two he is going to put them in a shell gun and use them but of the rest give my respects to all. I hope this will find you all well yours sincerely,

R. E. Ryder
The Tree of Liberty

The Union Tree of Liberty
Shall outlive treason's storm,
And all the world seek shelter
Beneath its noble form.

Camp near Occumpani
May 14th 1863

Verna, Mother,

I'm being unequalled
At night, I thought that I
Would have a little talk with
You and by the way answer your
Brood letter of the 6th. I have a
Joy in it so that we are blessed with
The privilege of speaking with
Each other to often and knowing
Certainly that each is well.
I'm glad to hear to many of
All the folks in your letters, of
Grandma, Uncle William and
All. Give me good long letters
And give them often too.
The other day I had a letter from you, and it was so full of cheer and hope that I was moved to tears. You kindly wrote me to say that you had found me at home, and that you had not heard from me for a long time. I dare say that you were right, and that I had been too busy to write. But it is good to know that you are thinking of me, and that you are interested in my welfare.

I am glad that you have found time to write, and that you have taken the trouble to do so. I have been so busy with my work that I have not had much time to write, and I have been feeling rather anxious about you. But I dare say that you are doing well, and that you are making progress.

I hope that you will soon hear from me again, and that you will let me know how you are getting on. I should be glad to hear from you, and to know that you are doing well.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
myself with duty, at all events; till I see some proper
by it. You say later when you
success in getting Youngs passage
would be glad to try for me.
I hope to know you will yet
Youngs but as for me about going,
for I'm tough and tough enough
for any place. I have enough of
friends and want for nothing that
they have. I believe in making
a friend of everyone. The meanest
man will do for me the most
for one in spite of himself and when
its meanest kind too. You've found
their name. Tuesday is in Camp, near
Mr. Scott. He seems never known the
book and the other day. He was
laughing how low he could cut more
his good or his longer or could cut
quick. His face was white, till he
could cut one out of his eyes. But I am
glad to know that his getting well
Jan. 14, 1863 - p3

that he can now pay us. Truly is a labor 'friend' as all times and all places. He is a daily

Jurgens now.

Well, then, how are they doing over in the community. I am glad to hear that they are doing as you

in a rush to get what notice according to their need.

you know that I did not frequent which at home foreign places much so I hear bad things. That is what

very. They say they I'm yet to

But to your bus. Give my respects to all. You understand that you must run away thoroughly

The papers I want in the best so well to

send them sometimes from home as from the office. your health... sending me all of promises it

would be willing to make of a risk.

And not out of my money. Good you come my being is no objection

right in the last. Let us for

that should it will be worth

anything after the war.

Yours of course YGB

Mrs. Mrs.

Washington D.C.

(mrs drimm)
Pamphlet Occupied river

January 29th, 1863

Dear Father,

I just received a letter from Jimmy dated 16th. He is due to start marching from his present location. The same message orders all of the 1st day's actions. In fact, I expect that the whole army is on the move. This is the absolute army. We are in the deciding corps and he is in the defense of Washington. So far, all seems to be moving for our help, as all want.

It is very much wind and snow and for 48 hours without sleep. It is very windy and I've had a hard time making a path through the snow. 
tent, carefully bag in itself down within a good foot of the heads of these white steps upon us on some boards. I had two do small things there disposing from the prison area and from certain I shall have done very well. We had washed and laid the bag book of the one. But being worn down like the one before I left. When we get home we will be faced of all kinds and most of them. The sun begins to shine over your pleasantly. Although it looks unendurable as we have finished the sun for its green and warm weather. For this bird was very good.
I have in recent days
lucky to good things with
his prospect still bright as
long. If that sounds through
grosvenor through Alexander
unrecalled, I fear that I
some rascal will take the
advantage of it and get them
for such tricks we often
curried over there.
I hear heavy canvassing
in the direction of the
Chapmanworth. My dear Son
and what they are doing maybe
begin to have a fight
as well Charles that I should be glad
as to have him send me a letter too.
Saying my other one does not
have one. Dear Sir,
I am Yours sincerely,
W. H.
I have just received another paper well filled with news. Are the people generally in favor of Chandler?
Camp near Occoquan
Jan. 8th '63

Dear Parents,

Good boy turned up for 2 days in not being on guard for it is very cold and snowing. Therefore having nothing to do I thought that I would send you a few words by the way in answer to your kind letters of the 18th you speak of the losses of the war but you could understand them little better if you were here.

I often feel sorry for the people here, Day before yesterday I was on guard here over some prisoners among them were an old man and his son a lad of 12 years. Although arrested for high treason, delinquent
U.S. news over to the Secesh, those news that his son was killed and his house burned and had nothing to eat when I came on. I couldn't help pitying him and went and gave them my return for his corn, he has been sent on to Washington for bread. I suppose there has resigned his command. I guess that's the only sensible thing that he can do. I have seen of the Richmond papers wishing to compromise. I don't know but I don't think they need to compromise under such a dispensation of power as we have had. Let I do think that there will be a severe war at home of this
is not brought to a close within a year by the account of the papers you send me. I haven't received them things that you sent me but likely they are in camp. There has been no more going in camp to day for commands and I have sent for it and will get it if it is there. I write you a letter yesterday again. I rather think that they are in their quarters again. The army known situation is old position. It's hard work for the men being awful muddy & strong but we can't complain for we have had a very mild winter so far. If we
had the duty to perform last evening that we have had that we would thought that we would froze to death.
I hope that I will get that paper for I have been very poor and paper badly you know and will soon be out. As the only way I can content myself when there's nothing to do, is to be writing. I hear cannon in the distance may be it means nothing. It Site
you and may you be with you forever. A.G.

I arrived here two years this was on
the 10th 1744. The God, message without
Camp, Poygan Wm., Feb. 6th, 1863

Dear Brother,

I received a letter from YOU last night stating that the end you were going to York State. She going right away and you in a few days. But I can hardly believe my mind, therefore, I am now writing to him and since Saturday I had word from you certainly. I hope that this will come up the time to hinder going. It would have been commencing life again.
to go to the spot where
you were born. When
I learn there that she
has gone I will write
It is just cold and
unagreeable here and
days and especially
for our line of duty
findings. We are on
better our minds
night and nothing for them is
no word heard from the
cold weather.
Of course they are
will come in and there
is no one looking for
the map and wood
out. Haller of
Maccland
has got on furlough and
started for home. To
day. He says his wife is very sick or at least that is the plan she got to leave of absence on. She is a pretty cunning fellow. He has only 10 days to regulate himself in. He is a good fellow. God bless him. And I hope you and me will get this time. Don't you come back without going to Way and Co. Write soon.

James Howard

Give my best wishes to Uncle and Aunt Godkin.
Camp near Pulaski, Tenn.  
Feb. 18, '63

Dear Father,

Another letter of your remembrance came at hand night before last and I thought to while away a lonesome hour I would write you a few words this we although I post you the 19th I hear the cry of death among you with deep surprise and I can't help crying with sadness. I hope your heart is not broken. Thoughts of their grave before the grave who are known glasses his owns might be with the living. Death is a hard master into whom we all shall must
to send money or later.
I wrote last to
Me & Sonny. I received
one from Sonny the same
time I received yours.
He is well. He had received
his box of provisions.
I received mine 8 days
ago so I'm living well
now. I have one last note
left he is a good fellow.
Bradford is his name
as mine from our last ones.
21 of our regiment are gone
some killed and the rest
taken prisoners. Between
my horse & myself I got
my face searched by the
bushes and he hit me with
his bullet-
I hope you will know
yourself after this.
I hope this will find you all well. Give all the folks down east my best respects and especially Jonathan W. Write again soon. Yours forever.
Dear Father,

I hasten to reply to your letter of the 16th, receiving the sad news of Charles' sickness. I hasten here because I was there with you both, and although I could not be there, I will know that you will do all in your hands as possible. His sickness is indeed alarming, but to heaven I hope he will soon come out well.

I am glad that you have so good help. I hope meantime they will stay anywhere with me until you get back.
Out of Charles does get well you see just well you feel to go after a man but the chances seem to be against his getting well soon enough. So a hard stroke. You write about officers and only found that I considered it as not worth mentioning. One of our men was killed in the engagement the other day. Two men decided the roll and came in here this morning and report that there are 20,000 Cuba in Chaparral stock 2 & 3 miles from here. But maybe that they are only spies. And wonder that the rebels are getting tired of this war and its very thought.
and more but its end looks from here a long way off. I am not sure how to plan the Democrats ought to drive the Republicans from Washington for they are truly getting to be an abomination in the sight of truth and good. But I hope that Charity will soon get well and that all the rest of you will continue so.

Write again soon for I'm anxious to hear anything.

Yours truly,

A.B.

This is copy that she can't even write.
Dear Friends,

During some little time to dispose of some way this man I thought I would pass you a few lines. I suppose you have heard of the great scene up to Turner's C.H. This night the rebels came and took out of bed about 2 o'clock in the morning Capt. Gen. Stover. It is the easiest thing you can hear of. They came in here and sent the guards to their quarters and ordered the Gen. to saddle up for a scout. Then pull them in and marched them off as prisoners. It was good enough for the Gen. for he was putting on slide in harness when his command was long away. If any body here is glad of it I only wished they would let the rebels to go free. Some of our 1st class officers say my biz. would be a good lesson for them.

Only is here with us now. So we are all together once more and I am very glad of it.
Rube & Bull are in 2 days further now I received another letter from Johnny. He is well without the gauging of a cold. We all have very hard colts here it being very damp weather. But I think the weather will be fine from then when your writing comes again. Write often Yours forever.

[Signature]
Camp near Ft. Scott Va
In Hospital March 19 88

Dear Friends

I am just getting a little better from being some sick for a good time. I had just the measles
in my head opened by one of my teeth being within my back which I had it picked out and them. I had a sort of a fever billons for a few days but am getting better now.

Although I am very weak and

I suppose of course you have heard how this time of the war has been to the prisoner. But I hope he is not
he will come out all night in the end I have had no letters lately Yours sincerely

A.G.
Camp near Ft. Scott
March 25 '63

Dear Friends,

I received a letter from you a day or two before yesterday and I kind like to write a few words. This morning in reply, I write a few words with a pencil. The day which you probably have received mine in the hospital and I was sent here. I am getting well fast although some weak of course, was sick about a week before I came in. They take good care of the sick ones here. They gave
me wife to drink water or anything I
have a mind to call for to cut. Our
regimental doctor's name is Smith and a
fine fellow indeed he is.
I shall be well in a few days and out
with the rest of the boys.

Union has got back from Richmond all
right. His gait and
hurry. He put up while
in Richmond at the
old Libby Hotel. Didn't
like the fare very much
and was glad to get away
after staying two nights
with the 'going backs.'
I received a letter from George Bird last night. He is down at terrazza. He is on duty Sergeant in the 1st Cav. Co. Y. I also received a letter from Grandma. The boys sent in a lot of bees that they captured yesterday. This morning they came very near capturing the famous Capt. Mosby. I hear they don't cut much about picking with our reg. But I'm sure they told him. But they say that it's fun to chase the Rebs for their no longer for they will run like heck most always.
I expect that the draft is making truly
troublesome with you now
days. But if they do their
duty they will call
out another batch of
hundred thousands and
then them driving
I expect that there will
be heavy fighting before
long anywhere, at
least when the roads get
passable for heavy artillery
and train wagons
But write soon and give
my respects to all and
remember me
Yours Truly
C.G.
In hospital near H. Scott
March 27th, '63

Dear Sister Brothers,

Your welcome message came at hand last week, and I can't forget the chance of seeing you a few words this morning. I see that you had not yet received my late letters but must likely you will. Expecting the government to speak of something but hardly could think that anyone would seek to avoid their duty by flight from their country. I hope too that the authorities will call on us as Old Hulick said enough to look down all opposition, and then we might
book for the end of the war with some considerable hopes. She can stand
I answered with joy, or pain, as I come as it may and look
for the worst and if better comes we have something
to be thankful for.
I'm sorry the Trent Town
is going to move away for
he's a good neighbor.
I received a letter from Jenny
Tommy at school I. She says
he was never better in the
world with the exception of a
cold. You speak of my rheum-
atics. It doesn't trouble me now.
Mr. Bellard has gone to the hospital
at Annapolis. He started
yesterday noon, and a letter arrived for him at one, from home. I think I will forward it to day to him.

You ask about my being paid. I have not been paid yet but expect to be every day. I did not

see the last payroll for they had me charged with transportation from Detroit but I expect I might as well

pay it now as ever for I think that the charges will be continued on all pay

rolls till it is paid. It is the boys that are charged with me very much

believing it to be the work of petty officers over

flawing with manners.
I am much obliged by the letter I received from Grandmama very gladly and hope that she will write again. I am glad to acknowledge the receipt of those pictures that you sent while I can tell what is going on among you to some degree. Those things you includ in your letter come in play and I am very grateful for all. I hope this will find you all well. I shall be soon out of this with the boys again.

Olive Oglesby

Yours forever

W. C.
Camp, near Lynchburg, April 3rd, 1863

Dear Friends,

I received a very welcome letter dated 27th and having a few chance for a little while to reply, I gladly take it. You see that we have moved camp from near Ft. Cobb, we are in sight of Lynchburg. It with our 1st 6th U. S. N.avy, by the out of the hospital and with the o.k. but am not doing duty at present. The Capt. is very kind to me always insisting that I no need to the front yet. But you just as well as ever but not quire.
as strong but is here with me. We have just met, and I went over to see him today. He is in good health and well. Let me know when you find in Co. He makes a very good office. I should think. Let Lloyd come over here while you are here. He has lost one of his fingers by accidently catching it off. The boys at Brown's will come in time, and you can. I hope that they will. You will not be alarmed, but what I can take care of myself will be enough with the help of many good friends. When I came in the army, I determined to make very few enemies and as many friends as I could.
by good gruce I beleue I have nne enemies her eand very many good friends that would help me at any time And by being prompt and to ones place the officers will lend friendly aid to any one I am not in need of anything as you may imagine but am just so thankful as though you had sent it do worth I open receive then papers you send but cannot yet get that paper and speak you thante of in your last but neither will get I am writing out down and it begins to rain so I'll keep to stop by writing this may find you all well and trust God you is getting long Yours fotever
April 5th, 1863

Camp near Lincoln
April 5th, 1863

Dear Sister,

Although I don't owe you a letter employment is my best antidote for absent society. I'll write you a few words. It's a cold, blustery day but I'm comfortably housed at present in a large, hot tent only occupied by our gunners, and a cook. But as the cold winds shake the canvas, I think of the many thousands exposed to its chilling piercing blasts these very moments and for the coming night.
I'm escaping a good deal tedious duty these days by not being with the boys of known mills. But I've offered myself for duty, and the Captain don't send me yet. He acts our friendly with one lasty something that I always thought as beyond his nature.

The cats about here fighting nearly every day. As said in his last letter. That he had not heard of any fight that we had been in. There is fighting nearly every day, but the papers misinformed him in regard to our going out with the 5th and 6th. Cats wearing out house flags &c, none of our regiment were always.
April 5, 1863 - p. 2

There is a large army here now 3 brigades of cox and a corps of inf. with lots of artillery. I guess that we will give the rebels a hunt before long. I begin to feel first rate. Havins received a letter from Sonney for a week or so but may good luck be with him. I want you to write often. You cant tell how a letter cheers me up. It varnus sun light in many dark places by carrying one over 400 miles for distant firesides. Stand and Charley get along. But its getting late do good night and may joy be with you all.

Yours Forever

J.G.
Camp, near Fairfax, Va.
April 13th, 63

Dear Friends,

A good chance for writing you a few words presents itself and I cannot pass it by although you all owe me history. You will and comfortable as usual. Our boys have all come in from Union Mills so that we are all together again in one camp. Farley is sick in the Hospital at present, though he is fast recovering. Biddles, Bickers, and Butter are with me in tents and all good intimates. We have been called in from picket duty and Copeland's Brigade have been sent out in our place for 30 days. Then another Brigade will come in before our turn again. We are drilling or as it were finishing up our military education now days. Mr. Butler Price comments on our Brigade and Gen. Buell the division I presume that we shall have
The privilege of seeing you again in the next few months will be a great relief. Gen. Casey's decision is final. We are all well dressed, but we have to buy our own pants at 6 dollars, our jackets over 8 and everything else. I was in debt last year and about what the government allows a year for clothing is 11.64, but some of our Co. need as high as 30 dollars. The government's share is over 2 dollars on this year and I think that same again. The prices of some articles such as shoes have really risen over 50 percent. Since I wrote the above, I have been on review and they say the regiment was reviewed. Gen. Rice this afternoon gave us some credit for discipline.

I received an address of Tribes last evening and am very thankful for the same. (Don't you think that there is rather too much useless denunciation of the Democratic Party contained therein? But hundreds of Democrats in the ranks and when they are in the union, applied to the party.)
in general it makes their busts
wobble with hard feeling.
It is not right to condemn a church for the
sin of one of its members nor to condemn
a whole party for the transgressions of a few.
Trinitarians don't deserve the name of Demo-
crats, free slaves, and long applied to
the loyal portion in such columns could
to well dispensed with. Don't you think
So dear friends. Our Mr. President
has resigned and will soon go home to
Detroit the think some of doing turning
business being a poor man and broken but
will done by hardships. And may by chance
come out round Plymouth occasionally.
If he does I have asked him to call on
you. You will find him one of the most
agreeable story telling summers you ever
saw give my respects to all.通用
This dreadful tale some listen but my person
so easy I could just stay.

Yours forever
A.C.
Dear Father,

Writing affords me about the best means of rest that I know of so I will occupy myself for a few moments by scribbling to you. I'm well, our boys are all well with the exception of Furley. He is in the hospital yet here in camp. A Soldier's life has left its natural impress on him partly family. The doctor says that his insides are all worn out and I'm in hopes that he will come out all right.

I'm going out to drill in a few moments. We are preparing for a grand review by Gen. Hook. Our Col. Toward has joined us again. He made a great speech to us yesterday in dress parade, saying that the coming campaign was about to open and many who were present would never again see the return of the coming winter. The Col. is near gone with the consumption. He says that he knows that he has but a short time to live and that he would like to die at the head of his
regiment. He is a desperately brave
man beyond question and we decide
a council with him. It was said
that our regiment was going to be filled
up with drafted men and that even
some were started for us but we have
not seen any of them yet. Elmo said
that they would have hard times in O.T.
with the Vole n towns. There is a good
deal malaise that would find went
in their measure although I would
be willing to press
I received a letter this morning from
Sprinting they are all well and comfortable
down there. He says they have
enough to do reviews and parades &c.
Also I received thanks for receiving an
Advertisement & Tribune. I have got a
pretty good letter from a friend and I
learned in my horse what was sick
and so on. I returned to study the give
me the one that John Bellman had.
He is not very fast but more essential
with me on every ride. I have been
rather unlucky in one regard. That is in
getting hard riders. Hard riding horses
are not very good for the ride.

Yours forever. A. G.
Fairfax Va
April 25th 68

Dear Friends

This Sunday morning things for we have no drill to day and I have nothing to do so I thought that I would have another little talk with you this morning to pass away the time. I was on guard last night here in camp. We expected old Mosby might call on us last night he being inside the lines somewhere with his command and our boys being most all out on a scout. But they were apprised of his move while down by warden town and started on their return and arrived here about 10 O clock. Scurrying the halls here each one getting dancing with in the operations. I'm glad that I was excused from getting up this cold chilly weather for it fore tell us good to ones health these times. One of our Co. is in the hospital with the typhoid fever not expected to live. Lucky is getting better, will soon be with us again and he is drying his clothes out to day.
Henry Dear was over to see us the other day, he looks better than he used to, as for health, the boys says they've seen Pummar in Washington with 2 good cavalrymen.

We are reduced now with 5 days rations since I was

Not above on a deck
Thursday, Jan. 22nd, 1863

My Dear Friends,

Last Sunday I began and partly finished a letter to you but was called off our team. We went out to the mountains round about and returned all night last night. We came about 10 o'clock without any accident to us. Gen. Grant had command of the division and Col. Town of the Brigade. He gave Col. Town great credit for his skill in handling the men.

Last night was the first night in 8 that I've had much rest. We are all doing well. It's a very fine day and I think that we will be out again soon. It's not bad business in fine weather by any means. I received a letter from home the moment before I started the other day.
We have just been writing a letter to the Col to transfer Mr. Matthews to our Co. Our mess in the Co. arrived in a very good state of health. I hope that we will succeed in getting him for the time. That we have now is a proper good for nothing, dogsmouth, although he is good natured and will make a good citizen. And may be the blessing of health. Be with you all. Yours truly Col. B.
Sunday morning
A January 6th

Dear Grandmama & all,

I am very well and have received your letter. I was glad to hear about your health as well and that Uncle W. was getting better. This is a much better day than yesterday. Your great kind for health is much appreciated. I have been feeling much better in my health in my life now. I am trying to get a good grip on work and doing well. I have been writing letters and keeping up with my studies. I am writing to let you know that I am happy and healthy. The weather is nice, and I am doing well.

Best regards,

[Signature]
I take this opportunity to announce to you that I have just received a little Canadian French news that is very interesting but not very substantial and anything else I can think of. Judge of your own time and circumstances and decide what to do next. There will be a meeting in the town hall and we will have 40 lines written on a scroll for every name of the officers. They don't like the mayor very much, and he wants to write 100 names on the scroll. I agree with him, but I doubt that they will let him do it.
May 3, 1803 - p2

But I will hope to

go in inspections I am

now to join me this

time. And now may

the fulness of the

blessings of health

be with you all.

Write again soon

C.S. Ryders
Written to his great mother

Vivian - mother of Henrietta

Vinton Ryder
Letter

May 11, 63

Dear Friends,

I have a few moments to use in writing you this morning. I received a letter from home the other day and am glad to hear that you are all well.

As for me I am very well and so are the other boys. Do you see that we have nothing to complain of good clothes as much as soldiers could expect. We expect to leave here again in a few days whether we are going on post or scouting duty. I don't know but guess on neither. Some of the Smith men just over here. He is dirty and ragged as usual. He is unpick for toward Churches line. That is his Co. with 4th Dear commanding. Our paymaster is in camp so we will be paid before long you see. I shall send a check of $60 or $80 dollars home this time may be not right off till the rest gets one for you. I heard their men captured by both the better of them. Everyone of them had a good chance. They just wants me to speak to you. Be in regard to writing in
that his money. Charley Hoyt has kept his money all sound but you know that life is very uncertain in his position. Today wants his money when he gets out of the service and he would like to have you to represent him. I would like to have you take it for it would be a great qualification to him. He will have a pretty good firm this time. He got pay for the use of his horse and you know that he has diverse ways of making money unavailable by me. He will have just 800 dollars he says. Our also got pay for the use of his turn about a hundred dollars. It is very warm weather these days. The tourist all gone as a leak. I suppose that you are pushing the farming business now days. Joseph says sold it awful hot. But in about two months he will have something to think of. I haven't heard anything from Henry since the battle down there, but hope that he came out all right. I see that his corpse was in very hard and in the fighter but no one knows what a day may bring forth in such times as this.
We are inspired this afternoon
by the inspection of the quartermaster's arms and
horses, and know all are in shape. I am glad
of such inspections for it keeps all things
right side up in camp. Just mother is in the back looking at old ones
while I write. Little Bellman has
your horse, I wish you had I believe.
I receive papers occasionally from
you that gives me some idea of what
goes on among you. I also recived
that letter well 88 cents in, I wish
that it had been no postage stamps
for it is very difficult here to get
them. I should like to suspend
to hear that Carter was at home
and he is in. Chas. or was the
luck I heard. I don't think that
he will be discharged in a long time
and if I was he I would stay till
I was discharged. What you will do
will if you read it so good by this
time hoping that this may find
you in the fullness of health.

Yours truly

John W. Douglass
Camp, near Fairfax, May 16, 1863

Dear Mother

The day is just wearing away and I thought that before it closed I would include a few words to you hoping that it may find your hands even as well as it leave mine. For I could not be better in regard to health. I take out of the way pains too keep my health. Keep my clothes weighted up so well I rumble. I think last night from another 8 days service was taken with the again the first.
day out and was sent back to camp. Next morning Fanny was taken violently ill and had to be transferred to hospital in the ambulance. I have just been up to see him. He is still very sick or in great pain. But I hope for the best. I should have a great and needed friend in him. I received a letter also this morning from Harney telling the following news that Forest Dimm was no more. Also one from J. to the same effect. I told you it's hard to lose so good a mate from one acquaintance here. 
all places the
hardest
Dear mother - I hate
this chance of sending a check. I believe that
that it would be less
subject to be stolen
in a letter to you than
to me. Send me a letter
as soon as you get this
so that it possible
it is lost I could get
another. Give me
my respects to all. I received
a letter from Euler
this morning and also an
from P. of the 18th
Oktibber.

Yours forever

J. C. Ryden
Fairfax, Va., May 28th, 1863

Dear Father,

I received your kind letter of the 10th and was glad indeed to hear from you again and to hear that you are all well. You had not heard from Sennett, but of course you have, long before now. I received one letter from him containing a full account of the death of Forest Brown and how the battle went. You speak of the fate of the Potomac Army. That's to come, of course, and you and any and all of
money destroys any attempt at success.

I tell you there are a good many gentlemen not worth a cent before, in money or character and not doing nothing, means buying up a good fortune against the time to come. And a good sight of the ill success can be traced to them. I'm glad to hear that Capt. Hoyt has started on his return for the crops will gladly receive him. Also I'm glad to hear that Mr. Barber has returned to expect his friends again. It is reported here that he is exchanged but I should think that if it was so he would be approved by order in the newspaper.
May 20, 1863 - p2

Sir, was rather badly deceived by the paper in reference to Richmond being taken. I received the paper you sent with the account of its being taken. So fine growing weather and I expect that you are improving it in getting in summer crops.

I sent 60 dollars home by letter a few days ago. I addressed it to me, and likely it has arrived before this time. Use it any way you wish. Foster is better and has returned to our lint. Son is yet quite well. And I am off duty to day with an ear of a will, the rest very bad to day.
ever. I hope that you will receive this all well. Yours

C.
Dear Mother,

I received your letter of the 18th. This morning and also the one that I wrote on the 17th. I am glad to know that you have received the check all right which I am glad to know.

I hear that Seaport is exchanged and I hope that he will come through without any trouble. For you know that my friends are ready to press my little advantage they may have of a fellow.

For P. Blair was here day before yesterday and reviewed us. And yesterday night we were taken from each other.
as an event for him. I was among them. We went down to the Potomac Falls and returned here last night about 2 o'clock. We have good news from the front but it may deceive us as much as the capture of Richmond. I received a paper this morning also. I read a presentation of a table I wish to cut. Times and the remarks of the editor. They say that he is now accustomed to fighting them. Fighting is laughable to read for the narrow and a fight yet may be the turning point. I don't believe that he will be apt to. The boys are all well. I am well. I shall revere them better.
May 25, 1803 - p2

I have got over that 75-pin spinning machine here the cotton crew is up what little there is planted. I hope that this will find you all well. I sent a couple of feetwicks to Charleston. As I think he will have something to interest him in going to the upper Nile again. Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Camp near Tampa Oct. 29th

Dear Friends,

I received a letter from home yesterday written Oct. 31st. I was glad to hear that you will all be well. I am well and living well as could be expected. She was glad and last evening by the return of Ruben & Ought. Although we spoke then, we will somewhat taken by surprise. They look well and look as usual. We were ordered to be in readiness to move our
whos yesterday
our pickets were attacked and we were ordered to be in readiness in case they followed up. the boys are all together again having that they cant hire the plymouth boys have been very lucky. some have been killed and only two discharged on account of wounds received. they began to get some want scard here with the belief that the rebels would drive hooker back at least they are stockading the streets of alexandria against an attack on the place
I of course got these things that were sent by Ruben. They came in the right time and in the right place, I guess that it is very trying times most in old Michigan. But the illness here is almost beyond endurance except when we are out. I hope that this will find you all well.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Dear Mother,

Your kind letter came at hand yesterday. I'm glad to hear that you are all well. I am so well again to that incident trouble this June. She did write a letter to me, very solicitous in his welfare. I answered it of course, but hardly knew how to talk to him. I received a letter from George yesterday, stating that they had been on a long tour. I read it in the papers though before I received his letter. George spoke well to you in his letter that you spoke of just before the last letter. That's the way.
that great officer should feel. He dont hear anything from Hubert here and days though we expect him every day. I saw some pictured portraits to Charley so that he would have something to go to the office for. I learned yesterday morning from a sentry. I coming there we marched over the old full beam battlefield and I saw the spot that I suppose that Harrold & Farren received his death wound on. The ground is thickly strewed with human skulls legs and feet skulls. Some men was buried and some that were buried were dug up by hogs dogs &c. The Dr. got some of these for his own use. And so goes the
world or the people in it. We passed over the spot where we had the battle and saw the graves of our boys.

It's fine growing winter now, isn't it? I trust that everyone is hurrying up with their work. It seems to fall to lay round as much as we do doing nothing of any account. But we will have to put up with it for a while at any rate. We are feeling first rate. But I'll quit by bidding you to all persons and happy

Yours ever,

A. C.
I sent a profile since the other day must likely you have received it. You have got so many I mean you might give it to someone if you have a mind to.
June 11th, 1863

Dear Brother,

I have just returned from a 4 day's march and found your kind letter to welcome my sight. You speak of receiving a likeness from me. I was going suddenly away and Bill sent the likeness for me one day so that accounts for the likeness. We have had the hottest summer that we ever had this time. We are under marching orders again. We hear that we have got to go to Md. to drive the rebels out but
I don't know.
I am well at usual
and expect to remain
so. I have got a good
horse. Talk of her
she is a quiet dark bay
geld and better than
he looks in the picture.
Although he is getting
a good back from hides
muh and she will
keep to stand it.
Rabey is getting red
for muchin and I
guess there I will
keep to follow his
gample. So good
for this time.
I hope this I will
hear another letter
from you when I return.
It's awful dusty.
muchin almost
Support us
Sometimes we can't
see our pile under
the dust is so dense.
May health and
cheer be with you
all yours
A G.
Brisket on Pa. June 13th 63

Dear Friends,

I've nothing to do this morning so I'll make something to do by sending you a few words. We have been expecting to march again but I guess now that we will have a time of rest. Dr. Alfred B. B. says muskets with blades ofsticks to march are two distinct orders altogether. Some of our boys have just returned from a trip to Winchester. They had little fighting in getting through but not much hurt of ours.
I received a letter from Henry dated the 12th. He was then on parole. He still—

very worn and dusty—

and with only a few days

he had just signed

the furlough for two months—

and expected to get

in a day or two—

And we well as usual—

nothing going on but the

usual days. No crops grow-

ing or missing much—

or anything out of the

usual. The only thing that

was any one heard much

about but the news—

The news on our march—

the other day through the

little village of White and

their springs. It was

quite the finest little-

place before the war.
June 13, 1803 - 02

[Handwritten text reads:]

in the world. Two hundred years he ruled to have

King's Year. He handed over

the state to young.
June 16, 1863

Dear Friends,

During a few moments of spare time, I thought that I would improve it by writing you a few words. To briefly bring times now down here, I have been up and two nights in succession in the dust and of course I don't feel very good about it. I am very well and the army is on the go. Part of it is here; this is the reserve. As for our corps, I hear that the first corps were down at Manassas, but I don't.
know how true it is
If I was where I could try and see itunny but
It's beyond anything
must be for one to get a
peace in such a bustling
and confusion almost
But I'm in hope that
I will see him yet
These are we have him something is going to
live on the war by no
longer. If the rebels
are triumphant in their
move it's going hard
but if not I think
this it will drive
these things to a point and
the sooner the better
I'm tired of longing
If fighting is to be done
bitter do it and that
to work for sickness
to destroy the army. I got pay yesterday and enclosed a check of 20 dollars to the boys.
Fairfax Co., Va.
June 24th 68

Dear brother,

For the first time in 5 days I have a little to myself. We have been on the march night and day. Once one day we went near a hundred miles that is in 24 hours. Do you see that I am some tired and ready for we much every night. Otherwise I am first rate. The boys are also all well. I expect that I paused last night within 8 miles of where Johnny was but I did not know it till after.
The cavalry are having pretty hard times just now and I don't know whether I will be able to get a pass to see them or not. We are under marching orders all the time that we are now on the march. We will send off to the rear of the rebels while the main force under Gen. Pleasanton attacked them in front. Do you see that we didn't get in the fight the other day. It turned in to quarter master our tents, do we have more any more. It is said that our Brig is going to Mid but I don't hardly believe it yet. But it is no
difference it is all
the same way still
Gen. Hooker's headquarters
are in sight of where I
am writing but his
army are all over the
country far 15 miles
around. I feel sorry
for the infantry this
hot weather to be
marching round. We
find in our travels
thousands of thousands of
their coat & blankets they
threw away
I hope that this will
find you all well
write often if I don't
write for if I don't it
because I can't

Yours Forever
JHC
Camp near Frederic and
June 25th 63

Dear Friends,

I have this
brevet opportunity to send
you a few lines.
I am well and have received
a letter from home lately.
I have crossed the river on the
24th and have had the
grace previlege of seeing
working with Company B.
I left him this morning
in the Shenandoah Valley.
I am well and Alfred is
in the Sanitary Corps and
is well. Tommy looks
better than he says he is
very healthy. They speak
that we will have a fight
in a few days at all events.
I don't know whether you will mean in this or not. Everything here is even worse. The men seem to be advancing in the rear of the rebels in the front and the result may shortly follow. The two other brigades of our division have taken up our line of march and we will follow them so soon as this time. Remember me to all. I hope you all will Jean Jones

1863
July 8th 1863

Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mather,

I have desired a friend to say to you I have been in the last fight we have had; it was in and around Gettysburg near the Penna and Maryland line; I was wounded in the side by a ball. I am not without hope. The Lord will see all things. I am in a hospital in Gettysburg, I hope you are all well and happy from your affectionate Son

Alfred J. Keezer

Brother John is here also in one of the hospitals but not badly wounded
Direct
Gettysburg
Adams County
Pennsylvania

From
W. B. D. D. & Co.

E. F. & C. R. & Co.

This is my copy 2d

End
73
William Wray Chaplin 24

Chaplain 24th Nth Me
Gettysburg Adams Co.
Penn.

Chamberlain

Drew, Col.
Williams to Way Chapman 24

Penn.