Alfred Ryder
July - Dec.
1862
Washington, D.C.
July 3rd at 6 2

Dear Friends,

I thought that I would write you a few lines on the best means of spending away these lonely moments.

I feel very well to-night although not sufficiently able yet to be required for duty. I rather think that the cause of my illness was the overexposure in the quick marches from Fredericksburg. I can tell you privately that I was pretty hard up for a little while. And I believe that I can thank my stars for the aid that the experienced surgeons of the Army (and especially yourself) gave me at that time. But then it was mother and I in all rights.
I haven't heard anything from Persia since we left yet, but then he was getting along finely when we left, and I'm in hopes he will be well as soon as I can get word that I'm very welcome without him. One can see that we are here yet and I don't know when we will leave. We have this one got a pair of carbine rifles said to be a very effective weapon and I think their their appearance verifies the saying for one of our boys shot a 60 yard target and put the bull in the eye of the target the first time, but what would I be thinking about if I were in it.
home to-night. About was
you suppose, I guess not—
so much so is the 4th of July.
I hope it will be celebrated
in Old Michigan as being
the day. I know not what will interest
you much tomorrow except
I might go down and hear
a declaration signed at the
soldiers retreat. But it's
getting rather late so I'll
just start one letter by a prayer
for your good to crowned
A. F. Cayder
Washington D.C.
July 9th 1802

Dear Mother,

Being that I have a little time to spare, in some way, I thought that I might as well apply it in writing you a few lines as any other. Recent events agree with me—be having arrived to day from Frederick'sburg. He is what he calls well, although of course somewhat weak. It's a very warm day, rather to warmer to be in the sun, although I'm been shuffling about with this morning. It's again mind that we leave tomorrow but I shall believe nothing like I'm obliged to. But how did you spend the 4th? I wondered round over the city time in the former and in the afternoon went down to the docks and assisted there...
Our fellows off the steamer from the Lake field of battle. There was 3000 of them—mostly from Michigan but some that I know. They had to be current off the boats to the main barges, that is many of them. I read a log that I kind yesterday from the Michigan regiment. Tommy knew them. His name is John Fox, a very intelligent good hearted boy. He was wounded in the arm at the battle of Fair Oaks. He says it's terrible. He's not very well. He's having the scurvy—which is a good deal. He said that if he could get his discharge he would. There was a man of the 1st man told me last night that Mr. Mason, a cousin to schoolmaster Mason was killed in the last battle.

I have just received a letter from Loby which shall be answered in due time—The first that I remember of our
receiving from her, I guess that she will have to write plenty often for she is getting to be a first class writer. How does Charley get along now days? Does he still cling to the reins of the horses? I should like to send the sheep about now, for a little while anyway. I suppose now that Jenny is helping think the east around the corn for the second time. I don't do that any more but I've got a horse that throws it in my face and from that clear down my throat. Well, however, unless I would eat he wouldn't much to say that I would like very much to see you all. But my space is about gone so good buy for the present. Yours affectionately, forever.

A G. Beden
Washington City, June 15th

Dear Friends,

We arrived here yesterday morning safe and sound in good health although you can imagine somewhat fatigued & sleepy when I tell you that Friday I was on picket and of course all night. Saturday we marched all night Sunday we expected an attack and was up and ready through the night and last night was up again. I hope your health is good.

We have had considerable excitement since yesterday morning having been expecting an attack our men since we came. We feel on him once this joiner the rifles being reported near at hand. I was suddenly broken off from writing the above yesterday but
The portion I going on a scout
we went 7 miles toward the
enemy without seeing any
We have a good confidence in
our selves and being well armed
I can land and shoot my carbine
a half dozen times before an
infantryman can land and shoot
his musket once But enough
men.
So maurus will
were I suppose for my 21st
birthday A day commonly un-
expected with a thrill by any
mansion. But it gives one no
unusual feeling or excitement
whatever For my calculate
hime all rest on uncertainty
whether I escape the war
unhurt. If I do I have some thing
to be thankful for if I do not
there is no one to blame
I'm sitting here in the field
with my house growing not
for away with 5 or 6 hundred others: But a few weeks ago to my right as the dwelling of the Edwin of the Washington plan. He had to plan when the war broke and with his family has lived here all the time. He owns a large plantation here. We are all well I had a first rate sleep last night. A man is probably entirely well of the small pox. It left some marks on his face. But they are making away fast. There is a large guard of cavalry here. There are 2000 in marching order. But I must go get my horse by writing you all on good health. Yours Truly,

A. Esperdy

C.O. 1st Missouri Cavalry
Washington D.C.
Dear Mother,

Having a few spare moments tonight I write you these few words not knowing for certain that I can make them. I have been on the march since the 16th almost all the time. I was on the march my birthday. It rained rivers all day and we forded them sometimes having to swim over horses. We went on a forced scout toward Gordensville, had a fight with the enemy near their encampment one of our Co.s so that he had to be left. We went without a meal for 4 days and you can imagine that our cats would last well in such a thing. It rained 5 successive days, torrents. But we all are well. I received your kind letter of the 10th. You want to know how warm it is here. Wools will fit you. If I lay my back in the sun I burn my hands to a blister. I think it was just a fight before long with Jackson and it's just of what him. I hope that your affectionately yours, S.B. Johnson
Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter of the 13th this day and having an occasion of thought that I would write you a few lines in reply. I have written a great many letters that you probably have never received at any rate that never have been answered. I went one way. Writing being done of the place before and one 10 miles from him in every way of one nothing of which have been answered or received. Upon leaving the forty and two in which I will do is now 83. I find it to be more than I expected. Yesterday in some from beyond Perry and in coming I observed a guard on nearly every house. And I can bet you that hundreds of men detested for such daily wearing the strength of the army and its confidence more than know that many killed in battle I to a curious enemy by their bullets and with its own enemies in many. And if the folly is followed up, you can rest assured that all we can do is nothing for protection to this situation next will go success fully together. Since we were here before we have been wondering
nearly all the time. We started from here at
16 1/4 and it rained for 5 days every day. My clothes
were wet for nearly all the time. If it would
stop running for a few hours we would hike to
mine and then get out as rats again
and go. I went out but I have been well all
these times. I shall long remember my 9th
birthday. I was as wet as could be as mad
ugly as could be for I had had no sleep for 2 or
3 nights right before. I caught the night before
in the grass with nothing over me.
I was shivering through the mud up to my eyes on
knee and up through all the bullets whistling
by my head showing that soon we'd be in the
front was nothing I in earth's dwell
They told one of my company's arms much off
and I was asked as they figured out they had some
trouble also. Our legs and feet by 6 went down
and I was wondering what we could see and
the rebels got mad and sent up in the roads the whole
of Ides of March and we looked to get in a scrape
There for the roads curved up. But it
would make you laugh sometimes to see them,
left about 6 a.m. when we got to close on
It's just noon sometime here now days
we could not stand it if we didn't wear working-
clothes to keep up from burning. But then
I have got use to it so that's nothing
July 28, 1862 - p3

You speak about inquiring agin if in that war would be last永久. All of us got to go is that I should like to talk with you for a few minutes. I could tell you tales that would make you think of shining tears by our mother's candle for a while at any rate. Don't you think, because I don't wish him my sufferings in things external that there is no devil in the pop. I'm telling you this that I have gone through many a year's day they erupted with tears in their eyes. If you want a little again just try it at home for a while. First just for 4 days without even a hard break. Don't sleep, but it odds all the time, and you be not without mentioning the comfort I whistle my bullets and see hard, you like it. And then, if you like it, I will tell you some things that you would like. But they do like all what one might expect. I'm not yet deceived in cold when I tell the drummer boy, I should like to see him some day at his earnings and in fact, I should be glad to see you all. Egbert has been unwell lately, but is again now. Family is sick and was very sick his last week. I'm well. I hope you the same.

E. C. Edg.
Camp near battle ground Bull's Island
August 15th 62

Dear Friends,

This is the first chance I have had in a long time to send you a few lines. Though I gladly take the opportunity, I have been in the hospital since the 6th with the camp fever till yesterday. Though I feel now quite strong and am with the Co., yet I don’t do any duty yet. I was fielded around almost 50 miles in the old ambulance, the hardest things to ride in. On God’s health as the old first says, "Once my youngest in the fight, although they were skirmishing with the rebels not but a good miles away. I rode all over the battle ground yesterday. There are a good many hard
sights there. I read with my
own eyes dead men just pre-
landing from their burial
place. The rebels say with
They fought for two miles or
more as they went and as it was
the ground is one vast barren
ground. It was long stand in
every direction by the sea. My
small fortune. No one likely
knows exactly the loss but as
much more I can tell you
than the paper reports. But enough
of that. The last letter I received
from home was dated 27th July
where was but 9 that are not
announced. I put 20 dollars in
my bag I believe you commenced
drafting. That will be tough to
be made to get. I shall be glad
to hear you write and that Young
writes on the umbrellas. It
will be in the souls from
Their eyes when they get here on furlough not knowing one
minute but what the next will
play them through with a barrel
full of shots that they will
think this is indeed a
civilized and wicked world
that we live in.

I feel like talking with you all
this morning I could imagine my-
self if I couldn't see you. But I guess
that time is far away as yet.

One year ago tomorrow my son
served in Uncle Sam's service &
now the question is how many
men will pass in his turn.

I am not yet decided though
I think I find to consult
with my soldiering @ with
often to let me all.

Yours forever
N. G. Byrden

The boys are all well
Camp near Rapidan
August 18th 62

Dear Mother

Your letter of the 10th
was indeed very gladly received
day before yesterday. Do, you don't
know how interesting it is to look
over those few words so late
from home. A letter is worth
more than a thousand pieces of
one any time. Upon that of our
20 dollars and wish to know whether
we best let Mr. Blake have it
or not? Do as you think best of course.
All I wish to know whether you
receive what I send. Write in your
next and much in all you have
received. You spoke of needing
So few rather than starving. Does any here wouldn't wish for anything, however, I guess
that there is no danger of ever starting. Your say that they say
that the rebellion shall be put down this fall, I guess, I guess, that they will
ought to keep it long, then the time some.

And that Penny had gone to enlist,
well if he had got the war fever, and
is bound to go. I hope it will never terminate in Hills' turn in digits
land. I should think that he would
have gone in the cavalry for that must
and better women than the west
Though actually Hoyt will make a
splendid officer for he will be a
man as well as a soldier. I hadn't
heard of Charles Hudson in a long time
for although I expect that he is some
when within a very few miles
of me and with him say but which way I cannot tell. So Scammel is in the same way we are speaking of them. The ones at the bank are but a half mile away they are just from South Carolina. There is a must away here. I hope that you will write often. It is very hard for me to get the material for writing. Though I know stumps and plants I suppose that many of my friends think that I don't wish to wish them but I wish them when I had a chance and seldom if I could. But so much as I can do to wish home occasionally I find partly will to day. In the last lines that I've missed any words none I've been in New York be assured that I shall come home. Tell all to write.

James, Forever. A. O. Ryder.

The boys are all well.
Point of Rocks Rd.
Sep. 24, 1862

Dear Friends,

I have this morning for the first time in a long time an opportunity of writing you a few words. The time that has passed since last year before I can very truly tell you how very eventful it has been since then. I have since been a prisoner of war in the hands of the Rebels, but can now as freer and am to start for Camp David this afternoon. I can tell you that I have been en route for a few weeks when the fifths crack. The rations chalk and the cannon roar and our men must sound and will a very good story for one.

The 19th of July, was the fatal day with us. Our Battalion filed a charge on the lines that day and the support being withdrawn left us few hundred fighting thus and with nothing but the saber. You can imagine the恒大 at the rebel city.
some of his noble friends from the rear lost no opportunity to knock him from his seat when the white column galloped upon me. I thought I was gone at first but after they got over me I got up and as much as I could and tried to escape but could not when they rode again to the wall of me and sent the bullets past me, burning my face clean across and taking off some of the under lip. That you need to think sometimes took out too far. Well that's nothing. Tell all our officers was taken and 6 of my comrades (one Col was killed) our Majors was very badly wounded and another Major taking prisoners. We fought hard but if I ever see you I can tell all about it enough now to say the surrounded us and took us prisoners and give us nothing to eat for the temple supper. I think the only thing we have nothing to eat themselves.

Know nothing whatever of the other boys. Truly farewell in this but rest in the hope that they all come out right.
Sept. 4, 1862 - p. 3

I have a good deal to tell you, but not much time to tell it in. I will write again soon. I hope that these few lines will find you all well and enjoying yourselves. As soon as possible.

 Yours affectionately,

[Signature]

[Address]
Head Quarters Cavalry Brigade,
2d Army Corps,

Camp near Alexandria, Sept. 6, 1862.

Mr. Ryder,

Your son Alfred was taken prisoner on the battle field of Bull Run. We made charge on the left wing commanded by Maj. Powell. The left had already been turned, but we knew nothing of it. It was no trap to make a charge on the enemy in support a force and so strongly supported by infantry, &c. Artillery while we were bowling alone one Brigade against two of cavalry, &c. all the rest. We could have whipped out the cavalry. Our Boys came
noble, not a manifest host. Eleven of our men and 3 Officers were taken prisoners. How many of them were wounded I do not know. It was hard times. I suppose the prisoners will be exchanged soon. We are sorry to lose Alfred, he is a good soldier and companion, loved and respected by all. We hope he is all right and will soon be permitted to join us. William Farley, El Burr were down to the 24th which yesterday and saw the boys they were all well but some of them are a little homesick.

As I hope to be able to send you glad tidings of your Son

Dear Colonel Smith

A. Matthews

Ordeary Commanding
PS. I should have written before, but it has been very hard in times with me. We have been out 2 whole nights and half another since this battle and here on the snow all the time until last night. We have had the first day rest the last 24 hours since we left Washington July 3.

I am answering letters and writing to brevet-soldiers constantly.

Reynolds Farewell was wounded, how bad I do not know.

A. E. Y
Prisoners, Cumberland M. Sunday morning.

Sep. 24, 1863.

Dear Friends,

Again having a chance for a written word, I thought I would write you a few words that you might know that I have still a good word for you. I have not as much time as I should have, and I hope you are all well. Your greatest aim is to know how you all get along in this world, and I have not heard from you since my capture. You have probably received the letter that I wrote you at Point of Rocks, informing you that I was taken prisoner at the battle of Manassas on Saturday, July 21st, and was paroled at Dumfries on the 24th, and arrived at Point of Rocks on the 3rd.

We were told that we were to go to Annapolis, but we were sent back, and I will probably stay here till we are regularly exchanged.
Although we have been told that we will
all be here in a day or two, so that I don't
trust much in such pleasant ideas;
Our regiment is somewhato disorganized,
partly from losing so many good and able
comrades that we had a garrison
off. Yet he was a brave man, indeed. He was
dead, or was through the breast. And all things
form one of the best officers that our kind was
killed, and Major Atwood, another prisoner,
with Capt. Horner and both of our Lieuts.
with many of the Commissioned officers.

How do you like bandy. Think our cause
stands, as far as I, I certainly appear behind, for
and I know not even how in any advance
against many hostile pressure.
Some people have to speak so little of the
remains of the rebels I see you from there.
I can see that they are alive and a sort.
Their guns have made it quite their own and theytexture more funs to inspire their men with war feelings. Their officers are fine men and some have the among their enemy. It's a post that our officers should be more in thing shoulder shaps just as to much pole dignity and can express to much pitty between themselves. But do not send that we go to Washington to join our regiments this evening that I don't know. I feel just now than I know nothing going the other boys. I'll write again hoping that you may receive this all well. I remain yours forever A. S. Byder. 

We have not yet moved nor written as much as much signs of it as there were this morning. We have bad news to night from our enemy but I will hope for the best. And the immediately and probably I shall receive it all right. Miss AL.

Cumberland Alleghany C. O.
Ohio Camp Cham.

Dear Columbus Sep't 15, 1842

My dear Mother,

Having an opportunity, I write you a few words and in hopes of receiving an immediate reply. I came here day before yesterday, but I must confess that I have not felt able to write you till to day. I have been unwell with the gout and fever with my irregular diet, probably I am here till eyegrown and no knowing when that will be. I don't like this prison in our own country for those who have been so faithful as they know how they can hundreds of hundreds who would indeed be glad to see their friends here but the
opposite says the I won't
one would find my whole
of people to do so but I
and stand to the rack I guess
with the rest. I almost
dishonor of the success of our
cause. I know the jokes in
high command in our army
& I know too the desperation
and wisdom of the public officials
It's hard and terrible to believe
that the thousands that have
been killed shall remain
on rebel soil but I fear
it is true. Some of our
own guns and the rifles as
much as their own
but something else. Uncle
man. I said Uncle
last one. He is here a
prisoner also. He is in
March O'Dell.
and is the same old situation I have had no news from the other boys since the fight & I know nothing of them I would be glad to hear of them if you can be looking for them & all others to do the same.

The world is full of trial and grief
Of weary work and care,
And many and courageous
Our journey we must bear

Yours forever A GP

Adjt. of Co. A, 4th U.S. Infantry
Gen. Headquarters

4th U.S. Infantry Paroled Prisoners
4th U.S. Infantry Co. A Paroled Prisoners
or to your best Knowledge
4th Staff, Co. C, Camp Charn, Sept. 27, 1862


I certify this to be true and certify with my name.

Albert Franks
Sergant
Camp, Wallace near Columbus Oct 12th 62

Dear Mother,

Once again I'm allowed a soldier's pass, but not this time without a party good idea of what was coming. We got on the boat that night as we intended and arrived in Cleveland next morning all right. It was said that the Lake was very rough but as for myself I slept as soundly as ever. I snored away yesterday, brought me safely to Columbus. But 20 there was but a few men and negroes left, all gone home. What few of us were left were sent to this camp in care of Capt. Bervett about 4 miles north of the City. While we were gone the boys had the good luck to be jumped by most likely
we will have to wait till next pay day. But it's no difference to me you know for I have a plenty. To day is the day that the General ordered all to report but I see no more than usual for all are gone that want to and that have the cash. We have tents but they are on very low ground and probably if it should rain would have to be taken away in a boat. As for myself I can swim out without odds for anyone. But I think if things go on as usual I shall walk out and hire out to some of these rich farmers. You know I'll have a chance to get acquainted often times two thirds of the battle in life. Nothing new in regard to an exchange. It looks dark as though they mean to exchange us.
But as you say so long as we are here we won't be likely to hear any bullets whistle. I don't hear anything said in regard to the Indian matter except that they knit organizing the men but whether it's best for anything but a system of obtaining food and maintaining order I can't tell. But I'm getting sufficiently long this. Our small facilities is very much confused. Tell Jenny to direct Camp Wallace. Write often. Give my respects to all. John sends you and the rest of my folks his. Yours Affectionately

Governor N C R

Y Pitch Carr

Caroled prisoners
Camp Wallace Q
Their Column two
Camp, Malbone Oct. 5, '82

Dear Friends,

I'm going to leave this camp probably to-day. Most all of the boys have already left for Michigan. Then King, my step-mother's boy, has gone over there. I don't approve of the idea myself, having him in indebtedness and expenses for no purpose whatever. I shall stay around work for a week or two and work if I can. Then, of everything, I'm very much for Michigan, doubt quick for you get along quick two months in my pocket.
Our Co. officers are trusted and in Detroit they tell me not to stay here without a pass. And if it is possible it is my wish to go to school this winter, somewhere and old Michigan I guess is the place. I don't like this way of drilling well enough to stay here if I have the right to go anywhere. I've bought me a good substantial pair of boots and a set of rags and have got the sack well filled with good government clothes. I'm all right. I feel well to bound and think for me you don't hear of me in a while again.
had no time since I got back to give my respects to all.
Yours forever
X. G.
Camp near Alexandria
Nov. 13, 62

Dear Sister,

Having a leisure moment, I thought thus I would pen you a few words, hoping that they may find you all well. I have had a nice camp, a few miles situated on a little branch in the Potomac river. Vessels of all kinds war vessels and commissary are dashing by nearly all the time making a lively appearance indeed.
to hop to remind us of the building. I will start to write out with a party of about 30 toward Leesburg the other day and it is reported that they are all better prisoners but I hope not they were to return yesterday but have not yet appeared. I have no word from the 24th or none from Rifley since I came. I hope you will write me and give me the news. will you know any thing about Donney or not?
They said when I first came home that I was an exchanged prisoner. I have heard, however, that I am sick and have been doing duty since. I hope that I'll have a chance to go to the front before long and then I may get the news but then it's hard finding anyone in such a large army. This makes the letter hard for me as I've written home but no answer yet. But I must go and write again. Like my respects to all.

Yours Forever,

S. G. Ryder

C. T. Ryder
Dear Mother

I have an opportunity to send a few words by mail. I am writing to improve it. I wrote a letter to you by mail last week at 12 o'clock that some might we started on a march and arrive here the next night. The boys that were fire were in a pretty hard position. The rebels were all around them threatening them every hour I wrote about early being captured. It was 7 o'clock when I was on picket with 5 other men and the rebels charged in upon them and before they could get on their horses they were taken. It was midnight.
eaves very dark. They said Farley's men horse and common ground backing about what should have him. And Farley rolled over a near fence very still and I came by very still when they went up and left him taking the other boys.

with them. So he's here with me, but misses his own horse revolve. I have

They got one of the boys that was taken at Bull Run with one but keep for him

He knew very good quarters here in a nice church. The

soldiers sent word to us yesterday that they were going to attack us last night. But we slept

very soundly on Major Thomas's horses is worth 15 dollars a board.

We have sent a piece to take a good barrel and are going
to give a hint many 25 or 2.5-
2.5 dollars a pair. But we do not want any of them.
I feel just as I was on the train scouting yesterday.
I was out all day but never felt better.
That blanket that you gave me is worth a thousand
among blankets. I'll take good care that the mules don't
get it in it. I don't know
anything from the 9th.
How does Aunt Maria's little
boy get along. Write and
remember the young farmer.
A.S. Ryder

Joakin can do it.

Addresses: John H. Scott

Washington, D.C.
My Drummond and 23rd Oct.

Dear Friends,

I write you a few words this morning to let you know that I can tell our returns providing I'm so lucky as to get them. We are ordered to hold this place an indefinite length of time so we may stay here all winter. There are 1000 cavalry men of different regiments about 900 from our regiment and 15 from my Co. Fortley is here all right. We are stationed at present in a barn but express our tents at hand 5 days. It is here and in hard times for almost a week but expect easier times now. Our army seems to me in want of a serious change but may be it is all for the better. I have partly made up my mind to go in the regular army.
I can assure them for my home and I almost believe that I would be discharged by the end of that way. A number of our boys have already gone and men will go by the heavy artillery.

I haven't had any heart since I came back from the 24th or from Tullock or from home but I feel our mind to day and may be have some letters.

The rain shines not quite pleasant to day it has been raining for two or three weeks. This is not a small place.

Next more than to dwelling. It is on the right of Legals and in the outside, this country is partly clays but what little cultivated with such as chickens and milk and the like.
Nov. 23, 1862

We captured some flour in the morning the other day and went in to the factory where we could beheld that night we had to move and leave it. So the deep was so much unkind. But we got some mail yesterday and content ourselves so we was just cheated out of this. Write and tell all your to do the same.

Yours truly,

J.G. Ryder.

Since I wrote the above Fairley has made me two nice shred meat cutlets and said fried cutlets. So we are living high. This a first rate cook.
Dear Friends,

Your kind letter of the 17th is received and I wish you quiet rest down to return the compliment.

Will you allow the small column each one is answer to know whether he has any of the valuable or not and more than lucky is who has one. We are rather scarce on it for now any way him being separated from the command and only occasionally occurring the mail.

I sent the paper by chance should refer to our regiment or the 34th Illinois and a copy.
Your letter is the first I have heard from you since I came back. I don't see why he don't write to you. I have written him more than a dozen letters and never have received one from him yet. You speak of his hardships; yes, I can sympathize with him. I think it would be more than the exception.

I'm glad to hear that Mr. Farnie's Coddy is better. It don't seem possible yet that mother Shulls is actually dead. I should be glad to write to all but it is impossible the way we are placed. Times are busy and full of anxiety. I can tell you.
In the army if no where else one can approach that line of the Bible, no man knows what a day may bring forth
I have been thinking about enlisting in the regular army but I guess 
and I'll take your advice and not do it
I'm sorry indeed that Young did not receive that money but I'm in hopes he will yet I suppose he has not been very ill as we hope to send him to some place before we get ours. Pray tell every one to do the little
more was better in regard to health I hope this may receive you all well
Yours sincerely A G Ryder
I received them slumps all right but they went on here so I might as well return them
with just as many thinks as through they would go

Fargent Wafterman is sick with the jarrings. There is a good many cons of that I'm no footing of complaints I know how to judge them.
Drumsville, Io.
Dec. 6th, '62

Dear Friends,

Your kind letter of Nov. 29 was received yesterday. And although it is pretty cold & windy, I read your kind words. Yet those I was glad to hear from you. I was glad to hear from Tom & glad to hear from Jimmy. I would like to know where he is this cold windy snowy day. It is the first but not the first since I first came back. The snow is, however, in depth. I am glad I have got your work well along. I must...
be pleasing call me with you. May ask me if I have any plans I bought a pair of socks one while in Detroit. That arriving the purpose any will there are about two hundred four boys the next. Col. Townes acting Brigade Gen.

The winter has come and I think that there will be no more fighting till next spring. It is past taught on soldiers in the face of an enemy. Standing just the old rights and joining all the little comforts you can think of. Not being as well as could
to expect. If you have got a letter with the
president's message
on it, I am sure we have not read
it in camp yet.

Some think that the war will be stopped by the
present Congress, but the
first thing I should look for
is for a bill for a loan of.
300 or 100 millions
in a proclamation for
more troops. We are
all well, hoping thou
may find your
name.

Yours truly,

A. G. Ryder.
Dunsville Dec
December 9th 1802

Dear Friends,

Having another chance to pencil out a few lines to you this eve I embrace it

I am rather tired having been riding all day in search of beef cattle. We found one fellow more lucky than his neighbours he having 6 very nice ones for us. He sent us coming and sent his boy with them over the hills but the Yanks found them at last to his great displeasure. I shall tell you the people of this country know what war is.

It is a satisfaction to me to know that my friends are so free from its afflictions as they are. I wrote another letter to Simon yesterday.
in hopes to get a letter from him before long.
I heard from Rubin Fairall yesterday by the way of a letter to Fairall. He remains about the same. He says he don't think that will again be able for duty again in a long time. 18th or 24 hours since I wrote the above but now I guess I'll finish up.
I very gladly received two letters too since I wrote the above one from me and one from Jenny dated Nov. 15th at Wayzata. He was then well. I tell you my letters is what furnishes me with good news. They are good friends! I have had a little tick of the rheumatis with a very bad cold but am getting over both now.
there with me— and to my benefit too. // well I told you some that I would finish up but the order came to go and I went. We were on patrol to Alder and picked last night I haven't told you what kind of a time I have had. a miserable one but have traded 4 times with the boys and now have one well suited to the business—a funny fellow. The government presents us with a pair of mess back skin gloves each a pair of a present indeed. Have thanks to Grandma been with you. Tell her we are all right and expect to remain so as long as we live.
Dear Mother,

Your kind and welcome letter of the 28th is duly received. I was glad to hear that you are all well.

I'm very well now but feel some stiffness, having just come in off the picket. I told you about receiving a letter from Tommy in my last home. It's very busy times with its hard days and therefor I don't get much time to write any when its busy home. I've owing a good many letters but shall find probably to try for the present CEF is reported that they are fighting down at Fredericksburg and I even can hear from.
where I am the rumbling of distant cannon for all chance. There will be an awful sight down there and I hope it will be decisive for the war has lingered long enough.

It is very pleasant weather here now days almost like September in Michigan. You write that ferry is sick I hope too that he will soon be well for this is no time to lose one. I'm glad that he got there: money paid in will be of great benefit to him if sick. You speak about my money holding out I wouldn't give anything for many here. If you have a few 3 cent stamps to spare please put them in your next letter.
court had that
land back comes out in your
not. It's rather a curious
case I should think to be
pushed on. If Grandma is with
you tell her not to worry
for Oct. for he is alive and
kicking among the people
of the world and is just as
good as ever to keep bread
from molding and salt meat
from rusting &c.
Give all my best respects
when down and remember
me Yours forever
A. G. Ryder
Dear Father,

Having some little time to myself, I thought I would write you a few words. I'm well, but rather sleepy having been on duty last night. You may think that this is near Washington to have trouble with rebels or be very anxious about them but it's a fact that we have a little fight with them nearly every day. Our command caught 6 bav...
night. All this is left in this direction from Washington is only about 600 cavalry. This place is unmemorable for a very hard fight over a year since between Stewarts & me Call. I counted over 70 lines that was struck with cannon balls & of these will cut their down but little way from here.

I received a letter from you yesterday stating that your lawsuit came out all right. It was a curious case. I should have found thread, needles, and money in the letter all for which I'm very thankful. But I shall answer that in due time. John just sent me from camp now.
paper and envelopes, both of which I was out. John is acting orderly for old Sir. Abercrombie now. Alexandra and will probably stay there during the winter. But also is orderly for some F bought at Frederick,burg. I haven't seen him since the first day I came back. Turley is with me yes. Probably he will be commissary agent and then will have to return to camp. I wish that when you want to know you would have the weekly Adamarian sent to me 2 or 3 months. It would be a great comfort to know something what is going on in the world. Direct care of Mr. Scott Washington DC. I hope this will meet you all well will yours August
Dear Friends,

I thought this morning while I was sitting in my tent, that I would write away a few moments in writing a letter home. Although, I can tell you that I don't feel very bwine [bear] I had got a cold, so that I can't sleep much, and my lungs are very sore. Of what a great blessing it is to have good health in the army, if I could only keep well, I wouldn't care, but I should be
thankful that I am no worse than I am for this is many that is suffering with wounds, and diseases that is worse than mine, most have been here more than a week, and I have the best bed last night that I have had in this place while I have generally had to take up with the ground, but I have had some stalks to stay on, or respect to go into winter quarters fairly quick, I suppose that the paper says that the boys are all anxious for another battle, but they are discouraged in fighting and they are many
That say that the will never ask their lives in an other battle. They was the soldiers that told me that they was 19 deserters out of this company in To-day. They didn't only 8 captains in our regiment. They has all resigned. There was 2 captains and 6 Lieuts. Besides this morning I thinks the 7 Lieuts. thought will come home on T. Earle's. Hardy Root is in the gaol for waiting for trial, shovin on the deserter, I would die first, but I must close, then.
is no snow on the
ground here
it is warm by day
and very cold at night

J E Regan

S W Regan
H Regan
Dear Brother,

Having some little free time, I thought that I would answer your kind and welcome letter which I hurriedly received. I found the letter well filled with things that are very essential in soldier life.

I received another letter from Johnny to-day dated 7th Dec. He was well. I have written to him often lately. I hope he will recover than he was at Brock Station. He says that Charlie Hoyt was just busy having discharged. To-morrow is Christmas. Well I wish you all a merry Christmas.
As for my self I shall likely confine myself to soldiers delicacies Bread and salt pork. But I hope the ones that have an opportunity to enjoy them will do so. I shall know I believe had to appreciate a fine horse if I ever gain it again for is quite that it requires readiness to enjoy health and I don't know but it requires some hard times to enjoy good times. We are all well that's one happy thing for us and another Christmas find us here or not. This is the question I go all right. Write soon give my respects to all and a merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely A.J. Rodgers.
My Cher, E Ryder

Dear Cher,

I suppos you are going to school wood day. You must study hard and learn all you can, well Cher, do you wish that they would go further on so you would just help to go to that place. I just received another letter from home with more your sis in I lile you Cher, I am glad to get in, I hope you will never help to go to war I hope Danny will come home if he can. I am glad indeed that one finished up their letter. I have got over the sherrilees. Do good boy Cher. Write as soon as you can. Yours forever.

A.S.
I hope this you will yet a good gift press old Sandy Clays to make at your pleasure full of good things tell Mrs. that I must write to her as soon as I can.
Camp, Broadhead, New Jersey, O. L.

Dear Friends: The day is clear and we are just away from home. We have enjoyed it greatly. We have had a grand dinner, turkeys, chickens with other luxuries to nameless to mention. And you can believe that I took charge of all that I could conveniently accommodate.

It was provided with the prize of all that never had been dreamed. The turkeys alone cost 74 dollars. The order cost 15; the quartermaster arranging the affair. He is a son of postmaster Mathews, and a sturdy steward fellow. I can tell you I feel first-rate again, nothing a 140 and渴望ly pressing every day. It's a good business for giving a person a good appetite.

Yours truly,

David G. Ryder
Dear Friends,

The day is just and mild, and we are free away from home. We have enjoyed it very well. We have had a grand dinner, turkeys, chickens, with other luxuries to mention. And you can believe that I took charge of all that I could conveniently accommodate.

It was provided with the finest of wines, that never had been drawn. The turkeys alone cost $4 dollars, the cider cost $10; the quartermaster arranging the affair. He is a son of a good man. Matthews and a very good fellow. I can tell you I felt first rate again, writing a post and probably running every day. It's a good business for giving a person a good appetite.

Yours,

C. F. Ryder