

Camp 154th N.Y.S.V. Lookt. Valey Tenn  
Apr. 12th/64

Dear Brother

Your kind letter reached me to day I now hasten to reply to it I am usually well & everage in pretty good spirits. I have enjoyed myselfe pretty midlin since I came here Have you rec'd only that package with the ring in Wy I have sent several since I have been here If you haven't got them I dont know where they could of went to. Dewitt after you read the Books I send lay them up or pack them up in a box & save them. I have another ring that I shall probbably send when I send another package. Golly you have done right well to make 100 lbs. of Shugar I did not expect you would make 1/2 that. Does Sap run now. I would like to get hold of a little of your new shugar. Smack Smack goes my lips to hear or think of it. Did you boil all your Sap in our 1/2 caldron kittle. I am sorry to hear that one of your cows sick or that you are going to lose one of them. cows are pretty high are they not It seems by the price Father paid for his that they are. But I see that Butter & cheese is pretty high. I saw that Butter was quoted very high, from 40 to 50 cts. It is only 70 cts. per lb here. Then our friend Wesley Whitcomb has got home has he. Well I would like to here from him real well I guess I must write to him. I wish I had more Friends to corespond. I almost forgot how to write a letter It is so seldom that I write one I like to write first rate I wouldnt mind if I could get a letter to answer every day providing I could get the time to do it & I guess I could upon a pinch. Coax up some of your associates to write to me you do know how much good it does me to recieve a letter. A 5 dollar Bill is nothing when compared with one You wrote me in your other favor that T\_\_\_\_ Whitcomb, Judson Commings & Nelson Payne had enlisted. Have they been excepted & sworn into the service. If so do you know what Regt. they have chosen to go into. Two New Recruits arived here to day Others are expected soon. We had a Corporal detailed to day on Dress parade to drill the Recruits They will have to go through the sprouts I reckon I went out on picket two or three days ago or more We have a good ways to march to the picket line. The posts are from 4 to 6 miles from camp on the Rail Road. We pass our time off pretty agreeably here. Have plenty of drill. Ball play pitching quates. Music There are Two Fiddles here. I play on them all I choose & more to sometimes. I play 2d & it makes pretty good music So the Boys say. It That is soldiering goes very well with me & I with that, while we are in camp & have plenty to eat But when it comes to marching & fighting, I had rather be counted out Then I dont like to be short up for Rations Darned if I Due. I would like to know what possessed the Post Master at Catt. for putting on so much postage onto the packages That last one mother sent (The Towell & Jack Knife cost 16 cts. Enough to send more than as large again a one. One of our Boys got a pound of Shugar about the time I rec'd my package & it only cost 8 cts. I should speak to Mr. P.M. about it. I dont want to send home for so many things if they are going to cost so much to send them Witty send That is you know some time

*[Charles F. Allen, April 12, 1864, continued]*

when it comes convenient Just send me a few sticks of Chewing Gum The  
Freemans are very welcome here I wrote in my last to have you send a Diary.  
The one I have is pretty well filled up Write me all about the folks particularly  
the girls My Respects to all enquiring Friends & a Request to have them write  
&c

From Your Brother  
Charles F. Allen

*[Charles F. Allen, private, Co. B, 154th New York, National Archives.]*