

Camp near Stafford C.H. V.A. Feb 25th/63

Dear Wife

I received yours of the 20th last evening and hasten to answer this AM was glad to learn that you were all comfortably well and your letter found me the same we are here in camp we have a fine dry location and the men have built log huts with chimneys in them and covered them with their tenting and we are comfortable 1st Lieut Chapman and myself tent together and Truman Shannon tents with us and does our cooking our house is 12 feet long and 7 feet wide and the walls are about as high as my head across the back end we have got our bunks one above the other the Lieut and I sleep on the first and Truman on the second in the front on the right is our door and on the left is the fire place we build them by sticking two rows of stakes in the ground in front of the fireplace and then fill in with mud to the highth that we want then put on a mantle piece and build a stick and mud chimney as high as we want it then build our fire and as the mud becomes hard the inside tier of stakes burn out and leave the back of clay almost as hard as stone for our beds we cut small straight poles generally cedar and after fixing a frame to keep them up from the ground lay the poles close together then go and pick Uncle Sams geese that is gather a blanket full of small cedar twigs and put on top of the poles lay our rubber blankets on and one wollen blanket the rest over us and we have a bed that a King could sleep on that is if he was tired. now about those things I think you had better box them up in a small strong box and send them on having the Express Agent be sure to have them forwarded to the neareast Express office direct to Lieut S. W. Beardsley Co K 154th Regt. N.Y. Vols Washington DC to be forwarded by Express to Aquiai Landing you will pay the Express charges and take a bill of the box which you will forward to me by letter and that you will see be my order for the box I want you to send the satchel that Tiffany gave me as I have nothing to put my luggage in but my knapsack and cannot lock it up on a march and I am afraid the teamsters will steal my cloths send the key in it and tie it fast if you can get an old fassioned frying pan light and small send one but I must close or I shall be to late to send by to days mail give my love to all and tell Eunice and Mary that I am going to write to them in a few days tell the Children that I am glad to see them use so much judgment in sending the cards and tell Alice I will learn the verses as she requested but I must close for it is almost time for the mail to go so good by for this time and may God bless and keep you all till we meet is the prays of your Aff Husband

S. W. Beardsley

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Dear Wife

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20<sup>th</sup> last evening and hastens to answer this A. M.  
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and your letter found me the same we are here in  
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have built log huts with chimneys in them and covered  
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1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Chapman and myself tent together and Truman  
Shannon tents with us and does our cooking our house  
is 12 feet long and 7 feet wide and the walls are  
about as high as my head across the back end we have  
got our bunks one above the other the Lieut and I sleep  
on the first and Truman on the second in the front  
on the right is our door and on the left is the fire  
place we build them by sticking two rows of stakes in  
the ground in front of the fireplace and then  
fill in with mud to the height that we want  
then put on a mantle piece and build a stick and  
mud chimney as high as we want it then build

our fire and as the mud becomes hard the inside  
tier of stakes burn out and leave the back of clay  
almost as hard as stone for our beds we cut small  
straight poles generally cedar and after fixing a frame  
to keep them up from the ground lay the poles close  
together then go and pick Uncle Sam's grass  
that is gather a blanket full of small cedar twigs  
and put on top of the poles lay our rubber blanket  
on and over water blanket the rest over us and  
we have a bed that a King could sleep on  
that is if he was tired, now about those things  
I think you had better buy them up in a small  
strong box and send them on having the Express  
Agent be sure to have them forwarded to the nearest  
Express office direct to Lieut. S. W. Brantley  
Co K 154<sup>th</sup> Regt N. Y. Vols Washington D C  
to be forwarded by Express to Aquia Landing  
you will pay the Express charges and take a  
bill of the box which you will forward to me  
by letter and that your rec. will be my order  
for the box I want you to send the satchel  
that Tiffany gave me as I have nothing to put  
my luggage in but my knapsack and cannot lock

it up on a march and I am afraid the teamsters  
will steal my cloths send the key in it and tie it  
fast if you can get an old fashioned frying pan  
light and small send one but I must close as  
I shall be so late to send by to days mail  
gives my love to all and tell Eunice and Mary  
that I am going to write to them in a few days  
tell the Children that I am glad to see them  
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and may God bless and keep you all  
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Aff Husband S. W. Keardley