
These letters were written by Eason Bull to His brother, Wyman and to his sister-in-law Lydia. The letters were copied from the original letters which are the property of Wyman's grandson, Wilbur Freer. There is but one more letter from him that is known about. This belonged to Eason's youngest sister Roseltha and is now the property of her daughter Esma Woodworth.

copied by Frances (Goodremote)Ortwein from Merton Beasor's Bull family book, Aug. 1977.....

Letters from Eason Bull to his Family during
Civil War---Sept. 1862 to Feb. 1863

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Jamestown

September 7, 1862

Well, Wyman, I am well. I have been sick with the sh-do. You talk of comming out here. If you do I would like to know when you are coming. If I can get a pass I will go with you. I don't no but I shall come home next week. If I get my clothes we have not got any money yet and don't know when we shall. My shirt is as dirty as you please. Have you heard from Abner? I have to go on guard tomorrow at 9 O'clock and of Tuesday at 9. I wrote to father last Sunday. I would like to be in his orchard now. Where is Speed? Where is my Guardenes? Have you got that money yet? If you have here come to the gate and turn to the right and inquire for Capt. Ching's quarters and maybe you will find me there and maybe not. You might as well look for a needle in a hay mow. There is about 3000 people here everyday. If I don't come home fetch me a pair of socks. I want you to write all the news. All write. Can Willie talk yet? Well I cannot think of nothing there is so much going on here.

Eason W. Bull.

Direct to Jamestown

Chataqua Co.

In care of Capt. H.Cheny.

That is all. Goodbye all..

** On p. F No. 17 belongs -2-
here

In camp near Fredricksburg
September 1862

Respected Brother and Sister:

It is a long time since I wrote a letter. We have been on the march 8 days and now I guess I will stop and loost my gun. I can go about 5 rods and see the Rebs. They are just on the other side of the Rappahannock River. They had a fight here last Saturday. The 64 was in. I see Bill Hutchins yesterday. He had 10 bullet holes in his clothes. He is in camp near here. He is some poor. I expect we will have to cross the river some night this week. The Rebels shell us if we cross in the day time. They might shell us now if they was a mind to but they dast not. I don't fear to go one bit. I tell you Wyme I don't have to go alone. There was as many as 20 of us that went yesterday and buried in dead hill said that we lost 20 thousand banks got wipped bad. Wyman if I get killed in this battle, which I have no kind of doubt that I will be in before this week is out. I will give what I have there to Willy but there is a chance for me to escape being hit. It will make a fuss if the folks know it there but there had been so much fuss I had rather he would have it then anyone else. Tell the folks to not worry about me. I haint but one to die and I don't know as it makes any odds where a man dies. I don't fear to go at all. If I get shot at I will bet on his life. We had a long march to get here we come reinforce Burnside but he got whipped before we got there. There is a large force of them here. I see them the other side of the river. The weather is clear and cold. I am as tough as a bear. I have a cold now. The 64 got their pay to-day. I don't know when we shall get ours. Give my love to all.. Tell all the folks to write. Lydia you must write. Lydia I marched 4 days on a hard tack a day. This hard feed on muddy roads and the ground to sleep on the

night. After a man lives in the army 6 months he just as soon die as not. Well I must close so goodbye all. A battle is sure approaching it is near at hand. We are going Bull hoy or run.

From Eason to Wyman

-3-

No date

Well Wyman, Good afternoon. I don't want to scare you but I tell you what it is if you have got any loose change I wish you would pass me a little. When I get my pay I will make it all right. My money has leaked out. Some where we love hard tack when a man doesn't feel well he wants a bit of cheese or a pie goes well once in a while. Don't let any one see this but I don't want you to think that I am ashamed of it. How is the weather there? It is warm here we have some frost here but warm days. If I live three years I will tell you about war then you ever thought of. I am as fat as a hog. I have not seen Dick yet. I got a letter from him last night. I have been on a number of battlefields. It is a horrible sight. There is a man in a mess of bushes near here that had been killed by some snach. He lies on top of the ground. If the Rebels come they will get a piece of my mind. They are coming down from Bull Run. I can run that so goodbye write as soon as you get this.

Eason B.

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Eason to Wyman & Lydia

Fairfax, Virginy
October 15, 1862

Respected Brother and Sister and Friends:

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to inform you how we get along. We are not very well. I have the Bloody Disentary. George is getting better. I went to the Surgeon and got some medicine. We don't stop long in a place. We are at Fairfax Courthouse now. We have to go on Picket Duty before long. We are on the ground that our men took from the Rebels on surprise when they was at breakfast. Mr. Lew Jenks is here. We are under General Seegal. I see a man from the Regiment that is sick. I wrote to Ezra and to you and one to Abel and one to "Speed since I got to Washington but have not heard a word from there. You must direct the same as before to Co. D. 154 Regiment N.Y.S.A. Washington, D.C. and they will follow where we go. I can see 8 Regiments in sight. We will have a time with Stonewall Jackson before long. I like this first rate if I could have my health and I guess I shall have that before long. I will give you the list of provisions here, butter can't get at no price, cheese, 25¢ a lb. potatoes 10¢ a lb, "Whiskey \$1 a pint, hard tack free. I would like to send my dress boots home. We got orders to leave all but our over boots and blanket when we march from here. We send the rest of our clothes to Washington and send for them any time we want them. I can see a battlefield from here. There was a man shot himself here yesterday. It went through his left foot, tore it all to bits. It is nothing to see a man shot. They don't mind nothing about it no more than I would kill a rat. I must close postage stamps is a scarce thing around here. I cannot get one only if some one of our boys. I have plenty to tell now and I have got three more and then I must stop till I can send to Yorkshire. Lydia, you must write and tell me all the news. Write often and I will do the same. Tell Mercy I would like to hear from her. I am much obliged to her for them gloves and I will pay her for them.

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Fairfax, Virginy
October 24, 1862

Well, Wyman, I got your letter just now. I was glad, thrice glad to hear from you but I could not read more than half of it, it was fasted together. The ink fastened it tight it was blotted all up. I wrote to you 3 times tell Abel that I got his letter today and I will write to him Sunday. I don't have much time week days, we have to drill. So William don't beleive that Nuters home. It is good weather here now. I can see a boy from the regiment that is sick is in -----. It is warm here in the day time but cold nights. Speed has left there has she? I would like to see our folks if she don't preform right I cannot help it I have talked all I will thats so I have wrote to her some letters but hain't received one from her. There is room in this world this side of the Potomac for me till the war is over. We will have something to do before long. The Rebels ain't far off I seen 18 the other day. I want to tell you to tell all our folks to write I can't write often. I have not got but three stamps and it is most impossible to get more. If you will send me some I will be your brother during Life. You may charge me 4 cents a piece for them. My money is getting short.. I have to buy soft bread I can't eat hard tacks. My mouth is as sore as it baby's. I am getting fat. I weigh 165. When I left Jamestown I weighed 140..I'm as fat and black as old Harry. You would not know me. You won't for three years. I have no hopes of getting through with Uncle Sam before the time is out but if I have my health I will be glad. There was one man died here by the name of Miles. Wyman don't say nothing but the Captain is making out the pay-roll to-day. We get it the last day of this month. There is much shooting around here that I can't hear myself write.. That is all to write, tell Lydia to write and let me know how they all get along. I must go out to dress parade, Good-bye
From Eason W. Bull to Wyman Bull and all Yorkshire
Write as soon as you get this.

-6-Fairfax. Courthouse
Nov. 1, 1862

Well Lydia how are you? How is Willie? Don't let him get the whooping cough. I forgot to tell Wyman that I got the express he sent me. Tell if he will send more I will be thankful to him. I read it all over. I expect you have snow there now but it is nice weather here now. It is some cold nights warm days. Lydia I would like to sleep in my old bed if it is upstairs. I have not had my clothes off since I left Jamestown except to wash them and that is not often. I must close and I want you all to write as often as you can. I can't half write I have to sit on the ground and hold the paper on my left hand. It is hard work. Does the old man remember me? Ha.Ha. I have been gone so long I guess he has forgotten me.. But here I am. (he drew a small sketch to resemble himself). Tell all inquires, my friends to write, Tell me all about the weather, the folks and all. Tell our folks not to worry about me I am alright. We just got news that they were driving our men from Richmond and they was a going to take 500 men out of this regiment to stop them. But we cannot tell anything about what we hear in this Camp. That is all. this is from Eason Bull to Lydia A. Bull. In haste.

Good bye

Fairfax Courthouse
Nov. 1, 1862

Well Wyman I will pen a few lines to you to let you know my feelings on the goods this morning. I am well and I hope these few lines will find you all as well as I am that will be well enough. You had ought to have been here last night. There was a battle five miles from here. They said that they took forty poisoners, and lots of forage. It would make you laugh to hear the shells and cannon here, most all the time. I see a grand sight yesterday, we was out on review I see more men than you ever see on one spot. I have been out on picket three times. I expect to go again this week. I hañ't no more afraid of the rebels than I am of a bear or that wolf out in Michigan. Well how are all of our folks. Is Mary and Lester well? Yes, how is father and mother? I dreamt a dream about them the other night. Ben is sick. It is strange that I don't get no letters from home. I han't got but three and I would like to get one every day. I would get my likness taken and send it home but it costs a dollar and dollars is scarce here. Write as soon as you get this. They are calling out the guards. I don't know but I will have to go if I do I will finish this when I get back. I will wait and see who has to go. Well I will give you a description of this country. It is about like Michigan, the timber is oak, red cedar, pine, chestnut, walnut, shell, and grape, and log cabins and niggers, and lots of ground to sleep on. I tell you Wyman it is fun. Well I must go down to dinner. Well I feel better. This soldering aint so bad after all. If a man can have ten dollars a week, to spent it is pretty hard living. But I don't think it will last long. Well I must stop, Goodbye.
/This is from Eason Bull.

-8-

Fairfax, Va.
Germantown
Nov. 1, 1862

Dear Brother & sister,
It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am in the land of the living yet.. I got your letter yesterday with the stamps in. I was glad to get it. Who is drafted? I heard you were not exempt. They won't stop. Tell Justis that I can be promoted if I have got that position. I am driving four mule teams now. I get \$19.50 a month when I get anything. We have not got any pay yet. I don't go in the ranks no more. I will tell you how I got here. You see we was at the Gap. Well we got the views that Stewart Eaverly was borrowing, so we got in line of the battle and the artillery went to the Gap and it left it again double quick. And we skeddaled for Washington or that way. We burnt the Bull Run bridge and all the bridges for thirty miles. We have stopped near Fairfax. The boys was tired out when they stopped. I rode the long eared hoss. I like my hosses thank the Lord I don't have to carry my load on my back. Our company stakes 40 guns. They are all to the hospital, Bill and Ben, Capt. Bailey. I don't think Bill will live a week. Dont tell Mary I drive the ammunition train. There is thirteen wagons we don't have to move only as the brigade moves. When we stop we have a tent to go in and the boys have to build theirs. I got that paper you sent me, don't send no more stamps now till I get in some stopping place. Wyman if you are drafted, don't be afraid I am not afraid of all the rebels in the south. As long as I drive team I feel very well all but my ear, that is bad. Nat is some gritty because I left him. I

Letter No.8 cont.

don't know where we will be in a week from now. I don't think we shall go into Winter quarters just yet. I am in hope we shall get our knap sacks. What is this I hear about Lydia? Don't worry about me. You said you would send me Lily's likeness if you thought it would come. I will warrant it to come. When I get in for the winter I want some things sent to me. Lydia don't mind the folks there let them talk. I will raise ned with them when I get there if I ever do and there is a small chance. I think I would like to visit the cellar. This is all the paper I have got to my name. Write often. Tell Abel to write again.

Eason

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Through Bare Gap, Virginy
Nov. 4, 1862

Respected Brother & Sister;

It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to inform you how I get along. I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you the same. We are in Rebel land now we confiscated all we can see. We are on ground that the Rebels left last week. They hain't all left yet we have took some straylers. We found cows, sheep, hens, geese, honey, clothes, silk and every thing that we could carry off. I have got a pair of Rebel Officers pants I wear them for drawers. We came past Bull Run. The ground I see men's legs and arms out and some whole bodies on top of the ground. The tops of the trees are cut off with shell. They will cut a tree one foot through down. It is not but two and a half miles to the Rebel Pickets. I don't know when you will get this. I expect to be called into battle before long. We are in hearing of a battle tonight. I can hear the shells and cannon roar, Don't worry about me. I feel as though I would like to be in one battle. ha ha ha I just got some honey. I feel better. I tell you, this war is nice. I would advise all to come that's wants to. But the cannon rattle tonight. We are in sight of the Blue Mountains. You may look for me next spring. Well, I must tell you that I got three stamps and I was glad to get them. If I get home I will stay there till I get a real shirt. I wish you would tell her it makes me feel bad to hear that she talks so. The weather is warm here now. Is summer there? Apples is not gathered yet, potatoes are not dug; only as we gather and dig them. We killed seven head of cattle yesterday, so we have beef enough now. That is all.

Eason to Wyman & Lydia

November 4th, 1862

You must not worry if you don't hear from me very often. I wear Rebel clothes now. Goodbye. Write often.

Eason Bull

No date or place

Well Wyman I have got \$26. There is twenty in a check. I will start it in the morning. I want you to have one drunk if it gets there. Just save one dollar to pay George Bailey. I got one dollar offhim. If you don't get it nor this I will send more. I have got five yet. You must write as soon as you get it.

I tell you Wyman we marched ten days to fight the Rebels. It got so muddy we had to come back. When we got back it rained so we pulled our tents over a pole to keep dry. We had a hell rough concern that night. It begun to snow and blow and freeze, by thunder in Mars if I did not think of home that night, I never did. How's Dad? Well the next morning the snow was so deep on us who would not be a soldier, I will because I can't help it. It is fun. Goodby all.
Eason to Wyman

November 9, 1962

I was on picket yesterday. I wrote to you with a pencil. I guess you can't read it. We got to march tomorrow, at 8 O'clock back to the Gap. I must hurry and write a few lines when I get to a stopping place. I will write again. That bill won't go I will try it some more, and then send it back. It is some mud now here. Well I will close. Write often. That envelope, I spilled it. I would like to see Willie and all the folks. I got a letter from Speed and two papers. I will send her letter in this. Please hand it to her. I am sleepy and must close..I expect a long march tomorrow. Goodbye all. I am as tough as a bull I weigh 167 lbs. now. I can whip the whole South alright. Tell Abel to write and Chesley.

Eason Bull

November 12, 1862

I wish I could get my pay. I have not had a cent of money in three weeks, and the boys have sent home for some, but I won't do that. I should think you might send me one dollar as Dory said. I should think you might care about me, but I shan't ask you to. We have been mustered for pay but we don't get it. And we don't know when we shall. I got them stamps I sat down and wrote again. But I have not got a letter from there since.

Goodby. Eason Bull to Wyman Bull

I presume I shall get my pay before I could get it from home. Don't forget to put on in care of Capt. Heney. We are under Gen. Saggal, the flying Dutchman. How is Willie? Tell old Mary to write. How's the old gobler? Well goodby all I am tired of writing.

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In Camp Near Through Fare Gap
November 14, 1862

Respected Sister;

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know how I get along. I hope these few lines will find you all better than I am at present. I have the disentary and a gathering in my head. I cannot hear in one ear. It makes my head feel dead but I guess I shall stand it, I got letter from Dick Charisoa last night. He is working 2 miles ahead of me and I cannot go to see him on account of the pickets guards. I have to stay right here all the time. We call the roll every hour in the day if a man is gone they make him carry a rail 8 hours in 24. They won't get me. It is strange that I don't get more letters. I have wrote a good many and I have got since I left Jamestown 7 letters. I would like to hear from home every mail. There is a good many sick in the hospital Eden Snyder is there but it is a bad place all kinds of cases. The weather is very warm for the time of year. I must give you a little description of this country it was thickly settled before the war broke out but now there is not a house once in 10 miles. Great nice houses torn down and burnt down. There is once in a while a old man and woman and niggers lives but they might as well die. When the Army comes to them they must take all the stuff they have such as butter, hogs, sheep,. Well all he has got and damm him because he has not more. It is to bad but I tell you their honey goes good after all. We are at Through Fare Gap, it is a place where the railroad runs there is just room between the mountains for the cars and a brook to run. The Rebels are the other side and we on this side. We hear them shell some worst every day but we are not afraid of them. We have marched most every Sunday since we came into Virginy. I wish you would write and let me know where Ben is and is Winton Chistenden at home. Wyman wrote he was. There is a good Regiment from New York here and they may be here. I have not been a bit homesick since I enlisted. Tell the folks to not worry about me. There is two men died in our company. The Captain is in the hospital. Tell Wyman to send me all the papers he can.. I like to get a BUFFALO EXPRESS once in a while. I guess I shall enlist in the regular service for 5 years. How would you like that? I hope that Tike boys won't be drafted. Tell Wyman to send me all the stamps he can. I will pay him don't send too many at a time.
This is from Eason to Lydia Bull (sister
in law ?)

-14-

On Picket on the Rappahannock
Sunday, November 26, 1862

Respected Brother & Sister;

I wrote to you yesterday. I was on guard. The Regiment is all on picket now. We are on one side the Rebels on the other. We can talk with them well. I want you to send me a pair of those socks. Wrap a piece of paper around them so the ends of the socks will

stick out and they will come half price. Send me some paper, some envelope, some stamps, and fine comb. I will make it all right with you. If I live all right, if I don't all right, send it all by mail. The boys get large bundles. They don't cost them more than 12 cents. Never mind expense Uncle Sam is rich. It is nice weather here now. We have to stand guard 48 hours. Uncle Sam's socks don't last more than one day. Send me Willys face. How is father's health and mother's. Boy says he will write to you and says Agnes must write to him. Lydia you must write and let me know how the folks get along. I wish I could get my pay but we won't till the last of next month.

Eason Bull

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Camp Jones, Fairfax Courthouse
December 7, 1862

Dear Sister;

I received your letter this morning. Was glad to hear you were well. I have got as tough as a bear. I feel pretty well now. I have to go on picket tomorrow. You wrote that Wyman had sent one dollar. I had not got it yet. I got the stamps, all you sent me, but I was sick and I had to get me some soft bread and I had no money and I let them slip. I tell you it is a hard place for a sick man. It is hard for a well man, too. I don't know when we will get our pay. If I don't get some before long I will have them send some from home. You wrote as though Wyman sent the dollar in the paper but it was not there. It would have been a welcome visitor. It is so cold here that my ink freezes in the pen. You said Abel was in my bed. I would have liked to have been with him. But when I get home, if I ever do, I shall enjoy myself. Don't worry about me. If I die here I shall be as well off as if I died there. I shall be home in three years I guess. There is a great many men going every day from 15 to 29 every day in Washington. I never want to go to the hospital. When I get someplace where we are going to stay a spell, I will write to you and have you send me some butter, some dried berries, and one thing and another. I will pay you what it is worth. I don't know where to have things sent. Tell Wyman I would like to get some money to pay for the land the first of January, but I don't know as I shall. I would give six dollars for five now. A man wants some money here or he will die anyhow, but if he is sent me one dollar, tell him that will do. He will have as much as he can tend to if he gets along. It is going to be hard time to pay the taxes. I don't think this war will end this week. We was called up the other night to get ready for battle. They said Stonewall Jackson was coming. But he did not come. I must close. The mail will go pretty soon. You must write often. Tell all to write. I can't write very often on account of paper. This is written wrong side up. Well, about that Rebel letter, that is good I think about this war, it is a foolish thing. I have not been homesick since I got here. There is something about war that makes me feel mad all the time. I feel as though I would like to fight

somebody and I don't care who it is. I hope the war will end before long. I will be as saucy as I can be. I don't want to pay for Speed's board to Jinx. Why don't she stay to father's? Or don't they want her there?

From Eason Bull to Lydia Bull

-16-

December 8, 1862

Respected Brother & Sister;

I got your letter to-day and I was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well. I am well and tough as a bear. I lost 10 pounds and I hope I got it again. I got that cold* but I think it will not stay here but I will try it. You wanted me to tell you whether I would enlist if I was free,

The Lord knows if I was free, I never would enlist again. It is about as the Rebel said it is a diabolical bad place. I don't want any more of the boys to enlist. You wanted to know if I would live with you when I get home it will be a chance if I get home but if I do I don't think it would be best for me to love three but I tell you if Lydia was tough and able to do the work for us all. I never would leave the place nor build another house. I never will go to keeping house with my furniture that's so I want the priveledge of living with you one or so months. If she (Speed) don't come there all right don't say nothing I will make it my home with you as long as we can manage. If I get home I will enjoy myself alone if she don't foller me I shan't her, but I tell you don't enlist. All though I like it very well when it is good weather. I am on picket to night and it is very cold.

The snow is about 3 inches deep. Oh, I got them stamps 10 and 7 and I got a paper with a letter in it I guess I get all the letters. I got one from Abel and Chesly, Mary and tell them I am well. Bill George Baley ---Loren Phillips are to the hospital. I will tell you something I don't want you to tell of, there is one man from Yorkshire his name is Nat Brown, he is one dammed shit ass. I tell you this is the place to find out who your friend is, dont let no one see this letter. I wish it was not against the law I would like to fight every day if the boys did not keep themselves

straight.

Well, write often tell Speed I have spent \$60 and not no more don't sell any more pork to get me money. I will write as often as I can. Don't worry about me. I am all right but I would like to be in father's cellar now.

Eason Bull

(*cold ? could be comb)

--17-- ** This letter belongs after Letter No. 1.

Fairfax, Virginia
Sept. 15, 1862

Dear Sister;

I thought I would write a few lines to you. I'm not very well at present. But I hope I shall get alright before long. I have got the disentery pretty bad, but it don't make me homesick yet. I enjoy myself when I'm well. Don't worry about me, I am not but one amoung 50,000. I would like to see Willie. How does he get along? How does the old Mary get along? If you see Speed tell her to write. I want you to write where she is and how she works. Don't let no one know that I wrote.

So William is on guard today. When Mary was at Jamestown she wanted to know if I sent any money to Speed. She said she had not got it and them boots that William sent she said she had not got yet. Don't you say nothing to get to her that I wrote about it. The boys wants to know who I write to. This is from E.B. to Lydia. (sister-in-law.)

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(The following letters or letters were written on some small notebook paper. It is written with pencil and some parts of the letter is so faded that it could not be read.)

Elmiry, N.Y.
Harrisburg, Penn.
Baltimore, Maryland
Washington, D.C.
Arlington Heights, Virginy
Fairfax, Virginy

Wyman how is it about that fine? I can't pay the thing. I don't think I will get my pay till next month the last. If you can't get along hire it. I will pay the share.

In Camp near Falsmouth, Virginy
December 27, 1862

Respected Brother;

I am on guard this morning. I am well and hope you all are the same. I got 3 papers from you the other day. I was glad to get them it seems like home to get them papers but I would like to get a letter from you. It is very warm here to-day. We have not fight the Rebels yet but I expect we shall cross the river before long and when we do we will get the Rebels. The Typhoid fever is plenty here now. There is nine men buried here to-day. There is a good many got it. It is bad place to be stuck in. I am glad I have my health again. This will be a curious letter but I will number it so you can read it. This is my account book. I am some _____ and it is Saturday. We are under marching orders again. We will have to march tomorrow. We always march on Sundays. I wish you could see the Rebs that are in sight of here. We can't whip them out in 40 years. This war will last as long as there ia a man to fight or a dollar in money. I wish I could get some money for you the first of January but I don't think we shall get our pay yet.

I wish you all happy New Years. I should be if I could get enough to eat. We got from 10 to 6 hard tacks a day. Well I must go on guard. Good-bye. Well I have got to my post, while I was coming I found a gun. I wish I could send it home but I can't when I come home I will fetch it home. Nat will make things right. I have just eat some hulled corn. It tasted like home. Why don't you write some Lid says? There is a man buried here to-day one from 37 and one our Regiment. Wyman, I wish you would send me some things. Take a paper and roll a lot of writing paper and envelopes and some stamps. Send me a good fine comb in a letter I will pay you all for j all your trouble and expence. Just keep track of it all. I can't write on paper that costs 3 cents a sheet. I will tell you so you can tell where we are look on the map and track us from Washington to Fairfax from there to Centerville and from there to Baltimore and to Through Fare Gap and to Bull Run and to Fairfax and from there to Grindfrieys and to Fredricksburg where we are now.

Bill Hutchinson is here and Harve and Dick. We are all together but we can't whip them yet. If I was clear from this I would not go no more so don't never enlist nor be drafted. If you have to fight, fight for your own hill. This is a shame to hard to askbut send me a fine comb. Put it in a letter, send Willeys likeness. Is he well? I will send you some 2 dress boots if I can. Find out where to send them. Dick gave me one the other day. If you will tell me where to send them. What will the Express Office shall I send them? I can send clothes enough to last 40 years. Well Good-bye till I get to camp. What do you think the Captain says about me? He says I do the most duty than any man in the company. Good-bye for now. Well Wyman I think I will desert what do you think of that? There is lots of boys that says will desert when they get their pay that is not my game. I got some paper in them papers that you sent me. I will write when I get to camp on that so you can

read it. I am going over to be with Bill this afternoon. When I get some paper I will write to George and all the Norm and all the rest of my friends. I guess that is all I can get in a letter. Wyman, I guess I will go and see Bill and see will he help me write this afternoon. Well I went over and see him and he wrote a few lines. I must stop now. I will have another letter.

I must write a sheet yet so Good-bye all. This is from Eason Bull to Wyman Bull.

In Camp near Falmouth
Dec. 27, 1862

Dear Brother and sister and Father;

How do you feel to-day? I am not very well, have not been since the battle. I was in it pretty tight place. Eason is here so I thought I would write a few lines with him.. I am conseated. I would like to hear from you often. I was glad to find Eason. As soon as I heard he was near I started right off and found him. Tell Speedy that he is well and looks Tuff. I am washing to-day. Write often. Good-bye for this time.

Wm. Hutchins

--20--

January 31, 1863

Dear Sister Lydia;

I like to get a letter from you but I don't like to hear that you worry about me, why , this is one of the best places in the world, nothing to do only once in a while we take our guns and go out hunting but the game is not very thick here now, not as thick as mud. As Wyman said I'd better keep the money matters to myself and write on a small piece of paper but Nat and Ben is worried about who I am going to send my money to. I have got 26 dollars to-day. I will send him a 20 dollar check. He can sign his name to it and be all right to keep it. I want he should write to me so I shall know if he got it but don't worry about me I am all right If I ain't I will be after this war if I live if I don't I shall die a soldier. I wish you would write to me where Gilbert is. I want to write him a letter.

A man don't have nothing to care for here. He can get up in the morning get his breakfast do nothing till noon get his dinner and so on but we go out on packet once in a while. The Rebels will come half way across the river and throw tobacco to us. I don't like to fight them but if I'm called in I will do the best I can. Now write as soon as you get this. Tell Wyme that I can't send no clothes by express. He must take the

greenbacks and go and buy them. Don't send me nothing else if I can't get along I will do the other thing so Goodbye.

Eason to Wyman & Lydia

Wyman, I will send a specimen of my beard that I wore from Jamestown. Ha! Ha! Ha! for Skeezer. (some hair was found in this letter.

January 31, 1863

--21--

On guard on the Rappahannock River
January 29, 1863

This is a pretty night. It is 11 O'clock at night. I can see to write by moonlight but it is hard for the eyes. The snow is about a foot deep (this part was written with pencil and now cannot be read due to the fading). I will tell you more in the morning so Goodbye for now. I got a letter from you yesterday with stamps in it. It is 11 o'clock and I am writing by moonlight as I believe you will know when you try to read this.
Eason Bull

--22--

January 31, 1863

Well Wyman, all right on the goose all present on the Rappahannock. I got a bottle of ink to write I got a paper the other day and next day I got a letter yesterday. This morning I got a pair of socks. I will send Lydia the money to pay for them. You wanted to know if the boys was going to run away. They all talk of it but if they go I hope they will get brought back as long as they got them bound they ought to stay. I got a letter from Mary the other day. Mother said she did not want me to desert. Tell her as long as my name is Eason Bull I will fight before I will desert. I wish you was here one month to see something you don't know nothing about. Tell our folks to write as often as they can and you must do the same. I don't get none of the stuff no more.

LAST LETTER FROM EASON BULL

In camp near Staffords Courthouse
February 11, 1863

Well Wyman as I lie here on my side I will pen a few lines to you. I have not been able to set up more than 20 minutes a day for as much as a week. The doctor don't tell what ails me but he says he will fetch me all right. I have not been out for in a week as I generally do at one meal. Well that is all I can't write more so Goodbye for now. From Eason Bull to Wyman & Lydia Bull.

EASON BULL (b. Mar.20,1837;D. Feb. 19,1863)

Until recently little or nothing was known of Eason, Letters have been found and from them we piece together some of his life. He was married unhappily as it seems and as to wether they had children or when they were married is as yet to be discovered. Army life was hard on him and he contracted bloody disentry and died at Strafford's Courthouse, Va. at a field hospital on Feb. 19, 1863 and was buried in a cemetery near by. Years later he was re-interred to Fredricksburg National Cemetery, Va. In his letters he expresses a great interest in Willie. (Wyman & Lydia had a son William born July 3,1861) (Mary's son was born in 1865).

Eason married Speedy Hall

This letter was found recently. It relates how Eason Bull died:

Virginia, Feb.20,1863

Friend Wyman,

It is with a trembling hand and an aching heart that I address you with a silent pen. I have lost a bunk mate and a friend. Your dear brother, Eason, is dead. He died yesterday about noon. He was taken a few days ago with the bowel complaint, then the typhoid fever set in which was the cause of his death. He was out of his head the last few hours but the night before he died, he called for little Willey. He had as good care as could be had. I was with him when he breathed his last. His remains are on a little hill at the edge of a pine grove. There is a little pine at the head of his grave. It is about one mole from Stafford's Courthouse on what is called the old Wheeler Farm. He has had a good buriel to what the most of the poor soldiers have. I will bring this to a close. Write soon,

Yours truly
Nathaniel S. Brown
to Wyman Bull

P.S. He died on the 19th day of Febuary.

Nancy please hand to Wyman immediately

They say Eason was originally buried in a hallow log.