

Civil War letters from

Alonzo A. Casler to his wife

Cinderella Casler —

incomplete transcriptions

Falmouth Gapp Jan 13th 1863

My Darling Wife

I have a few moments to write I just read the letter that was mailed the 8th how much I looked for a letter you will excuse me for not writing to you wont you I have had so much to do to get ready for winter quarters & if we are let to stay where we are I can write often I was called in from pickett to day we are to go up the River to guard the Pioneers while they build a bridge across the Rappohanac we start at two o clock tomorow morning we have 3 days rations & one hundred rounds of cartridges apiece though we will be supported with or by Cannon Cinderella the rebbells guns are not to be feared half so much as sickness we cannot muster but 40 men to go out with us Cinderella if I had the letter I received from Steamburgh the other day I would send it to you I burnt it up when I return to camp if I will tell you all about what they said to me I commenced a letter the leaventh but could not have time to finish it my darling wife I am tired and must lie down untill we are called up write often we will get our money this month I am willinged to stay here if our army will onely do something to end this rebellion and run my risk on the field of battle

My darling wife may you yet have a happy home & I be let to share youer company & while I am here may thousands of angels watch over you

Alonzo A Casler

Cinderella Casler

Falmouth Gapp Jan 13th 1863

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Stafford CH

Camp near Brooks Station Feb 3 1863

Good evening Cinderella I wonder if you havent forgotton there is such a fellow as me if so I expect you will blame me for it and lay it to my neglect in letter writing on the other hand it worrys me to think you will keep me in susspence it is almost 2 weaks since I looked for a letter from you & have not received one yet this is the 4th letter I have written within a weak — Cinderella the new are not worth telling except I should speak of the dispozition of the officers as to my self I passed an examination for 2d Lieutenancy when I was 2d Sargeant I passed a better examination than our first Sargeant [Byron A. Johnston] though he came from the same neighborhood that our Capt. [Baker Leonard Saxton] did the Capt tryed to hurt my chances & help him the cap of co. F [Thomas Donnelly] in this Regt had a vacancy of 2d Lieutenancy & tryed to get me in his company & our Capt went to the Coln [Patrick Henry Jones] & got up a strife unbenown to me which caused me to loas that chance thinking he could get the first Sargeant promoted though he did not acomplish that I am sorry to say our Capt is disliked by all of his company the Capt had a fus with his first Sargeant & was a going to have him reduced to the ranks & put me in his plaice I was not sorry when I see this change before he was arrested he was promoted & transfured to co B _____ I was twice glad then our Capt had faice enough to come to me and tell me he had worked against me to favor his first Sargeant B. A. Johnston & would now help me I wonder if it will not be a wonder if I ask him for help I did consider my self independand _____ there was not one in the company that could do his business as far as making out his apc. & to act as first Sargeant axcept me unless his Lieutenants would do it & they wont help him if they can get rid of it though I make my self beholding apearantly to my superiors in rank this a soldier does half to do or have friends for they all consider it a duty to obey their superiors our Capt is a going to Resign I passed an examination of 2d lieutenancy to day I think I will be promoted within a weak Giles is coming home on a 10 Day furlow in about the 18th of this month Fernando Jaquay the doctor says cant live no more but do write

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[February 19, 1863]

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My darling wife many you yet have a happy home & I be let to share your company & while I am here may thousands of angels watch over you

Alonzo A Casler

Cinderella Casler

No 18

Camp of the 154 Regiment New York Voln
Near Catletts Station Aug 12 1863

My Dear Wife

I Received your letter written Aug 6 it was mailed the 8th I was verry anxious to hear from you & that letter was worth a great deal to me the last letter I received before this one was No. m 10 & this was No 12 the one oyu sent to Jamestown I did not Receive wh did you send it by if I should get it I will send you word Cinderella I have commenced to write you a letter this morning before the sun is up many of the boys have not commenced to kook their coffee which is the principal part of their kooking of course when they have company they have something new or a change they have coffey & bread for dinner & bread & coffee for Supper & for breakfast they have both So you can see there is more than one way to the woods & that one mans stile of kooking is just as good as any other mans Cinderella you must excuse me if I do not write you a letter that is verry long for I cannot think of any thing that seams a though it was worth writing or good enough to write wal you must excuse me untill I eat my Breakfast as it is ready — — — my breakfast has been eat & I am now seated to finish this letter Lieut [Byron A.] Johnston rose up from his couch this morning & he says Lon now lets reform this is his plea every morning & then he cuts up the worst you ever see a man in any life though it is all in fun he says it is all my doing that makes him act so though I dont know what I do that should make any one act as he does I expect Lieut [Henry] Martin here soon it is about time for him to commence his day work of story telling which is quite interesting some times he is a west Point cadet & has or was educated at the same school with General Lee, the Rebel & has spent 3 Yrs whailing & considerable of his time in Callifornia Lieut Johnston asked me who I was writing to & I told him my Wife he says I can write this letter & then I must put up my letter writing for to day I spent the most of my time writing yesterday & that is the reason he wont let me write to day though he is going to Visit some of his friends this P.M. & then I will improve my time Cinderella they have been drilling with the Artillery this morning this puts me in mind of Morris I want you to tell me where he is so that I can write to him I left that money in Doctor [Henry]

[August 12, 1863, continued]

Vannarmans hands to get expressed he could not get any chance to send it I am going to send it By Coln [Henry C.] Loomis to day he is our Sutler now he Resigned after the Chancellorsville fight this will be sent to Randolph so that you can get it by Saturday though I presume Adams will send it to you & I sent 34.50 to John Manely that I owed him the amount I sent to you was \$160.00 Cinderella our stay here I expect will be verry short do write often and write and tell me just how you enjoy youer self & how youer health is I hope I will hear from Giles At Annapolis soon Cinderella I wrote to you yesterday the letter was Numbered 17 I do not know whether it was N^o right or not though I will N^o this from that Cinderella I want you to write to me often you said you got tired of taking music lessons & that you could not afford it if you can enjoy youer time any better while imploied in this you can have money to pay them their trouble which mis bailey was it you took lessons of & was it her that was teaching you Cinderella you will have money enough to buy you a malodion this fall & if I should not come home I would rather you would have something to do that would drive some of those loanely hours from youer loanely mind if this war was settled so as to allow me to return home I would now have two hundred dollars besides paying for that place in Steamburg & I think I could employ my self so as to make as much money at home as I am making at least this would be my disposition as I wish to make a much brighter home for you & my self than some of youer pretended friends have said I could though what is the use of wishing for home untill I am there if I could come I would knowing the Rebellion is pretty well squelched out & can be settled without me & may God Grant in a year company again in a land of peace from

Alonzo A Casler Lieut 154 Reg. N.Y.S.V

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Alonzo A Casler Lieut 154 Reg. N.Y.S.V

Mrs Cinderella or Alonzo A Casler

Camp of 154 Regt NYS Vol
Alexandria Va. Sept 24th 1863

My Dear & Respected Wife

This is a clear & pleasant night. Pleasant but loanely Cinderella how I would like to see you this night it woul cheer me so much though such happiness is far ahead or at least it seames as though it was I sometimes feel as though I could not wait for the hour to come It seames as though I could take wings & fly to such happiness Cinderella I stayed in Culpeper 65 miles from Alexandria last night. This place I presume you will know where it is I told you day before yesterday or o Monday that I was quite sick I felt much better on the folowing morning & thought my self able to do duty though I have not got over my cold & do not feel able to sit up I hope I will feel well enough to have those fotographs taken for you tomorrow I think I will go & stay with Morris tonight & Wm. Pickett they told me if I would come over there they would doctor me Cinderella I have been boarding to a private house for the past weak I think I shall board there one weak more this is quite nice for a soldier to get his board kooked & eat at a table though it onely makes me think of home Cinderella you was wishing for the mail to come in while you was writing youer last letter to me so that you have the privallige of reading some more of my letters I am afraid you did not get a letter from me last weak but I will write to you as often as you want to read them I guess I have plenty of time to write & will write you a letter every day if you want me to that is unless I should be on duty & absent from camp My darling Wife you will pleas excuse me & a short letter I have not much more time to write how I wish I could hear from Giles I found Cafeys likness in his pocket in his Valise the other day from youer Husband & youers alone

Lieut Alonzo A Casler
Mrs Alonzo A Casler

Address Lieut A A Casler
Co. A of 154 Regt. NYSV Washington DC

Camp of 154 Regt NYS Vol
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Lieut Alonzo A Casler

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

Address Lieut A A Casler

Co. A of 154 Regt. NYSV Washington DC

[On letterhead inscribed "Bridgeport."]

No. 7

Camp of 154 Regt NYS Vols

Bridgeport Allabamma

Wednesday Oct 22 1863

My Dear & beloved Wife

This is a splendid day the sun is shining in a clear sky and all nature seems to look forward with gladness. I am in good spirits and I thought it would be telling an anxious heart for me to write a short missive & say I was in good health so hear I am my Darling in the camp of this Regt meditating upon happy thoughts of the future & discharging the duties of an officer with pleasure & great interest though the duties of an officer does not fathom my heart as deep as my affection for you Does for to obey the wish of a Darling wife Cinderella my duty for the coming 3 day will be very hard I was put in command of 500 men while they were laying railings for the cars to run on from here to Battle creek I think we will march there soon you must excuse a short letter I have not received a letter from you since I came here I am very anxious to hear from you I have not heard from Giles since he arrived in Richmond Tell me all the news you do not answer all my questions I do not know but that I write so many you cant probably I can judge better about this when I receive your next letters from your own dear husband trew & for you onely

Alonzo A Casler Lieut 154 Regt NYSV

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

[On letterhead inscribed "Bridgeport."]

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Alonzo A Casler Lieut 154 Regt NYSV

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

Camp of 154 Regt NYS Volns
Lookout Valley Tenna Jan 2nd 1864

My Dear Wife

I intended to write you a letter yesterday though I was not able I am some better this morning though I do not feel well enough to write you half as much as I would like to Well I wonder where you was yesterday & how you enjoyed your self I am anxious to read your letter that will tell me about new years all days are alike here hollidays & Sundays are all spent alike I had a queer dream last night if I do not forget I will tell you what it is when I come home I think I will be at home this winter, probably by the first of next month I have just written two applications to Brigadier Generall [William D.] Whipple or had them written as I was not able to write them my self One was for Joseph Price he will be at home I presume by the time this letter gets their I have been assigned to my old Co. I now belong in Co. A. I do not think there is any doubt but that I will be at home by the 1st of next month I cannot write any more I have been quite sick though I think I shall be well again in a few days I am much better now yours from your affectionate Husband

Alonzo A Casler
Lt. 154 Regt NYSV.

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

Camp of 154 Regt NYS Volns

Lookout Valley Tenna Jan 2nd 1864

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Alonzo A Casler

Lt. 154 Regt NYSV.

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

No. 25

154 Regt NYS Volns

Lookout Valley Tenna Jan 20 1864

My Dear Wife

This is a pleasant evening the moon is shining in a clear sky & spreads the land with beauty the mountains & this valley is free from the bead of snow that the hours of Jan, brings to you in the hilly region of Cattaraugus & it seams much like spring but I ask does this find me enjoying the happiness I have anticipated were for me to enjoy with you No oh No but my Darling be of good cheer I will meet you as soon as is in my power may God grant the hour to be an earley one & if far distant I shall hope for that & if never on this earth may it be in Heaven. Is there a thought that tells me it was not my duty for to lend my hand to help the Soldiers in the Field unfurl the Stars & Stripes before a giant foe on the battlefields of Chancellorsville & that of Ghettyesburg Lookout Valley & Chattanooga I can say No & it is not my sperritt for to bear it on yes it is. Though for you I ask is it my Duty. Memmories of youer affection & of my long absence from home says No & the poorness of my health has stamped my countenance with a look that says No & now when allowed to take youer hand my dear wife to tell you I am no more a Soldier I can think with a clear concience that my duty as a soldier & an officer has been freely done & done for my country the hours of evening are far advanced & I close this missive as ever affectionate & hope you will write often from youer own Alonzo

Alonzo A Casler

Lieut Co. A 154 Regt NYS Volns

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

No. 25

154 Regt NYS Volns

Lookout Valley Tenna Jan 20 1864

My Dear Wife

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Alonzo A Casler

Lieut Co. A 154 Regt NYS Volns

Mrs Alonzo A Casler

Camp of 154th Regt NY Vols
Lookout Valley Tenn Jan ??/64

My Darling Wife

_____ write you a few lines this evening so that you might know how _____ a Soldiers _____ was Night before last I wrote to you _____ we was at Kellys Ferry _____ some time untill then was _____ General Hooker _____ his Quarters _____ for to _____ [end of indistinct first page] he came out to see who it was he knows our Regt well & the next day he came down to see _____ to _____ to day he _____ had to break up our camp [line obscured by fold] we are now within _____ rods of our old camp but we have got to building new quarters I _____ detached from our brigade at least I hope so for _____ [Line obscured by fold] the 73d P. V. Regt _____ & our Regt always had to take the _____ & this is why we have always been _____ Coln has petisioned to [end of indistinct second page] General Halleck to be Relieved from this brigade twice than _____ the first time the President wrote or had Halleck write to Generall Howard _____ the 2nd time _____ refered to the first answer _____ have had to dutch it through, but _____ this is not interesting to you I will tell you _____ this _____ verry _____ to night my cover is nothing except the starry heavens good night the light has been so poor I could not see to follow the lines [end of third page] The letter I wrote at Kelleys Ferry should of been No in 27 This is No _____ Cinderella this is the 28 the morning is pleasant the nights [line obscured by fold] & in the middle of the day it is as warm as summer Oh how I would like to see you We have not been payed for the month of Nov & Dec & I guess they will not [line obscured by fold] _____ of March from

Alonzo

Camp of 154th Regt NYSV

Lookout Valley Tenn Jan 28 1864

My Darling Wife

I thought I would write you a few lines this evening so that you might know how
unsertain a Soldiers home was Night before last I wrote to you & told you we were at Kellys
Ferrey and we expected to stay there some time untill there was a _____ General
Hooker saw us pass his Quarters _____ band struck up for to play _____
[End of indistinct first page] The letter I wrote at Kelleys Ferry should have been No in 27 This
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been payed for the month of Nov & Dec & I guess they will not pay us untill the 10 of March
from Alonzo

Camp of 154th Regt NY Vols

Lookout Valley Tenn Jan 29 1864

My Darling Wife

I thought I would write you a few lines this evening so that you might know how uncertain a Soldiers home was Night before last I wrote to you & told you we was at Kellys Ferry we expected to stay there some time untill there was a general order sent General Hooker saw us pass his Quarters when our band struck up for to play as we passed he came out to see who it was he knows our Regt well & the next day he came down to see our Coln to day he ordered us to be guard to him & se we had to break up our camp for the 2nd time we are now within _____ rods of our old camp but we have got to build new quarters I think we are detached from our brigade at least I hope so for they are _____ of dutch commands all except the 73d P. V. Regt & them & our Regt always had to take the lead & this is why we have always been cut up so our Coln has petisioned to General Halleec to be Relieved from this brigade twice though & the first time the President wrote or had Halleec write to Generall Howard & Howard sayed he could not be spared & the 2nd time they referred to the first answer so we have had to dutch it through but prehaps this is not interesting to you I will tell you all the news in my next letter this pen is verry poor to night my cover is nothing except the starry heavens good night the light has been so poor I could not see to follow the lines The letter I wrote at Kelleys Ferry should of been No in 27 This is No 28 the morning is pleasant the roads are getting dry & dusty & in the middle of the day it is as warm as summer Oh how I would like to see you we have not been payed for the month of Nov & Dec & I guess they will not pay us until the 10 of March from Alonzo

from Lieut A A Casler Mrs C. Casler

Camp of the 154 Regt NYS Vols

Lookout Valley Tenn

February the 9th 1864

My Dear Wife

This is a splendid morning the songs of the hundreds of birds that are now here to sing to us tells us our winter is nearly spent And has it opened to us a spring of a summer campaign that will be of success Time will onely tell My dear Wife I have been for a No. of weeks past looking for a letter from you though the precious missive does not come & shall I wait longer for a letter from you to write an answer to it or shall I Appeal to my own feelings and say I will impart to you my mind as far as sircumstances will admit, And still wait Yes a letter I will write to one I have promised so much and still think it is not her neglect that I do not get a letter. My Dear Wife when this letter you read you will pleas think I am far from all tender thoughts, & where many wicked & eavel influences are practiced I sometimes ask my self what I shall do to keep free from them all and my thoughts does onely refer me to the kind advice & counsyl from my wife the onely thing that does have any influence upon my careless mind I sometimes think it is crewil for me to be kept from the tender thoughts youer company influences upon me though if it is crewel to me it must be to you also for for you to think I were becoming cold hearted & hard hearted & if this were so it would drownd the many affectionte thoughts youer heart of me must ask to receive if Peice were to crown our land to day so that I might say I were soon to be with you at home I think I would know no change of my self & that youer Alonzo would be to you as he was the first time you ever saw him & that his heart knows none but you & more than this that his mind is onely fettered by you alone and of course if I know now but you now own it all to forgive Cinderella you have often asked me to come home & why do I not comply with youer wish at once if it is in my power is it becaus I care not for what you say or is it becaus I have lost the first tender thought towards you or is it becaus I carry an idea that I would not be happy with you at home Oh No, it is not any of these thoughts that binds my mind to the love of a life of a soldier It is onely becaus I think it is my duty that I stay here & why do I think it is my dut well Cinderella I do not know that I could tell you all this if I should write a weak but I can

[February 9, 1864, continued]

only say while I do stay here be cheered with the thought that it is all for the best & do not think that your happiness is lost but think that happiness cannot be obtained without some displeasure well why do I say this is it because I think I am or that you are gaining a happy day by my staying here well Cinderella for me please think this is the case have you not thought of the unhappy lives of a No. at home that have been married even since we were & I think if they had been possessed of a mind that would have freed them from being beholden to any one but themselves it would have been much better for them Though my dear Wife I believe you would be willing as to enjoy a life with me let my fate be as it would wouldnt you but I think this is a bright time the south cannot hold out but a short time longer & then when Peace is again spread over our land will you not be twice happy to take my hand knowing that war cannot take me from you again but Oh how happy I would be if I could write & tell you my last danger had been passed that were to be passed upon the field of battle perhaps they are but if they are not may I be led with a brave spirit & if I fall may the pride of a brave & true soldier both to his country & his darling wife mark my resting place Cinderella perhaps I am writing so much you will get tired of reading it so I will soon close this letter I hope I will not have to write another letter until I can make a visit home for if I do not I will soon be there but there is every thing to hinder me from coming but I shall make every effort to come for if I should not come this winter I shall have to wait another year & this would grieve me much for it does not seem to me as though I could wait another day or stay here without seeing you any longer but we will hope for the best from your dear and affectionate husband.

Alonzo A Casler

Camp of the 154 Regt NYS Vols

Lookout Valley Tenn

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