

Lookout Valley near Chattanooga  
Qr Mr Department 154th Regt NYV  
Dec 5th 1863.

My Dear Friend Norman,

I have often thought of writing to you before this but as I did not remember the number of your Regiment I could not write. I received your very Wellcome letter of the 23d this morning, and now as I have just finished my Dinner which consisted of Fresh Liver, Soft Bread, Onions and Tea, and that you know is good for a Soldier to have, but you must not think that we have this every day, generally all we have here is Hard Bread, Coffee and Bacon. I will try and write you a few lines in return. You have heard before this can reach you that we have left Virginia and are now in the Cumberland Army under Genl Hooker (who we think is one of the Best Generals the Army Affords) if I do not make out much of a letter you must not blame me for I am suffering what Job did as I have a large Bile on the back of my neck which makes me scream every time I turn my head. We left Alexandria Va the last of September. I was left behind in a Hospital two weeks sick with the Ague. I came by the way of Cincinnati to Louisville, then to Nashville to Bridgeport- Alabama, where I joined the Regiment about the 20th of October. I was on the road about ten days Stopping in Cincinnati Three days. We left Bridgeport on the 29th of Oct. and arrived here on the 2nd of November. the troops came about a week in our Advance by opening this Rout from here (Lookout Mt) to Bridgeport. Genrl Hooker and his men have the Honor of Saving Genrl Rosencrans Army that was here, as they were in a Starving condition as his men had been Living on half and quarter rations and for some day on nothing but three ears of Roasted Corn a day. thus Genrl Hooker Saved the Army of the Cumberland, for Rosencrans would have had to fall back loosing all that they had gained. the Rebs held Lookout Mountain untill a few days agoe, so that they shelled us there in the Valley more or less every day. but they are cleaned out now to their hearts content. Genrl Hooker captured this mountain on the 25th with Fifteen Hundred Prisoners and three Cannon. I saw this done, but I done wish to see any more, as I can not give you a description of this Battle it is useless for me to try. sufer it to say that Genrl Grant has whiped Genrl Bragg soundly. he has compleatly scattered Braggs army in all directions. Braggs army made a compleat Stampede, leaving and Burning such as they could not take away. We have not only captured Forage Commissary Goods Ordnance Wagons Mules and Horses but nearly (20,000) Twenty Thousand prisoners and over (100) A Hundred Cannon. among the Officers who were Prisoners I saw Breckenridge's Son and the Chief of Braggs Staff. Our (11th) Corps is said to be near Knoxville over a hundred miles from us when we shall see them again I can not tell. it is in the rear of Longstreets Army there Cutting him of from Bragg. We hear two reports about our corps some say that Genrl Hooker is to take command of the Potomac Army, and will leave us here. others say that Hooker has been assigned the Department of the

Mississippi and will take us to Memphis the only way is to wait and then w'll know I had a letter from Harvey Yesterday. Hmasshia has been out to your folks and stayed one Week they are all well George is still with Harvey but will go home this winter to School. Harvey says that George is a good industrious Boy, and faithful to Business, he want he should come and stay with him another year, as he does not know how to spare him. My Folks are all well. the weather here is fine we have had no snow yet warm days but cold nights I am well and I trust this will find you the same. I hope that the day will soon come when this war shall close and we can be permitted to see each other again, but we are so far apart that I do not see much prospects of our meeting while in the army. You have my best wishes and I hope you will sucede in the army. I hope to hear from you again.

I remain as ever your true Friend

Newton A Chaffee

Care of Lt T A Allen QM  
154th Regt NYV  
1st Brig 2nd Div 11th A Corps  
Army of the Cumberland  
Via Nashville Tenn

(General Hookers Army)

PS Hookers army consists of the 11th & 12th A Corps