

Arlington Heights Oct 5th 1862

Dear Mother

It is with much pleasure that I take my pen to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting long I am well to day and I hope these few lines will find you the same I went over and stayed with F_____ Dickson last night Weck Minor is tough as a bear I had a good time with [them.] I have got to go out on dress prade and I cant have time to write but a few lines this time I wish that you could see the tents here now I dont expect we will stay here long Andrew bee Brown Company came here last night and he eat breakfast with our boys this morning we are in six miles of Washington I think I have seen some of the world now I have to go now so good by for this time this is from your son

Martin Champlin

Direct to Martin V Champlin
 154 regt
 Co. C, N.Y.S.V.
 Washington, DC
 In care of Capt Warner

Courtesy of Louise Crooks, Shinglehouse, Pa.

Burlington. Vt. Oct 5th 1862

Dear Mother.

It is with much pleasure
that I take my pen to
write you a few lines
to let you know how I
am getting along & am
well to day and I hope
these few lines will find
you the same I went out
and stayed with Sister
Duck. last night. Week
since it had snowed
I had a good time

I have got to go
out on dress parade
and I can't have
time to write but
a few lines this time
& wish that you could
see the tents here
now I don't expect
we will stay here long
Andrew be Brown Company
came here last night
and he eat breakfast
with our boys this
morning we are in
six miles of Washington
& think I have seen
some of the world
now I have great
to go now so good
bye for this time
this is from your
son Martin Chaffin

Direct to Martin V.
Chaffin
154 regt
Co. C, N. Y. S. V.
Washington
In care of Capt
Warner

(Courtesy of Donald K. Ryberg, Jr., Westfield, N.Y.)

(To Joel Crandall, Portville, N.Y.)

Camp near Fairfax Oct 17th 1862

Friend Joel

As I have got a spare moment I thought I would rite you a few lines to let you know how I was getting along I am well to day and all of the rest of the boys and I hope these few lines will find you the same I have been out on drill four hours We half to drill most of the time now for we expect to go into a battle before long They are diging rifle pits here for a site now they say the rebbles is coming here for a battle fight

We have a good deal of fun here cooking We eat drink and be merry Some of the boys is home sick here but it hant me if they will give me enough to eat I an C peachy We stopt first in six miles of Washington and staved five or six days and then we move on then. This is a hard looking Country here I think I have got to go out on Cross grade now so I shant rite but a few lines now this is all for this time

My well wishes to you all

Write as soon as you get this

Direct to Martin V. Chaplin
Co. C, 15th Regt. N.Y.S.V.
Washington D.C.
In care of Capt L. D. Warner

Martin

(Courtesy of Don Ryberg, Westfield, N.Y.)

(To Joel Crandell)
Portville, N.Y.)

Camp near Fairfax Oct 15th 1862

Friend Joel

As I have got
a spare moment I thought
I would write you a few lines
to let you know how I was
getting along & am well to
day and all of the rest of
the boys and I hope these
few lines will find you
that I have been out

Martin V. Champlin
Co. C

Camp near Fairfax Oct 15th 1862

Friend Joel

As I have got
a spare moment I thought
I would write you a few lines
to let you now how I was
getting along & am well to
day and all of the rest of
the boys and I hope these
few lines will find you
the same I have been out

an drill four hours We help
to drill most of the time
now for we expect to go
into a battle before long
They are digging rifle pits
for us & a pits now they
say the rebellion is coming
here as a ^{little} fight

We have a good deal of
fun here cooking we eat drink
and be merry some of
the boys is home sick
here but it hant me
if they will give me
enough to eat I am
O peachy We stop first
in six miles of Washington
and stayed five or six days
and then we make on
there This is a hard
& long Country here
& think I have got to
go out an dress parade

now so I shant write
but a few lines now
this is all for this
time

My well wishes to you
all

Write as soon as you get
this
Direct to Martin W. Champlin
Co. C. 154th Regt. N.Y.S.M.
Washington

D. C.
In care of Capt. J. L.

Warner
Martine

an drill four hours We help
to drill most of the time
now for we expect to go
into a battle before long
They are digging rifle pits
for us of a pits now they
say the rebellion is coming
here for a ^{while} fight

We have a good deal of
burn here cooking we eat drink
and be merry some of
the boys is some sick
here but it hants me
if they will give me
enough to eat I am
O peachy We stop first
in six miles of Washington
and stayed five or six days
and then we made on
there this is a hard
looking country here
& think I have got to
go into an dress parade

now so I shant write
but a few lines now
this is all for this
time

My well wishes to you
all

Write as soon as you get
this
Direct to Martin V. Champlin
Co. C, 154th Regt. N.Y.S.M.
Washington
D.C.
In care of Capt F. D.
Werner

Martin



Officer--FRONT FACE! EYES RIGHT!

Why in th...thunder don't you turn your face to the front?



Wm. J. ...
Portville
Wabash, Ind.
W. J.

Camp Near Stafford Court house
Virginia Feb 11th 1863

Sister

Well here is a few lines from your Brother Martin I thought as I was thinking of the friends at home I thought of you and I thought you would like to here from me so I dont have nothing to do so I will drop you a few lines to day I am well and I hope these few lines will find you the same I like solgiers life as well as I expected to before I came but Id rather be at home for then I can go and come when I get reddy We have been marching all over Virginia and I hant had time to write much but I hope that you will write as soon as you get this and tell Alfred to write for I should like to here from him I had a letter from Albert the other day and he was well I have been in two or three miles of him and I wanted to go and see him but I cant get time If I live to come out of this I am coming to see you Frank Keyes has left us he has gon home whare trobles and triles will be no more He is dead he died about four weeks a-go and we miss him but he is better of than we are I have got to eat my supper and so this will do for this time

So good by
From your brother Martin V. Champlin

Direct to Martin V. Champlin
Co C 154 Regt
Washington DC
In care of Capt L D Warner

Write soon as you get this

We drewed some whiskey to day and the boys is rasing the devel so I cant write we have good times here

Courtesy of Louise Crooks, Shinglehouse, Pa.

We've got some
business to do
- get the logs
- getting the
cavele & I can't
write we have good
times here.

Camp Near Stafford Courthouse
Virginia Feb 14th 1864

Sister

Well so here is a few
lines from your Brother
Martin. I thought - as I was
thinking of the friends to
have I thought of you
and I thought you would
like to hear from me so
I don't have nothing to do
so I will drop you a few
lines to day I am well and
I hope these few lines will
P.

I like soldiers life as well
as I expected to before I come
but I rather be at home
for then I can go and
come when I get ready
We have been marching all
over ~~Virginia and North~~
had time to write much letters
I hope that you will write
as soon as you get this
and tell Alfred to write
for I should like to here
from him I had a letter
from Albert the other
day and he was well
I have been in two or three
miles of time and I wanted
to go and see him but
I cant get time if I
like to come out of
this I am coming to
and see you

Frank Reyes has rep^d us
he has you home where
troubles and troubles will be no
more ^{if} he is dead he died
about four weeks ago
and we miss him but
~~he is better~~ if there we
are I have got to eat
my supper and so this
will do for this time
So - good by
From your brother Martin
W Champlin

Direct to Martin W Champlin
Co. B 14 Regt
Washington
D C
In care of Capt L D
Warner
Write soon as you
get this

Transcribed from the original:

Camp near Stafford Court House
Virginia February 21th 1863

Sister Louise,

As I havt wrote
with you in a good while I think
I should write you a few lines to
let you know how I was getting
along I am well and hope you
the same The boys is all well at
present. I don't have time to
write much I have been on
guard as on picket most of
the time so I havt had
time to rite what I wanted
to and I don't have but a few
letters lately for some reason
I has a letter form Albert
a bout a week ago and
he said that he was well he
was down on the river where
our Regt was but I dint have
time to go and see him
he went and see the 136 Regt
and Andrew Brown said
that he was tough and
rugged as a bear. Harris is
coming home and I will
send this letter by him
and send my best
respect to all of the Friend
Lousie tell Wes Ballard I
send my respect to him
and I wish that he would
write to me if he dont
I shant one him for
a Brother (law?) Pat is
getting dinner and I
must hurry he says that
he sends his best
respect to you. I
go down to the bakery

and get a pie most
every day and makes
me think of home
The 154 Regt is call the
hard tack regt and
we named the 73 Regt
Whiskey Regt. I think this
will do for this time
I have rote this in a
hurry and I don't now
why you can read this
as not so good

by From your Brother
Martin V.
Champlin

To Louise Champlin
Write soon as you
get this and don't
forget to write.

Camp Near Stafford Courthouse Virginia,
March 30th, 1863

Sister Louise I now take this opportunity to let you know that I am well and enjoy my self first rate and tuff as a steer and weigh one hundred and eighty six feet in my socks your letter found me well and I was glad to hear from you and the rest of the folks but was sorrow to hear that Ellen was so sick I am sorrow for she seams like a sister to me but if she dont get well it is all for the best I persume it seams like a winter day to me for it has snowed all day it is goin to turn and rain before it is don with and it is goin to be muddy again It seamed like home yesterday for I went out and worked on the road all day thare was two Regt went out and worked on the road we went 3 miles to work tooked our dinner I think with us as we do when we was to home but I think it was not as good a dinner as we get to home now I tell you what I had to eat hard tacks and beef and beef and hard tacks and that was all I tooked my shovel and went to work with the rest of dutchmen they keep us to work all the time when we hant on picket we go out on picket and be gon four days I dont like that for I dont get much sleep for when we hant on post we haft to turn out the guard you will see the officer of the day come round bout the time you get to sleep The talk is now that this Regt is goin back to Washington we will move some whare be fore long I think This will do for this time so good by From your Brother, Martin
To Louise Champlin

From your Brother

Write soon as you get this

*(Letter of Martin Van Buren Champlin to his sister, Louise.
Courtesy of Richard D. Champlin, Bountiful, Utah.)*

From Your Brother

Chas. W. H. H. H.

Write soon as you
get this

Camp near Stafford Courthouse
Virginia, Dec 21st 1863.
Sister Louisa I now take this
opportunity to let you know
that I am well and enjoy
my self first at all as a steer
and weigh one hundred and
eighty six feet in my socks
Your letter found me well
and I was glad to hear from
you and the rest of the
folks but was sorrow to hear
that Ellen was so sick
I am sorrow for she seems
like a sister to me

but if she dont get well it
is all for the best &
her sake it seemed like a winter
day to me for it has snowed
all day it is gain to turn
and rain before it is done
with and it is gain to
be muddy again.
It seemed like home yesterday
for I went out and worked
on the road all day
there was two Regts went
out and worked on the
road we went 3 miles to work
took our dinner I think with
us as we do when we use to
home but I think it was
not as good a dinner as
we get to home now I tell
you what I had to eat
hard tack and beef and
beef and hardtacks and that
was all I took my shovel

and went to ^{work} with the rest
of Sutehman they keep us to
work all the time when
we have on picket
we go out on picket
and be gone four days
I dont like that for I
dont get much sleep
for when we have on
picket we have to turn
out the guard you will
see the officers of the day
come round about the
time you get to sleep
The talk is now that
this Regt is gain back
to Washington we will
move some where be
fore long I think
This will do for this
time is good by
From your Brother, Martin
To Fannie Champlin

Lookout Valley Tennessee
April 12th 1864

Daniel M Wright, a private of Co C 154 Regt NYSV, being duly sworn, deposes and says. That he was a member of the said Co & Regt on the 2nd day of May 1863 That on that day the Co was engaged in action with the Enemy at or near Chancellorsville Va, in which engagement the Regt was repulsed and driven from the field, which was not again recovered. That he saw Martin V. Champlain a private of said Co. fall upon his face as he was leaving the Rifle Pitt, and he verily believes, that he was at that time struck by a musket ball fired by the Enemy, and that said ball caused his immediate death.

Daniel M. Wright
Private Co. C 154 Regt NYSV

Sworn and subscribed before
me this 12th day of April 1864
A. W. Benson
Lieut & acting Adjutant 154 Regt NYSV

Courtesy of Louise Crooks, Shinglehouse, Pa.

Southwest Valley Geneva
April 12th 1864

Daniel M. Wright, a private of Co C 154th Regt N.Y. V.
being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he was a
member of the said Co & Regt on the 2nd day of May 1863
That on that day the Co was engaged in an action with
the Enemy at or near Chancellorsville Va, in which engagement
the Regt was ~~repulsed~~ and driven from the field, which
was not again recovered. That he saw Martin & Champlin
a private of said Co, fall upon his face as he was leaving
the Rifle Pitt, and he verily believes, that he was at
that time struck by a musket ball fired by the
Enemy, and that said ball caused his immediate
death.

Daniel M. Wright
Private Co C 154th Regt N.Y. V.

Sworn & Subscribed before
me this 12th day of April 1864
A. N. Benson
Lieut & acting Adjutant 154th Regt
N.Y. V.

Lookout Valley Tennessee
April 12th 1864

Major L D Warner 154 Regt NYSV, being duly sworn deposes and says. That he was Captain Commanding Co. C. in said Regt. on the 2nd day of May 1863. That on that day, the said Regt and Co was engaged in an action with the Enemy at or near Chancellorsville Va, in which engagement the Regt was repulsed and driven from the field, which was not again recovered. That Martin V. Champlain, a private in said Co. (21 years of age, 5 ft 10 inches in height, light complexion, blue eyes brown hair born in Allegany Co N.Y. occupation Laborer, enlisted at Portville N.Y. Aug 9th 1862 for 3 years, by L D Warner) was according to the best of his knowledge and belief, struck by a musket ball (fired by the enemy) while leaving the Rifle Pitt, after the order to fall back had been given by the Officer commanding the Regt said ball causing his immediate death. That after said engagement, the inventory and final statement as required in case of deceased soldiers, was made out and forwarded to the proper Department at Washington.

L D Warner Maj 154 Regt NYSV
late Capt. Com. Co. C.

Sworn and subscribed before
me this 12th day of April 1864
A. W. Benson
Lieut & acting Adjutant 154 Regt NYSV

Courtesy of Louise Crooks, Shinglehouse, Pa.

Lookout Valley Tennessee
April 12th

Majors L. D. Warner, 154th Regt. Wyo., being duly sworn deposes and says. That he was Captain's Commanding Co. C. in said Regt. on the 2nd day of May 1863. That on that day, the said Regt and Co. was engaged in an action with the Enemy at or near Chancellorsville Va, in which engagement the Regt was repulsed and driven from the field, which was not again recovered. That Martin Co. Champlain, a private in said Co, (21 years of age, 5' 11" inches in height. Light complexion, blue eyes born here in Allegany Co. My occupation Laborer, enlisted at Portville N.Y. Aug 9th 1862 for 3 years, by L. D. Warner) was according to the best of his knowledge and belief, struck by a musket ball (fired by the enemy,) while leaving the Rifle Pitt, after the order to fall back had been given by the Officer commanding the Co. said ball causing his immediate death. That after said engagement, the inventory and final statement as required in case of deceased soldiers, was made out and forwarded to the proper Department at Washington.

Sworn and subscribed before me L. D. Warner Maj' 154th Regt.
and this 12th day of April 1864 Latho Capt. Com. Co. C.

A. V. Beersie
Lieut & acting Adjutant 154th Regt Wyo.

Lookout Valley Tennessee
April 12th/64

Friend Keyes

Dr Sir. Yours of the 2nd inst was received yesterday, and I hasten to give you all the information I possess with regard to the death of Martin V. Champlain of Co. C my old Co. He was with the Co engaged in the action at Chancellorsville on the afternoon of the 2nd day of May last. The Regt being obliged (after holding their position as long as possible) to beat a precipitate retreat from the field, which ground was not afterwards recovered, it was impossible at the time to know who was killed or who taken prisoners. But as Champlain has never been heard from either among the wounded or prisoners, there is no reasonable doubt as to his having been killed on the spot. Besides, there is the testimony of Daniel M Wright who was present, and testifies, that he saw him fall as he was leaving the Rifle Pitt to retreat. He does not know whether he was killed immediately or not but saw him fall on his face as if very severely wounded, if not killed outright. He had been paid to Feb 28th and consequently had due at the time of his supposed death twenty six dollars eighty six cents (26.86) as monthly pay, and seventy five dollars (75.00) as Government Bounty. His Final Statement was forwarded to the proper department at Washington, where his account can be settled.

Very Respectfully Yours
L D Warner 154 Regt

Peter Keyes Esq.

Courtesy of Louise Crooks, Shinglehouse, Pa.

Loumont Valley Genesee
April 12th 64

Friend Hayes.

De Sir. Yours of the 2nd inst was received yesterday, and I hasten to give you all the information I possess with regard to the death of Martin C. Champlain of Co. C. 100th Regt. He was with the Co engaged in the action at Chancellorsville on the afternoon of the 2nd day of Nov. last. The Regt being obliged, (after holding their position as long as possible) to beat a precipitate retreat from the field, which ground was not afterwards recovered, it was impossible at the time to know who was killed or who taken prisoner. But as Champlain has never been heard from either among the wounded or prisoners, there is no reasonable doubt as to his having been killed on the spot. Besides, there is the testimony of Daniel M. Wright who was present, and testifies, that he saw him fall as he was leaving the Rifle Pitt in retreat. He does not know whether he was killed immediately or not but saw him fall on his face as if very severely wounded, if not killed outright. He had been paid on Feb 28th and consequently had due at the time of his supposed death twenty six dollars eighty six cents (26.86, as monthly pay. and seventy five dollars (75.00) as Government Bounty. His General Statement was forwarded to the proper department at Washington, where his account can be settled.

Very Respectfully Yours

L. D. Warner, 1st Regt.

Rev. Hayes Esq. }