

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Quarter Master Department
154th N.Y.V. Feb 19 1864

Dear Ann

Your letter dated the 5th of this month was received last night.==
= Was very thankful in deed to learn that you were all pretty well.=

It is strange that Susan does not write to me. most likely Mary is not able to do it now.

The weather for the past three days has been quite cold. Day before yesterday Bill Davis got his Box It had been five weeks on the road and every thing in it was nearly spoiled It contained Butter, cheese, cakes, Biscuit Dried fruit, socks, a little sugar a little Tea, some Tobbacco, &c. &c. There was also a Boiled chicken in it that was in an awful state of decomposition. Bill asked me to go over to Chattanooga to get the Box. I told him if I could do him any good I would go he begged me to go, so of course I went with him & on our way back We opened the Box & of course we were very much disapointed when we saw every everything matted together with mould, could get a mouthful of any thing that tasted good

Well I can not write much more the ink is frose up.== and it is to cold to write.= We were paid yesterday two months pay I got \$34.00= \$28. of it goes to Doctor Day when he gets back.= But I have earned some money by making rings & crescents and will send by the first of march if you like \$50. (fifty dollars)===

I sent a letter to Mary the other day with a little Ring for her in it.=

My love to all

Yours Very Truly

Wm Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Head Quarters 154 Regt. N.Y.V.
Feb. 24 1864

Dear Ann

I Have to sent by Express sent you \$50.00 (fifty dollars) from Chattanooga, to S. H. Woodruff of Franklinville. Some of the boys of Co. D. were sending so I put mine with them= you will get it by calling on Mr. S. H. Woodruff for he is requested to keep it untill you come after it. Most likely it will be there as soon as as you will get this letter but maybe you had better wait a while or so before going after it. Last monday I sent a letter to you with three rings in it. one for Mother, one for Sister Mary, and one a Birthday preasent for Frances Ann. The darkest colored one is for her & the Whitest one for Mother, and the other one for Mary. I will send something for Tommy when his birth day comes if I am alive and well. My health is very good. the freedom boys are all well. Trusting that you are all well & Hoping some day to see you all,

I remain Very Truly Yours

W. Charles-----

My love to all

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Head Quarters 154 Regt N.Y.V.
March 6 1864-----

Dear Ann,

Day before yesterday I sent a letter to you & one to Susan. But to night this lovely Sabbath evening. So here I am a little to lonesome to attempt to do any thing but to write to you. It is very lone some here Sundays Week days I am not lonesome or Home sick very much because I am bussy the Whole time.

You seem to wonder why I do not come home on furlough It is not because I can not get one. It is not because that there is nobody there that I love no no no---- One reason is that I do not come is this. That there are those there I love so much that it would allmost break my heart to come and remain with them a few days then part with them again, "perhaps for ever." you see it would only tear open the old wounds afresh and make us all far more wreched then we now are Therefore as long as you are blessed with health there and I am well here We ought to be contented and try to be happy. Besides it would cost me \$50. or more and I do not feel that it would be right for me to spend so much in that way just now.

The other day I sent to you \$30. you will get it by calling for at the

[The rest of the letter is missing.]

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Head Quarters 154 Regt N.Y.V.
March 21 1864

Dear Ann

Last Wednesday I sent a letter to you with three Rings in it, and some sunflowers seeds that I got on top of Raccoon Mountain. I did expect a letter from you yesterday, but was disappointed.

There is no news here worth sending to you my health is very good all the Freedom boys are well. I think that David Williams will be sent to the Invalid Corps.

The weather for more than a week has been quite cold and still continues it is very dry. Tell Mother that I will send her something for that Silver 15c†s. she sent me

In this letter please find the likeness of Lieut. John Mitchell he is one of the very best soldiers in the Regt. His home is near Franklinville Ellen & Ann Jones knows him. they got some acquainted with him at Jamestown Tell Ellen that you have the likeness of John Mitchell. I'll bet that she will wish to see it. I think some of having some Pictures of my face taken. But then! The other picture is Harry H. Mattison of Ellicottville. He is the Hospital Steward of this Regiment, and a good boy

The man that took pictures on the top of Lookout fell off from the point the other day and of course was killed

Time will not permit me writing any more this morning

How are the children has that cold left them. How is Dack__ & Mang__ Please give my love to them

Have been to Franklinville for that money. Has Dack__ bought any lumber for the house yet. How does the fodder hold out. Have you any little calves yet. Give my love to Father & Mother and Mary & Susan and John and Jane and Jane Williams & the children

Sent a letter to the Roberts Girls last week.

Very Truly Yours

Wm. Charles

(Undated two-page portion of letter)

If I had known that Dacky had any sheep to sell I would have bought them of him and let somebody have them for a pound of wool per head a year or to double them in three or four years as the case might be. If you know of anybody that wishes to sell from five to ten sheep and also some one that wants to take sheep,= I will send you the money to pay for them my desire is to buy something for Tommy and Sissy and let it be to increase for them untill they are grown up. you see ten sheep doubled every three or four years would be worth quite a little sum in fifteen or twenty years.==

This morning a man rode his horse into a mud hole not far from our tent and the horse fell in it, and could not get up. they pulled him whipped and pounded him but for all the poor animal could not get on his feet so they left him. As I was working in sight of him I could not be easy without going and try to get the poor bruit from the water. I asked two of the boys to go and help me The poor thing was trembling like a leaf, and would not try to get up at all. I went and got him a handful of oats, and let him eat them from my hand He looked very thankful, and by his looks (The tears were actually dropping from his eyes) he seemed to say--"You are very kind Sir I see you are a friend to me, and if you will only get me out of this horrible place I will not die but will live for many years and will do you all the good in my power; do get me out." We did so without much trouble and he very soon got on his feet. he was not hurt only a little stiff he trembled very much so we put two blankets on him and walked him round and he after a little got warm then we cleaned him off, and did all we could for him. He proves to be quite a valuable horse and the Quarter Master says that we may keep him, if it will be possible to get food for him. So you see there is nothing lost by being kind to all things and all men.== I have been very busy now for a few days making Rings and crescents yesterday I made over \$2.00 and to day most \$3.00= I made a couple of Rings from a ten and a five cents piece and sold them for a dollar, and a crescent made from a five cent piece will sell for 50 cts. But my Silver is about all gone

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Head Quarters 154 Regt N.Y.V.
April 1st 1864

Dear Ann,

Your letter dated the 21st of last month came to hand on Monday of this week. I sent a letter to you on Wednesday, and one to Mary yesterday. Last Sunday E. W. Day left here I sent by him for Tommy a Pipe & a crescent, and a letter for you. Hope you have received them before now. I have no news to send to night. The Regt. has been out on a scouting expedition this week, down as far or rather 10 or 12 miles beyond Trenton, some 20 miles south of here But no enemies were to be found.

Most likely a Big move will take place very shortly. Still we may remain in this vale for some time.

Please tell Tommy that Dat has those Pictures, But they are somewhat broken up from being carried in the pocket so long. Dat looks at them very often. Wonder if any body ever looks at Dats Picture!!! Is there any body any wheres that takes any pleasure in looking at the picture of my poor self

I did think of having some pictures taken like those I sent you last week of H. Mattison & Lieut. J. Mitchell. But the man moved a way

my health is very good. Have not been so fleshy in ten years as now. You will please tell Mrs. _____ Somebody, that is Henriete Johns, that I will with a heap of pleasure make a crescent for her if she will send me some Silver. I am out of Silver just now and am not able to say when or how I can get any more But in the course of the year I will send her a crescent if we are not constantly on the move

Give my very best respects to Mrs. John & all the family.

How do you like that crescent that Day brought to Tommy & the one that Bill James sent to Mr Jameson I have one for Doctor Day, with a Square and compass in place of the Star. it looks very well too. But I am out of Silver now and can not make any more----just now. But as soon as I can send to Nashville, I will send for more. Please give my love to Dack_ and Mang_ & Father & Mother & all good friends if I have any in that part of the country. Has Brother Harris left you yet. Should think that he might write to me, But very likely has enough else to do. If he is not you please give Him & his family my best Wishes. May Heaven Bless you all is the earnest prayer of

Yours Very Truly

Wm. Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
April 6 1864
Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y.V.

Dear Ann,

Yours of the 23d of last month came to hand day before yesterday=
Was very thankful indeed to learn that you were at that time all
well.

Last sunday was the happiest day that has passed over my head
since I left home.= Was at the sabbath school, in the forenoon= The
Chapel Tent was full a few children were there but only a few
General Howard was there & I God in his Holy Spirit was there for we
had a very good time! I acted a teacher for one class. I was not
acquainted with one of those in it. one of them was a Black man, but
I believe he is a christian for he took great pleasure in reading the
Scriptures. After School we had two most excellent sermons. The very
best I ever listen to in the English language. Have no news this
morning worth sending to you. But the report is that the 11th & 12th
Corps are to be consolidated or put into one and to be called the 1st
Corps. But it may be not true.----- My health is very good. the
Freedom boys are all well.-----

Please give my love to Mang_ & Dacky and all the friends= your-
self & the children must take a good share of it.----

Yours very Truly

Wm Charles

John has not written to me this 8 months or at least his letters
were not received by me.

He need not trouble himself about any more papers from me because
I have no papers that can do him any good The weather has been quite
cold stormy for some time but to day it is very pleasant.----

Last week our Regiment and to others went down to Trenton in the
State of Georgia to see if any Rebs were to be seen but none were
found---- most likely that we shall move from here but not a great
ways-----

Write all the news

I am ever yours

W.C.

P.S. Excuse this letter for I have only a few minnits to write
it in

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Head Quarters 154 N.Y.V.
April 10th 1864

Dear Ann

I have no news to send to you to night, only that by the mercy of Our Heavenly Father I am able to inform you that my health is very good=

Had a very good Sabbath school this morning I do enjoy it very much.= had preaching in the afternoon but it was in the German language so that we could not understand much of it. I informed you in my last letter that our corps and the 12th were consolidated here after they will be as one corps and to be known as the 1st Army Corps to be commanded by Hooker. Gen. Howard has left us and has taken command of the 4th Army Corps

For my part I am very sorry that Howard was taken from us, because he is a good man and a faithful Christian

If all our Generals were as good as he is I believe that this war would have come to an end long ago----

Had a letter from Lockport a few days ago. they were all well. Miss Anna says that you must answer her last letter with further delay

They were expecting Jane and Mary out to make them a visit have they gone

I hope Mary will not go to far from home She ought to wait untill she is stronger

I am very glad that you find a good neighbor in Mr John Parry. if this letter comes to you and you find a ring in it please give it to his Wife with my best wishes to them all. if it is to big give her a smaller one if you have one. I would send one to John Charles Wife but they never write to me and of course I do not feel at liberty to write to them. For the life of me I can not tell what I have done to them that they should feel unfriendly towards me

Please give my best respects to cousin Jane Lewis Will Write to her as soon as time will permit A letter from her would be very thankfully received

Had a letter from Quarter Master Allen last week. His health is not good since leaving the Army-- He lives in the Valley of Hinsdale you will no trouble in finding the house every body there knows him

Day before yesterday I recieved a letter from H. Cheeney there is but slight hopes of his coming to the regement any more

We are sorry for that. But good luck to him

Please give my love to Dacke & Mange and to father & mother and all good friends Kiss the children for me Hoping to see you all some day I remain

Yours most Truly
Wm Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
He'd Quarters 154 Regt. N.Y.V.
[April, 1864]

Dear Ann,

Yours of April 8th came to hand yesterday, also a letter from Susan & one from Mary

Was very glad indeed to learn that you were all well----

Some time ago I sent \$5.00 to father Do you know if he received it. Also sent a letter to Wm. J. Williams (Sam's father) to know if he would permit the Welsh boys of Co. F to pay for a flag to put over the grave of Samuel have not heard a word from that letter. am some what sorry that I sent that Pipe Home before it was finished. Dack did well not to sell it for \$4.00 I could sell it here with out the stem for \$6.00----

As for sending you my picture it is not certain when I can do it. Maybe not this Summer, Because in the first place I can not get one taken any nearer the top of Lookout Mountain or Chattanooga and in the second place I have no money to pay for it just now and will not have any untill pay day. But as soon as I can get a likeness taken I will try to fix it in a Shell or Pearl frame so that you can wear it as a Bosom Pin if you like I do not believe that I shall have time to make any Buttons for father or Tommy, but will do so if I can.

There is no news here worth sending to you in fact it is very dull with us just now. But we shall be on the move before a great while. Conserving that spotted Heifer, you must do what you think best with her I do not think that she will be worth keeping an other Winter

What has become of that Heifer that was the same age of Sissy is she alive yet.-----

Had a letter to day from the Roberts Girls. Was very glad indeed to get it for they let me know all the news. I believe them to be good friends to me

Will answer their letter in a few days if we do not move

David Williams is a little unwell and has gone to the Hospital He will not be worth much more in the Regt and they might as well give him his discharge But I do not think there is anything very seriously the matter him But he thinks that he is in a very bad way.-----

Please give my love to Dack & Marge & father & mother, and best respects & good wishes to all enquiring friends. Had a very good meeting yesterday

Yours Very Truly

W. Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y.V.
Apl. 24th 1864

Dear Ann

It is once more Sabbath morning a day that every christian hails with joy it is indeed a blessed day. A day of rest. A day that should be to every pious soul a type of that Heavenly & Eternal Rest, wich every true christian will hereafter enjoy-----

It has been rainy most all night and still continues to rain quite hard at ten o'clock there will be sunday school at one o'clock a sermon. so there has been now for a number of Sabbaths.-----

We have put up a meeting house in the valley but it is not quite finished yet. most of the meetings are held in the Chapel Tent of the U.S. Christian Commission wich they have put up near the station by the Rail Road-----

The health of the Regiment is not near as good as it was two weeks ago there are several sick the weather is becoming quite warm and the woods have put on their new dress of Green & the wild flowers are most every wheres to be seen

Day before yesterday I sent my overcoat & my old dress coat by Express to T A Allen Hinsdale. in the same box are coats for Lewis L. Jones & an overcoat for W. P. James. I wrote a letter to Mr Allen to keep the Box untill called for, so the Box may be found at any time at his house in the Valley of Hinsdale so if you have a chance to send for it, do so or go your self when the roads be come dry, and the weather fine wether you go or send remember about my carbine that Mr Allen took home with him for me.-----

Most likely you have seen in the papers an Order from the War department give Soldiers an opportunity of going to Philadelphia to a free Military School for 30 days, & then a commission in a negro Regiment. Provided that "such men as wished to go could get the Reccomendation of their Coln. Well there are some going from this Regt. & the Coln told me yesterday that he would reccomend me if I wish to go What do you think about it. there are good many reasons why I should go and there are some why I should not go I have not made up my mind yet for it is a very difficult task to know what is best to do