

Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.
Camp near Alexandria Va
September 8th 1863

Dear Ann

Richard Lewis was here day before yesterday and said that he expected to have a furlough to go home for a few days--So I gave him a letter for you and a cressent and two Pictures= he promised to bring them to you--

Lewis Jones came down yesterday & staid with me last night= I understand that Dick has not gone yet. But I am in hopes that he will go in a few days==

Bill James got back just in time to save himself from being re-portedas a deserter=

It is so very warm that I will not try to write any more besides I am interrupted every minnit. But But how does the Drafted copper-Heads feel How do they like to pay their little three hundred= Will Morgan Davis come or pay I am glad that Doctor Sawyer I wish it was so he would have to come down here himself. How I would Hoot at him=

September 9th 1863

Dear Ann

It is very warm yet this morning but I must try to get this letter off to day for feel that you will be uneasy I have no news to send to you. I was promoted to seargeant ship in Co. F. yesterday= It will add \$4. a month to my pay thats all I shall continue at my old post, untill you are willing that I should do something else= If I get my extra pay of 40 cts. per day I shall be perfectly satisfied to remain where I am==As long as I am in the army=

I will sent the warent of or certificate of Seargeant to you please keep it. it maybe of service to you someday When you are will that I should be a Lieutenant Please let me know But you must not worry for there is not a shaddow of a chance to get a commission for some time to come But I am entitle to one and maybe that in the course of six months or a year I can have one if I want it.

My health continues very good but many of the boys are getting sick since we came here

Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y. Vols.
Camp near Alexandria Va. Sep. 13 1863.

Dear Ann,

This morning I received a letter from you Dated the 4th of this month. the one you sent the day before has not come yet. The picture came through all right. It made me laugh right out when I saw it. I thank you very much for sending it. As a picture it is not so good as Tommis= It is very difficult to obtain good likenesses of little children Tommy has the best luck of any one I ever saw= you must go again some day and have more taken for it is not likely that these will be worth much by the time I come home even if I can keep them untill that time because they will be broken in carrying them round= Has Dacken & M_____ had theirs taken if they have not you must make them go & have two or three apiece taken I would like to have their likeness very much with me here But I fear that it would soon bespoild =for I have not any thing but an old Carpet Bag to carry my things in

I expect to get some money next week==and when you get it I wish you would let Father have enough to have his likeness (& Mothers if she will go)=taken You pay for two or three; Because I want them

I have sent you the likeness of T A. Allen the Quarter Master, and Doctor Van Ernem and Major L. D. Warner One I sent in a letter the other two Richard Lewis will bring to you

I like it very much here so far. When I have spare time I make half moons. Have made from ten to fifteen since we came to this camp=

Yesterday I made one for Major Warner from a 50 cts. pice here is a drawing of it* it looks very well, But I think the one with the Heart in looks better= I have sent you a drawing of it before. This looks as well as any I have made I could sell lots of them if I only had silver to make them Col. Loomis told me the other day that he would send me some= When I get my pay I am going to buy (\$5) five dollars worth and if any one there would like to have me make some for them let them make it known I shall have time to make from (6) six to ten every week= Those ten cents came through all right, and have been made into half moons long ago and sold for 50 ct. apiece== I want to make one for Mrs. Mary Roberts= (Hugh Back's Wife) Do You think that she would like to have one= I know the Girls would===== If I have my health this winter I will make a lot of them of different Paterend and send them by Express to you, and Little Tommy can sell them.===== For the sooner he learns to depend upon his own exertions for his living the better it will suit me--I mess now with Chaffee the Quarter Master Sergeant & Pemperton the Commisary Sergeant so you see there is three Sergeants of us. Chaffee gets the Supper Pembuton the Dinner and I the breakfast=====

Since we have been in this camp I have a Horse to ride when ever I wish!!!= It is a young horse 4 years old that the Quarter Master bought in Maryland for \$125.00 one hundred and twenty five dollars. He told me the other day "if it was not asking to much of me" that if I would only take chare of the colt I might do with it as if it was my own. I told him that I would do it.=He is a very large one he is as big as one of D. Howlet Horses= So every morning and sometimes just before night, I ride him down to the river=and go up all through the city=and all over= You know that I am very fond of a horse and I like this one very much and he is getting to be very fond of me too

*(See detail)

(continued)

(September 13, 1863, continued)

He likes bread & Hardtacks as well as he does Oats And as soon as I go to him he will poke his nose into my pockets, to see if there is any bread there. He will follow me where ever I go=== It is a good thing for me to get him for I take a good deal of comfort with him. Besides it is good for ones health to have a Horseback ride once in a while,= you know. I Receive the best of treatment from the Officers and men here==And have been enabled to do all that has been required of me thus far with perfect satisfaction to all conserved that is as far as I know anything about it.=

I think that the Butter was well sold== I dont see why the Pork is so cheap, but then it is higher than it was last year= I wrote a letter last night the Missis Roberts I have had no letter from Lockport yet



Well it is getting late=== I must stop= Has David Williams started from there yet.-----If he comes back now I will have a chance to see him because most likely if he does not come the Regiment he will have to go to Camp Convelecent and that is but little ways from here Is there any talk about his wife and Tom Rees the Blacksmith? Does Res and the Widdow live happy together Please give my best respects to all my old friends there if you can find any= Remember me in particular to old Mr. Rees and his wife= they sent me a postage stamp with Girls letter the other day=

It Has been hinted to me that Wm. Davis and his friends all around for all I know does not feel very friendly towards me if it is so can you tell me for what reason== Not to my knowledge have I given Mr. D. or his frinds the shadow of an excuse to be offended with me====You must not ask any of them whether they are mad or not= But if they are and you know why; let me know.= Well Good by= Give my love to D_____ & M_____ And many kisses to the children.= And trust all to Him who doth all things well and be of good cheer= I must take a look at my Pictures and Kiss to these then to Sleep=

Most Truly Yours

Wm Charles

(Drawings in letter of September 13, 1863)

I like it very much here so far. When I have
an time I make half moons & have made from
- to fifteen since we came to this camp -
Yesterday I made one for Major Warner from
of 5 piece  a drawing of it - I like
y well, But I think that the one we
Heart in look, better - I have sent you a a drawing
before this  looks as well, as any I
do I could sell lots of them if I only had
or to make them Col. Loomis told me the other day
he would send me some - When I get my pay
going to say 5 five dollars worth and if any
would like to have me make some for them
I shall make it - I know I shall have time to
make 6 six to ten every week - Those ten cents can
be all right - and have been made into half moons
and sold for 5 a piece - I want to make one
Mrs. Mary Roberts - "Hough Back's wife" - So you think that
I'd like to have one - I know the girls would -
I have my health this winter I will make a lot of them
different patterns and send them by Express

Head Quarters 154th Regt. N.Y. Vols.
Camp Near Alexandria Va. Septem 17 1863

Dear Ann

I do not owe you a letter as I know of but having nothing else to do this evening that is more agreeable to my feelings than to write a few lines to you= More than a week ago Richard Lewis was here & said that he expected to go home on furlough in a day or two so I gave him a letter with the likeness of Doctor Vanarnum and Major L.D. Warner in it. He also took a cressent & a Ring and said he would take them to you But to day I heard that he has not gone yet.= So I must try to see him to morrow, and send that letter by mail=

There is no news whatever to send to you that I know of. Quarter Master Allens Wife is here He has taken Rooms in a private house not far from the camp Several, quite a number of men & officers have sent for their families, & now it is nothing strange to see women and little children in camp= But it is a little strange to see a Hoop skirt hanging in a soldiers tent. Somehow or an other I am not a bit more happy here=then when we were close to the enemy=because here there is something every hour of the day that reminds me of my Home and those dear ones that are there= The other day an other boy and myself bought \$8.00 (eight dollars) worth of Silver in five, ten, twenty five and fifty cent pieces. I make the cressents and he marks them== Day before yesterday I got letter from Mary with a 25 ct. piece in Silver in it. I have made one cressent for her and one for Joel. The one I have sent to Joel is something like this Well no matter the one I made for Joel is very near like Marys, and I have sent a drawing of that in my last letter to you I believe I do not here much what they are doing in front. But I believe that the largest part of the army of the Potomac is beyond the Rappahanock There has been some little fighting in the neighborhood of Culpeper & the Rebels fel back and our forces took possession of the place=



Was at the Post Office this morning with the expectation of getting a letter from you but was disapointed perhaps it will come to morrow

Mary says in her letter that Father & Mother are coming down there the 26th of this month. if that is the case they will most likely be gone before this gets there= I hope they will go for I think it will do them good But it will be very strange if Mother will go.= I hope they will have a good time if they do go.= Well it is getting late= the Drum is just beating for Roll Call and in a little while it will be "Lights Out"= So good night to you all Ann do you ever kiss Tommy & Frances for me= When I see little ones about their size running about here, it almost makes me cry right out, becuse I can not see my own But we must hope for the best, trusting that the time will soon come when the father can return from the scene of Bloodshed & Horror, to dwell in peace with his wife & little ones= Does Frances Ann talk any yet. It is certainly about time that she should say something I shall expect a long story from her when I come home

(continued)

(September 17, 1863 continued)

September 18th 1863

It is now quite late, but I must write a few words I was up to Parole Camp to day=and got that letter for Richard Lewis does not know when he will go----= But he expects to go very soon= I received your letter dated the 11th & will answer it in a day or two I am afraid that you have put yourself to too much trouble in sending me a Box But maybe it was a pleasure for you to do it. I send you a cressent in this letter I will make you a better one some day=

My love to all; Good night

Yours very

Wm Charles

Louisville Kentucky
October 6 1863

Dear Ann

Last sunday I wrote a few lines to you from Richmond Indiana. from there we came to Indianapolis & reached this place this morning about day light. from here we go to some place in Tennessee or Georgia if the Rebels will let us. While coming through the state of Indiana we were fed by the good people with every thing that we could wish.= It has been quite cold for the past 3 days but to day promises to be a little warmer= We crossed the Ohio River this morning just before day light. It is much then at Belair where we crossed it before=

My hand is to cold to write much= so excuse me this time I will write you long letters as soon as I have time

I have not had much sleep for more than a week,= and am some what tired but my health continues first rate=

Good by=

This is a very large and a very handsome city

Very Truly yours

W. Charles

Nashville Tennessee
Oct. 9th 1863

Dear Ann,

I am not sure that any of my letters come to you but I have written to you from Bellare Ohio, Richmond In. Louisville Kentucky & yesterday I sent you one from this place & to day I am going to send you an other for may be it will be a good while before I have a chance to send one again It was said yesterday that we were to go from here a 4 o'clock, but we did not most likely we shall go today or tomorrow We shall not go any furhter by Rail Road but with wagons. We have 150 miles to go, that is if the Rebels will let us

I have no news that is worth sending to you, only that somebody has been mean enough to steal my Sachel with all my cloths. The shirts you sent me was in it that bunch of Tea and part of the Berries--

Our Baggage was in charge of two men, but I suppose they got drunk and lost not only mine but much more=

I can get along very well except for socks I shall have to buy some=for the pair I have are only cotton ones== I am very sorry that my sachel is gone for my thread & needles and all my little traps was in it and also a Revolver worth \$10. and a pair of fur gloves worth \$3.00= but no use to worry about it for what is gone is gone Some of the boys have ten times as much as I have-- I would like to tell you something of our journey from Alexandria to this place but have no time today My health continues good-- It will be yet at 2 weeks before I shall receive a letter from you because all the mail goes to the Regiment Trust that you are all well I send you all my love and best wishes and

Remain Yours

Most Truly

Wm Charles

Sergt Wm Charles
154 Regt N Y Vol
Washington D C

11th Army Corps
care T A Allen QM

Shelbyville Tennessee Oct. 15 1863

Dear Ann

We got a way from Nashville last Monday morning, and reached this place last night about 8 o'clock. The first night we stopped at place called Layvern, the second at Murfreesborough.= It has rained all most the whole time since we started. Many of the mules gave out yesterday and we are stopping to day, to let them rest. My health was never better. I have not had the headache since we left Alexandria, but many of the boys have been taken sick and had to left on the way. The Rebel Cavalry 7000 of them were in this place about a week ago, and took or destroyed everything they could get hold of They robbed every store and made the people give them all the money they had. I have never seen such a ragged looking place Most all the houses from here to Nashville are burned= and for 55 miles not hardly a cultivated field can be seen. Nothing but a splendid crop of weeds meets the eye every where

Our wagon train is about 5 or 6 miles long Every wagon is heavily loaded and has 6 mules to each wagon We have over 100 miles yet to go= it will take us over a week for the roads will be very bad We came 25 miles yesterday & my colt got pretty tired My cloth have been for three days=& you would think that it would make me or any one else sick to be wet all day, then lay down and go to sleep in those wet cloths, but it does not.--but it is very disagreeable to be wet and have to cook your food in the mud, sleep in the mud and eat in the mud= I have got a good pair of Boots and a Rubber Blanket so I do not get very wet. My feet and back are most always dry= Those dried Cherries & Black current were very good indeed I did not take time to tell we got into this State= _____ the last of last Tuesday morning before daylight== and the Q.M. had some of them and he said that he never had anything better in his life==

Please give my love to all= Good by.== I will write to you a long letter when I have time=

Most Truly yours

Wm Charles

Bridgeport Alabama
October 26 1863=
Head Quarters 154th Regt N.Y.V.

Dear Ann,

Hear I am at last with the Regiment We got here this forenoon after being on the road from Nashville 13 days and 8 of them rainy We had a dismal time indeed and the roads were bad beyond all description The boys were all very glad to see us, and I for one was very glad to see them But was very sorry to find that Dick Lewis & Ben Morgan had left the Regiment without leave Do you know what has become of them. I trust that they will come back before they are Reported as Deserters.

I expected to find some letters here from you but find none, but one from Mary dated a month ago. It is now late & I have been bussy every minnit since I came in, so you will excuse me from writing any more to night.=

I am very thankful to my Heavenly Father to be able to inform you that I am well==

And trusting that you are the same

I remain yours most Truly

Wm Charles

Bill James & Lewis Jones are both well.

Please direct your letters very plain like this untill further orders

Wm Charles
154th Reg N.Y. Vols
1st brig 2 Div. 11 A.C.
Nashville Tenn.
Care T. A. Allen