

Lookout Valley Tenn
Jan. 12 1864

Dear Ann

The mail left here yesterday before my letter was ready= and so this morning I will write a few more lines In one of your letters you say that you had bought some beads for me supposing by putting them around my neck it would prevent or as you say cure the sick headache. It was very kind of you to buy them. But they will do me just as much good to have you or the children wear them as if I wore them myself and I think a little more=

Two companies of our Regiment and the Quarter Master are down at Kellys ford where the Boats come up with supplies

I went down last Saturday and staid till sunday in the afternoon=
Had a very pleasant visit.

Just before dark on Saturday there was 104 Rebel prisoners brought in. there was two Officers, one a lieutenant the other inspector General. They staid with us untill the boat came which was about 2 oclock in the morning They were very clever well educated young men, and of course we had a good time just as if we had been Brothers and good We gave them to eat and drink the best we we had= and treated them just as we would like to be treated if we were prisoners of war The parted like true friends and no doubt but they will do us all the good in their power should the fortunes of war throw us into the hands of the Enemy=

The weather continues quite cold but not very= We have enough to eat such as it is All of are suffering some what for the want of vegetable food Meat, Hard Tack & Coffee is about all we get some times a few Beans & Rice.=

No news to day. So Dack_ has made up his mind to move the house Well good luck to him= Tell him for me that as far as money is con- sern I will help him all I can about the first of march If Uncle Sam pays me I can send home \$100.= I have \$40. now all but \$14 of it I have earned by doing little jobs for the boys If I had Silver enough I could earn much more= If Dack_ builds a new cellar tell him to put up a good one let it cost what it will.= Well good by My love to all Did that Ring come that I sent in a letter to Mang_

May Heavens blessings rest upon you all is the earnest prayer of

Yours Very Truly

Wm Charles

Head Quarters 154 Regt N Y V
Lookout Valley near Chattanooga
Jan 15th 1864

Dear Wife

I have just learned that Doctor Day is going home on furlough and he starts before day light I have nothing to send by him to you But This pipe for Dack__, and two Rings for Tommy Let him not give them away or loose them but keep them until Dat comes home They made from Laurel Root that grew on or very near the top of Lookout Mountain. Will tell you some Why I do not wish to part with them. I have been offered a dollar a piece for them==

This \$12 (dollars) is all I have by Have lent to Col. Loomis \$25. dollars and the Q.M. \$3 (three) and \$3 to an other man. Will send you some in a letter if you wish. I do not think we shall be paid until March maybe not then.

I have no time to write any Will write in a day or two Please give my love to all

We have prayer meeting every night in my Tent, Between eight & nine o clock, but often continues until ten, and we do enjoy it very much.== Am sorry that I nothing to send to sissy you must tell her that one of the Rings is for her. Tommy must let her have her choice. If I had known it a little sooner I would make her something. The weather continues pretty cold. We are all well

David Williams wishes to be remembered most kindly to you all Well Good By.=

Yours Very Truly

Wm Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
January 17th 1864

Dear Ann

Yours of the first & 4th of this month was received yesterday a little before night. Much oblige for the postage stamps & thread
You ask me if I think that Tommy Davis charges to much. Well I am not able to tell for I do not know how much of a wing he is to build Who is to put up the cellar that is the most important of all. Tell Dack__ to have a good cellar any how cost what it will

Doc Day will let you have \$40. (forty Dollars) I gave him \$12 (twelve dollars) By the time he gets back I will have enough to pay him and as soon as Uncle Sam pays me I will send it home & Dack__ can use all that you can spair---

Can not write any more for I am not well to day= Was sick all last night with vomitting & Diarhea= My head & bones are aching very badly

Lookout Valley Tennessee
January 18 1864

Dear Ann

Yesterday I was somewhat unwell. Since midnight last night I have been with out much pain. Was afraid that some kind of a fever had taken hold of me

But am in hopes now that I shall be quite well again in a few days

What do you suppose that David Williams Wife means by letting Tom Rees come to her house

Does she mean can she be so foolish as to forsake her own husband bring woe and wrechedness upon her family and bring upon herself Eternal Damnation, for the sake of so vile a creature as Tom Rees=====

You must excuse me for this short letter I promised the Doctor this morning that I should remain quiet today for he was afraid that the pain in my head would return in the afternoon It is now past noon & I feel no worse

David Williams Tents with me yet his health is improving but if he should hear that Tom Rees is boarding at his House it would kill him=I do believe.

Have you seen Capt. Cheney yet some time ago I sent a white shell finger Ring in a letter for ma_g__, has it ever come if it has not let ma_g__ have that white Ring that was sent by Cheney that is if it fits her If it does not fit let me know & I will send an other one

Did Capt. Cheney bring father a pipe I offered him some money to buy father a pipe he refused to take the money but said that he would buy him a pipe and give it to him for me and I could pay him some other time, let me know if he has done it.

Well good by Please give my love to all. Received a letter from Miss Lydia Owens a few days ago

May Our Heavenly Father bless you all is the prayer of

Yours Very Truly

Wm Charles

(continued)

(January 18, 1864 continued)

If Tommy & sissy wants Dat to make them any little trinket let me know=

Doctor Day says that if you have any thing you wish to send to me he will bring it. Do not send but very little of any thing for I am not in need of any thing But you know that I have lost my Welsh Testament, and if you can send me a Welsh Bible I will be very much oblige to you=

Very Truly Yours

Wm Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
January 20th 1864

Dear Ann

Day before yesterday I sent a letter to you stating that I was a little unwell. Am thankful to Our Heavenly Father to be able to say this morning that my health is fully restored.

It is a very pleasant day with us although it froze some last night the sun has come out warm and lovely this morning

There is no news worth sending to you I understand that Captain Cheney came home the night before New Years and of course you have seen him before this. Bill Davis tells me that there is some talk of sending us a Box=

It may be all very well, but really it will not pay, for we get enough to eat, although a little cheese and a few mince pies would do us a heap of good But then it is ten chances to one if the Box ever gets here I have not seen an apple or a potatoe for more than three months the same with Butter & cheese. And of course any thing from home would taste very good to us But the risk is so great that for my part I do not wish a Box sent to me But if a Box is to be sent and you are invited to put any thing in it and it does not start from there before you get this, Please put in for me a few pound of cheese but no Butter I can not eat Butter here it makes me sick. A few mince pies, and one pair of socks. But do not trouble yourself to much about it for I can get along first with out them. Doctor Day said that he would bring me any little things which you would like to send Let it be very little for I am very well provided for.=

The shirts you sent me fades badly the best stuff for you to buy for shirt is a dark sheeps grey, or rather peper color flannel, that will not fade or show dirt. also a red flannel shirt is very good=

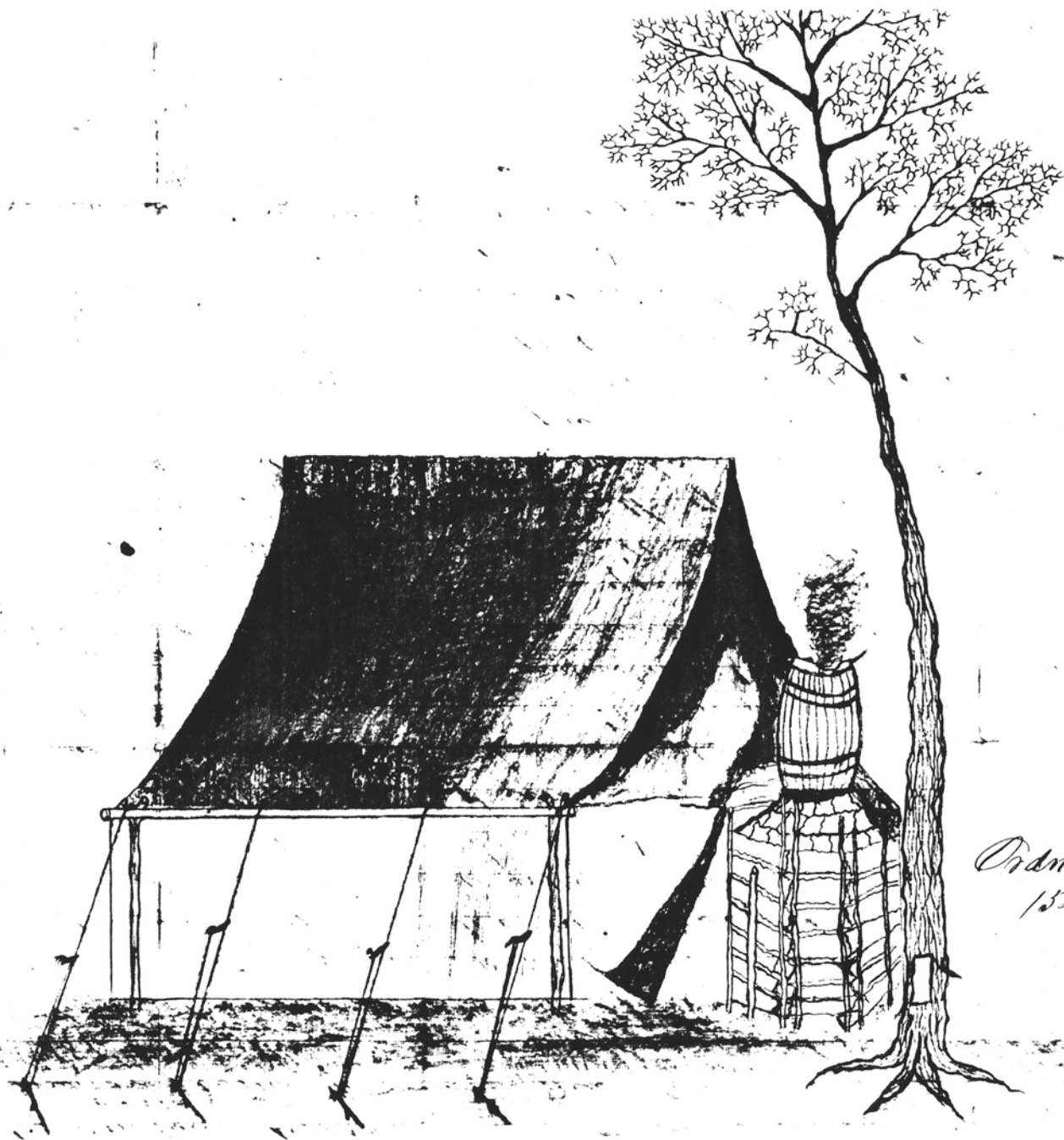
But if you wish to make me any more shirts let them be of some dark collar

Tell Tommy & Sissy that I send them a a very poor picture of the Tent that Data Bachs lives in. you see the door is close to the chimney It is a very comfortable tent. Give my love and best wishes to all. Hoping that you are all well and imploring Gods blessing upon you all

I Remain yours most Truly

W Charles

(Inside pages contain a pencil drawing of his winter tent, captioned in ink, "Ordnanc Office 154 N.Y.V.")



*Ordinance Office
154 N.Y.C.*

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Quarter Masters Department
154th Regt. N.Y.V. Jan. 30 1864

Dear Ann,

An other week is past and gone and Saturday night has come a night that most men love to be at home with their wives and children & friends= Nothing would suit me better than to be at home to night.= but there is no use wishing. We can only hope and pray that Saturday night will come when we can be all together at home Our stay at Kellys ferry was only for a couple of days we have come back again into the valley but not into our old camp and of course it has cost us much hard work to put up tents. This is four times that we have put up Winter quarters--this winter. But it is all for the best

Day before yesterday I received a very kind letter from Joel, and two newspapers in his letter was a beautiful little file just the thing that I wanted. He has four children Their names are James= Anna David= & William=Henry. the girl is next the youngest He does not say how old the youngest boy is So you see they have got far ahead of us= Well no matter. We can afford to let them go ahead of us in some things. Joel wishes very much that our children may yet play together. He did think of coming up to Freedom this spring and hire a farm, but he says that he has not money enough to get a team &c, and besides Alice was not quite willing so he has made up his mind to stay where he is for an other year.

He says that every thing is so dear that it is impossible for him to lay up much money. There is no news worth sending to you My health is very good. the freedom boys are all well David Williams says that he has trouble. that may be, but his hometrouble if there is any, does not keep him from eating and sleeping. His health is much better now than when he came to the Regiment about four or five weeks ago.====

What do you think of the war now, for my part, I can not see any signs of day light yet

The people of this country love Slavery and its wickedness to much for Heaven to grant us Peace for yet a while! Some think that this war will be closed this year I hope it will but I cannot flatter myself that way=

The duration of the war will depend very much upon our success in the Spring Campaign

It is compairitively quiet in these parts but there has been some little fighting in front the last few days, at a place called Athens about 30 miles from here with what result I have not learn but the enemy was repulsed, and our boys were following them up.

If this dry weather continues the spring campaign will open at an early day=

We have had a little rain to day the weather is quite warm and spring (like) like, and the weeds begins to look green.= We have not any fire place in our Tent yet, but it is so warm that we do not feel the want of fire very much We shall put up a chimney in a few days because it is not very pleasant to do our little cooking out of doors.
===

We had soft bread while down at Kellys ferry but it was so sour that we were glad to get Hard Tacks again!! We have plenty to eat.

(continued)

(January 30, 1864 continued)

the pork we get here is much better than what we used to have in the army of the Potomac. for my part I am very glad that we are away from Virginia

How does the fodder hold out with you will you have enough. How is Dackys fingers I hope they are well by this time How does he like to smoke that Pipe that Military Pipe I hope that he will take a heap of comfort with it. Have you Doctor Day & have got that money Well, it is getting late I will not write any more to night. must go and warm my feet by somebodys fire and then go to Roost=== I shall know nothing about sleeping on a bed when I get home My present bed is nothing more than a few poles=

Well good night to you all= may have a letter form you to morrow.=

Sunday morning

The mail has not come in this morning= It rather cool & very foggy to day= Have wash me and put on clean clothes, and I feel very comfortable and contented But a little Homesick= =

Please give my love to Dack__ and Ma_g_ and father & mother and the rest of the family===

How is Tommy & Sissy do they play well do they cut up all sorts of mischief, I hope they do. Does Sissy talk any yet.

Hoping that you are all well I remain

Very Truly Yours

Wm. Charles

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Quarter Masters Department
February 4th 1864

Dear Ann

Yours of January 10th came to hand last sunday= and to day two letters came form you dated 18--24. Am very thankful indeed that you are blessed with health.

There is no news worth sending to you About that Box that Jane Ann Davis & Sue Williams have sent. Was most likely intended as a private concern--But they did very wrong in not letting you and Mrs of Mr. John Jones sending some little something to those they love so well

For my part I do not need any thing that they could send me. But it makes me all most sick of life to see such conduct among those that are brothers & sisters & should love one an other

I could say much on this ___ but will not at preasent because my time is very precious=

Let us remember that however Wrong & foolish others may act, it is no excuse for us to do like wise Let us implore Heavenly aid that we may be able to do that wich is right

About moving the Buildings I of course have but very little to say. But as Dacky wants me to say something I will say this much

1st If I was to move the house below the road I would take it far enough into the meadow so that the wash from the House & c would run down onto the meadow instead of going into the Gulff

2nd I would have a good cellar one that would not freese It must not be too deep for cream does not rise well in a deep cellar it would be well to have it in two parts with a fire place in the first part=

3d I am some what in doubt about moving the House or Barn below the road Why not let the Barns alone and only move the house down a little ways= Because the water is there the Trees and flowers are there. If the house goes below the road all the other buildings ought to go, and the Big Barn is most to old to move=

4th Daky & Mang_ must do just as they think best, what ever will suit them will me. I will help them to as much money as you can spare= from my earnings

5th I would like very much indeed to help Dack__ for a while= but as the job is let out, let Tommy do the best he can

6th Where ever the house is put let it not be placed over a poor cellar

Lookout Valley Tennessee
Quarter Master Department
154 Regt. N.Y.V. Feb. 6th 1864

Dear Ann,

An other Sabbath day has come and a most beautifull day it is.=
The weather has been all we could ask for about two weeks it is
strange what a difference there is between the winters here and in
Cattaraugus=

The mail has just come in but I did not get a letter to day= Bill
Davis got a letter yesterday=stating that Doctor Day had got there.
most likely you have seen or at least he sent those little Trinkets
and the money to you.= Has Capt Cheney come back from Washington yet=

I have no news to send to you to day= I have some spair time now
and most every day I make a Ring or a crescent for some of the boys.--
By keeping bussy all the time, you see prevents my getting Homesick=
Most every one in the Regt is having a Ring made from a piece of Brass
that is in the shells that the Rebels threw at us from the top of
Lookout Mountain-- They are the same as that one I sent to Dackey=
By the by, What did you do with that White Pearl Ring that was sent
by Capt Cheney It was big enough for you and a very good Ring.

If you do not want it you may give it to Mother. I am going to
make one for Mary as soon as I have time=

It seems that the Girls are increasing in Freedom. Well good luck
to them=

The Freedom boys are all well My health is very good=

How does Dacky like his pipe I will send one to Father when I
will have a chance. Bill James is very much ashamed that those silly
women acted so foolish about that box But they are no worse in that
respect--then David Morgan was last winter= If they think that any
body cares anything about it, they are very much mistaken. It only
shows what kind of stuff they are made of thats all.==== The said Box
has not come yet.= We have plenty to eat now and all the boys are
getting fat.

How is Mary=and all the folks= How is John that is Brother John
I do not hear from him no more than if he was dead So Stearling
Allden is coming on the Foot farm Bully for him Hope he will keep
good fences that will make him & Dacky good friends