

Washington, D.C.
Sunday Oct 5th 1862

Dear parents

I take the opportunity of informing you how I like my new position. Well I can say I like it well though I have had rather a dismal time coming down here and after I got here likewise. I caught cold and with my mumps and underwent a good deal of pain but I am most well now. Delos is well and enjoys it first best he is full of fun all of the time. I did not sleep any much for three nights when we came down here

I can not write much for Delos and Monroe are scuffle so much here in our tent. all of the boys are well I think but Isaac Smith he has been some sick but is getting better now.

You can tell the folks that Asa Camp was here yesterday, he looks tough as a bear and as natural as a pig he lives about 3 miles from here.

Russ is reading right near here and I can not write much of sense I make so many mistakes.

Delos said tell Libbie that he will write soon again. you write whether you got my other letter or not We are now at Arlington heights in D.C. 5 miles from Washington acrossed the Potomac we marched over here Thursday got over here about 8:0:clock in the evening crossed the Potomac bridge about 3/4 of a mile long I should think. It is very warm wether here now warm days and cold nights. I can not begin to tell you what I have seen but it is a good deal. I am glad that I enlisted it is a good cause I am-sure. I have written a letter to Sib to day. I have seen some Rebel prisoners they looked like dogs to me! they looked mean you might believe standing in a prison under guns

the dust flies so it gets every thing all durt and durt. I have no convenience to write with a pen & ink the boys eary on so much I can see camps all around within 3 & 4 miles & we can see the Capital from here please remember me to the friends in Leon & all around

Write soon as you get this tell all to write for I can not get time to write to all. Direct your letter to

M. W. Darling
Washington D.C. 154 Regt
Co K care of Capt H. Hugboom
N.Y.S.V.

Camp Seward Saturday
October 11th 1862

Dear Parents,

I am yet well and enjoy myself good. It is some rainy here to day. We are under marching orders now but dont know when we will go or where. I and Edgar and Bill Casten went out the other day to see what we could see. We went over to the bank of the river and saw the boats pass and repass then we went most down to Alexandria we saw the place where Albert Wills died Fairfax Seminary. We came back where there were three Negroes making Cider we bought two pints for five cents a pint it tasted a little like old Cattaraugus cider but it was made negros We tried to go in to some of the forts but they would not let us in. Yesterday I went down to the creek and washed my shirt and drawers out good and clean. I have been looking this day or two for a letter from home. Monroe got one last night from his wife and is answering it now. There is a general movement going on now there were troops going by here all last night. Some said they were going to Harpers Ferry but we dont know. We are in sight of the Capital and a part of the city of Washington. Tell Deloses wife that Delos is well and is expecting a letter from her every day.

Some of them are a little sick now and then which we must expect of course allowing to the change of climate. You must write soon and tell us all of the news in Leon Direct your letters as before till further orders. Delos had a tooth pulled yesterday which he said was a jaw breaker.

You tell Charly that we have as much fun as we did cutting oats on the hill when the spider crawled on Fathers pie.

I think my going to school to Randolph turned out in going to Rebeldom which is very much bettered for the preservation of our Union. I can net think of much more to write now. Please remember me to all of the people in Leon especilly to Simon Francis folks tell Lib that I am well and enjoy myself goed some of the boys are home sick but they will get ever that soon I am net I can say.

M W Darling

(Engraving of U.S. Capitol and printed: Headquarters 154th Reg't
N. York Vols., Col. A. G. Rice, Company (K))

Wednesday Nov 5th 1862
Camp near Thoroughfare gap

Dear Friends

I sit myself down in a new part of Va. to let you know how I get along. I am well & so is Delos after our march from Fairfax likewise is Monroe. We started from Fairfax Sunday noon & marched until Sundown we didnt have to cary our knap sacks we carried our blankets & _____ with one change of Socks & drawers & Shirts it was very warm in the middle of the day here but cold nights. All of the boys felt very well Delos & I & Dan Gardner & George Mason took the lead of the company & had lots of fun. it was first rate weather. The first day we went by the Battle field where they said Gen Carny was killed through Centreville on towards Gainesville We went through Centerville about 2 or 3 miles the other side of Bull run battle field & stayed all night. We took up our march in the morning at 8.0.clock & went right through the battle field of Bull run. There we saw a great sight for about six miles dead horses all over the ground & pieces of Artillery wagons & amunition wagons where the Union army retreated through the woods. Camnon balls & Shells lay all around on the ground. I saw one place where the water had run along & the balls washed down in the ditch & they lay there as thick as you ever see apples in your life. trees cut off by balls all along the woods. We stoped in the woods & made us some coffee & broiled our meat & had a good dinner for a Soldier. in these woods there were Rebs buried & lots of them toe. I saw graves of men where the faces lay out or the bone of the face. they were killed the 29th day of Aug. 1862 We went through where the Rebs quartered last winter their log houses looked quite nice. We passed through Gainesville & Hay Market within three miles of the Gap. I saw Mathias Greely you tell George he had been up to the Gap with about 100 men & drove the pickets in exchanged shots with them but no one was hurt. We are now after the Rebs & I hope we will get some of them. if I do so I will send you some of his hair there is fighting 15 miles from here & I wish it was here so I could help We can hear the Cannon when they fire it is said it is Burnside & we are here to keep the Rebs from going through the Gap. they think the Rebs wont come here now but we shall go on after them I hope

Isaac Smith was sent to Alexandria & Lieut Hubbard has had a letter from him & he is most well & Dr Rug has seen him some of the boys said the Dr was going to give him a discharge but dont know how true it is. I am just as well as I was when I left home & weigh the same 147 lbs & can march as far as the best of them. I should like some of your sweet apple sauce here but can not feel contented to come home & leave the rest of the boys yet nor if I did I couldnt but I should like to come home if all of the Soldiers could come & the war was over. I think it must be lonesome in Leon now.

Camp between Thorough Gap & Warrento Saturday Nov 8/62

Dear friends I will again try to finish my letter. I _____
finish it before we had to march. We had to march yesterday
morning about 9 miles we got here about noon we are in about
7 miles Warrenton in a piece of woods. we have lots to eat here
now the boys conficicate 5 hives of honey to each Co. & a
plenty of Turkeys & hens & lots of mutton & fresh pork & beef &
apples a plenty. we expect to march soon from here tomorrow.
I will write as soon as we get Settled. I do not get much time
to write now. please write soon & let me know all the news.
this from your Son

M. W. Darling

direct your letters as before I am in good health & have
lots to eat

Camp at Thoroughfare Gap
Monday Nov 10th 1862

Dear Friends

We arrived here to the Gap yesterday after a march of about 8 miles. I wrote one letter dated the 5th when we were in three miles of here & an other when we were within 7 miles of Warrenton dated the 8th I hope you have get all of them for I wrote a good deal of news about our march. We marched from within three miles of here about 10 miles towards Warrenton & back here yesterday to the Gap I have got to answer a letter to Uncle John & to Bryon Allen to day that I received before we left Fairfax

Monday eve Nov 10th/1862

I commenced to write this letter this morning & before I got one page done I was called to go on picket so I had to lay it by. by some mistake there were to many pickets & after we marched around the line of picket I & Monroe was left unposted so we marched to Camp & got here about dark. the mail had come in & fetched me a letter from Simon Francis dated the 26th of Oct. and two for Delos one from his wife & one from Sister Libbie. I read the one from Libbie & it appears she has been to Buffalo & had a fine ride on the Cars. Simon wrote he had got the money on that note of Mr. Wells but hadn't got the town bounty yet. I hope the ones that voted against raising us the bounty have got drafted this day. I want you should write soon & let me know about the draft & who if drafted if any. I hope to hear of some being drafted. I am well & hope these lines will find you the same & all of Leon Russell Barlow had a letter to night stating James Good was dead. You please tell Libbie to write often if She does not get any letter from me. I do not have much time to write now days for we have to march about every other day. I dont know how long we may stay here but keep writing just the same & direct to Washington D. C. I shall get them some time. you tell Charly to write to me & answer my letter & Frank & Billy too. I must bring my letter to a close for it is getting late.

this from your Son M. W. Darling

Co. K 154th Regt
N.Y.S.V.

Tell all of my friends that I am well & wish them the same Please tell Lucy I should be happy to get a letter from her. Tell Deloses wife to write a letter to me & tell me how little Orly gets along.

I can only Say good bye for this time.

M. W. Darling

Camp near Fairfax
Monday Nov 24th/62

Dear Mother

I hasten to write you a few lines in answer to your letter of Nov. 9th, which I received night before last. This day finds me this side of the grave & enjoying the blessings of health. We have marched from Thoroughfare Gap since I wrote to you. we reached here Wednesday night Started from there Monday night about sundown We marched right the same road that we did when we went to the Gap. It is rather cold weather here this morning for this Country, but pleasant. It has just cleared off from a very heavy rain storm and is some muddy. We are within about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Fairfax. when we marched from here we were ordered to leave our knap sacks & every thing but a change of shirts and drawers left our dress coats too. I left my house wife & towel & two pairs of socks & some other trinkets. We got our knapsacks & every thing all safe. I think we shall go into winter quarters near here it looks to me like it now but dont know. yesterday we put into it and fixed up our tent with two small logs on each side & banked it up so you see we slept warm last night though it was very cold, cold enough to freeze the ground considerable, but still Monroe & Delos & myself hugged up to gather & slept warm as pigs. I was out on picket Friday & had lots of fun picket duty is different from what I thought it was before I was on duty it is fun. I went up to a house to buy some milk but the old Lady; (yes & it was a Lady) hadn't got any milk so I made a trade with her for a loaf of bread. it was baked on a tin plait so you see it was not very large, but at least I could afford to pay 10 cts. for it So I paid her, & thanked her too, then started for my post Delos & I & George Masen & some you dont know was on the post. when the boys saw me coming they laughed & said bully for Grout, you see the rest of the Strange boys played they had no money & you see they could not play that on us so we eat the bread ourselves & as it happened I had about a half pound of butter which come very handy on our bread. when we ate our bread Delos he tried his luck on buying heecake he went up there & got the old Lady to bake him some heecake & he sit down to their table & ate them. which he said was goed (turn to Chapt ?)

if we should get into winter quarters here I should like to have you & Lib & Lucy Carpenter send us some thing for we tent to gather now but I will tell you when to send it & some things I want & how to send it. I should like to have you send me a paper when you can for we do not get any news here now. I got some Money from Libbie just as we left the Gap please write soon & tell Father write

This letter looks hard for the paper got all wet.

Camp near Fairfax
Saturday Dec 6th a.d. 1862

Dear parents, brothers, sisters, comrades, friends, School mates,
Sweet hearts, neighbors and gentlemen and Ladies.

It is without fear of your receiving an unwelcome letter from me that I attempt to write. This day finds me this side of the grave & enjoying the blessings of health, but not liberty for no Soldier has his liberty neither did I expect I should.

This is the most gloomy day I have seen in Va. yesterday noon I come off of picket and before we got to Camp it commenced snowing and snowed until most night, then stopped for a while & snowed in the night. this morning when I crawled out I found the snow about three inches deep, the second snow only we have seen in Va. and before only enough to whiten the ground nicely. the warm sun begins to pour forth its radiant heat and the snow must soon disappear, then it will be muddy.

I have not been sick any since we left Camp Seward when I had the mumps. there has quite ef (please excuse mistakes) a number of this Regt been sick and gone to the hospital I will try and mention the most of them. William Casten is one, Brad Wood, Russ Barlow, Tommy Plunkitt & Isaac Smith is all I think of now, but the Reg't has dwindled from over nine hundred down to five hundred and eighty two is what they reported fit for duty a week ago. We have drawn some very nice rubber blankets lately which suits me. We had quite a riot here in Camp the other night which you have probably heard of in the papers before this time. I was on picket that night so it was all right with me. Some how or other I cant think of much write today. I have got a considerable of a cold so I have to lay my handkerchief by my side and take it up about every four seconds to wipe my nose that shows my cold is doing well

Tell Sarah that Monroe is on picket and he has got two letters here. Edgar told me that Bill Casten had sent for his folks to come and see him, he is in Washington. I wish you would write what the prospect is of getting the Town bounty some letters from Leon say it is lost & others say it is coming next week or when they get around to it. I do not know when we shall get any pay, but think before a long time. I do not see what is to pay, that Milo does not answer to my letter I wish you would put him in mind of it. Tell Charly to write me a letter and be a good boy & go to school learn as fast as he can Well I heard was sick with the mumps. write how he is and all of the folks.

Darling. Call

Tell Frank to be a good boy and keep his nose clean for me Write how the draft gets along. how and what George Greeley is doing I do not see why Father does not write write something about Orly & Lib Tell all of the boys to write to me I wish you would send me a paper. I did not write this in answer to any letter but thought it would not come a miss

Camp near Fredericksburg
Wednesday Jan 7th/63

Dear Friends

I again seat my self to converse with you by way of the pencil. Mother you wrote that Charley talked of filling out that sheet I think he can write just as well as not and you keep priggling at him till he writes a long letter it will do him a good deal of good & likewise myself now I dont want to have to speak about this again if I do I shall blow. I should like to send for a box of stuf but dare not risk it now I will wait a while Monroe Delos & myself want to send for a box to gather one that will weigh about 100 lbs. a little butter and some dried apples and berries Such Stuf as dried fruit will come the safest. if we make up our minds to send after some we will tell you what to send and how to direct it. if you send butter the best way is to put it in old Oyster cans. As for my buying any butter or cheese at \$1.00 per I shall not unless obliged to and he can not sell it for that I know. We have enough to eat here but would like some Sauce of some kind but Saunders may stick his Butter & cheese in his _____ before I will pay \$1.00 per pound. I do not see why Father does not write I think he does not do right in that respect. I have had some good times here visiting with the boys of the 64.

It is singular that I do not get Lucys letter but tell her to try it over again. I see at the end of your letter you call that sheet full and didn't you know you could take an other and fill that but not say this sheet is full but keep right on knitting until you se Charley then take him by the coat collar and tell him you will whip him if he does not write to me and see what effect that will have
The rest after dinner

(Engraving of Gen. WOOL)

Post on the Bank
of the Rappahannock
January 26, 1863

Dear Folks

_____ picket today and all is well. We come out here yesterday about noon, Monroe and I Delos did not come. This is a pleasant day go down on the bank the River _____ roars and the sun shines and it seems like spring Horace Howlet has been down to the River and one of the Rebel pickets come part way over and threw him a plug of Tobacco when I was down on my post one of the picket motioned to me as much as to say he would throw his gun in the River if I would mine. They are as friendly as any one can ask. There is no picket firing at all now. I had just as soon stand picket here in sight of the Rebs as in Leon as far as being affraid of getting shot is consurned.

Burnside has been trying to do some thing lately but got stuck in the mud and as far as I care I am glad of it. about 12 days ago we were sent out to cut a road down to the River, then we got that finished and went back to our old camp then we were sent to complete the road and guard the Ponto Bridges We started with the Bridges and it commenced raining and it rained all night so it made it very muddy and impossable to move Artillery or Pontons. The Ponton Bridges were strung all along the road and the most mud I ever saw I saw twenty four horses on one small cannon and could not stir it. If I could see you all I could tell you a great deal how this war is working one thing I can say it dont suit me very well

Lieut Hubbard has resigned and gone home and now Salmon Beardsly is our Lieut he was promoted from Orderly in Co. G to Lieut in Co. K, 154 N.Y.V.

I can not half write with a lead pencil but we can not get any ink here now I think the Winter Campain is played out at least I hope so. I am well now and hope these few lines will find you the same Delos is well. We have sent after a box of Sundries and _____ send them as soon as convenient for we may move from here but if they come soon we can get them handy

Please write soon

This from your Son

M. W. Darling

Camp near Falmouth
January 27th 1863

I have got in off of picket and will try to finish my Epistle.

The mail came in last night and I got a letter from Libbie and Charley I was very glad to hear from home it being some time since I have heard

We are now within half a mile of our old camp where we stayed ever since we got to Fredericksburg. This morning when I was on my post one of the Rebs forded the River to within about two rods of me on our side of the River and threw over a large plug of Tobacco The water was nearly up to his waist. He said he belonged to the 14th Alabama Regt. He asked one of the boys that was there when we was going to cross the River again, he said they wanted to get some more Overcoats

I was glad to see so long a letter from Charley and so well written I hope he will answer this and all put in a line that make a mark I hope that Frank will get along.

Cell

Camp John Manley
Saturday March 4th/63

Dear Mother and Friends

I thought I would converse with you a little by way of the faithful pen.

I expect that Stiles Ellsworth will get a furlough to night, for his papers have gone out and expect them back tonight. I have concluded to send home my Overcoat and one shirt, which I have packed up and shall send by Stiles. Delos and I are in good health and fair prospects to remain so for any thing that I see. Cell.

I dont feel very sharp to night for I was on guard yesterday. Russell Barlow has just arrived here from the Hospital not over five months since. he is tough and in good spirits. please tell Mrs. Barlows people. I dont know of any news to tonight that will interest you. I have just rec'd. a letter from Will Casten in Philadelphia he is well and thinks he shall try to get back to the Reg't. soon.

I have not Rec'd. my letter from home since two weeks ago tomorrow. I have written several times since so you could hear from me. I wrote to Lucy Dudley a short time ago. I am looking for a letter now every night the mail has come in for tonight so I did not get any

I am out of stamps but if Stiles goes home I will send by him and get a supply on hand so I shall not have to bother. please write if you have heard any thing from the dollar I sent in the letter.

I wish if my hat is there you would send it by Ellsworth if not get me a black hat and send it. I believe that is all I want. my old Vest sticks by yet and is worth a farer(?) sheep. The prospects are now that we shall remain here a short time yet for they have granted furloughs again. Now please write often and all the news. Delos is on picket today and Monroe and I are here to keep house alone Father please write.

I had a letter from John G. a short time since and have answered it I think. I suppose Dan Wood has been in Leon ere now and you have seen him Libbie spoke of sending some things by him but I have not heard from her lately. I guess I shall have to talk to some body

Oh one thing more I think of is if the Orderly as we call him comes I wish you would send me a ball of yarn to darn socks with, just a smallish one you need not send any socks or the like of that I am looking for a letter from Mile soon.

Please write soon and oblige your Son M W Darling
Marcellus W Darling To Mrs D. M. Darling

Eleventh Corps Hospital
2 Division near Brooks Station
Friday May 29

Dear and affectionate friend

I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know I getting along I have been attacked with the fever slightly and day before yesterday they moved the and Monroe and I were sent. I am gaining slowly all the time and think there will be no trouble now the first letter I got from you since we got back in the old was 15 of May, then I got one from you last Delos brought it to me It appeared that you had not got the money then you need not send me any more stamps for I do not write and I got a nice lot of them in a letter from Libbie Monroe and I are both to gather and have good care. I do not want you should be concerned about me for I will write.

you wrote a long time about my writing I would send a ring to Welley. I intended to put it in that letter sent by Stiles but I forgot it so I will put it in now to Willey.

This from your well wished Son

M. W. Darling

Please remember me to all inquiring Friends

Eleventh Corps Hospital 2 Division
near Brooks Station
Sunday June 7th/63

Dear Friends.

I seat myself to write a few lines. I am in the Hospital have had a slight run of the fever but am now getting better so I can eat as much as they with _____

George Newcomb came yesterday from Dayton he has been home on a furlough and said he saw Mrs Sam Shannon and she said they heard I was worse and did not expect I would live, and I thought I would write and let you know different I have not been taken worse since I was _____
-et if you heard the same that Mrs Shannon did you will be worrying all the time. now I do not want you should take on at all about me for I am getting better slowly every day so I can walk some now Delos was down here yesterday and he said he wrote home every three days and wrote how I was getting every time.

I am in the same tent with Brad Wood and Monroe is here to so we have pretty good times and first best care George Francis is here he brought me a lot of stamps and a large cake of sugar my apetite is good and is gaining we have lots of lemonade and Oranges firnished by the Sanitary Commission.

Now dont worry about me

I will close for I have written quite a long letter now I wrote one to Mother since I have been here before. Please write soon from your son

M. W. Darling

Eleventh Corps Hospital
2 Division Brooks Station
June 12th/63, Va

Dear Friends

It is with pleasure that I seat myself to write you a few lines this pleasant morning I got Mothers letter yesterday morning. Delos sent it down from Camp.

I was very glad to hear from home for it has been quite a long time since I have heard from home. before I got that letter I have written one letter to Libbie since I have been here and only three or four days since I wrote one to Mother not a week since. I think you must have got it by this time. Delos was down here last night & George went up to stay all night with him. I am on the gain slowly I have not been out doors yet but think I shall tomorrow. I have walked back and forwards through the tent every day lately but I am very weak yet and my hand trembles so I cant more than half write. Monroe is here in the same tent he is so he gets all around out doors.

We have got the best kind of nurse he is an englishman and his name is John Walch I dont want you should worry about me eating things that will hirt me for John is as strict as you would be about letting me eat things he is an old nurse with the fever. he makes us gruel and that is good and some toast for dinner and George Francis went over to the 64th and Monroe and I sent over and got a pound of butter a piece and the Dr brings in some jelly some times and gives us an orange once in a while and lemons so we can have lemonade and when we dont have jelly John gets dried apples and stews them for us. then George brought me a cake of maple sugar which comes very handy but I dont eat a great deal of it yet. I have about two hands full of those dried cherries yet and Brad had some berries that George brought him and we take some of the berries and put in a few cherries and stew them together and it makes very good sauce, so you see take it all around we live very well and have bully good care from our John. when we buy oranges or lemons we have to pay 25 cents for three. I got out this morning and had to buy some for I like them and the Dr says they are good for me so I bought three Oranges for 25 cents. you spoke of the battle field any one dont know what it is till they have been there. you can think some thing of it but then you dont know any thing about it. to see the confusition and and see men fall all around you and then the noise and continual roar of Cannon and musketry I dont know if you can read this for it is written both ways. now please remember me to all the friends and young folks in Leon. This from your Son M. W. D. Tell Frank I should like to send him a ring but perhaps I will send him some thing. O I think a great many times how lucky I was for I was in the battle of Sunday and saw harder or as hard times as I did Saturday night I was under fire all the forenoon while the main part of the Regt. was not in at all I do not want you to send any thing for we live very well we can have soft bread or crackers I have not got any mere now

(Engraved letterhead: U.S.A. General Hospital, Chestnut Hill.)

Chestnut Hill Hospital
Philadelphia
July 10th 1863

Dear Friends

I seat myself to write you a few lines in answer to a letter I rec'd. this morning from Charley and Mother. I got one from Mother a short time since and had written one just before that, so I did not write. I am on the gain some. I began to help around the ward some. The above picture is a complete one of this Hospital, and each of these small buildings are Wards each having sixty beds. you will see there is a hall or wide walk clear around on the in side end of the wards, so we can walk clear around the inside of the Hospital.

the large building in the center is the medical store and Doctors Office. the place where we go in and out is by the rail road and right where we go in is a room running to the large building in the center. this is the cook room where all is cooked and taken from there to each ward by hand cars pushed, running around in this hall and stopping at each wards doors our ward is 27 I will mark it on the picture so you you can see where we live. Afternoon I do not feel in much of a writing mood today and have no particular news to write. Monroe and was on a pass the other day and got some currents and berries stewed in a little tin pail we bought they were good and I guess we shall get some more stewed. I am very contented here for this is so nice a Hospital though a great many find fault and call it a States prison but no Hospital as large as this can be controlled without some order and disclipine a great many think it very hard because they cant go out and get tight every day I am very glad I have no disposition for liquor. I think if I had I should try to controll it. Please write if you hear from Delos and when. I suppose you have heard of the great Union Victories at Gettysburg and Vixburg. things look very prosperous now for crushing the Rebellion in a short period. the Rebellion can be put down in sixty days or they can be everlastingly doing it. all it needs or has needed since it broke out is a right energy and take the men and go right to work. I think the Government is too slow about calling out troops. the Confederate states have raised about all and every man they can scare up while we can raise all that are needed to crush out the armies of Jeff Davis if they are a mind to take hold of it with a spirit and a will; I have marched in Va enough to see who is left there. I never have seen only one man in or near the lines that I should think was fit for army service there is not a young or middle aged man to be seen in Va. now just think if new York or Pa. was so thoroughly cleared of available men as Soldiers as this, we should have an army large enough to put down the Rebellion in a short time. I hope they will draft four hundred thousand and put them to work, besides organize Malitia for State defence. if they are going to battle it and I am to fall let it come before I have worried away two or three years in this

horrible cruelty of warfare. I say if they are going to fight the Rebels back into the Union the sooner done the better and not keep these old wearied soldiers here much longer. I am not complaining because or thinking I have been in the service a great while but there are men who have been in the army nearly two years

After Supper. I had a good supper we had apple sauce it was good. I never have heard any thing more from my town bounty only Libbie wrote that Simon had not got it. she wrote that you had used some of it and did not want the ten dollars I sent home about the 10th of May

I wish you would write what has become of it and if Mr Duffie has any of it you wrote he wanted some of it write if all the rest of the boys have got theirs. I do not know if the Town has paid it yet if not I shall try to get it. Mr Herrick ~~to~~ wrote to me for an order to get it but I have heard no more from it. I sent the order

We have got our pay today and I will send this \$2.00 to you. if you should get a chance to send any thing to me, I wish you would make me a sort of house wife and fill it you need not not send any stamps for I can lots here. you know I lost mine in the fight you need not send any dried fruit to me for I live very well here.

Cell

Chestnut Hill Hosp't.
Philadela.
Saturday July 25th/63

Kindest Mother

I seat myself to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of July 19th, which came at hand last night. It seems like a long time since your last, but I suppose you are working as hard this summer as ever Oh how ofent I think of you and thankful that I have got as good a Mother. I shall never forget your many kind teachings and advice that I have followed as near as I could. I have been helping in the Ward some today, but it dont take much to tire me. I keep myself well engaged reading and writing. I read the papers and Library Books. I have got a very good Book now, the title is "The pictorial History of Greece. I think it one of the best of Books. I have read the History of Massachusetts and visit to Camp before Sebastopol one of Harpers Monthly Magazine and Young American, besides reading a daily paper every day. I think if I stay here long I shall get posted some on war matters & History! It is now after supper and I am sitting by the window writing while Monroe is just at my right hand reading. just in front of my paper is a little tin pail that we bought and now we have some of those berries and Currents you sent stewed they are very good

Mother you cant think what a handy Hospital this is and how well it is governed. every thing is kept very nice and clean. I am fleshing up some but dont know as I am getting much stronger. my hair has not grown any since I had the fever, it is short and very hash but does not come out any yet; I am going to have it clipped off a little see if it wont make it grow. I must close for tonight it is nearly dark. I will finish in the morning

Good night all

M. W. Darling

Cell

Cell

Charley

I have been scribling here but looks bad.

Monday July 27th 1863

I was so busy yesterday reading that I did not write any, but will try and write what I have to let you know and I will assure you that is not much for news are very dull here now. I have not been to breakfast this morning, but it will be ready soon.

I have not heard any thing more from our Reg't. since I wrote you last. I expect William Casten here today, and they say that there is six hundred sick and wounded coming here today. Afternoon and there has no sick or wounded arrived yet but they will probably come some time today if they do I presume there will be some from the 64th or our Regiment as soon as they come I shall look in the wards and see if there is any one that I know. I do not hear any thing from Delos, as soon as you do please let me know. I understand by your letter that Marshall thought Delos was marched to Richmond. most night now William Casten and Ned Worden have just gone from here I have had a good visit with them. I guess you will think I am rather unsteady about writing, this is the fourth time I have commenced this imperfect letter

I shall look for a letter from Libbie tonight or in the morning if she writes Sunday, as she generally does. I hardly know what to write news are so scarce. I do not get near as many letters here as I did in the Regiment, but write as many again I dont see the reason without they are directed wrong I rec'd. one from Aunt Mary the same day I got yours and must write in answer soon I guess I shall have to close for tonight for I dont feel much like writing and cant think of what I want to write.

It has been a very warm day here today. I feel sorry for the fellows that are marching today if there be any. I got a letter from John a short time Mr Stickney had visited him. he said he was surprised to find the Dr in his house when he came up with a load of hay. I sent a paper to John today. Mother cant you make Charley and Willey write me a letter. I love to hear from them. how is Frank getting along and how are you all. write when convenient and write all the news

Cell. D.

Mother I am ashamed of this it is so poorly written

M. W. Darling Ward 27

Frank be a good Boy for me

Mower Hospital
Chestnut Hill
Phila. Pa.

Dear Friends,

I hasten to write a few lines in answer to your very welcome letter of Aug 2d which I received in due time, and now will attempt to answer it.

It is very warm here today and I do not feel much like writing every thing is so very dull. I have not heard anything from Deloss yet more than what you wrote I have written to M. H. Shannon and rec'd. an answer, date July 31st near Warrenton, he writes the same I have heard before and nothing new.

I suppose our Reg't. is to fill up with drafted men, and I think it will take a goodly number too. The paper states that the draft is going off in Buffalo now, and I should think the draft would commence in Cattaraugus soon if they intend to draft, and I hope they will for the Government needs the men and that is going to bring the war to a close soon if the war is prosecuted seriously now. It looks to me as if the Rebels had not much now to encourage them, but their leaders keep the soldiers under such strict discipline that they do not know their condition and when one does find it out, and realizes it, he generally deserts, as a great many did in Penn. but as for me I shall never go home if I have to desert to do so.

I am getting more strength now but my hair has most all come out I have not put anything on my hair yet but shall get something soon that is recommended very good; I think my hair will all come out then have some new. wont that be nice Mother? I have had my Photograph taken, and have sent one to Libbie and will send one to you. I got five taken for one dollar; I think they are not very good, but are midling natural, still they are not taken well by a considerable.

I was out on a pass day before yesterday and got all the black berries I wanted to eat. there are no good apples here unless we go to the market and buy them. You spoke of it being a good thing if I could take a bath. there is a very nice room for bathing in each ward and hot water and cold both, so we can make the water as warm as we please. the water all comes in pipes and there is no fire in the Hospital only in the cook room and where the water is heat, which comes to each ward in pipes. this makes it very convenient to have plenty of warm & cold water to wash the wards. About furloughs, I do not have much to say, Monroe has been trying to get one this long time but can not at all I think yet he may. I should be as glad to come home as any one but as long as I can not without running away I keep still when I make a strike for a furlough I calculate it will come but I do not know when I shall make a strike

Frank you are going to a Sunday School are you, keep on and when a lesson is a little hard you must study the harder. I hope Willey will come home and write to me today as you said he would if he did not have to go in swimming to much. Tell George Cooper to please send me a Cattaraugus Freeman and oblige His Friend Cell.

I guess I shall have to close for I can not think of any thing more that would interest you

P.S. Write when convenient from your son M.W.D.

Diantha M. Darling