

Picture of U.S. Capitol Building.
Written on stationery of Headquarters 15th
Reg't. N. York Vols., Col. A.G. Rice, Company F.

Oct. 4, 1862

Dear Sister:

I suppose that you are anxious to hear where we are we pitched our tents yesterday on Arlington high about five miles from Washington. we started from Jamestown monday and passed through the most rugged part of Pennsylvania and arrived at Baltimore on a Wednesday we stayed there about half a day and visited the forts They were a good sight to us.

The country about Baltimore is the worst looking country you ever saw nothing but wash out plantations and negroes. We arrived at Washington Thursday and laid on the ground till sundown and then marched to where we are now and a tired set of fellows you never saw we had to lay on the ground all night and some without any supper but I had enough that I bought to the city we got our rations there but it came from James town and it took legs when we was on our march and run away and so it left some of the boys without any thing to eat but yesterday we sent the Cavalry after it they have just arrived with it it had started for home.

We today drew our furniture it consists of one spoon knife and fork for each of us one cup. and two cooking pans for a mess of eight I was with ass. calag. abb dany. fort. bryon and edson Ames we have as good a time as we can in our situation will admit we have not got farly settled I had forgot to tell you that we encamped on the rebel General Lee's plantation you must excuse my scribbles because I am writing on my sapsack and I was on guard last night and am some what sleepy There was a man shot in camp yesterday for shooting a massare soldier on the cases passing through the city the same day that we was there-- they nabed him rite on the spot and fetched him right along

All that I will stop to say is that we are situated on the most pleasant place on the heights we have full view of the potomac and the capitol. right in sight of where I am writing there is four forts and a good number of breastworks.

I have no more to rite for the present so goodby for this time rite as soon as you receive this

Direct to

J. D. Emmons
Washington Dis C
in care of Capt Donnelly
15th Reg. N York State vols

Fairfax Oct. 26 1862

Dear Sister Ann,

T'is Sunday and no drill it gives a very good opportunity to write but oh such a day it rains continually and it is cold and very disagreeable time to be huddled up in small tents and so much mud you have to take off your boots every time you come in It has been some time since I wrote to you I believe that it was the first letter that I wrote but have received no answer but no more of that Ware assigned to signals (signal) corps of the army of the Potomac situated one-half miles from Fairfax and four miles from the Fairfax station where there was a smart skirmish day before yesterday I have not learned as yet how many was engaged but they took two of the rebels prisoners and killed one of their capt that is about all that I have learned about the fight our regiment sends out thirty men a day to do picket duty they go about four miles from camp I have not out yet but would like to go it would have been my luck to have went this morning but I was not very well The doctor excused me from duty today Riley and Bryin has to go on guard today this regiment has been very healthy We have not lost only one we have two in the hospital at Alexandria from our company their names are O. Delrimal and -----son. Since we came here

I have seen Amasa Sonnes and David Ramsdille Amasa is very healthy but he says he has seen enough fighting he tells some hard times when he was on retreat from Richmond he is now at Alexandria Harrison Ellis is in command of the company for the present I must tell you of our journey though when we started from Jamestown we had first class cars till we arrived at elmira there we secured our arms and was placed in very good freight cars with seats we left there about dusk and stops to some very pleasant villages during the night where we was always greeted with large crowds in the dead of night as well as in the evening we arrived to where the railroads intersex with the alpsany mountains we travel through them all day winding our way in the side of the mountain sometimes the sides would present nothing but rocks where the road was cut for the height of hundred feet I should think all most perpendicular was solid-----by workmen they were so true and smoth the tunnels is nice to ride through The only one that we passed through in the day time I was standing on the platform it seemed that we was going to be crushed it was just large enough to let the cars pass I saw some of the grandest sights in the mountains that i ever saw And some of the most romantic looking buildin's there are mostly built of stone we arrived at Baltimore after two days travel that is a very nice and large city we passed over the same streets as the Massachusetts troops did when they was attacked by the mob We had a very good dinner given us by the soldiers relief society when we changed cars there they put us in some old miserable cars and was a very uncomfortable ride to Washington. I must close this letter and ate my dinner before the rest of the boys eats it all up write soon and please send me the freedom'er paper directly after the draft if not before give my best respects to all the folks and tell Mom that I am all rite.

Direct to JDE
Washington, D. C.
15th Regiment
care of Capt. Donnelly, Co. F

Fairfax Oct the 28

Dear sister Ann

I received your long letter for 3 days this morning and was very glad to hear that all was well. It found us the same you do not know how much good it does a soldier to receive news from home you ought to see the excitement that it creates when the mail comes into camp. It commonly comes in about breakfast time they all leave their meals until they have read their letters. All of the boys or most all of them in all from our company. All of the boys that you ~~was~~ with has been on picket except in Grafting and so and we are on guard around the regt. There has been a great movement of troops toward Centerville. There was a whole brigade of cavalry passed camp this morning and 2 batteries of artillery went through Fairfax yesterday. Our Captain said I think that there will be quite a fight down below Fairfax soon or at least a battle down but you forty miles from you ride that by some reason you was home sick but I guess at least I do not hear any thing of it you cautioned us to guard against evil habits. But I don't see any to be led into that is followed at any rate in our company. The soldiers is not as reckless the majority of them as the people think they are. In our company you could not hear as much cursing as you would in the same number of them if they were at home. The worst habit there is in the ranks is playing cards for fun and I do not call that very bad one, it helps pass away many long hours. If you see any of our folks tell them that I am all right and in good spirits and will write as soon as I can. Postage stamps is very scarce here but I have written at two letters every week and sometimes more but very few have I received. In the next letter you write please give me () post office address write soon. I must say good by for I must go on guard now. Give my respects to all.

J.D. Emmons

Direct to--

J. D. Emmons
Washington D C
111 Reg A S T
Care of Capt Dornick

Thoufare gap Nov. 12

Dear sister

I just received your letter and was glad to hear that all was well. I received a letter from Nora yesterday and she sent plenty of postage stamps so that I can just as well write now as not since the last letter that I wrote to you we have had some hard marches. Two weeks next Sunday we started from Fairfax about noon and traveled twelve miles that day before we stopped. We passed through Centerville that is as much of a stick hole as all of the villages that I have seen in Va. The next day we passed over the Bull Run battle field that is a horrid looking place. I should think it was some two or three miles through the battle field there is many there that was never buried what of them are they and the rebels are buried together. The second night we encamped within about a mile from here we staid there until last Friday and then we marched one day toward Washington but the rebels had been driven out of that part of the country the day before we staid there one day and confiscated what we could and was ordered back here to hold this gap so the rebels can not come through that we can do I think easy enough with the force we have. Your note that Ab said he was lieutenant but he has not been promoted yet. Ab is now quite sick he does not stir out much he is taken medicine for the fever. The regt. is not very healthy at present out of our company we have twelve in the hospital. The people at home all wish that the war would close but I can tell you they donot wish so half as much as the soldiers does. They think that they have seen enough of it all of them the new troops as well as the old ones.

I should be very glad to have you send me a paper when ever you can handily but sending me a box of any thing that will be useless until we know where we are going to stay some time the cars run on the railroads from Fairfax for the first time since the first Bull Run fight they ran clear through the gap you spoke about socks but I do not suffer for the want of clothing yet. I received a letter from Aunt Mary. she writes that Bill had enlisted and was in camp at Chigo. I must close an write to her.

From

J. D. E.

Camp neigh Fairfax
Nov. the 29

Dear Sister Ann

I just received your letter datted the 20 and was very glad to hear from you and to hear that all was well or getting well I believe that I have written to you since we came hear at the present my health is not very good I am whe(?) ganders but am well enough to be with the regiment I have not much of an appetite now and to go without eating scarcely anything makes me some what weak There is a good many in camp that is trebled with the same complaint---Abe Goulding has had them, but is getting better The same docter is giving me medican that doctored him Dany Horton is quite sick with the feaver our captin has just come down with the ganders You spoke about the 112 Reg. not being as healthy as ours as near as I can learn they are not, we have not lost but a few men out of our regiment yet(but) there is a goodly number that is able to do duty now I suppose that the 112 reg is in very good quarters now for winter but it is hard telling where our winter quarters will be if we ever get into any if we do get into winter we will try to have some good parties and enjoy ourselves but we have to go you spoke of the rain there out here it has been very fine weather but looks like a storm to night about two weeks ago we had quite a snow storm for this country it fell about three inches but it did not last long you may wonder why I do not rite more news when I rite but the news that I could rite when you recieved the letter It would be no news at all to you I will close by saying to give my love to all that may inquire and tell them that they do not

I would like to see them rite often becaus they give me grate joy so good by from your brother

J D Emmons

Direct as before

pleas to rite where Hul is if you know I would like to hear from him if I knew where he was

Camp near Fredericksburg
Jan. 11, 1863

Dear Sister Ann,

I received your letter this morning (and ~~was~~ I was happy) to hear from you and to hear that all of you was well...

We have been busy for the last week, rigging our winter quarters. We have our tents quite comfortable now. (We have) raised them up from the ground and build fire places in them in our tent. There is four of us that have our beds raised up from the ground and we can rest comfortably nights and day times we can keep warm in quite cold weather but such we have not had since we left Fairfax. There we had a few days that was very cold but since we came here it has been very pleasant. All of the (?) with exceptions of two rainstorms I believe that is all of the bad weather we have since we have been here. If we stay here as long as we expect we shall stay till the winter is over. We had orders to fix for winter and if the rebs do not attack us I think we are elected for quite a long stop in this place. We from our camp can see the Rebs picket on the other side of the river. Our regiment has been out on picket on the opposite side of the river from the rebs picket. They appear to be friendly in their motions and gestures to us we was the same to them. There is no news at all and it is seldom that we can get hold of a paper to read so that you get more news than we can.

To tell about the battle at this place how bad it was I will tell you that it goes by the name of slaughter pen. The boys that was in the fight says that the rebs must of have showed mercy to them, if they had not they would have killed half of them. You say that the 112 regiment can not muster over 400 able men to do duty. This regt. reports 450 able men fit for service and we went into the field with about 950 that is more than twice the number of men that is fit for duty now.

Christmas and New Years passed off in camp about the same as it does every day. I could not see any difference. It being almost time for drill parade and I must close this short letter. Give my respects to all who inquires and tell them that I am well as when I left home. ~~xxx~~ Write soon and tell all of the news you can.

from your brother

JDE

Direct as before

Fredericksburg Feb. 4th/63

Dear sister

I received your letter yesterday and glad to hear that you was well and your letter found me the same tough and harty as ure but I was sorry to hear that you had got so wicked as to play cards on the sabath ~~in~~ but we soldiers pass a good many by so but there is no sunday in the army well ann we have got to living again since burnsidess stick in the mud move we hade to leave cur old camp where we got fixed up for winter but now we are within one mile from the old camp I am tenting.

Edson and Dell Ames we have a log hous four feet high from the ground to the eaves and 7 by 10 feet with canvass for the roof and the gabel ends nailed up with boards and a tiptop fire place with a shelf over it for our pipes and tobacco and pack of uckers they all say that have the best hous on the ground or eny in our company it is very cold out dores but we dol not mind it when we are in our hous we have plenty of visitors today there is one of them feched in some butter and we are eating hard tacks and butter so you see that we are just living high we have got a good bed raised from the ground two feet and covered with seader boughs fox feathers dany Merton has got back to the regt. gust burnham has got the ganders but is getting better

Ab Golding is sick in the hospital tent but is with the regiment but is getting better it is as cold as it is in Chautauqua we have got our pay for two months I do not see why is the reason why they could not pay us the other three months pay ask Mr. White what he thinks of burnsidess last move or rather stick in the mud tell him that I do not think much of it becaus I had to help guard a pontoon train and was out in the rain one night and day and then all got stuck in the mud after all I have no more to rite give my best respects to all who inquires within I inclose some upland cotton seeds to Mrs. White You want to plant them about the time that you do the garden cover them not very deep about as deep as you do corn or cucumers donot plant them to early they are of the same kind that they raise in illinois rite soon good by for this time.

Stafford Court House Feb 27th/63

Dear Sister Ann

I received your letter last evening and was glad to hear from old York state once more I have looked very impatiently for a letter for some time since my last letter we have had another short march the next morning after I rote to you we had orders to march at eight OC it snowed just as hard as it could and oh how cold it was but we had to leave our hous that we thought so much of after staying in it for four days we marched all day and at night had to find bords and rails to lay on to keep us from laying on the ground that night it rained very hard and how mucky it was to march the next day but we wored through to this place about one mile from the court hous where general (sigite?) headquarters is but we was not of building yet so the next morbing we went at it again we being camped in a very nice peice of pine woods and had in two dayes up as good a hous as we had before and a lot more room in it just on the 17 of this month it commence to snow very hard and our regt. had to picket duty I was out two nights the first one it snowed very hard and all of the next day I tell you it was tough since then we have not had only one pleasant day it rained the 19 and 20 and the night of the 21st it commence snowing again and by the morning of the 22nd the snow as over one foot deep on the level and it was as cold - - - - and is now the snow - - - - the woods is as deep - - - - -bum Perty cold fer very - - but never mind that wen you have a tiptop fire place as we have we can set and eat and toast our shins at pleasuer Ames boyes had a box from home and we have lived high and happy for soldiers we have been in our pens two weekes last saturday, the toughest of any we have built we are now with our Corps and we will undoubtly stay here untill the winter is over in verginy that will be I expect about the first of April and then the lord only knows where we shall go to we are under Old fitting jo Hoocker -----and review the----- was reviewed -----ker & staff our regt was the first on the field and the general told our Col that we don as well in our movements as the Old regts did we marched ahead of the whole division

Mr. Parl Johnson is here after his boy that is in the hospital I am cook today and I am cooking some beanes and they must be tended to so that we can have them for diner rite often and rite all of the news good by this time pleas send some postage stamps for they cannot be got here for love or money

from your brother

Jiny

March 13th/63

Dear Sister

I received your letter last evening and was glad to hear that you was enjoying yourself well I can say that I am enjoying myself as well as a soldier can we have ben in this camp now 5 weeks to day and have got good quarters each company is located on one street as clean as any floor we are not allowed to chop our wood in front of our shantes and on each side of the street we have a row of evergreen trees set out so that it looks very nice they are called Holley trees they look very nice the whole regiment has their streets in the same way it is the nicest camp that I every saw and attracts a great deal of attention by the passers by we have not any drilling to do now we have to go out on picket once in 12 days and stay out three days that is really tough but the rest of the time we have nothing to do but get our wood and cook our grub there is no news that I know of Mrs. Goulding was warrid about Ab he is here in the hospital but I do not no how he gets along hât I know some things about him that she would not like to know one thing is about my box the Hospital is right by the garter masters and the boxes comes there first and he distributes them Goulding knew that I expected a box and he was out there waiting and waching for the box and took it into the hospiral and opened it and took all the sugar and the mince pie the most of the cheas and som berries after he had keep it two nites and one day he sent down word that my box was up there and i went and got it opened it and found what was missing I for got to tell you he took three or four balls of butter the way I found out dany Horton found out by the nurs when the doctker and I went up there to see if we could find what things was left he denied ever opening the box hât we proved it outright there by the rest of the sick the doctker then examined his haver sack and found about two pounds of sugar and some butter which I took how the doctker did talk to him I will tell you of another thing since he has been sick dany rote a few letters to his mother and she has answered them unbanons to ab the other day ab feched a letter down for dany to read that come from abs grandfather stating this his mother was very sick and was not expected to llive and wanted dany to help him to a furlough and if he had not got money enough to let him have some to get home with and use and He abs grand'ather would come responsible for it but dany had found out abs tricks and did not let him have any money since then dany has got a letter from Mrs I. Goulding she did not write as if she had been sick at all dany says that he knows as he wants to that ab rote it him self on purpos to get some money he is in debt to the company now about \$20 which they can not get at all.

I tell you Ann Ab has not got one friend in the company there is not one that will go to the hospital to see him since he stole my box if he evers comes back to the company they would if they could kick him clear home for they thinks that he is a disgrace to the company all of the boys in the hospital perfectly hates him but enough of that

Ann I was very thankful for that box and especially the tobacco becaus you cannot got good tobacco here at all ever since we came to this camp we have lived just like kings Amas boys got a box soon after we came here and then I got one and the same night they got another so we have had snus every meal I really belive we just beat any woman cooking beans & hard tacks and pancakes we can buy flour here once a while and then we have a good meal of pancakes we have soft bread every other day now which is good to go with butter and apple ~~saus~~ saus I thank you very mach for those stamps that you sent me as I have no more to rite good by rite soon

from
Jim

Camp Manly near Stafford Court Hous

Apr 2nd/63

Dear Sister

I received your very welcome letter last evening and was glad to hear from old Chaut again your letter found me as tough and fat as ever

You will soon be Blessed by the presence of Mr a H Goulding for he has got his papers for a discharge or they are very nearly ready to give him so if he can stand the journey he will soon be at home he is rather bad off they say he is failing all of the time but he is around yet his papers was sent to the capt to be signed yesterday and now sent back signed all right

You wanted to know if Dany Horton and May were married or not I should say that they are not knowing for certain but know as well as I want to know and not know for certain The opinion of the soldiers about whipping the rebs is different than it was the favorable news from the mississippi river gives them courage but I can hardly tell my opinion about it I will try and tell you next fall if providence permits the report is that the rebs has withdrawn the greater part of their from the raphanoch you may expect to hear soon the advance of the army of the potomac And you may expect to see a very active campaign this summer both in virginia and on the mississippi if you do not I am greatly mistaken this summer at least I think will decide the fate of this war and may be before but doubtful there is no news at all we lay here where we have for the last two months all the news that I know is that we have got to go out on picket tomorrow we have had quite a hard snow storm it came day before yesterday and went off yesterday but it is cold and very mucky yet we expect our pay every day Dany Horton is now in the ranks but he expects a commission every day the Col reckons him very highly for that post

Ann next time you rite send me a postage stamp I had to borrow one to send this no more at present from your brother

J D E

rite soon and tell all the news if Aunt Ann is there when you recive this have her rite to me a few days before I heard that Bill was dead I had a letter from aunt Eave stating that bill was in good health

I for got to say that Just burnham is quite sick in the hospital but he is better than he was

Stafford C. H. Va. May 12th/63

Dear Sister

I now set down to let you know that I am still on this side of the river of ~~dark~~ death Well Ann we have had a very hard battle but I came out without a scratch I must tell you that our brigade was the first over the river to guard the laying down of pontoons up at Kellys Ford we marched from there to the rapids and crossed without trouble we been as far as united states ford(?) and(?) stopped where the rest of our forces lay our Corps forming the right in this position we lay when we was attacked in the rear of our Corps our division was the second one from the front the first division gave away and they came upon our division like flies on a dead horse they turned our left flank our regiment was on the extreme left so we was under heavy cross fire before we had orders to fall back our ~~regt~~ stood untill the orders came to fall back such a stampede that our corps was in never was seen but before we run we give the rebs enough before we run the rebs would march up to the cannons mouth in solid columns and our gunners loaded them with double charged grabe and canister and let them have it would now a road clear through them every time but they would close up with a yell and com onn again but they drove us at last we run you better believe well we fell back our ferces neigher the river there the checked the rebs for good but all saturday naight there was fitting but sundy morning the fitting was our corps was not in the fight Our regt lost about 250 men our company has 25 missing and Lieut Griswold was very badly wounded in the arm and in the side but we do not know whether he is dead or not if he is not he is in the hands of the rebs I have no more to rite at preasant so good by rite soon

from your brother

J. D. E.

Camp Manly near Stafford C H
May the 27/63

Dear Sister

I have just received your letter and now I hasten to reply.

Today we have been clearing away a piece of ground in the woods where we are going to move camp tomorrow if nothing happens. We are now in our old winter quarters and the woods been all cut down around is there is a shack and it is very hot in the day time. The place where we are going to move is a most lovely place. The sun cannot get in any time of the day.

You said that Mrs Goulding wanted me to write about Abe well I can tell you if you have not heard before he is dead. I saw him the day he died. It was enough to scare anyone he was the purest mortal that I ever saw he was perfect rational then and said he felt some better but I was well aware that he could not live. He died about the 12 of May, I believe. They are building a fort within sight of our camp they commenced it this morning. I am told that there is going to be 12 guns in the fort. You wanted for me to send a list of the missing.

Missing and Presbly Killed

Edward Huntington	tenna
Isaac Burley	Carly
Albert Bemans	Eradericksburg
Serg. William Allan, wounded	"
Moses Stevens	Charliote
David Williams	" , later in the show
Thomas Jones	Cataurgus Co.
Richard O'Neil	" " , in the hand
	Jamestown, in the head since died

The rest of the company is all right and in the parole camp at Anoperas. Gryswold was wounded in the arm and was taken prisoner and we have not heard why he has been paroled or not but I guess that he is all right at least I hope so from what you have heard I suppose you think that Chenslorville is quite a place but there is but one very large house kept as a tavern. you speak of having my likeness I have had it taken and sent it to Harrison you can see it any time by going up there I must bring my letter to a close and to gettin supper for it is most sundown and I am dreadful hungry. write soon and give me all the news so good by for this time from

JDE

Dear Sister Ann

I will a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well since I last wrote to you we have doon a good deal of marching, very hard marches we are now encamped on the coss creek between Centerville and the potomac river and but six miles from Edwards Ferry on the potomac I will tell you of our hard march at the time we had orders to march our regt was out on picket we went into camp at noon and started to march at 1 O.C. that afternoon we went to Hartwood Church distance 10 miles and it was very hot the next day we marched to Catlet Station distance 22 miles the next day we marched to Centerville went by the way of bristow station and mannases junction distance 25 miles at centerville we layed over one day and then marched to this place distance 28 miles on the forenoon we went 18 miles of the distance but I did not have to march for my feet was blistered so bad and was so very sore other ways that I could not march and I got a ride in the ambulance that forenoon was very warm and it was as big marching as this corps ever don the men all had knapsacks on with 1 gun blanket 1 wool Bl and piece tent shirt pair socks besides other small trinkets such as perfumoles and tobacco what was worst of all they was obliged to carry 20 rounds of cartridges in their knapsacks so it made quite a comfortable load besides 3 days ration in our haversacks and gun and equipments but we have laid still 2 days and feel all right again no news for we do not hear any only the booming cannons at some times at a distance but we do not know the occasions of it you hear all the news oftner than we do

now Ann you must rite often if you do not hear from me so often you must not worry about it for we cannot send mail when we want to do so good by for this time goodby from your brother J. D. E.

James D. Emmons

Picketing on Coos Creek, Loudon Co
June 24th/63

Dear Sister

I received your letter last evening and was very glad to hear from you and that you are enjoying your self so well for the past 24 hours i have enjoyed myself well our entire regt is on picket and guarding a ford and we are out from camp near four miles there is plenty to snatch as we call it this morning the fetched in a good fat sheep in a few minits there was a good fat hog passed by we layed hold of that just across the creek there is a large grist mill where we can get plenty of meal and flour in this part of the country there is plenty of milck cows and every one that comes along we just slip into a meadow close by and help ourselves to milk so we live on mutton pudding and milk but there is one thing about that that is unpleasant becaus there is plenty of bushhackers around but they have not troublad us yet but we do them by sending them to headquarters

You say that they boys are all gone to buffalow the fourth on a spree but they may come down here to enjoying the fourth with us but I do not know how it will be but if they do not tell them they better stay at home instead of goin down to the city

You spoke something about me sending you a lock of my hair you might as well try to get a lock of hair off from a rat's tail as off from my head if you had spoke of my sending a lock of my whiskers I might of accomadated you better but as you said nothing about it I will let it go for next time

I was very glad you sent me your likeness but i would have liked much better if you had not tryed to bberliterated the mouth that was scratched up very badly but the old head is there and looks natural there is no news to rite so I will close by saying to give my best respects to Alice and all the rest that may inquier of me

Write often It seems to me that I have written often enough to you for you to rite if I do not again very soon good by ~~xxxx~~ from

J D Emmons