

Headquarters 154th regt. N.Y. V.  
Camp Chase Va. Oct. 5/62

Dear Mother

Having a few leisure moments I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know I am still in the land of the living. We arrived in this place last thursday evening. Our Camp is situated on Arlington Heights about 5 miles from Washington on the road to Manassas. There is about 150,000 men camped in this vicinity and more arriving every day. In every direction as far as the eye can reach we can see the white tents. From our camp we can see the city and potomac fort washington and three other forts which I have not learned the names of yet. There is a perfect chain of forts between here and Alexandria. I tell you it looks considerable like war here. They are expecting a great battle on the potomac this week. They are sending McClellan reinforcements night and day. There were fifteen thousand left this Camp for Harpers ferry a few days before we came here. I do not know how long we shall stay here or where we shall go to when we leave here. There is a report that we shall be placed in Heintzlemans division.----

It is a great deal pleasanter here than I expected it would be. It is not much warmer here than it was at Camp Brown. There is a cool breeze all of the time through the day, and the nights are just cool enough to allow one to sleep comfortable. We have plenty of good water to drink and a good place to wash. On the whole I had rather be here than at Camp Brown, for we are not restricted to half an acre of ground but can go where we please inside of the Union lines. The 1st Virginia regt. is camped about 1 1/2 miles from here. Uncle David and I are going up there to morrow to see if we can find Clinton A. Barton was here yesterday. he camped within about six miles of here. he has been sick 3 or 4 weeks but is getting pretty smart again.----

I got a letter from Eugene just as we were leaving Camp B. He was at Harrisburg. he did not know where they were going to go from there. I hope they will be sent to this Camp.-- Have you heard from Will yet? His regt. is at Harpers ferry now. I saw their Chaplain at Washington. he said Will's name was not in the lists of killed or wounded in any of the battles in Maryland, and he thought he was all right. I hope we shall be sent to McClellan's army when we leave here. Well I guess I have written enough for this time. I dont want you to wait for me to write, but write every week, and I will write as often as I can.----

Camp life agrees with me very well as yet. I have not been sick an hour since I left home. We have to cook our own victuals now. We draw one days rations every morning, which consists of 6 sea biscuit apiece about 3/4 lb. bacon, and plenty of coffee and sugar. there is four of us in a mess. Harrison, Seth, Wib and myself mess to gether. We do not draw full rations now. Our regt. has no teams yet and we can not get our provisions up here. we shall have rice, beans, and fresh beef as soon as they get the teams. I am chief cook for our mess. We have a sheet iron pan 4 tin cups 4 knives and forks, 4 tin plates

*[Dwight Moore, October 5, 1862, continued]*

and 4 spoons. we dig a hole in the ground build a fire in it and fry our meat in the pan. then we have to wash it out and make our coffee in it. then each of us take a cup of coffee and break our biscuit into it, (for you must know they have to be soaked before they can be eaten by any one who has not the strength of an elephant in their jaws.)--and make out a pretty comfortable meal.

Well I must close. don't fail to write

Yours truly  
D. Moore

S. P. Moore  
Direct to Wash. D.C. Co H  
154th N.Y.V. Care Capt John. Nelson

you must excuse me poor writing. I have not got a very good place to write.

Eugene's address is Camp Curtain Harrisburg Pa. Care Capt. Thomas Lemon.

*[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, National Archives.]*

Dwight Moore

Thoroughfare Gap Nov 17<sup>th</sup> / 62

Dear Sister

I have been writing to Vince and now will write a few lines to you. I have no news to write this time so you must not expect much of a letter. You wished to know if you could send me some mittens by mail. There has been such packages sent here and I think there would be no difficulty in sending them done up in a little package. They would be very nice to have on a march, and if not to much trouble I would be very much obliged if you would send me a pair. There is nothing more we need now. Perhaps when we get into winter quarters you can send us a box of fruit. Harry and Seth are going to have their folks send them some things then. As for papers, we get them quite often now. You might send me a county paper occasionally if you please. But above all don't fail to write every week. I can get along better without mittens than without letters. If we leave here I will to you again as soon as possible. You must excuse me this time and I will try do better in future.

Yours truly

Charlotte

Dwight

PS the mittens ought to be knit with the forefinger separate. Tell Mother to write give my love to all.

D.M

(Courtesy of Phil Palen)

Thoroughfare Gap, Va.

Dear Sister

I have been wanting to  
write you for some time but  
I have been so busy that I  
cannot find time to do so  
I have some news to  
write to you but I have never  
time to do so. I have never  
not expect much from you  
You would like to know if you could  
send me some medicine by mail  
I have had such packages  
sent here and I think there  
would be no difficulty in  
them done up in a little package  
They would be very nice to have  
on a march and if not too much  
trouble I would be very much obliged  
if you would send me a pair

There is nothing more we need  
now. Perhaps when we get

into winter quarters you can  
send us a box of fruit. Harry  
and Seth are going to ~~leave~~  
their folks send them some  
things then. As for papers we  
get them quit often now you  
might send me a county paper  
occasionally if you please.

But above all don't fail  
to write very well. I can get  
along better without mittens  
than without letters.

If we leave here. I will  
do you again as soon as poss-  
ible. You must excuse me  
this time and I will try to  
better in future.

Charlotte  
The mittens ought to  
be knit with the fore finger  
separate. Tell Mother to write  
give my love to all. D. M.

[on letterhead with eagle, flag, stars and heading "UNION."]

Camp near Falmouth Va.  
Jan. 25th/63

Dear Mother

We have once more got into camp again so I will write to you again. Eugene and \_\_\_\_\_ has been here this afternoon. they have just started back to their camp, which is just about three miles away. they look as fat and tough as bears. It will be very pleasant for us all to be near together through the winter if we go into winter quarters here, which we shall probably do. I think this last move has shown that there is nothing to be gained in trying to carry on a winter campaign in this country. I suppose the papers have given a great account of this last affair but some of them were a little too fast when they stated a battle was being fought here. I was considerably amused when we got back into camp to see in one of the Dailys that the whole Army of the potomac was across the river and were giving the rebs fits. If that Editor had been here and saw the condition of the roads when we started back for our old camps, I guess he would have thought that he was hurrying the thing a little too fast. He would certainly have seen that it was easier to move an army on paper than in Va. mud three feet deep. I presume the papers will not give a very clear account of the move so I will try and give you as good a one as I can. About the 17th our brigade was sent up the river some six or eight miles to make roads. The weather was splendid, and the roads as good as could be desired. we got the new roads all finished and thought everything was going all right, and the rebs were going to catch it this time sure. but we were doomed to suffer a bitter disappointment. The pontoons were not behind hand this time, nor the men. Hooker's and Franklin's divisions were both there with plenty of big guns. The night of the 21st was set for crossing. tuesday night we started for the river as a guard for one of the pontoon trains, but about 10 oclock it began to rain and it rained all night. The teams did not go far after it began to rain. It dont take as long to get up mud here as it does in old Catt. two hours rain at this time of year will make the roads perfectly impassable. we stopped in an open field that night about 11 oclock and had to stand in the rain until morning. then went on about a mile to a piece of woods and pitched our tents to wait for further orders. The next morning we were ordered to march back to our old camp. the fact of it was we were stuck in the mud and had got to get out of it the best way we could. All idea of whipping the rebs vanished. the only thing to be thought of was getting out of the mud. If it had not been for the rain I think we should have gained a great victory, but as it was, it was a perfect failure. I have not been very well for a few days. I got a pretty bad cold being out in the storm, but I am getting better now we have got back into camp

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives.*]

[undated fragment, possibly the ending to the January 25, 1863 letter]

David and the other boys are well.

I should have written sooner but had no opportunity. The weather has cleared up again and it is very warm and pleasant to day.

Tell the boys to write often. you must excuse the poor writing. I have no place to write on. Give my love to all.

Yours very truly  
Dwight

Mother

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Camp near Stafford, Va  
March 7th/63

Dear Brother

Your welcome letter is received and I am going to answer it immediately and I hope you will be equally as prompt in answering this. I have no news to write. We are still in our old camp and not much prospect of moving very soon as the weather is quite stormy this month. That box arrived last night, every thing all right. I wish you all could take tea with me some night, but while I am wishing, I might as well wish this war would close, and I could take tea with you. we all expect to go home in about four or five months. I expect old Hooker will drive the rebs into the gulf of mexico before next fall.

I have not seen Eugene since we left Falmouth, but I intend to go over to his camp to day if I can get a pass. I am going to take him some of the contents of that box. Will was over here not long ago and there is a fellow here from his co. now. W. is well. Tell Charlotte I would like to know why Tim did not write. Also when he intends to visit home again.

Well I cant write much more now as I want to go over and see Eugene to day, but I will write you a good long one next time. We expect some more money in a few days, and I will send you some. I did not get but a little beside the check or I should have sent you some before. You will have to pay the postage on this for I cannot get any stamps here. they are scarcer than hen's teeth. If you can get any there please send me a few. I could sell a hundred a day here for five cents apiece.

I want you all to write. I should think some of you could send one every week. four weeks seems like a long time to wait for a letter.  
the boys are all well.

Very truly yours  
Dwight M.

Laverne Moore

Wib says tell his mother to send him another pr. socks.

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]



Camp John Manly  
Apr. 1st/63

Dear Mother

I have not written to you I believe for some time so I will write to you this time and not answer Charlotte's letter which I rec'd last night until next week. We are still in the enjoyment of good health and spirits waiting impatiently for a forward movement, but with not much prospect of being gratified very soon. Last month was the most stormy of the year. there has been a storm about every other day. Consequently the roads are almost impassable. this month comes in warm and pleasant and it may be we shall have some good weather now. We received orders this morning to get ready to march at a moments notice. the enemy had appeared in force on our front. But I guess it was only an April fool, for we do not hear anything more about it. It seems to me the girls around there are getting in a hurry to get married. Probably they fear the draft will take so many of the boys that there will not be one apiece left. Well tell them to go it while they're young, but they had better wait until the soldiers get back and not take up with every "rough stuff" that comes along. O how does Lute Rice get along. does she cut around with Emmet as much as ever, or is she quite steady since Purdy left. I suppose she does not think of marrying until a certain sergeant gets home from the war. Well Charlotte it seems to me her "Tim" is rather behind time. she will have to look out or the other girls will get the start of her. How are you all getting along this year with the buisness. Are you going to make a pretty good payment on the place I suppose cotton cloth and every thing else are very high aint they. Well I guess this war will close before next fall. then if we live to get home we can soon straighten things up.

Eugene and Hite were over the other day. he said they were going to be paid in a few days. We are looking for ours now every day. I am going to send the next draft to you, and I want you to use it just as you please. We have got to go on picket tomorrow to be gone three days, but it is getting warm enough now so that it is not very bad work. Well it is getting late and I must close. I would like to have you answer this very much indeed, if possible. There is one thing more I would like to have you send me, then I will not trouble you again for a good while. That is a hat. these caps are no better than a cabbage leaf. I would like to have one about such style as the one I left at home. you can send it by mail. the expense will not be over 25 cts. tell Charlotte I received her letter with the stamps. am very much obliged. I will write to her next week. write if possible.

Very truly yours  
Dwight

Mother

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Camp John Manley Stafford, Va  
May 8th 1863

Dear Mother

It seems an age since I have heard from home or written home. days seem like months when I do not get any tidings from you. This is the first opportunity since the 13th of April we have had to send a letter. You have probably heard before this of the battle which has been fought here. But the result has been far different I think from the one anticipated I little thought our first experience in a battle would be a grand "skedaddle". So confident were our Gens. that we were going to have a great victory, they met at the Headquarters of Gen. Howard the day the battle began, and had a grand jubilee. but while they they were rejoicing, Old Stonewall were laying his plans for their ruin. And the criminal negligence of Gen. Howard was the cause of our defeat. His corps (the 11th) was posted on the extreme right in a large field. we reached there two days before the fight began and had got everything ready and was expecting an attack every minute. Hooker said he had got them just where he wanted them, they had got to fight him on his own ground. And if the officers had done their duty we would have been far on our way to Richmond instead of being in our old camp. about four oclock on saturday (the 2nd) a small force of rebs made an attack on the 3rd Division, commanded by Gen. Shurtz (who held the right of our position) but were quickly driven back, and quite a number taken prisoners. This made the officers quite jubilant. the bands struck up Yankee doodle and they had another great jubilee and the same time old Jackson was so near he could hear the music of the band. They had no pickets out. the men had their guns stacked and were getting their suppers, the officers scattered around smoking and playing cards, when all at once the rebs came pouring out of the woods so suddenly the men had no time to form in line of battle. some even left their guns. our reg. was about 1/2 miles from them in a rifle pit, by the side of the road. We had just time to get into the pit when the rebs came across the field driving Gen. Schurtz's men before them like so many sheep. They were so close to them we could not fire until they were within 20 rods of us. Well we waited until our men had all passed us and then we opened a fire on them that mowed them down like grass before the scythe. but they came around on each flank and would have captured every one of us in five minutes if we had not left. we had about 40 rods to go across an open field and a fire on three sides of us. I tell you the men fell thick and fast. we went in with 35 men and lost fourteen killed wounded and missing. David was wounded and taken prisoner. Seth is missing. we do not know whether he is killed or taken prisoner. the rest of us escaped without a scratch.

*[Dwight Moore, May 8, 1863, continued]*

I have not written half that I wanted to, but the mail is going in a few minutes and I shall have to stop. I want you to write immediately. I did not get your letter. It came here a few days after we left and David got it and forgot it when he came away.

my health is good.

Yours truly  
Dwight

Mother

May 25/63 All well as usual no particular news to write

*[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, National Archives.]*

Camp John Manley  
Near Stafford, Va May 22nd 1863

Dear Mother

It has been over a month since I have received a letter from home, and having written twice since we came back to the old camp, I did think I would not write again until I heard from some of you. But I have changed my mind and concluded to write, if you did not. I have never had a letter from you since I left home Although one came within 20 miles of me and was then lost. I know you always disliked writing letters. But if it is not too hard work I should very much like to hear from you occasionally.

I regret to inform you that Uncle David is dead. he died at the Hospital about 2 miles from here. he was shot through the right lung. He was taken prisoner by the rebs and paroled, but they did not do anything for him, and it was twelve days before he had his wound dressed. Probably he would have lived if he could have had the right care. We have just heard from a lot of our boys that were missing Seth, Gib. Rogers, our Captain and several more of the boys are in the parole camp at Annapolis. They were taken prisoners sunday May 3rd, having missed their way and got into the rebs lines instead of ours. We have only one officer (2nd Lieut) in our company. our 1st Lieut. Cameron was slightly wounded and taken prisoner, but was paroled and is now in the hospital I do not think there will be any more fighting here until towards fall, at least not until they draft more men. It may be they will not have to draft if the western army is successful. I do not think there will be another movement here until they find out how Grant is going to make it at Vicksburg. We hear that they are going to draft 600,000 more men immediately, but dont know whether it is so or not for we do not get papers now very often. I suppose Hooker dont want the soldiers to know what Greely thinks of this last fight for I have not seen a Tribune since we crossed the river. Speaking of papers reminds me of what Charlotte said about sending me the repository Tell her if she sends them I will warrant they will be read through at least half a dozen times.

We got some pay a short time ago and I send this draft to you, and I want you to use it just as you have a mind to, only I want you to let Verne have ten of it (without fail) Wes is doing so well this spring he must have plenty of money and can probably get along without this very well. I am very glad to hear you are getting along so well. I am in hopes this war will close before another winter and I think it will if the government wants it to close. I see Eugene quite often He is well, but rather sick of the war. Hiram expects to go home on a furlough in a few days. I presume I could get a furlough if I tried but I guess it wouldnt pay for I could only get one for 10 or 15 days and it would cost about 25 dollars to go and come. now I want write without fail.

Very truly yours  
Dwight M.

S. P. M.

Tell Vern, Charlotte and Wes to write as often as convenient

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Camp near Stafford Va.  
May 29th 1863

Dear Bother

Yours of the 17th inst. is received and I will answer it to day. though I have written about half a dozen times since the Battle, yours is the only one I have had from home since the 13 of April. now I want you to write if the others do not. I was very glad to hear your health is getting good again. you must be careful and not work too hard until you get stronger.

We moved our camp yesterday into the woods. We have got a very nice place in an oak grove about half a mile from our old camp. the weather is getting quite warm, though the nights are cool yet. There is not much prospect of another movement very soon. I should not be surprised if we staid here two or three months. They have sent a large force of cavalry up towards Warrenton. Eugenes regt. went too. I saw him a few days before they started He was well as usual then We hear very good news from Vicksburg now if Grant does not have any bad luck Secesh is about played out Well I dont care how soon they wind this war up, for I am getting tired of a soldiers life and I am not the only one either that is. I am getting tired of having nothing to do I am getting too lazy to enjoy life, at least a soldiers life. I dont believe we shall be good for much to work when we get home. If we had anything to read we could get along better. but to have nothing to do all day but lounge around, I never got half so tired sawing as I do doing nothing. I did not know the meaning of "ennui" until I came into Virginia.

Harrisons health has not been very good for three or four weeks but he is getting some better now. my health is very good Well I havent any news to write so you must not expect much of a letter this time does Charlotte hear from Tim now pretty often if so when does he talk of visiting bone run. I would like to know very much. I sent my last check to mother and told her to let you have what you wanted of it, so you can take what you need of it and let her have the rest. let me know the next time you write if you get it. I expect some more before long. now dont fail to write as soon as you get this, and tell me all about all the folks in the town

Yours truly,  
Dwight

Laverne

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Camp Noyes June 4th/63  
near Stafford Va.

Dear Mother

For the first time since I left home I sit down to answer a letter from you, and I assure you nothing has given me greater pleasure than the receipt of your kind letter, and to hear that you were getting along so well.-- Well this morning finds me in the enjoyment of good health and spirits, with my knapsack all packed, ready to fall in at a moments notice. We received orders at daylight this morning to be ready to march at sunrise, but the order was countermanded after we had got about a quarter of a mile from our camp, so we about faced and marched back to camp, but were ordered to keep our knapsacks packed and be ready to start again at any moment. I have no idea what is up now, but it may be the rebs are putting their threats of an offensive movement on their part into execution. if so we shall probably have some work to do for a short time. but if they think Hookers army is so weak and demoralized he will not be able to offer them much resistance, they are grandly mistaken as they will find out when they attempt to cross the Rappahannock. I havent any news to write, and I fear I shall not give you a very interesting letter. nothing has occured since the battle to interupt the monotony of camp life, and no one but a soldier has any idea how dull such a life is, and it would be hardly fair to expect anything but a dull letter.

I havent heard from Eugene since he left for Bealton Station, but I presume you have had letters from him. I got a letter from Charlotte the same time I got yours. she appears to be enjoying herself very well this summer. Oh how about her Tim. does she hear from him often. I have written to her about him several times but can get no satisfaction and I am very anxious to hear how the young gent gets along, and when he talks of coming east. now dont forget to give me all the particulars in your next letter, and also inform me whether you have got the draft I sent you. please write as soon as you get this and tell me how all the folks on bone run are getting along. I suppose they are making preparations for a draft, which will probably relieve the town of a portion of its inhabitants and if it only takes the right ones, I shall be very happy to receive a visit from them in Virginia, Morris and Reuben, for instance. but they cannot take any more from your family as you have furnished your quota. give my respects to all the folks, and dont forget to write

Very truly Yours  
Dwight M.

S. P. Moore.

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]

Camp near Edwards ferry Loudon Co  
Va. June 18/63

Dear Mother

As we shall probably stay here a part of the day at least I will improve the time in writing a few lines to you in answer to your last which I recd. the night before we left Centerville We left that place yesterday morning and reached our present camp before night, doing the best marching we have ever done yet. We marched sixteen miles in four hours and twenty minutes, which I call pretty good traveling, considering we carry forty or fifty lbs. We then halted for 2 hours for dinner and then we went six miles farther when we camped for the night. We had to ford a creek two or three ft. deep, but got along very well. We are now within one days march of Harpers ferry, and five miles from Leesburg.

I cannot tell when I shall have an oportunity to send this, but I thought I would write a few lines and have them ready for the first chance. I am much obliged to you for sending me those papers and the book. I got the largest mail I have ever had. Your papers and book and two letters. they made quite a bundle to carry but I had rather throw away some of my hard tack than them. so I carry them along and only throw them away as fast as I read them. I want you to as often as you can. Yours ever

Dwight.

S. P. Moore.

June 19th/63

This is the second day we have lain here and no rebs in sight yet. We hear nothing of Hooker or Lees whereabouts, though we heard some firing in the direction of Harpers ferry this morning. The 11th Corps is all the troops I know anything about, but I presume the rest of the army is not far from here. There are considerable many guerillas around here and several soldiers have lost their lives by going to far from camp. They have a woman under arrest at headquarters for shooting two soldiers this morning, or at least they think she shot them. they were found dead at her door. Two more were found with their throats cut in the woods.--- We do not get any mail now, nor any papers, so we dont know anything about what is going on outside of our corps. I am very anxious to hear from the western armys, but will have to wait patiently until we get out of the wilderness.

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives.*]

[undated]

Dear Brother

I received your letter last night and was very glad to hear from you again. But was sorry to hear your health was so poor, but hope to hear a more favorable account next time. do you think your medicine is helping you. do you use it steady. tell me all about it next time you write. I expect some more money in a few days. I am going to send the next drafts to you and mother. you can take what you want to use and let mother have the rest. I want you to pay (B) what I owe him out of it. you ought not to get out of medicines if possible. go out and see him whenever you get a chance. be careful and not overdo and I guess he will cure you up by the middle of the summer. be sure and write next time if he is helping you. I havent any news to write this time, but will try and write you a good long letter next time be very careful of your health. dont do too much work. I hope to hear your health is improving soon. write as soon as you get this. Excuse me this time it is getting late.

Very truly yours  
D. M.

S. M.

[Dwight Moore, private, Co. H, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]