

Near Fredricksburg Feb 1st/63

Dear Parents

I recieved yours of the 25th relating the Death of my Dear Cousin last Friday it struck me to the heart I can hardly make it seem real to me it seems like a dream almost although I suppose it is all for the best our Heavenly Father called him away.

A well I must write what news I have to write there has not much a going on here since I wrote last. I have not heard from Uncle Isaiah very lately I am as well as common Wesley is not very well he has got a bad cold. Robert Woodward is sick with the Fever he has been very sick but he is getting better I believe. The best news I have to write is that we have recieved a small sum of our Pay we all recieved Pay up to the 1st of November from the time we enlisted I recieved \$23.85 I send this enclosed in this letter a check or Army Allotment of \$14.00 I do not know as you know any thing about this when we recieved Pay there to Jamestown we all that wanted to send money to their freinds signed this Allotment Roll they told us that it was safer way to send money home than to send the money I signed my name and your name the one that I wanted to send it to and the place you lived this is good for nothing until you sign your name on the back of it for that reason you can see that it would do no one any good if the should take it out of the letter and if it does not reach you I recieve another in its place each one when he signed that Roll signed so much a month to send just as much as he chose I signed \$8.00 a month of my wages and that sum \$8.00 per month I shall have to send to you and I cannot change it to any one other one without showing a reasonable excuse in that way way the boys cannot spend all of their money. I have now \$10.00 about I had some money coming to me from the boys in the company that I have got so I have got about \$10.00 I have got to use some myself have got to get my boots tapped that I expect will cost about \$1.50 a pretty high price but the uppers to them is good and it will pay me to have it done and if I have any more than I want to use I shall send it home for I do not want to carry much with me. Wesley has about made up his mind he will put his check in with mine in the same letter and I guess I will send the letter by our Surgeon Dr Van Earman and I want you to use it as you think best make good use of it and I want you to write to me just as soon as you recieve this for I shall be very anxious until I hear that you have got it. you wanted to know if we were comfortable we are unless when we are on a march and it storms we do not have as cold weather here we do in old catt we had a snow storm last week it was cold for a day or two then the sun comes out and it all goes off again we have considerable wet weather and it is very muddy it is quite warm now. I shall have to close for this time I wish I had that new Diary that Theodore is a going to send to me. give my respects to all Wesley sends his respects to you all. recieve this from your respectful Son,

J. W. Washburn

[James W. Washburn, private, Co. C, 154th New York, *National Archives*.]