

The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

The 73 Civil War Letters of Albert Uriah Platts

**Company C, 20th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry
12th & 20th Army Corps
December, 1862 – June, 1865**

Transcribed

By

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This series of 73 letters written by Albert Uriah Platts was found in the attic of the 1769 home of Ms Deborah Kelly of North Branford who was kind enough to let the transcriber copy them. They are of immense interest as the writer was involved in many of the major Civil War battles between 1862 and 1865, including Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, The Siege of Atlanta, Sherman's March to the Sea and others. The letters are transcribed as written with misspellings, incorrect or no punctuation and random capitalization. The writer capitalizes every word beginning with s. The letters are relatively easy to read but, of course, there are words and phrases which are illegible. Where a word is missing I have replaced it with --. Any note or interpolated words are enclosed within parentheses []. All but two of the letters were addressed to Mr. Asa W. Platts, Center Brook, Connecticut. Centerbrook is a part of Essex, CT. The other two are addressed to Albert Platts' cousin, Charles C. Bushnell.

Nearly all of the letters are in yellow envelopes measuring 5¼ X 3 inches with 3¢ postage stamps on them.

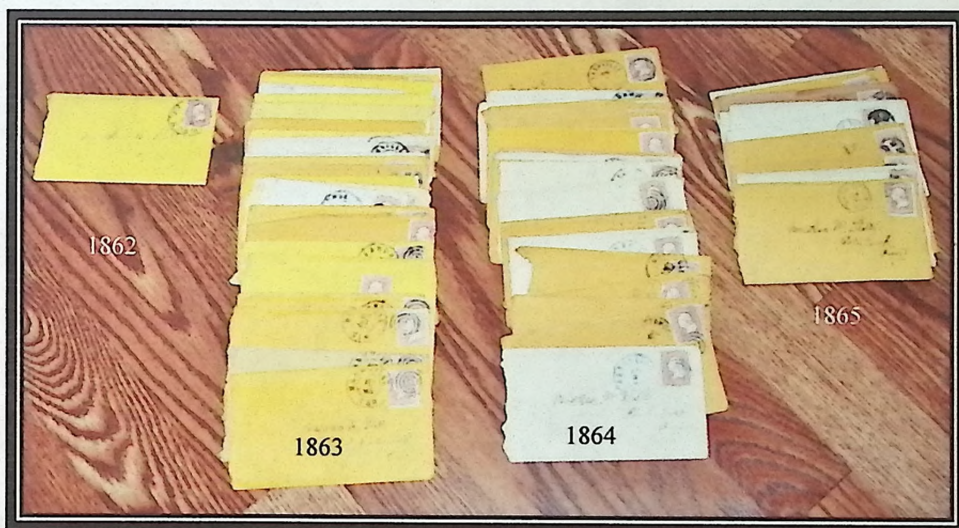
Albert Uriah Platts was born in Saybrook Connecticut in 1842 to Asa W. Platts and Julia A. Jones. In the 1850 Census he is listed as living in Saybrook. He enlisted in Co. C, 20th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry on September 8, 1862 and was mustered out on June 13, 1865. He married Clara W. Palmer of North Branford on February 22, 1877. Albert was 34 and Clara was 30 at the time. Albert died of heart disease on August 3, 1914 and is buried in The North Branford Congregational Church Cemetery.

The letters came to rest for nearly 150 years in the home of Ms Kelly. Albert is a maternal ancestor of Ms Kelly. The home was owned by Mr. Timothy Russell Palmer in the mid 1800s Mr. Palmer was the father of Albert's wife. Albert and his wife were living in the Palmer home in North Branford as recorded in the 1880 U. S. Federal Census.

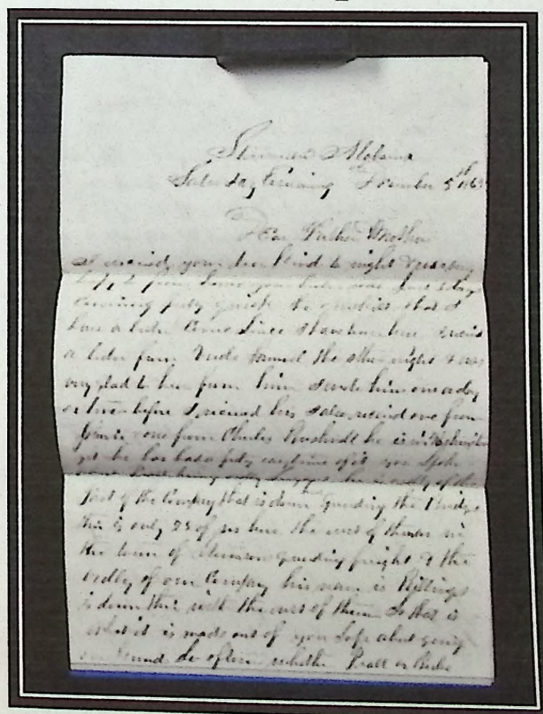
The North Branford Congregational Church Cemetery and Albert Uriah Platts' grave marker are shown below.



The Letters



An Example





We, Ms Kelly and the transcriber, suggest that the photographs shown above are those of Albert Uriah Platts and Clara W. Palmer probably significantly before their wedding in 1877 as they appear younger than ages 34 and 30. Of course it is possible that they are unrelated. In two of his Civil War letters [pages 11 and 17] Albert reports that he weighed 154 and 160 pounds. The photo above left appears to be consistent with that.

We believe the photograph below to be Albert long after the war. He has gained considerable weight. Note the ill-fitting uniform. Note also that there are Corporal Stripes on the sleeves, consistent with Albert's rank during the war.



All of the photos and drawings shown below in the body of this document were taken from the websites of The National Park Service, The National Archives and the Library of Congress and are in the public domain.

No doubt I have made any number of errors in transcribing these 73 letters. Any and all errors are mine. Whatever the errors I am certain that the essence of what Albert is trying to say is conveyed to the reader.

Theodore Groom Ph. D.
Director, Technology
The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

Chronology of the 20th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry¹

Organized at New Haven September 8, 1862. Left State for Washington, D.C., September 11. Attached to 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 12th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to May, 1863. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 12th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, to October, 1863, and Army of the Cumberland to April, 1864. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, April, 1864. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, to May, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, to June, 1865.

SERVICE:

Duty in the Defences of Washington till September 29, 1862. Moved to Frederick, Md., September 29, thence to Sandy Hook October 2. March to Fredericksburg, Va., December 10. Duty at Fairfax Station, Va., December 14, 1862, to January 19, 1863. Moved to Stafford C.H. January 19-23, and duty there till April 27. Chancellorsville Campaign April 27-May 6. Battle of Chancellorsville May 1-5. Gettysburg (Pa.) Campaign June 11-July 24. Battle of Gettysburg July 1-3. Near Raccoon Ford till September 24. Moved to Brandy Station, thence to Bealeton and to Stevenson, Ala., September 24-October 3. Guard duty along Nashville & Chattanooga R. R. till April, 1864. Action at Tracy City, Tenn., January 20, 1864 (Co. "B"). Atlanta Ga. Campaign May to September. Demonstration on Rocky Faced Ridge May 8-11. Buzzard's Roost Gap May 8-9. Boyd's Trail May 10. Battle of Resaca May 14-15. Cassville May 19. Guard Ordnance Trains May 24-June 13, and provost duty at Ackworth, Ga., till July 8. At Marietta till July 16. Peach Tree Creek July 19-20. Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 25. Operations at Chattahoochee River Bridge August 26-September 2. Occupation of Atlanta September 2-November 15. March to the sea November 15-December 10. Siege of Savannah December 10-21. At Hardee's Plantation January 4-16, 1865. Campaign of the Carolinas January to April. Lawtonville, S.C., February 2. Reconnaissance to Silver Run Creek, N.C., March 14. Averysboro or Taylor's Hole Creek March 16. Battle of Bentonville March 19-21. Occupation of Goldsboro March 24, and of Raleigh April 14.

¹ National Park Service website: http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-regiments-detail.htm?regiment_id=UCT0020RI

Bennett's House April 26. Surrender of Johnston and his army. March to Washington, D.C. via Richmond, Va., April 29-May 20. Grand Review May 24. Camp near Fort Lincoln till June 13. Mustered out June 13, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 4 Officers and 76 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 85 Enlisted men by disease. Total 168.

In the early part of the Civil War a Regiment consisted of 10 Companies of 100 men each for a total of 1000 men.

1862

1 Letter

Harpers Ferry
Loudin Valley near
December 9th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I now take my pin in hand to let you know that this Regiment is ordered to march to Morrow Morning at 8 o'clock to join Burnside's Army and I am so much better that I shall have to march with them but I shall have to carry my knapsack. Direct your letters to you the same as you have done
Albert

1863

34 Letters

Fairfax Station VA
January 18 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter last night and was very glad to receive one before we marched as we are under marching [orders] last Friday we had orders to be ready to march at 1 hours notice with three days rations in haversack & 8 days rations by the team & last night we had orders to march this morning at four o'clock but before morning the order was countermanded and they say we are going tomorrow morning we shall go soon at any rate we shall probably go to Alexandria and take transports from there to North Carolina that is the talk now to join Gen Franklin but there is so many stories about that cannot certainly tell where we shall go the sick has all been sent to Washington this morning that looks as if we are going somewhere I. S. Clark has got his discharge and is going home tomorrow he seems to feel pretty well about it there is always a good many sick when we have to march in about an hour there will be a funeral for one of the Regiment he died last week I do not know his name we have been paid our ten dollars State Bounty but not the United States Bounty yet and do not know when we shall it has been very cold long back but we have a drill every day I am well and getting along first rate for a soldier I weigh 154 lbs now 4 more than I ever weighed I hope this war will be closed pretty soon a great many think that it will I hope so at any rate I am going to write John [his brother] this afternoon we have a very good log hut now all of us Essex boys are together now except Horace Parker he is sick in Washington I received the postage stamps you sent me and the paper also for which I am much obliged I can not think of much more to write this time but I will write again as soon as I have a chance I cannot tell when that will be

Please Answer Immediately

From your Aff Son
Albert

Log Huts as Mentioned in
the above letter



Stafford Court House VA
Saturday January 31 1863

Dear Father & Mother

In the last letter I wrote, I wrote that we was a going to march well we did we Started on the 19th which was Monday Monday was a pleasant day and we marched 15 miles we went in to the woods & Slept their for the night the next morning about 5 o clock we Started again the day was cloudy but did not rain but looked very much like it we marched 12 miles that day to a place called Dunfiries well we went in to a lot of oak Sprouts to Stop for the night all of us being very tired we lay down on the ground with our Blankets over us and went to Sleep about 10 o clock we waked up and found ourselves wet through as it been raining hard all night well we got up all such and know place today as about 6 o clock we had to march raining as hard as ever Saw it, and mud was knee deep but that made no difference we had to go we could not get along very fast for the waggons got Stuck in the mud and cannon also well we marched about five miles in the rain and mud when we came to a bridge which the Rebles had torn up and we had to Stop the Pioneers had to work all night in the rain to build the Bridge So that we could cross in the morning and the rest of us lay down on the wet ground raining as fast as ever and went to Sleep the next Morning we had to march again Still raining & the mud much deeper we marched about 4 miles to Accenia Creek where we Stopped another night before morning it Stopped raining but very foggy well we had to march again 8 miles to Stafford Court House where we are now 8 miles from Fredericksburg where we came up with Segils force & have nothing but our ruber blankets to cover us well the next morning is pleasant and the Regiment has to go out on Picket two days well when we came back the whole Regiment was compleately tired out and the next day being pleasant we rested but in the night it commenced Snowing and very cold and nothing to cover us as we was So tired we had not put up our Ruber blankets and now a very gloomy day is Thursday as it is Snowing very hard & I have Something else to writ which makes it much more gloomy to us about one o clock as our Captain Henry C. Smith is walking along it is Snowing & Blowing very hard Some of the Regiment is chopping down trees and just as the Capt got off against one it fell and Struck him crushing him to the ground and killing him instantly it Struck him in the head Smashing his face and Breaking his neck

not one hour before he was talking with the Boys & now he is gone he was beloved by all everyone feels Sad to morrow morning Lieut O. R. Ross Starts for Hartford with the body he may come down to Essex but I do not think he will have time Some Say he will not come back but I think he will but I wold not if I were in his place we do not know how long we Shall Stay her as we are under Gen Segil now and where he moves we Shall I am well but was pretty tired after the march Yesterday we was paid two months wages 26 dollars Some of the boys are having Boxes Al Pratt had one the other day it was divided the same as the leters I can not think of much more to write

Pleas Answer Immiadetly

From your Aff Son

Albert

Stafford Court House VA

Monday Morning February 23rd 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your leter on Saturday last & was very glad to hear from home as I always am yesterday Sunday was a very cold & Stormy day it commenced Snowing Saturday night & continued to Snow all day yesterday & this morning it is clear and very cold our Essex Boys got along very well through the Storm because we have got a hut & a chimney in it but Some of boys Suffered a good deal it is the coldest time I have Seen we have been out a good many of the boys have gone home on Furlough but cannot Stay only ten days which I think does not pay I had a leter from John [his brother] Saturday he Says he is well & goes a courting Some he thinks he Shall not inlist very Soon he does not Seem to like the war & I do not think much of it I tell you the Boys are Sick enough of it they Say it is nothing but a nigger war & I think So myself when we make a march a nigger can ride a horse but we Soldiers have to go on foot I think Mother does not think much of the war by what She wrote Al Pratt Says he wishes he had got half as good a place to Stay as his hog at home I wished I had to I received a paper the Same day I did the leter I Saw a pencil mark over one piece about tobacco I Suppose you was a trying to hit Somebody you wrote that you wold Send me a Box I Should be very glad of one now is a good time to Send one because I Shall be here & get it as we Shall not leave here very Soon & now all of the Boys are having them Sent here by Hinsdale Lucian Beebe has got one on the road you wanted I Should write what to Send you must Send first what what you are a mind to I do

not know as I want any cloths I would like a couple of pocket Hdkfs but you could Send them in a news Paper when you Send one next time do them up so they will not be Seen when you Send the box direct it to Stafford Court House 20th Reg C.V. com C their will be no danger in Sending a box now because Hinsdale comes their with them when you answer this you may Send me a few Postage Stamps as it is hard work to get them here we can by them from Some of the Boys by paying 5 cts for them which is most to much to pay for them I am very well indeed I cannot think of anything more to write & I will close

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son Albert

Cowan Tennessee

Saturday March 5th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind Thursday the 3rd also the Paper that you Sent I have not much news to write as it is So reacent that I wrote but I will try & write Something we are having pleasant weather here now it is warm for the Season of the year I presume it is Colder up with you we have good nice Comfortable quarters now & a plenty to Eate we have two Cooks to our Company now we had another Cook but the Capt says we we have got to have a Cook So he appointed a couple but I don't believ they will Cook long they wont if we can help it it is a great deal beter to Cook it our Selves then we can have it as we want it but if the Cooks Cook it they Cook it as they are a mind to I See by the Papers that Some of the Army of the Potomac have made a move & that Killpatrick is within 25 miles of Richmond I hope it is So & Sherman Seems to be doing a pretty good thing now I Supose Long street is retreating from Knoxville & going to VA they keep him going pretty well from one place to another but they cant have him on both places to a time well I guess the Rebs will get all they want this Spring here & in VA to I have not heard anything more about our going with Burnside So I guess there is nothing in it there is all the time Some Such Story got in Camp So that you cant tell when to believe them I received a letter from John [his brother] and one from Susie Munion the Same day I got yours & Some papers from Susie & one from Uncle Samuel I have got over my Sickness So that I am as well as ever I lost a little felesh [flesh] but I Shall soon get it back again Well I don't think of Much more to write this time So I will Close Pleas Answer Soon

From your Affuet Son Albert

Stafford Court House VA
Monday March 9th 1863

Dear father & Mother

I received your leter last night & was very glad to hear from you as I always am from home although your leter was mailed the 4th of March & dated the 4th of February I think you made a Slight mistake & I think when you Said that my Box would leave New haven on the 13th of Feb you ment the 13th of March So I Shall be on the lookout for it to day is a very pleasant day it Seems like Spring but long back it has been very raining it Seems by the papers that you have a good many Copper heads up their with you Col Ross got the Regiment together the other night & we had quite a time the Col made a Speech & also Lieut R Post I tell you they was good ones Lieut Post is promoted to Captain of com D he wanted to Stay in our company but he had to go when the Col Said I tell you we boys miss him although we have got another good captain by the name of Smith So that we have another Capt Smith the old Col thinks a good deal of Capt or R Post he says he is the Smartest man in the Regiment & I think he is, a fellow in our company got a fourlough to go home a Spell ago & he has gon 2 weeks over his time the old Col offers fifty Dollars reward if any one will find him he lives in Hartford we have fared better for Something to eat Since Gen Hooker has been in command but this Regiment has a good deal of Picket duty to do the Privates have a great deal harder time than the Non commissioned officers I tell you the privates guard a good deal they have to be on picket every other day & on guard the next day I received Some Postage Stamps in my leter & also two papers I am in good health & as fat as ever

pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son Albert

Cowan Station Tennessee
Friday March 11th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind leter on the 9th & also the Postage Stamps and paper for which I am very much obliged we jump to get hold of a Conn paper every thing is mad now I can tell you I received a leter from Judge Spencer a few

days ago I was very glad to hear from him he Says he is glad to See the Boys Reinlisting So well he Says he Supposes I wuld if the Reg did he thinks the Rebellion is on its last legs he Says that Charles Post that is Cap Albert Post Son thin in Essex he went out in Capt PEnsons Camp in the 11th Reg he said that he had reinlisted been home and got married & gon to war again & he Said that he presumed that I might be cutting up in the Same Caper one of these days he did not Say as he thought Carnd [?] ought to inlist So I Suppose he is willing that he Should Stay at home he Said that their was a good many Copper heads that he wished was with the Rebs So I think the old Judge is Still lazol [?] I beieve I wrote in my last leter that their was Some talk of our going with Burnside but I think their was no truth in it as I have not heard any thing abut lately So I gess it was nothing but a Camp rumor Lieut Col Wooster has left us he went this morning he is Col of the 29th Colnd Conn Regiment he Started for Conn this Morning we hated to have him go we lost a good officer Major Peckingham of Derby is Lieut Col now we don't like him as well when Col Wooster went to Richmond the Major has Command of & we See enough of him he is to strict altogether but Col Ross will take Command now he has been in Command of the Brigade the Brigadier General has been Sick but now is well & takes Command of the Brigade & So Col Ross will come back to the Regiment his wife is Still with him

I did not know as I had [not] been home until I received you leter I think Mrs Ross & Harris was MisstaKin that time I wish it had been me I think I Should have been Called home a Short time as any rate long enough to eat that plate of Ham & Eggs I have not Seen the Ham & Eggs on the Telegraph wire yet well a plate of Ham & Eggs wuld prove very acceptable but I think I will have to wait a Spell before I get them

The weather here is pleasant & warm all Seems to be quiet with the Rebs abut here but we are not when there are a great Many well I will close for this time I am well & all right Pleas Answer Soon & oblige your

Affect Son Albert

Stafford Court House
Sunday March 29th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I now Sit down to answer your last letter I Should have answered it before but I thought I wold waite till I received the box which you Sent me which I received yesterday Morning & also one from Uncle Samuel which you had

better believe I was very hapy to recieve every thing was all good not a thing Spoil every thing all nice & good their was Such a nice perfume on the KdKfs [kerchief] that Al Pratt Said that it made him think of Sunday night at home Unc Samuel Sent me a pie Some cakes Aples Butter & I am a going to write him to day I think if I have time we have just been inspected by Gen Joe Hooker I tell you he is a go ahead fellow he Says know one Regiment is a going to do the fighting but the whole army is a going to do it their are a going to Share all alike & he Says that know 41,000 Rebles are a going to Stop us either he Says we are a going to whip them this time two their is Some Rebles cavelry about here Scouting around the woods the other night about twelve o clock the long Roll Beat we had to turn out dark as pitch & the mud a knee deep but we had to go we Marched about three miles throgh the mud but guard a ford & their we Staid till the next night when we was releived by another Regiment & we went back to camp but you had ought to have Seen us the next morning mud all over us from head to foot we had a pretty good time a getting it off the Pickets have been fired on Several times but know one killed it has been very warm here for a day or two past & we have Several thunder Showers pretty hard ones but it rains most all the time but it is very pleasant her to day I Saw Mr Clark when he brought the Boxes here & had quite a talk with him I think we Shall be paid off now very Soon 4 months pay & I mean to send Some 20.00 dollars of it Just as Soon as we are paid off I never had beter helth in my life than I am enjoying now I am very fleshy how much do Supose I weigh well I weigh 160^{lbs} pretty good I think I weigh more than Beebe he weighs 138[#] I Shall have to close as it is time for the mail to go Pleas Answer Soon

from your Aff Son Al

PS Pleas Send me a few Postage Stamps

Al

Stafford Court House VA

April Saturday 11th 1863

Dear father & Mother

I now sit down to answer your leter which I received last Thursday I Shall have two write fast for we have to go out on Brigade drill at 8 o clock this morning & it is now Seven yesterday we was received by President Lincoln & Gen Joe Hooker Mr Lincoln & his wife & two Boys was with him Mr

Lincoln was nothing very handsome he looked Something like a Shirt on a Bean pole their was about thirty thousand troops their the most Soldiers I ever Saw together at once they think down here that the war will not last long we think that the rebles are getting pretty near starved and I presume that you Saw in the paper that the Women made a raide on Jeff Davis in Richmond they raised a regular Mob their because they had nothing to eate but Jeff Davis came out and made them a Speech promising them that he would give them Something two eate & So he greeted them but I do not think they can hold out much longer I hope not we are glade to here that you gave the Copperheads – up their the news got here Tuesday night their was great Cheering by the Regiment once in a while a man would give three cheers for T. H. Simon but very faint Col Ross Says that he is going to have his Regiment at home by the 4th of July I hope he will but I am afraid he will not we have not been Paid off yet but Exspect it every day you wanted two know id they Sold Liquor to the Soldiers their has been no Liquor Sold to the Soldiers at all now there is none in this Regiment only what the Doctors keep for the Sick I presume that Col Ross has his Grog but I do not See him it has been very pleasant down here long back & quite warm I received the Postage Stamps and Papers have not got here yet I Shall get them to night I am going to write a leter to C O Spencer after drill if I have time I am well as ever and grow fleshey all of the time I can not think of much more to write So I will close So Good Bye

From your Affectionate Son Albert



Lincoln Reviewing the Troops, Stafford County VA, April 8, 1863
As Mentioned above in Albert's Letter

Stafford Court House VA
Sunday April 26th 1863

Dear father & Mother

I received your kind letter on Thursday and was very glad to hear from home the order is now to march to morrow morning at day light with eight days rations we have had marching orders for a week I think we Shall march to morrow morning I Suppose we are a going to the front we have our Lieut-Col to lead us and we do not like it much either as he does not know much about Military Col Ross is Brigadier Gen in Command of our Brigade we would go any where that Col Ross wold lead us the Brigade Gen Jackson has broke his leg So that Col Ross is in Command of the Brigade the boys are afraid if the Lieut Col got us in to Battle he wuld not know how to get us out I had a letter from John [his brother] the other day he Seems to be getting along first rate he Says that he goes a courting as usual I think he has improved in handwriting a good deal I have wrote to C A Spencer and our Uncle Samuel I presume you have received the letter I wrote with money in it I cannot write much today but I thought I wuld write to let you Know that we was a going to march I received your paper & Postage Stamps I wish you wold Send me a neck tie in your next letter I cannot get anything of the kind here Send a cheap one I am well and getting fleshy all the time the Captain tells us that the mail close at three o clock the last mail that will go out of this Camp So I will close pleas Answer Soon

from Your Aff Son Albert

I have got just three Postage Stamps left

Stafford Court House VA
Saturday, May 9th, 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I now Sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am all right – the last time I wrote I wrote that it was the last mail that was going from Stafford but at that it is no I presume you have heard of the Battle that has been fought at Chancelorsville it is said that it is the hardest Battle that has been fought well I will try to tell you about the Working of the Battle as much as I can Monday morning the 27th of April we started at three o clock the whole Army of the Potomac was on the move this was it is said 120,000 men Monday we marched 12 miles & stayed in the woods for the night the next morning we started at four o clock in the morning and marched ten miles to Rappahanock & the we Stayed for the night the next day we

expected to have fight when we crossed the river but we did not – we did not march before we took quite a number of prisiners and killed taking them all day the next day we expected to meet the Rebles in large force about - four o clock in the afternoon the whole command Shelling us it was about 2 miles from the Rappahanoc river that we took quite a number of prisiners well on Friday we marched to the place where we had the Battle and got there about three o clock in the afternoon it Seemed to be quiet all the night but the rebles found out that we was their it is exactly in the area o Fredericksburg and while we was their part of the army went and took Fredericksburg thin we had the Rebles between tow armies & they found out that they was surrounded they knew that id they did not fight it was all dun with them the the line of Battle of our army was ten miles in length the 11th army Corps was on the right 2nd 3rd and E was on the left & the 12th army Corps was in the Center that is the one that this Regiment belongs to So that we was in the Center the Rebles got all the troops they had everything they could make & Scrape they numbered 140,000 men So it is said their was General Stone wall Jackson Hill Long street Lee & Beauregard all this Saturday afternoon they attacked our left wing and was drove back with great loss then they tried the center with a Small force & throu the largest part of the force on the right wing that is the 11 Corps & they broke the lines of the 11 Corps & then they came down on the 12 corps then that was the time we had Something to do it was then Sundown and growing dark but their was a long moon the fight lasted that night about one hour the hardest fighting ever known but we drove them that night our Reg worked all night throwing up entrenchments – the next morning Sunday the fight commenced & continued till three o clock in the afternoon our Reg was under fire all of the time & all of the time fighting for more than one mile the ground was covered such dead men & the wuds was full of then and hundreds & thousands of men killed that day but the Rebles had two killed to our one when our Reg went to the fight it had 570 men when it came out it had 237 men so that there is 333 killed wounded & missing our Company went in with 56 men & came out with 26 men our Capt was killed Lieut was wounded & our Col Ross was wounded 4 lieut Col was wounded & taken prisoner the boys was folling all around me in many directions but I was not Scratched nor any of the Essex boys but we was in the hottest of the fight the next day we was ordered across the river & back to Stafford wher we are now but you will find out more by the Papers than I can Rite you I am in tip top health & all right I will send you a Poitrait of Col Ross I received your leter yesterday & one from Uncle Samuel & one from Charles Bushnell

Pleas answer soon
& send me Papers

Albert



Stampede of the 11th Corps as Mentioned Above in Albert's Letter

Stafford Court House
Tuesday May 12th 1863

Cousin Charles

I received your kind letter on the 7th and was very glad to hear from you I Should wrote you before but did not know where you was to day I am on guard & as my relief has just gon on I will try & answer you letter it is So very warm that I can hardly keep comfortable even Sitting Still I presume you have heard of the move of Gen Hookers Army across the Rapahanock river & its coming back well I Suppose I was amongst them this Regiment is in the 2nd Brigade Commanded by Col Ross formaley the Col of this Regiment he takes the place of Gen Jackson who was thrown from his horse & had his leg broken & theirfore Co Ross takes his place & we miss him much as Col of this Reg but he was wounded at the late Battler of Chancelorsville So that we have no Brigade Commander& our Lieut Col was taken prisoner So that the Reg is in command of the Major his name is Buckingham from Burmingham & a nice man he is to we are in the first Division Commanded by Gen Williams & in the 12th Army Corps commanded by Slocum we Started from here Monday the 27th of April & Marched to Chancelorsville about 30 miles from Stafford but a great deal further the way we went we got there on Friday & this was where we had the Battle & their the line of Battle was formed we was about in the Center

of the line the 11 Corps was on the right of us & the 2nd & 3rd Corps on the left on Saturday the Rebels tried both wings and was repulsed but on Saturday afternoon the Rebels threw their whole force on the 11th Corps & they broke & down on the 12th Corps they they got up & most of the Fighting ceased about 8 o clock but Some Skirmishing all night at day light they atacked us but during the night our Reg had been throwing brest works well the fight Commenced we was about 30 rods from where it began but their was Several regiments of us & they were compelled to fall back then it came our turn they came up to our brest works & was drove back& they tried it three times & we drove back again but Soon they opened a battery on us & the Shells flew thick & fast but Still we hung on our Batteries could not Silence theirs because we was between he two the Gen Sent orders to us to retreat back but both ordleys was killed before they got to us finlay the Rebels got on each side of us & the Col gave us orders to run & we did but as Soon as we Started they opened grape & canister on us & a cross fire & their the men fell all around me on both sides but I was not Scratched at all came out all right we went in with 550 men & came out with about 250 men there is 25 gon from our company we went in with 50 men but the Rebels lost two for our one we lost all of our command officers the next day the whole army was ordered across the river & here we are in the Same old Spot Hungry tired Cold & -- it is the first time this Reg was run in Battle & I hope it will be the last but I Suppose we Shall have to cross the river again Soon Some Say this Corp is going Washington but I can hardly See that but I must Close

Pleas Answer Soon

Direct your letter the Same as before
Albert U. Platts

Stafford Court House VA
Sunday May 17th 1783

Dear Father & Mother

I received your leter last night & was very glad to hear fro you & that you was all well. it is very warm to day but pleasant. We have Just had an inspection & the Regiment is pretty well used up. One of Mr Gordmans Boys is wounded in the leg he is in the hospital Samuel Fargo is prisoner in Richmond. He was from Chester & a number other Chester Boys we have not heard from yet. We don't know whether they was taken prisiners killed or wonded. We are Still at Stafford but we have a good deal of Picket

duty to do now but I had rather do that than be in another Such a Battle as the one we have been in. I Suppose it is the hardest Battle that has been fought. I will tell you a little about how our Reg was Situated. Their was our Brigade consisting of our Reg the 123 NY Reg & the 143 NY & 3rd Maryland Reg we were in the Center of the Brigade the Rebles was about 30 rods from us & Some of our troops between us & the Rebles Well the Rebles drove those back & then they come up to us then was our time to fight they wold come up to our Breast-works & we drove them back & three times they tryed but we drove them back in front of our Breast-works, We cut down Some trees & Brush Just as thick as they could be the Rebles wold come up to the Brush & their they wold get tangled & we wold Shoot them down them Brush was completely covered with dead Rebles They Saw that could not get us out that way. So they drawed up this Battery of their Cannon & then they poured Grape & canister Shell & Railroad Iron in to us. & all of the Regts on our left & right broke & run, & it folded the other Reg but the 20th & there we were loading and firing our Battery could not Silance the Rebel Battery because our Reg was between our Battery & the Rebles Gen Williams Sent two or three orders to us to retreat back but the men were killed so that we did not get any orders at all, & their we were their was one poor fellow close to me a Shell came & took his leg off & another came & killed him instantly their they was dropping all around me Some tore all to pieces & So much noise & Smoke, OK! I tell you it was awful well pretty Soon the Rebles got on both sides of us & then the Lieut-Col told us to run & we did, & then the Rebles filed up on the Breast works & fired at us & their they was on both sides of us & in our rear & their it was when So many were killed, when I was a running their was one fellow Just – Stepping on a log & a Shell Struck him & killed him instantly I Saw another Shell Strike & tore three men all into pieces but we killed two to their one, Stone Wall Jackson is dead but I never want to See another Battle this was five days & nights that our men Slept a bit but I stood it first rate & am in tip top health I must close Pleas answer Soon for it does us a good deal of good to hear from home

From you Aff

Son Al

I received the paper & Stamps

Albert

Stafford Court House, VA

May Friday 22nd 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I will write you a few lines I wrote one letter this week So that my leter will be very Short this time I received your letter last night with neck tie & all which I was very much pleased to receive we have not marched yet & don't know when we Shall we are fareing first rate now & live R-- I wrote in the other letter all the news I think I am well as ever it is very warm down here I hope this war will end before the Summer is ended I can not think of any more to write to day

Pleas Answer Soon
From your Aff Son Albert

Stafford Court House VA
June 3rd 1863 Friday

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind leter last night & was very happy to hear from you as it had been considerable of a Spell Since your last leter I had a leter from Col Spencer night before last & I was very glad to hear from him he said that Miss Wealthy was very bad off he thought it was doubtful whether She can recovered I also had a leter from Uncle Samuel & a Paper which I was very glad to receive it has been very warm down here long back the Regiment is Commanded by our Major his name is Buckingham he is from Bermingham & he is very Strict with us is most to much So the Boys do not like him much on that account he is good enough every other way Col Ross came to the Reg yesterday from Washington he came to Stay two or three days to see how the Reg was getting along he was wounded pretty bad he has to use crutches it Seemed good to See the old fellow again I presume you received the leter that I Sent you with his picture in it all of the Boys had one you did not Say anything about it So I do not know as you have got it yet the one that you received on Thursday I wrote Since that I hope you will get it Major Buckingham makes us drill from 7 o clock in the morning till 8 one hour then from three till half past four So you See he keeps us going pretty much all the while besides the Picket & Gard duty that we have to do if the old Col was in Command we Should not have to drill we have to get up in the morning at daylight & go to bed at nine o clock in the evening yesterday Morning we had Marching orders with three days rations to be ready in a moments notice it was rather Sudden & we are a

waiting expectantly every moment to receive orders to go they Say that the whole army of the Potomac is on the move we Shall probly know in a Short time how it is we have heard Considerable firing in the direction of Fredericksburg this morning but do not know what it is Some think that the Corps will not go in front this time as it done So well before & lost So many men I hope it may not but we cannot tell we had a speech from Gen Slocum the other day he commands the Corps he Said that he felt proud of his men he Said he never had a command that he thought So much of their is a great many think that the war will not last long & I hope it will not but can not tell how long it will last you would to know about the country it is first rate like Loudan Valley where you came I will Send Mother a leaf from old VA I do not know what it is called but it comes from old VA Pratt & Beebe are out on Picket to day So that there is no one in the tent except Stuckey & myself we are going to have beans for dinner to day if you will first call on us you Shall have Some when we get home we Shall not need any one to cook for us as we can do it ourselves we do all of our Baking now we had rather do it because we get more to eat we have a plenty to eat I am well and Stand it first rate Pleas answer immediately it does not make any difference if we are on the march I Shall get them just the Same

From your Aff Son Albert

Stafford Court House V A
Friday Evening June 12, 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I have just received your leter this very night I was very glad to hear from home we are under marching Orders and have been for a week past we have orders to march in a moments notice but cannot tell when we Shall have to go likely enough we Shall not have to go for a week or two & we may have to go in a hour we do not know which way we Shall go can not tell anything about it I also received the Papers which you sent me I saw the piece which Capt Fish wrote There is not a word of truth in what he Said about the 12th Con he is Capt of the 14th Reg in the 2nd Corp I think but cannot be Sure I know he is not in the 12th I did not want him in either it is Said the 14th Reg done worst of any of Connecticut Regs I don't think much of his leter any way the Rebles Said that the main reason that we got whipped was because that our Officers was drunk & I think their was a good

deal in that I can let you know. Some of the Officers acted when they See that they are in danger they Said Boys take of Yourselfs & do the best you can that is the way some of [them] acted but I am happy to say that it was not so in our Reg the Officers went in as well as the Privates but you can tell which Corp ran and which did not as well as I can tell you as you have a chance to see more Papers than we do our Lieut Col has got back to the Reg and we are all very glad to see him he says that if we always do as well as we did then it is all that will be asked of us I wrote a letter to Johnnie the other day but have not Received any answer yet I Shall have to Stop now and take tea as it is ready We have not a very heavy supper tonight it is jam bread & Coffee to night we have a plenty [to] eat all the time no reason to Complain Although if we were at home we Should think it rather hard but we have got used to it you Spoke about Mr Gordmans Boys sending home a hundred Dollar I am Sure they ought to one of them has been a Cook for Major and Lieut Col and has done all of their washing and besides their Folks send them down Butter, Cheese, Cakes etc. and they sell them to make double on it

And there is one thing I am Sorry to say about Henry Gordman the one that you Bought the Blankets of he will steal and has been caught at it Several times and been broght before the Major that Blanket that you Bought of him he stole from the Hospital when he was sick it has been found & on the march from [Indian?] Valley to Fairfax Station he had five Blankets which he stole out of the Baggage Waggons and he sold them all for five dollars apiece & he also stole one of the Boys Pistols and sold it for 14 Dollars & the other night Johnny Trift had Some tobacco come from home and Mr Gordman Stole it out of his tent but he got caught at it & was brought before the Major what the Major done I can not tell you but one thing is he does not Cook for him now the Chester Boys say that he always had that name but Edward Gordman is as a honest Boy as ever walked the earth & I Should Suppose that he might have money but for one I had rather not have money than to get it that way he is not thought anything of in the Company but I hope you will not Say anything about it that it came from me because I do not want it Should come from me nor because I doubt the truth for I know it to be true but the next Payment I am going to Send Some 16 Dollars anyway I want to keep ten Dollars & calculate two every time we are paid off to Send home at least 16 dollars 26 dollars is what we are paid at a time I never have lost any money whatever you spent for my needles and thread although I have Spent a little for Tobacco which I Suppose is foolish way of Spending money I think it Some thing to burn it up

(on a separate smaller page)

you Spoke of Gambling Col Ross issued an order that if their was Gambling of any kind done in his Reg that the one that done it Should Suffer for it. Gambling is Strictly Forbidden this Order was issued last winter & has been obeyed & as for myself is Something that I know nothing about nor do I want to & their is no kind of Liquor Sold her nor has been I Suppose the officers have it but I do not See any of it you need not be afraid of my Gambling nor getting drunk but I must come to a close You Spoke about Albert Pratt promotion I do not See much abut it he was 4th Corpol & is now 3rd Sergent & he wold not have been that if our 3rd Sergt had not been Sick & So Pratt took his place but if he Should come back to the Reg Mr Pratt wold have to Step out his being Serg made me 2nd Corp I do not wish to Prais myself at all but I Can learn him and he knows it true So you see how much he is promoted he had ought to know more about military than I do but he does not. you know I was sick a long time & of course I forgot Some but I Soon learned I have drilled the Company Some now, but I think I have made a pretty long leter this time I Suppose you know that we lost our knapsaks in the Battle but I did not have much in mine the most that I cared anything about was my Needles & Thread & a Picture of Miss E. B. you might Send me a few needles & Thread in your leter but I must close I am well & all right,

-Pleas answer momentarily,
from Your Aff Son Albert

Leesburgh June 23 1863
Thursday Evening

Dear Father & Mother

I received your letter on the march & was very glad to her from home we were at Faifax Court House when I received it we Started from Stafford Court House Saturday June 13th at 3 o clock in the morning & -- Argenia Creek so here the Col Picked us out a good Camp ground & told us to go to work & put up huts as we Should Stay their quite a while probly all Summer well we were quite delighted with that So we went to work & worked till about Sun down when orders Came to march that took us all by Surprise where could we be a going was all the talk well we Started toword Stafford again So we Suspect we was a going back to our old Camp but the whole

Army Seemed to be a moving we got up to Stafford about 9 o clock in the Eve but to our great Surprise we did not Stay but on we went where could we be a going was all the talk what can this move mean they Sent all the Cars at Argenia Creek two Washington & then Burned up everything that they could not carry what it could mean destroying everything down their & Seemed to going toword Washington, well they Huried us on & in the did not let us Stop & the next morning found us in Dumfries about 18 miles from Stafford well we Stayed their all day the reason was because al the troops was So worn out that we could not march & being So very hot well the next morning we Started a 3 o clock in the morning & the day was intently hot a great many of the Boys was Sun Struck & Some drooped dead I Suppose from drinking water well that night found us at Fairfax Court House & their we Stayed for one day it is 28 miles from Dumfries two Fairfax well the next we Started at the Same time as usual & marched two a place called Gainsville & their we Stayed for part of a day well the next day Thursday we Started again & marched till about Sundown which brought us two the City of Leesburgh where we now are we marched 18 miles that day & many a poor fellow give out that day & we was Just one day ahead of the Rebles Longstreet forces when the folks in City Saw us a coming they though it was Longstreet they Said they expected them but Hooker was ahead of them they are all Rebles here Some of our army had a fight & drove the Rebles Back on Friday their was 3 deserters Shot that went over to the Rebles I tell you it was an awful Sight they were Blind folded & Set on their coffins & Shot our division was drawn up in line two witness the Sight & an awful Sight it was two to day we have been making us a camp I have felt pretty tired Since the march but never enjoyed better health in my life it is a getting two dark to write any more to night you wrote that you thought a corporal did not have to Stand guard and they do not but they have to be on guard and So does a Sergant there is corporal of the guard & Sergant of the guard and all we have to do is Post the guard once in two hours we do not have to Stand guard at all it time this leter was in the Mail Bag So I will close

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son A

Gettysburg Pa July 4, 1863

Dear Father & Mother

We are now at Gettysburg Pennsylvania I have had 3 days of Hard fighting but we have Completely routed the Rebles & drove them from the cutry Gens Longstreet & Hill that is true we know it to be So this morning I have been over the Battlefield and the Ground is Completely covered with dead Rebles There is a great many Reble Prisinors the 12th Corps is what fixed them how many of our Regiment is killed or wounded we cannot tell I have not had a Sercht nor news of the Essex Boys we Shall have to follow the Rebles up I cannot write any more now but as Soon as I have a Chance I will write all the -- we are, very tired
from your Aff Son Albert



Union & Confederate Dead at Gettysburg

Maryland

Drawn up in line of Battle in a field of wheat Between Fairfax & Williams Port

Sunday, July 12, 1863

Dear Father & Mother

We arived here yesterday morning from Gettysburg have met the Rebles we came across the Reble Skirmishis yesterday morning and drove them into their main Body a large Battle is hourly Expected the whole army is within two miles of ours he cannot cross the river & he must fight we had an awful Battle at Gettysburg the hardest ever known but the Rebles got a terrible thrashing we are marching all the while I cannot write any more now we have to write just when we can I received your letter with the

Needles & thread & I also received the HdKps I am well Pleas answer Soon

Pleasant Valley Sandy Hook M.D
July 18, 1863

Dear Father & Mother

As I have Some little time to write this morning I will -- the opportunity I presume you will See by this leter that it is wrote in the Same place that we was when we first Came out we are in the Same place now it is rumored that the army is going to rest I Should think it was time for we have been on the go ever Since we left Stafford Court House marching all the time and Fighting the Battle of Gettesburg is Said to be the Hardest of the war I tell you it was the hardest Sight I ever Saw there was 128 killed & wounded in our Reg we followed the Rebles up to Williamsport & their we Expected a Terrible Battle but the Rebles got across most of them but we got some of them a good many of them before they go across & this was a good morning of that was drowned in the River they run on to the Ridge & we had our Cannon close over them heaving grape & canister in to them & cut them all to pieces & a good many of them Jumped in to the river it was an awful Sight I tell you I have Seen enough of Fighting It was a Sickening Sight to See the Killed & wounded and you could not look in any direction but that you would See Someone folling they was folling Close By my Side but I was Spared came out with not a Scratch we are now close by Harpers Ferry how long we Shall Stay here I do not know I Expect we Shall have to cross river in to VA again the 27 Reg left this morning for home their time is out. I wish our time was out great many think that there will not be any more Fighting I hope not at any rate we Soon to whip the Rebles in many places but I have not much time to write much more this morning I wrote two short letters before this I am well but tired Pleas answer immediately
From your Aff Son Albert

Kelleys Ford VA on the Rapahanock River
Friday August 4th 1863

Dear father & Mother

I received your leter & Paper & also one Paper Since then the last leter I wrote was dated at Sattles Station on Thursday last & Marched on the

Rapahanock River and on Friday Morning we crossed the Same place that we crossed when we went to Chancelorsville their was Reble Pickets on the other side but we Soon put them to flight we lay on the Side of the River while our Calvery drove the Rebles two Culpepper Court House where they found the whole of Lees army & when the Calvery Came back we crossed on to this Side of the River that was on Sunday & two days we have gone in to Camp on the Bank of the River it is in a Splendid place to encamp we are a going to Stay here a Spell at any rate [to regroup?] we are a going to ly here until the army gets filled of them we Shall be all ready to cross the River I am glad we are a going to rest for a Spell I tell you we need it but I have Stood it first rate have not had a Sick Spell or anything of the kind but the Same as all of the rest are tired and want rest it has been Dredful Hot for a weak past So that we had to march in the night & Sleep days we are about 20 miles below Fredericksburg & about the Same from Stafford Court House Col Ross has got back & taken Command of the Regiment which we are all glad he has got over his wound I Sent home his Picture before we left Stafford Court House you never wrote me whether you got it or not I hope you did you Spoke about my corns I have not been troubled with them for a long time they have all gon off long ago the mail leaves at 2 o clock & it is time that I Should put it in So I must close Pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son Albert

Camp near Kelleys Ford VA
August 15th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter last night & I was very happy to hear from home I received the Paper & the hdkfs [handkerchiefs] which you Sent which I am much obliged we are now incamped in a Pine grove on the Bank of the Rapahannock a very pleasant place indeed but I never Saw Such hot weather as we have had long back it is impossible to keep comfortable any where here we have some Picket duty to do here but not as much as we had at Stafford we have to drill one hour at dawn & one hour at Six in the afternoon So that we do not have much to do we have a plenty to Eat Soft Bread fresh Meat Pork Sugar & Coffee Hard Tack So that we fare pretty well Just now the Reg is very healthy now considering the warm weather yesterday the old Col arrested Company F Cap Hall for playing cards he does not allow a Card to be played Capt Pardee is Cap of Comp F you

remember it was reported that he was Killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville but it was a mistake he looked pretty Sheepish about the cards I wrote a letter to Johnie [his brother] & Uncle Samuel yesterday hope I shall get an Answer Soon I Suppose the nine months money will all be home Soon have you Seen Cap Ross yet they Say here that he has Resigned but I do know wether it is true or not I think he got Sick of it on this last Campaine or at least he played on a good many think that this war will Soon end they think there is no doubt of it I think it looks more like it than it ever has before the Rebles Seem to be getting Sick of it I think there is not doubt but what Charleston will fall in time I think though that we Shall have to have another Battle here in VA before it is Settled but I hope not I am well I Suppose you have got my letter that I wrote here last before this I am expecting an Answer from it Soon everything Seems to be quiet here at the present time I cannot think of much more to write this time Pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son Albert

Kelleys Ford VA
Friday August 28th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter last night & hapy I was to hear from home for it Seemed a long time I had heard from home we are Stil hear we have Staid here longer than I thought we Should & I hope we may not have to move yet a while we have Some Considerable Picket duty to do here the Rebles on the other Bank of the River & we on this side when we are on Picket duty we talk across the River to the Rebles & they talk with us every day there is Some of them that come across and give themselves up the other day our Capt Capt Smith went down to the River & gave the Rebles a Paper & Some information as to our army & the Gen had him arrested and he is now under arrest and Proibly will be Dismissed from the Service of the United States Capt Ross has not got here yet He is in Washington Sick So I do not think he will be here very Soon the weather is growing Cool nights morning it is very cool the Regiment never was in better health in the world it Seems that the Boys in the nine months Regs are most all Sick I Suppose it is on the account of the Climate you Spoke that their being So far in flesh [over weight?] it is not So with us I never was in So good health as I now am & have been Since we have been here we have received a new suit of cloths throughout & we are just as clean as we Shold be at home for we lie

long Sides of the River Some have a good place to wash we are allowed to go in bathing twice a week Wednesdays & Saturdays So that we keep pretty Clean when we was on the march it was impossible to keep clean but in Camp we Can I don't Suppose there is another army that keeps as clean as the Army of the Potomac I had rather be in this Reg than any other Reg that came from Conn & we have a plenty to eat Soft Bread fresh Meat bacon & vegetables So that we live tip top this is all very nice Soldering lying in Camp but the Marching is what wears us out Marching as we have had this Summer is enough to kill any body we have a nice Hous to Sleep we do not Sleep on the ground we Sleep on bunks abut four feet from the ground Shelter tents on those So it makes a very good place to Sleep we was paid off last week 26 dollars two months pay & we are to be Paid off again the Middle of next week the Col Said that he woud advise us not to Send money home yet as folks know that the army has been paid off Some have Sent money the letters have got home but the money was taken out So we Shall wait a few weeks before we Send money home all of the Essex boys are well Henry Jordan is all the Chester Boys there is here his Brother has not got back yet nor none of that was taken prisiner at Chancelorsville the Army of the Potomac is Somewhat Broken up the 11th Corp has gon to South Carolina & the 3rd Corp to North Carolina their has been Some talk of the 12 Corp going but I do not think it I do not think their will be much more fighting here but I must close

Pleas Answer Soon from your Aff Son

Albert

Camp near Rileys Ford VA
Friday Sep 11th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your dear letter last night I was very happy to hear from you as I always am I also received one from Uncle Samuel and was glad to hear from him we have Just been drawing Wollen Blankets it is getting to be quite Cold here nights & Morning we Still continue to Stop here & I hope we may Continue to do So for we have got a good place yesterday we had a Division review it was a Splendid thing the Soldiers looked well new clothes on & white Gloves we could See the Rebles on the other side of the River looking on us with all their Eyes I Suppose you wold like to know how they Serve the fellows who Skullked away at the Battle of Getusburg they make them walke the length of the Regiment with a Board 1 foot in

length & one in bredth on their breast inscribed theirin with large letters their goes a Skulk and has one months pay taken away from them but I am glad to say there is none in our Company we have had 130 Conscrips Come here or other Substitutes New York Boys that Come Substitute for Conn Boys Some of them are Prety bad fellows but we have got a pretty good lot but we have to keep a Strong guard on if we do not they will run away if possible Some of the Boys will get them out on a hot day and Strip and drill in the Sun & when it rains hard also but they had better not let the Col Catch them at it he would not alow it to be don I hope Some of those drafted in Essex will have to Come but I am afraid they will not A C Pratt had a letter from home & Said that Thornton was drafted I hope Bekwith will have to go & Gord Ross the Starkeys but I am afraid they will not I am afraid we are going to loose our Corp Comander Gen Slocum it is Said that he has been assigned a command in South Carolina Some think he will take his Corp with him but I don't think he will for I don't think they will let it go out of the army of the Potomac I also received your Paper that you Sent me pleas Send another one Soon if possible & the flowers I also thank you very much I am well as ever I can not think of much more to write So I will Close I Suppose our Folks have got Morris Island Pleas

Answer Soon

From your Affet Son Albert

Raccoon Ford VA
On the Rapidan River
Saturday Sept 19th 1863

Dear father & Mother

I recived your kind letter last night & was very glad to hear from you it was time you got my other letter I wrote it Some time ago you will See by the heading of my leter that we have moved well we have we crossed the Raphanock River Wednesday Morn but daylight - the Rebles left left the night before & followed them to the Rapidan River about 10 miles from the Rapahanock the Rebles crossed the Rapadan & took up a Strong Position on the other Side & we are on this side we arrived here on Thursday their not been any army fights yet whether we are going to cross the River I do not know if we do of course we Shall have to fight for it if we do not I don'tSupose there will be any fight now Yesterday I witnessed the Execution of a Soldier from the 3rd Maryland Reg of our division it was dun before the whole Division he walked up to his coffin with the Chaplin

& sit down on it beside his grave & was blind folded & Shot to death he was cool & calm as could be but it was a horrible sight to behold their was 11 shot for desertion yesterday from the army of The Potomac & he was one of them I am Sorry that the Town of Essex has Voted to give \$300 to furnish Substitutes with I think when they are drafted they have ought to Come. You Spoke about that leter that you Saw from a Lieut in our Reg it is true that Some of us was ragged barefoot & dirty although I was not ragged nor Barefoot But I presume their was Some dirt on me it was utterly impossible to Keep Clean in Such a march as that & as to the lice Their was a few of them around I never got any on me but once then they did not get on my clothes but I got them off fully quick you cant find lice in the Reg now I do not believe Al Pratt had them on him as long ago as last winter & I never get one me untill the march & thin they did not Stay long I tell you I am in good health as ever I must close for the Mail goes out Soon & we have to Send them when we can get a chance as there is no regular time yet Pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son Al

You may Send me a few Postage Stamps if you have them

Brandy Station VA

Sep 23 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I have received one letter from you Since I last wrote I can not have time to write more than a word now to let you Know that I am well & getting along Capitol we are at Brandy Station came here last night our Corps only we are going to take the Cars to Washington & from their to Texas or Tennessee Some Say one thing & Some another I am fine and can not tell but it is one of the places we are going to take the Cars right away & I must close Pleas Answer Soon

As I Shall receive You letter where ever we go

From your ever Aff Son

Albert

[this is the only 1863 letter written in pencil]

Decker Tennessee October 10th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

As we have a chance to Send you a line to day I will – it we arrived here to day & thought I wold write you a line to let you know that I am well & in Tennessee to morrow or next day or the first time I have a chance I will write you a long letter all the Particulars of our Journey I write this So that you need not be worried because we not have a chance to Send a letter for a day or two

From your Affct Son
Albert

Cowan Station Tennessee
Thursday October 15th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I will try to write you a few lines as I promised in my last letter after I wrote those few lines I received a letter & Paper from you which as you may imagine was very thankfully received I presume you will be Some what Surprised when you here that I am in Tennessee it was a very Sudden movement to us we left Brandy Station VA about 12 o clock Saturday night Sept 26th got aboard the cars & in the morning found our selves in Washington & thin went to Baltimore & from Baltimore to Harpers Ferry VA all Union Peple their in the Morning found our selves at a place Called New Creek in Western VA it is Monday to day we crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains went through Kingwood Tunnel over one mile long I tell you what there is Some tall Mountains to pass Tuesday Morning we crossed the River at a place called Rilane & their we got Breakfast in their after we got Breakfast we Started up again & I tell you a Splendid Country we went through to all Union folks at our Station we had to Stop & the Laides would load us down with all we could Eat of Every thing at 12 o clock Tuesday night we got to Columbus the Capital you know and their we had a Supper all waiting for us all we could Eat of Every thing & the whole place was filled with Laides & Gentlemen to See us Notwithstanding it was So late old as well as young & the next Morning we found our selves in Dayton ohio I presume you Remember that it is the home of Volldingham [Vallandigham, a Copperhead] the trator they wuld like to See him hung we went from their to Indiana we came to a place called Centerville abut noon & their the laides treated us again to all we could Eat all Union folks Indiana is a fine Country to tell you Thursday Morning we found ourselves in Indianapolis the Capital of Indiana

& their we got Breakfast it rained a little this Morning we Started from their & at night found ourselves in Louisville Kentucky & thin we got Supper Louisville is a Splendid City it is Friday we Started from Louisville & Friday noon found us at Nashville Tennessee the Capital & from their went to Murfeesbourough & from their To Tallabama & from their to Stevenson Alabama & their we got Breakfast most of the Peple are Union & from there we went to Bridgeport & got of the cars it is about 75 miles from Chattanooga thin we Stayed one day their we had orders to Back abut 30 Miles to Cowan Station where we now are So we took So we took the cars and came back here Their is our Corp the 12th & the 11th to Guard the Railroad from Nashville to Chatanooga I Suppose that is all we Shall have to do this winter Gen Hooker is in command of both Corp together & Slocum & Howard command them Separate we think we Shall have Easy times than we have had we have not heard from Roseccrans lately Peple think down this way that he was in Sum over I Suppose I cannot get letters as often as I did in VA unless you write pretty often I am well & So are the Essex Boys

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Aff Son

Albert

We can not get Postage stamps here now but I presume we can Soon

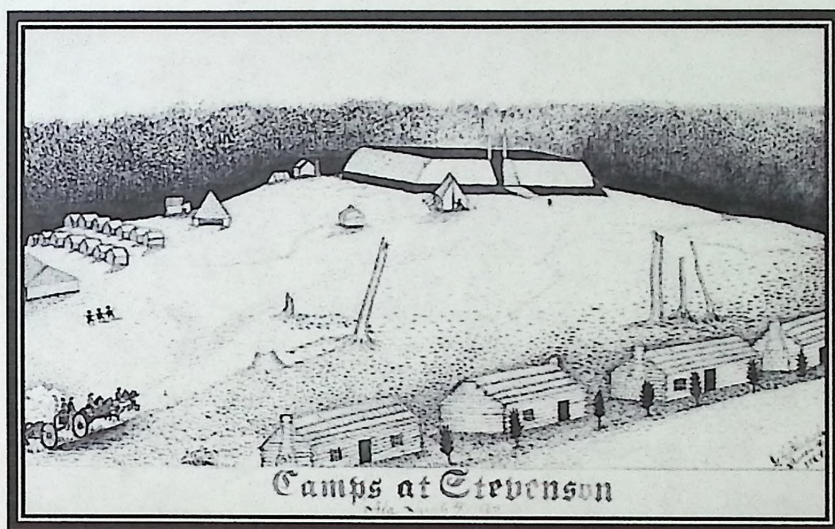
Stevenson Alabama

Wednesday October 28th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter Sunday night & happy I was to hear from home & we get a letter So Seldom you will Se by this letter that we have moved from Cowan Station Tennessee to Stevenson Alabama it is 23 miles from Cowan we Started last Saturday & got here on Sunday it rained all the time & we had Mountains & hills to Cross So that we did not get along very fast our Company is abut two miles from Stevenson up the Railroad we have a nice place I tell you their was houses all built for us just right for four of us So there is four of us Essex Boys together & we took one of the houses & it makes it very nice & the duty is very light we are guarding the Railroad we have no Picket duty to do I think the Army of the Potomac has had a pretty hard March Since we left them we got away Just in time General Grant was her the other night & Gen Rosecrans Grant is going to take

Command of this Army & Gen Rosecrans is ordered to Washington I
 Suppose he will have an important Position Some where I think the Rebs are
 getting into Close quarters Gen Rosecrans made a Speech he Said that the
 Army of the Cumberland was not whipped & never could be he Says let
 Burnside alone he is all right he will take care of himself & he Says Mead
 Is all right to but I can not think of much more to write I am well & getting
 along first rate if you could Send me a pair of gloves in a paper I would
 like it as it is getting Cool & I have not got any
 Pleas Answer immediately from your Aff Son
 Albert



Camps at Stevenson Alabama

Stevenson Alabama
 Thursday November 5th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter last night and very happy was I to here from home
 I believe that I think more of hering from home than I did when I was in VA
 because I am So far from home we have got a nice place here and our duty
 is very light Col Ross has Command of Stevenson Joe Hooker put him in
 command & told him that he wold Stay here with his Reg this Winter & I
 think we Shall be here a pretty long time I Suppose that you have herd that
 Hooker has had a fight with the Rebs he has opened communications
 through to the front So that the Cars got to Chatanooga & a Steamboat goes
 their also he has drove the Rebles out of & off from Lookout Mountain he
 had the 11 Corp & the Second Division of our Corp that is Gen Greys

Division Gen Grey was wounded and his Son killed his Son was a Lieut Col Col Ross wold not have had this place if he had not had a good deal influence as he is a very influential man amongst the higher officers he has got a house he is a fixing up he has Sent for his wife She is a going to Stay here this winter we have all the wild game that we want we can out anytime & get a Possum Coon Rabit or wild hogs wild Turkeys Ducks on almost anything else we can wish for we go out to the Farmer & Stay all day they like to have us Come give us all we want to take will not Charge a Soldiers a cent for anything they Say that Alabama is for the Union & the Constitution the old Flag is what they want to live under & die under they Said that if the Union Army had come down through here before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued the Peple wold have flocked to us by the thousands that Proclamation they cant do they Say if it had not been for that the war could have ended before that every house we go into the Girls are carding wool or spinning or weaving every house has a Spinning wheel & Loom in it they Say that our Northern Girls do not have to work & they Say they did not before the war but now they are compelled to they Say they have less every thing they Say that the leaders of the South have misrepresented to the poor Class Peple & a great portion of the Peple are poor & most of them can not read & they Say the leaders went around the poor class preaching Seccession & telling them that it was the only way to save a man they Said that one Speaker Said that if we Seceeded that he wold drink every drop of blood that was Spilled & the Peple believed it but now they See the folly of it

It is a very warm day & darke the Boys are having Boxes Sent to them Pratt has Sent for one he Sent for it last week & I presume it has Started before this a number of the Boys have had them already it is perfectly Safe to Send them they are directed to Stevenson Alabama by Adams Express Company & they do not Stop till they get here they have an office in Stevenson So that it makes it handy & I wold like a box & if you could Send it it wold be a good time if you Should Send one I wold like a Jack Knife for it is Some thing that we can not get here without paying a great price & if you Send what you are a mind to there is nothing in clothing that I want without it is a pair of Stockings & thick Shirt you need not be afraid to Send it because you are afraid that I Shall not get get because I am Sure to I received the paper & Postage Stamps postage stamps are very scarce here I am well & getting along nicely

Pleas Answer immediately

From your Affc Son Albert

It takes ten days for a Box to come here

Stevenson Alabama

Saturday Morning November 13th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind letter Wednesday Morning very happy was it received you may imagin I also received one from Susie Munien the Same day & I was very glad to hear from her it is now about three o clock in the morning I am on guard to night & So to have time Seem Short as possible I will write a few lines to you we are still guarding the Railroad in the Same place & we are going to Stay here this winter we have got a very Easy Job of it we have got nice houses to live in better than we have ever had before now & Comfortable & a plenty to eat & wear letters have got So they Come through -- Express & every thing are going nicely all of the Chester Boys are back to the Reg Except Edward T. Gorman he is in the hospital yet

Sunday Morning November 15th 1863

I will now try to finish my letter I did not have a chance yesterday I am on duty once in three days have no Picket duty So it makes it very easy for us Gen Shermans Corps passed through here yesterday they are going to the front it is fully certain that Grant will move on the Rebels Soon he has 107,000 men the Boys are certain that they will whip the Rebs as they never was whipped before they Say first the Rebs Know, Grant will dig under them & come out the other side their will be Stirring news in front Soon we are 65 miles from the front the Papers Say that Gen Mead has whipped the Rebs in VA I hope it is So & I hope this cruel war will Soon end & I do not think they can hold out much longer it is very warm here I Suppose it is cold up home it is now most Thanks giving I would not mind being home about that time but I think before another one comes around I Shall be at home & So will the rest of us I Suppose you have received my letter that I wrote last about the Box their has been a good many Come to the Reg Since then it is perfectly Safe as Col Ross has Command of the whole place & he has an Express Office right by him So that Soon as it gets here we get it

I will Send you a Picture I presume you will Know who it is you may think it is rather dark as the Caps Shads the face but it is a good Picture I can not think of much more to write So good Bye for this time

From your Affect Son Al

If you direct you letters this way I Shall get them 3 days Sooner

Albert U Platts

It is this

Comp C 20th Regt C.V.

You may direct that
way Answer Soon

Stevenson Alabama

Via Nashville, Tennessee

Albert

Stevenson Alabama

Friday Evening November 27th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter Wednesday Evening & happy was I to hear from you as Such is always being So far from home a letter Seems beter than it used to I believe it has been pleasant to day but it is raining a little Just now it is very warm here Except nights & Mornings which is little Cool you wished to know what kind of Homes peple live in here well the greater portion of the Peple live in log houses thin once in a while a man that is pretty well off he has a Brick house but most all log houses this is out in the Country in the town of Stevenson there is some good buildings I presume that I wrote to you before that our Company is about 5 miles from town Guarding a Railroad Bridge the houses that we live in are palaces to what most of the Peple live in here the chimneys to the house are made of logs abut 8 feet long that is what the back of the chimney Consists of & the Sides are logs abut four feet long So that the Chimney takes up all of one end of the house the Cracks are Stopped up with mud & a Stove they never Saw you Spoke about the Madison Boys frying cakes in pork fat that is an old thing with us we have Something to eat beter than that we think & Soft Bread all we want, yesterday was Thanksgiving & we had a Thanksgiving dinner a pretty good on we think for Soldiers our Lieut invited Col Mosher & Chaplin up to take dinner with & it passed of very nice indeed I will tell you our Bill of fare – we had two Roast Pigs Stuffed one Roast Lamb one Lamb that we made Stew of four Roast Chickens Stuffed one baked opossum a ½ bushel of Potatoes Bread Buisket & Butter Pies & Cakes & Sausage Coffee Sugar & Milk now I think that is doing pretty well for Soldiers dont you the Chaplin Says he is going to put it in the New Haven Journal Courier So you get that Paper in a week or two & pleas Send it to me I think I Should rather have been home if I could have been the things did not cost anything Except the pies and Cakes Peple Say this way that the

war is going to be ended this winter I hope it is So the Battle has already Commenced here Gen Grant has attacked the Rebles & is Completely Victorious & has drive the Rebs from every Position & Brag is on the run & Grant after them Prisiners are passing here Continually I think we was very luckey in not being in the Battle we are but 95 miles from them Col Mosher Says that we have had good luck for once the Second Division of our Corp is in the fight that is Grays Division they Say the Western troops & the Eastern troops are Seeing which can fight the hardest the Western boys do not like to have it Said that the Eastern Boys are the best fighters nor the Eastern the Western So they are going in to prove it a great many think this will be the last Battle that is if we whip them all though the fight & I think we have got a man that is not Easily Whiped that is Grant I hope this man will Soon end [the war] & I think it will I Shall be on the look out for the Box Soon I received the Postage Stamps that was in the leter I am well

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Affect Son

Albert

Stevenson Alabama

Saturday Evening December 5th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your dear Kind to night & was very happy to your leter was just 3 days coming from home pretty quick thee quickest that I have had a leter come Since I have been here I received a leter from Uncle Samuel the other night & was very glad to hear from him I wrote him one a day or two before I received his I also received one from Johnnie & one from Charles Bushnell he is in Washington yet he has had a pretty easy time of it you Spoke about Pratt being ordly Sergent he is ordly of the Part of the Company that is down here Guarding the Bridge there is only 25 of us here the most of them are in the town of Stevenson guarding the freight & the ordly of our Company his name is Billings is down their with the rest of them So that is what is made out of you Spoke about going on Guard So often whether Pratt or Beebe I hardly think you know a deal about Miliitary I guess I could learn you Some a Private goes on Guard once every other day that is the case with Beebe he has to Stand 8 hours out of 24 that two hours on and four off& I do not have to Stand Guard at all all a Corprol has to do is to tell the man when to go on & when to come off & he replaced by Some one else I have to go on Guard once in four days & the

Sergant the Same So that it is not very hard work but I will not Say any thing more about the Guard now I don't want to learn you too much at once wait till the war is over & I come home & I will tell you about it more Grant is giving the Rebels fits down this way & So is Burnside giving it to old Longstreet fellows think this way that the Union will finish the war up they seem to be almost certain of it I hope So at any rate & think it looks So I see by a Nashville Paper that Joe Hooker was going to take Command of the Army of the Potomac again whether it is true or not I do not know Hooker has done some good fighting down this way there is no mistake about that but old Grant will make them step around he has drove them even 40 miles from Chatanooga already & how much further he will drive them I don't know deserters are coming in to our lines all the while & prisoners going up to the cars most every day

I shall keep a look out for my Box now soon as I shall expect it along I can not think of much more to write news are rather scarce writing so often & being in the same place all the time I am well I have had something of a cold long back but am getting over it I presume you have received my picture before this let me know when you write for I want to know it got there safe

Pleas Answer immediately
From your Affct Son Al

Stevenson Alabama

Wednesday Eve December 9th 1863

Cousin Charles

I received your letter a few days ago & happy was I to hear from you for it had been some time since I had heard from you well we are having a trial of Soldiers life in Alabama & Tennessee instead of VA I had no more thought of living here at this time than I had of being at home the day that we left VA was Saturday the 26th of Sept we were lying on the Rapidan as quiet we were having a forenoon drill when we had orders to draw 8 days rations & be off immediately we marched about 10 miles to Brandy Station took the cars about Midnight & Sunday Morning found us in Washington I was in hopes I should see you in if we had stopped there any time I should have tried & found you but we did not stay more than 10 minutes & it was early in the morning about sunrise we went to the Relay house & took the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad we arrived in Martinsburg Western VA about dark & then we had a good supper Tuesday Morning we

found ourselves at Balian Ohio their we had a good Breakfast & thin we Started again & at Midnight we found ourselves at Columbus Ohio & their the Ladies had a nice Super for us which you may believe went good all the way through Ohio & Indiania & Kentuckey we was loaded down with all we could Eat & drink at Indianapolis we had a nice Super & also Louisville Kentucky & I tell you a nicer country I never Saw than it is going through Indiana from Louisville Kentucky we went to Nashville Tennessee & their we began to See the effects of war again from their we went to Stevenson Alabama where we now are & Since we have been here we have had a nice easy time our Division is Guarding the Railroad from Nashville to Bridgeport Bridgeport is on the Tennessee River 10 miles below where we are Stationed the Second Division of our Corps & the 11th Corps have been with Hooker at Look out Mountain Some 60 miles from us they have had Some hard fighting to do but we have been very lucky have not been any nearer the front than we now are the Western Boys say that the Eastern Boys will fight like thunder & they have to there is no mistake abut it our Col Col Ross has command of the Post at Stevenson our Company is Some 3 miles up the Railroad from town Guarding a Railroad Bridge our duty is very light we have nice comfortable quarters good houses to live in & a plenty to Eat we have all the wild game that we wish for Such a Coons Opossum Rabits wild hogs & Wild Turkeys & Ducks all we have to do is go out & get them & that is nothing but fun their is four of us in a hut 3 of us Essex Boys & one from Chester Samuel S Fargo & on the whole we are having a prety good time for Soldiers I must tell you abut our Thanksgiving dinner we had two Roast Pigs Stuffed one Roast Lamb Stuffed one Stewed Lamb 4 Roast Chickens Stuffed one Baked Opossum Pies Cakes Bread & Butter Coffee Sugar & Milk & one ½ Bushell potatoes a pretty good dinner I think for Soldiers we invited Lieut Col Martin & the Chaplin up to take dinner with us & a pretty nice time we had take it all around but I think I wold rather been at home if I could have been as well as not Grant is doing a pretty good thing her with the Rebs he is driving them before him & I hope Mead will do as well in VA & I think we will get through fighting Soon it does Seem as if the Rebs could hold out much longer & I don't believe they can I hope this war will Soon end but I must close for this time for I want to Send it to day if Possible that is if I can find a Postage Stamp you can not by a Postage Stamp here for love nor money Pleas direct your letter to

Stevenson Alabama Via Nashville Tennessee

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Affect Cousin

Albert

[Albert apparently did not find a Postage Stamp as the envelope was marked 3¢ postage due. On the front of the envelope is written:]

A Soldiers Letter if I had any Stamps I should have liked it
Pleas forward & oblige

[The letter was addressed to Charles C. Bushnell, Armory Square Hospital,
Ward C., Washington DC]

1863

Stevenson Alabama

Friday Evening December 25th

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind leter last week & Should have answered it before but thought I wold wait until my Box Came it came all right Seeing as to night is Christmas I Call it a Christmas present I think it will do for a Christmas present first rate we are Still Staying at the Same place & having a easy time it does not Seem atoll like Soldiering we are having such a good time we have not Seen any cold weather yet & hope we may not it is never very cold here & this never any Snow it has been very pleasant long back although it is raining a little now their was quite a acsident around here the other day their was a train of cars run off the track night & in Sight of us it was a train loaded with grain their was about a Hundred Soldiers a Guarding the train it run off clear by the River one car went into the water their was three men drowned in that car & three Killed in the rest all Jamed up it tore the track for a half mile they were going very fast as they always do on this road the roads are -- & Safe it is not Safe to drive So fast the Army does not Seem to be doing much now they are lying Still well they had ought to rest now they have had Some hard fighting to do the Regiments are inlisting again those that their time is not out they go home on fourlough for 90 days they think the fighting is abut over is the reason they inlist over again well I hope it is I think the Rebs must have a tough time of it this winter you Spoke abut the Boots they wulds be very handy but I did not think of them when I Sent for the Box it will be pretty muddy & wet I Supose pretty Soon I am well I can not think of much to write I will close

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Affct Son Albert

1864

26 Letters

1864

Stevenson Alabama

Wednesday Eve January 6th

Dear Father & Mother

I recieved your kind leter last night which was very acceptable for it had been Some time Since I heard from you I Suppose you have got the leter that I wrote you when I recieved the Box before this I Shall be looking for an answer from them Soon I think that the letters come here quicker than they go home for they are detained in Nashville Some time they have to go their to be Mailed I Suppose it is Considerable Cool here just now but nigh as Cold as with you it has froze Considerable hard but the ice is not Strong enough to bear we are having Considerable rain if it was not for that it wuld be very pleasant as it is not cold enough to hurt anything we are Still in the Same place that we have been we are enjoying ourselves nicely a plenty to Eat & wear & not much to do & pleasant Evenings when we get tired of Staying in Camp we can run out to the Neighbors & Spend the Evening all the Peple around here are all or prety much all Union So that it makes it pleasant for us their is not much danger from the Rebles for we do not go off far enough to get picked up & their is not any very near us the Rebs are coming in to our lines every day & giving themselves up & take the oath of alegience Some of them enlist in our army if they come in long as they have done the Reb army will get prety Small they have nothing to wear all rags from head to foot they dont look much like our army the Citizens her in the South wear just the Same kind of cloth that the army wears their is not a house here but that you will find the Girls or young Ladies I Suppose wuld be more proper find them a weaving or Spinning they make their own clothes we Say to them Some times the young Ladies up North dont have to work they dont like to hear that well they Say we did not have to before the war the peple here do not begin to live as well as the Soldiers prety much all they live on is meal wet up in water & 1 Pakut with our Salt all the coffee they get is what we Soldiers give them I often think what wuld the folks North Say if they had to like So rich planters that was used to having every thing before the war have got nothing new have to depend on the -- Soldiers for a living all their Niggers have run away So that they have to work themselves their can be nothing left when their is two large armies as we have got go through everything all destroyed of course they are obliged to take all they can find for the army I tell you it is a great blessing to the north that this war was carried out in the South instead

of the North every day that passes their is Women & Children that come into our lines for protection & Some thing to Eat their Husbands conscriptet in the Reble Service the other night their was 6 Women & Eight Small Children Stayed in a piece of woods close by us I Should Suppose they wold froze they came from the Reble lines they have come their abut 80 miles & was going to Nashville 110 miles more Barefooted & raged hardly enough clothes on them to cover them just Such Sights as that we See most every day the peple in this State are getting tired of the war I recieved a letter from Johnney the other night I was very hapy to hear from him I Suppose we have got to move to Morrow abut 8 miles up the Railroad it is abut the Same as it is here to a place called Anderson So you may direct your leters to Washington D C the Same as before untill I write again then I tell you where else to direct they come just as Safe direct to Washington but they do not come quite as quick I am well my cold has all gon Pleas answer Soon from your Affect Son Al

Tautalon Tennessee
Sunday January 10th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind leter to night & was very hapy indeed to hear from you as I always am I presume you will notice by the headline of this leter that we are not in the Same place that we have been in we left Stevenson last Thursday & came here we got here on Friday it is 16 miles up the Railroad from Stevenson towards Nashville we was very Sorry to move because we had Such nice quarters we are Guarding the Railroad the Same as down their to morrow we are going to work to build new huts there is old ones here now that another Reg left but the Col Says that his men Shall not go in where others have been he wants his men to have Clean quarters So to morrow we have got to build new ones this place is between two Mountains Mountains on each end So that we are all Surounded by mountains & we do not like it as well as Stevenson the duty is the Same as their but it is much beter than we had in VA you Spoke abut our Reg reinlisting it has not been out long enough yet a Reg has got to be out 2 years before they can reinlist we have been out 16 months almost one half our time it does not Seem as if it had been So long time has gon off fully quick with us here in the army there is one thing we cannot have much harder times than we had in VA you wanted to know how much Boots are here I will tell you Such Boots as you got me in Harpers Ferry cost here

from 12 to 14 dollars you can not get any less than ten Dollars anyway the Capt Says we may get Paid off the 13th of this month our pay day comes the 13th but if we do not get paid off then we Shall not until the 13th of March So that we can not tell when we Shall be paid off I have never lost any money Since I have been out I Suppose you have got the leter before this telling you that the Box was all right Their was nothing lost & nothing Spoiled but the apples & part of them was good I received a leter from Miss Wealthy Ross yesterday & one from Charles Bushnell he does not know whether he will inlist over again or not I was very glad to hear from Miss Wealthy She wrote me a nice long leter I received two Papers from you one yesterday & one the day before Charles Sent me three papers it had frost Some here lately but their is not Ice Strong enough to bear the Peple here think it is dreadful Cold I wonder what they wold think if they was up North I can not think of much more to write this time I am well Cold has all gon Pleas answer Soon & direct to Washing D C because I Shall be Sure & get them then

From your Affect Son Albert

Cowan TEnnessee

Cowan Tennessee
Monday Feb 29th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind letter 3 days ago & very hapy was I to hear from home I also received the Postage Stamps & Paper which proved very acceptable you will See by the heading of this leter that we have moved Since I last wrote they keep us a going from one place to another prety well the Story is now that the 20th Reg is a going on a Expedition with Burnside & that we have to get to Brooklyn N.Y. to Join him it is Said that 8 Conn Regs are going with him & our Capt told us yesterday that we would go to our own State & Stay till after election now I do not place any Confidince in the Story although it may be true the Rumor is in everybodys Mouth but I dont know whether it is So or not the weather has been very nice long back warm & pleasant we com from Anderson to Cowan on the [Railroad] cars their was none but our Company come I have been Sick for abut three weeks but am very near well now I had the Measells their has quite a number got them in the Comp but I have had them & got nearly well up & around as well as ever although I do not do any duty yet we have got a

prety good Doctor in our Reg I was prety Sick for a day or two but I have had them once & I Suppose I Shall not have them again I think George Bushnell is having quite an easy time of it Should like to have him doing active Service & let me take his place I guess it wold be all a the time Since he would want & we call this very easy to what it was in VA but never mind I Suppose he is a putting down the Rebellion but I must bring this to a close for it is time for the mail to go now I will write a longer one next time from your

Affect Son Albert

Fayetsville North Carolina
Tuesday March 12th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

Once more I sit down to write one word to let you Know that I am alive & Kicking it has Just been 43 days Since we Started on this great Campaine & have had no Communications from the day we Started until this day Sunday 12th we have been cut off from the whole World & have been Marching through the Enemys Country. South Carolina is all tore to pieces we have come through the center of the State besides running all over it from one end to the other & from one Side to the other everything is burnt up Columbia their Capitol is Burned we took Posession of the City on the 16th of Febuary we have also taken Charleston that I Suppose you Knew at the time of it Fayetville is on the Cape fear River it is the head of Navigation that is where our Communications come from but this is not our Base we have got to march on to Some Say Goldsbourgh is a going to be our Base it is 60 miles from here this the first few days rest Since we have Started marching every day yesterday we marched 20 miles when we come to our Base I will write the Particulars we have only a few moments to write the Mail goes out at one o clk & it is now 10 minutes afore Pleas answer immediately

from your Affect Son

Al

I dont know when I Shall have
A chance to write again

Cowan Station Tennessee

Thursday March 31st 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter 8 days ago very happy was I to hear from home for it had been some time since I have heard from you they keep the letters in Nashville sometimes a week before they will send them to the Reg & it is just so sending a letter home they let them lay in Nashville a week or two we are still stopping in the same place & I think we shall a while all the rumors that we were going to Burnside or into the Army of the Potomac have not proved true as yet nor do I think they will I think we shall stay on this Railroad this Summer at any rate that is what most everyone thinks here & I think it must be the easiest for us to remain here guarding Railroad is not like fighting & marching in old VA I expect the army of the Potomac will have something to do this Spring & they will all around I hope it will be settled this Summer the weather here is warm the trees have all budded out & Peach trees are in full blossom I don't believe you have got along as far as that home the 5th Conn have just returned from home as victors they have not so much to say as when they started for home there is some of them that did not reenlist of course did not go home their time is out in 4 months I think they have the best of it the 5 used to laugh at us about our three years we had got to stay & their time was most out but I think the laugh is on the other leg this time they have got 3 years & we 16 months the 5th conn is the only Conn Reg that has ever been with us that has been in our Brigade our Division & our Corps ever since we have been out & we have always got along first rate together it is fun when we see each other on the march or any where call each other southern Nutmegs & we are faring first rate here all we want to eat & wear & that is about all we expected & quarters tip top Since I received the postage stamps which John sent me in your letter I found some linen thread just what I wanted you said in your letter that you sent me a Neck Tie I think you must have made a mistake & sent linen thread I did not see any Neck Tie I have not received the paper yet it is the first paper sent but what I have got the same time I did the letter this one may come along in a day or two well I think I will close for this time I am well & enjoy myself nicely

Pleas Answer Soon

From your Affect Son Albert

[within the same envelope was a slip of paper with the following:]

Pleas direct to Albert U Platts

Comp C 20 Reg Conn Vols

20th Army Corps

Washington D.C

Cowan Station Tennessee
Wednesday April 6th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Welcom leter on Monday which was happily received & also a paper from Uncle Samuel this Morning I have not much news to write as everything remains abut the Same from one day to another in the Morning we have Roll Call at 6 o clk & also at noon & 8 o clock in the Evening Guard Mounting at 11 o clock in the forenoon have to go on Guard once in three days not very much duty to do we are having Splendid weather here it is most to warm for Comfort in the Middle of the day Some of the Farmers are planting corn they Say really they have their corn the first of April the Season is a good deal earlier her than with you their has 25,000 troops Marched throgh here within the past week for the front most all Vetrans they March from Nashville to the front abut 200 miles a pretty hard March There is So many mountains to climb the other night their was two trains of cars coming towards each other & before they could be Stopped they Struck tearing the cars all to pieces in one car their was a Stove which at the time was fire in it & their was a can of oil in the car & the Stove was all tore to pieces & also the can of oil their was 3 ladys in the car & three men the oil set the car a fire & it burnt So quick & the Peple being jammed So that they could not help themselves were burnt to death the ladys were burned to crisp two of the men Smothered to death & one of them escaped by breaking through the Side of the car it was an awful Sight I tell you abut a week ago the Bushwackers made a raid on to the Railroad abut 6 miles above here where their was no Guard & tore up one rail & lay in ambush for a train of cars when the train come of course they run off the track where the rail was gon & then the Rebs fired into them & the Rebs came up & took what was in the cars but our troops Soon made their appearance & Mr Rebs had to Skedadle & had to let every thing go that they got all them that they took they took everything away from them Beardsley he was 1st Lieut of our Comp at the time he has Since been promoted to Captin of Co.H he was on the train they took him & took away

[on a separate 5" X 4¾" scrap of paper]

all of his clothes & \$300 in money & his watch they Served them all alike that is the way the Bushwackers do but them that gets caught gets their pay for it well I must close for this time I am well & getting along all right

Pleas answer Soon

From your Affect Son Al

Lookout Valley near Chattanooga

Sunday May 1st 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I have not received a leter form you Since I last wrote which was Some time ago but as you will See by this we have Marched we left Cowan Monday Morning & arrived here last night a distance of 60 miles we are encamped about 3 miles from Chatttanooga we are encamped at the foot of Lookout Mountain we have got orders to March to Morrow Morning for Knoxville it is 105 miles from here a pretty good March I think we are under Joe Hooker the 11th & 12th Corps together number about 27,000 men about the right number for him to Manage what we are a going their for we don't know but the Rumor is to come up in the rear of Richmond I Should not wonder if it was Some Such thing as that I will not write but a few lines this time but will write again as Soon as possible I am well it is pretty warm here now write often I Shall get the leters So you must write Just the Same as if we was not on the March I will write again as Soon as possible

From your Affect Son Albert

In Camp near Kingston GA

Saturday May 21st 1864

Dear Father & Mother

As I have a few leisure Moments I think I will write a word So that you may know what part of the land I am in it is the first time I have had a chance to write a word for a long time we are after the Rebs we had a fight at Dalton & drove the Rebs from their we then had a fight at a place called Resaca & hard fighting it was to they are now retreating on atlanta & we are close after them fighting them near all the time our Reg was in both fights their was Considerable many wounded in the Reg & Some killed their was only one or two wounded in our Company & I don't know for certain as their was

but one there is none of the Essex Boys hurt in any way I never got a Scratch our army numbers abut 140,000 Men & the Reb army abut 60,000 I Suppose we will have a hard fight at Atlanta this is the first day we have had a chance to rest Since we Start on the Campaine our Corps numbers 40,000 men commanded by Gen Hooker it is the 11th & 12th Corps consolidated & called the 20th Corps it is very hot it is 45 miles to Atlanta I dont know as I can get a chance to Send this but I thought I wold write it any way I am well Pleas Answer Soon & oblige your

Your Affect Son Albert



Scene - Kingston Georgia

[This letter is one of the few written in pencil.]

near Marietta Georgia
Friday June 7 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I have a very few moments to write & it is very Seldom that we have any chance at all I cannot write but a word I received 3 leters from you last night & very hapy indeed was I to hear from you it had been a long time Since I had heard from you we are Still Marching & fighting continually & the Rebs fleeing before us in every instance but we have lost a great many men Hooker has lost more men than all the other Corps put together he has been in front all the time & will be I think it is Just the place he wants to be in it Suits him Exactly but he has lost an awful Sight of men our Reg has been very lucky So far the loss in killed & wounded is light only it is more that we can tell for we are in the front all the time Except for a few days yes they have been guarding the Suply train I am well & have not

got a Scratch I received the papers that you Sent for which I am very glad of it is very hot here but we have to keep a going we are punishing the Rebs Severly here we have abut 25,000 men reinforcements coming all the while we are close on to Atlanta and Expect a dreadful Battle their our Generals will never give it up till they got it but I must close I will write every opportunity

Pleas answer Soon from your affect Son
Albert

Pleas direct your letters to
The 20th Army Corps
Via Nashville
Tennessee
20th Reg Co C

Acworth [Ackworth] Georgia
Thursday June 11th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind leter Yesterday & very hapy indeed was I to hear from you the Army is Still fighting & driving the Rebs we are fighting for Atlanta now & Expect to take it our Reg Just Saturday was detached from the Brigade Division & Corps & we are now at Acworth Guarding the Suplies Col Ross Commanding the Post how long we Shall Stay here we do not know but Probly until this Campaine [is] over as this is to be the Base of Suplies for the Army our Corps has gone on after the Rebs Hooker had a severe fright night before last the four Corp was Sent to cross a River

Turn to the 3rd Page

& destroy a Brigade the 4 Corp is Commanded by Gen Howard he used to be in Command of the 11th Corp as you Probly remember well when he was Sent down to destroy the Brigade the Rebs Surrounded him & they Sent for Hooker immediately to come to his assistance which he did Hooker went down & Broke the Rebs lines & cut the 4 Corp out & drove the Rebs & then destroyed the Brigade that makes twice he has Saved the 4 Corp I tell you Hooker will fight he loves to fight but he has lost a good many men our Reg belongs to the 3rd Division of Hookers Corp the 3rd Division is Commanded by Gen Butterfield you Probly Saw his name in the Paper you Sent me those 4 cannon that the paper Spoke abut it Said that Hookers men dug holes through the

on the 2nd page
Brest works & hitched ropes to them & drew them out in the night it was
So our Brigade done it & the 20th Reg had a hand in it I helped do it for
once & So did the whole Reg that was at the Battle of Resaca I tell you we
have had Some hard fighting but have whipped the Rebs in any Fight only
thing we have drove them the distance of 75 miles over Mountains & any
thing else it is a very rich country that we have passed through any
quantities of wheat or corn Some corn is as high as the waist but fighting &
men driving over it has ruined it thousands & thousands of acres of wheat
& corn have been Spilt the [railroad] cars with provisions come within 3
miles of the fighting this place is within 3 miles of the fighting we drive
the Rebs out of a town one

On the 4 page
Day the cars come in the next we are So close to the Rebs that they do not
have time to destroy the tracks or Bridges I tell you Gen Sherman is a
Smart man he is to much for Johnston this town is a Splendid little place
I hope we may Stay here Some time Sherman gives us a plenty to Eat
Grant is doing great things in VA I think he is the right man in the right
place I hope the fighting will be done this Summer well I must close for
this time I am well & all right Pleas answer Soon

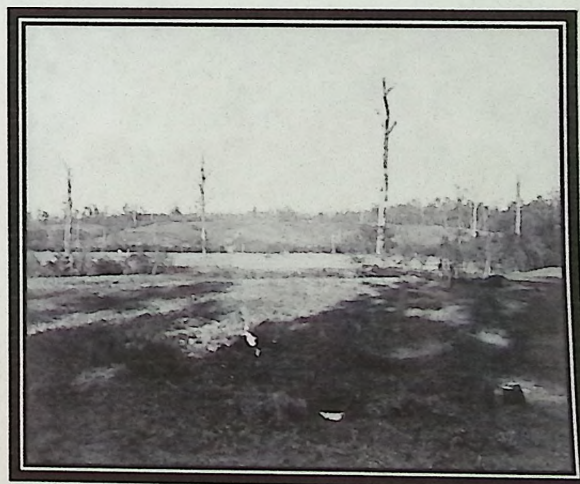
From your Affect Son

Al

P S we have not been paid off Since February we have got to months pay
due us our Capt Says we was to be paid untill the 1st of Sept then we
Shall have 8 months due us



Battle of Resaca, Georgia



Resaca Battlefield

in the Breast works near
Atlanta July 8th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I recieved your Kind leter night before last & hapy Was I indeed to hear from you & leters from home & frinds are thought a good deal of by the Soldier Especialy in Such times as these I am Sorry to anounce the death of Albert Pratt he was Shot on the Morning of the 6th in his tent he was on his Knees folding up his Blankets The Rebs then atacking our Skirmish line trying to drive them in & a Stray Bullet come over & Struck him in the head & loged near his left Jaw he never Knew what hurt him he lived about 15 minutes we made a Box for him & Burried him best we could he was Burried near the Railroad he was thought a great deal of by the Comp he was ordly Sergant there is Someone Shot near every day we are So near the Rebs we have to be very Careful we are working nearer to them every night last night we bilt works a little nearer & So it goes Gen Sherman has Just walked passed looking at the lines he looks like an old farmer the weather is very hot we have a great deal of rain which makes it Some better I am well & hearty

Pleas answer Soon I will writ as often as Possible
from your Affect Son

Albert



General Sherman - In the Trenches Before Atlanta

Marietta Georgia
Tuesday July 12th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I recieved your kind leter a day or two ago & hapy was I indeed to hear from you I can tell you a leter from home is always Acceptable being so far from home makes it more So you will See by this leter that we are at Marietta yes we have got Marietta and have drove the Rebels 10 miles beyond to Chatahoocha River Part of our army is already across the River it is to Rumored that Johnston has Sent Part of his Army to help Lee in VA & it is thought he has & it is Rumored that the 20 Corp Gen Hooker Commanding is ordered to the Army of the Potomac to reinforce Grant & what makes me thing there is Some truth in it [is] because our Corps has Stopped Marching & is not with the rest of the army it is abut 2 miles in the rear of the rest of the army but Still it may be that we are here for Some Flank movement that Sherman may make I presume likely it is for when there is any hard thing to do hard fighting I mean Joe Hooker is called upon he has lost 13,000 out of his Corps Since we left Chatanooga but I tell you Gen Sherman is a Smart man is great on flanking the Rebs out of every Position the day the Rebs was flanked of Kenesaw & lost Mountain four or five hundred Southern Ladies of Course they went over to the houses in Marietta cheering the Rebs on but it was not long before the Rebs had to get off the mountain & the Yankees was Soon down in Marietta & then the Ladies did not feel so well but they raised the Seckesh Flag but Gen Sherman Just put 300 of them under Guard and Sent them to Nashville So I guess they will be quiet Marietta is a place as large as Middletown & I guess larger & pretty to the weather is warm indeed I am well & getting along nicely I can not think of any more to write this time Pleas answer Soon

& believe me your
Affect Son Albert

[Another of the few letters written in pencil]

Within 2 miles of Atlanta
Sunday July 24 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I Sit down to write you a word we are now within 2 miles of Atlanta & dreadful hard fighting we are having there is only one road that the Rebs have got to go out on all the rest are Cut off & Consequently They are Charging on us all the time but are repulsed our Reg was in the hardest fight we was ever in on Wednesday we lost 8 out of our Comp one Killed & 7 wounded Samuel Jagger of Chester has lost an arm Charles Stukey wounded in the arm the doctor thinks that he will get along without losing his arm but he may have to have it off Copr C R Post was Killed he was Shot through the Bowels he died a Short time after he was Struck we lost a good many officers I have made all that were wounded from Essex Stukey & Corp Post the rest of us are all Safe So far we have lost 52 Killed & wounded out of the Reg Fred Chapman was wounded & taken prisoner he was on Picket Gen Sherman demanded the Surrender of the City yesterday but was refused & then he Shelled the City he was Shelling it all night last night & all day to day So far we can See the Spires and Churches very plain from where we are Pleas answer Soon I am well & all right

From your Affect Son

Albert

[This letter was written in red ink.]

Acworth Georgia
Saturday July 28th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind Letter a day or two ago which I was very happy to receive as you may imagine for a wonder we are Still Guarding Suplys but Expected to move every day there is Some dreadful hard fighting a great many men Killed & wounded but the Rebs are being Steadily Pushed back our army is within 12 miles of Atlanta they are fighting at the Chatahoocha River our right wing was on the River there is a big movement up I can tell you Joe Hooker with his Corps and Stoneman with his Cavalry Crossed the River last night & first the Rebs Know they will find Joseph in their rear & Sherman in front I tell you the Rebs are getting enough of it this Summer all around we have have got Smart Generals the Citizens here what there is left most of them run away Say that they hope we will get

Johnstons whole army Johnston told the Citizens that the Yankees will kill all the Women & Children & make the men fight So that a great many of them went with his army when we went into Cassville our Reg was the first one in the Citizens left their tables Standing with Butter on it pie cake & Jumped up from the table & run Scard to death but they find the Yankees don't hurt them I received the thread & HDK that you Sent me & one that uncle Samuel Sent Just what I wanted I have received all the Papers that you Sent I tell you we Jump at a Conn Paper every word is read I can tell you Gen Butterfield Commanding our Division is very Sick & Started for home yesterday he lives on the Hudson River he is a Smart Gen he is a young man I will Send Ma a couple of Blossoms that are called Ma Apples they are a Splendid thing when they are a growing the vine on which they grow leaves first it taste like an orange & as large as a Citron I have nothing but red ink to write with it is all the kind we can get now but beter than nothing it is very warm I never knew it as warm at home as it is here how we Stand it is more than I can tell but have got t— [used] to it I am well I can not think of more to write this time

Pleas answer Soon

From your Affect Son

Alfred

Near Atlanta Georgia
Friday August 5th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind leter night before last & mighty pleased was I to hear from home I also received the Paper & HDK which is just what I needed I am rather tired we have to bild Brest works nights we can not build them days without getting Shot at by the Rebs we are So near them & we are getting nearer to them all the while the Rebs & Yanks are close together So near that when one Side Shows his head he is Shot at by the other So it becomes us to keep down as much as Possible the City of Atlanta is plain to our view our Corps is holding the Centre this time Hooker is not on the Flank for a wonder there is Some Flank Movements going on that is certain whereabouts Gen Sherman can tell better than I can Gen Hooker has left the army of the Cumberland & ordered to report to Washington for duty he came around to all of the Boys & he Shed tears like a Child when he left we miss him greatly he Says Boys if it is Possible my Corps Shall go where I go Gen Williams is in command of the Corps they can not let Hooker be

in one place long at a time they move him all around there is fighting on
Some part of the line every day their was Some Shot in the Breast works
close by us to day Atlanta is Strongly fortified large forts all around but I
think he will be Flanked out in a Short time & I hope we may have a Short
rest after that for the Army needs rest we have got to move out in to the
front line of Breast works I presume you have Seen the account of the
Battle we had on the 20th of July Charles Stark had his arm taken off it
was Shot So bad they had to cut it off I must close for this time I am well
have a plenty to Eat & wear one year from the 15th of the month our time is
out that year will Soon wear away pleas answer Soon & believe me ever
your

Affect Son Albert

I received the Stamps that John Sent me

In the Breast works before Atlanta
Tuesday August 16th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind leter last night & a Paper for which I am much obliged
I can assure you I came off the Skirmish line last night & found the leter &
Paper in Camp for me I can tell you it put me on my legs right away the
Skirmish line & Pickets is just the Same the Skirmish line is within 200
feet of the Rebs line on the Skirmish line we have pits dug in the ground
large enough to hold four men in each pit 4 men Stay in the pit 6 hours &
then are relieved for 6 hours by 4 other men when we go into the pit we
have to crawl on our hands & Knees if we Stand up it is almost certain
death & So we have to work in 24 hours once in three days when we got
into our pit we raise our head very cautiously to See if we can See a Rebel &
if one happens to have his head above the works he gets a dozen Bullets
fired at him & it is just so with us if one of us happens to get our head
above the pits he gets a dozen or more Bullets fired at him Some of the
Boys will get an old Cap & put it on a Stick & hold it above the works & the
Cap will be full of holes made by the Bullets So you See that it is not Safe
for us to Show our heads our main line is abut 300 yards from the Rebs
Bullets come in too the Camp all the time while I am writing Bullets are
whistling over my head we have to be very careful there is not a day
passes that Some one gets Killed or wounded yesterday their was one
Killed & two wounded & So it is day after day their has not been any

Battle for Some days but when there is it will be a hard one their may be one any moment if they come out & attack us they will catch it Gen Sherman is getting around their flank all the time Sherman is not a rash man he is Slow & Sure & I think that is the way we are receiving reinforcements Gen Slocum is coming up from Vicksburg you will remember he used to Command our Corps, the old 12th Corps it is Said he will take Command of the 20th Corps I hope it is So now Hooker is gon Slocum is a good General yesterday we drawed new Clothing we have a plenty to Eat & wear I am well it is very warm that man in Chester that lost his arm his name is Samuel Jagger I can not think of much more to write this time Pleas Answer Soon & oblige your Affect Son

Albert

P S we have not been paid off for 7 months when we Shall I don't know but not until this campaine is over

GA

In the works near Atlanta

Tuesday August 23rd 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind leters to day one was wrote the 2nd of August & one the 15th & got them both the Same day So I think the first one must have been delayed in Some way leters do not come very regular at the present time we are living in the Same position we were when I last wrote you that is our Corps both wings of the army have Swung in the left wing is right in amongst the houses & they are all the time closing in on them our Corps Holding the Centre & being as near the Rebs as we can get without having a fight we occupy the Same position we did when I last wrote Hood has been reinforced I think & their lines are to Strong to be carried by Storm & therefore they will have to be flanked out in their line of works around Atlanta they have a fort once in 300 yds & their line is very Strong but they will have to get out of their in time that is pretty certain Sunday night Gen Killpatrick with 2 Divisions of cavely Started & went clean around Atlanta he went in on the right of our army & came out on the left they come in this Morning I Saw the Gen & his men myself they had been 3 nights & 2 days without any Sleep on one of the Sadle only to tear up the Railroad & destroy things they tore up the Macon Railroad & went 11 miles to Jonesville a town 7 miles below Atlanta & their they burnt up the town & a large amount of Suplys & other property the Rebs Sent a force of

Cavely after them to attacked them in their rear & a force of infantry in the front & Surrouded Killpatrick & the Reb Gen Sent in a flag of truce to Surrender but Killpatrick could not See it So he took the horse away from the one that brought in the flag & Sent him back without any answer & then he Massed his force & cut his way out he captured one piece of artillery & 60 prisiners he Said 200 will cover his loss Killed wounded & Missing & this Morning he come in all right a pretty good thing & I think Killpatrick is a Smart Gen their is one man Killed out of the Reg today of Com A there is Someone Killed or wounded out of the Reg every day that passes by the Rebel Sharp Shooters we are So near the Rebs that it makes it rather of a dangerous position you Spoke abut the Sanatary Commission I think it is a good thing Especialy for the wounded & Sick but the able bodied & well do not get much from it very little but the Sick & wounded do we have a plenty to Eat & to wear but not much vegetables they can not get it in a Campaine as they can when the army lays Still I Supose our Reg has 11 months longer to Stay that is all I am well & getting along nicely I can not think of more to write this time Pleas answer Soon

From your Affect Son

Albert

I received Uncle Samuels Paper that he Sent

Al

on the Chatahoocha River
Thursday September 1st 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind leter last night & indeed it was very wellcom the more leters we get the beter we feel you will See by this leter that we have moved last Thursday night we had orders to move they came in the night we Started about 3 o clock in the Morning where we was going we did not Know but we knew we was taking the back roads we Marched 6 miles to the River the first Division to one fort & the 2nd Division to another nothing but our Corps fell back to the River our Corps was told to hold the river at all Hazards & we have held it So far the Rebs attacked us on Saturday but they was repulsed & they fell back to Atlanta but while the Rebs was following us up they of course thought that the whole army was retreating back & they thought they could capture Some of us on the retreat but instead of the whole army retreating Sherman took all the rest of his

army 6 Corp & Marched 25 miles below Atlanta going to Macon leaving our Corp to guard the River the Rebel Gen found out what was going on & Started after in hot persiut Shermans Scouts reported that Hood was after Him with a large force Sherman immediately faced abut & built works all night & the next Morning Hood was on to him you will understand that Sherman is in the rear of Hood So that Hood has got to whip Sherman & drive hime or he has got to leave Atlanta one or the other Hood charged Shermans lines 10 times the first day & at last account the fighting was going on as hard as ever the Rebs loss on the first day was reported at 35,000 Killed wounded & taken prisinor & ours at 15,000 we were in works the Rebs Charged the works which accounts for So much more loss on their Side but the fighting is Said to [be] terrible we are So far off we cannot hear the firing only once in a while we can hear a cannon our Corp is all the while Strengthening its Position for the Gen is afraid that if the Rebs cannot drive Sherman that they will throgh their whole force on our Corp & try to crush it & then get in the rear of Sherman & Consequently we are doing every thing to Strengthen our Position Gen Slocum took Command of our Corps Saturday the Same day the Rebs attacked us we are all glad to See him back he is a good Gen Shermans move is a bold move but we all think he will get Atlanta by it a Short time will tell either Sherman will get dreadfuley whipped or Hood will & we think Hood will there is a force of Rebs in our front all the while to oppose our going into Atlanta our Corps hapend to be luckey this time the reason is because it is So Small their is 6 Reg in our Brigade & in the whole 6 Regs there is only 1,030 men about the Same as our Reg when we left N Haven our Reg numbered one thousand men when we left N Haven the nights are getting cool & the days very hot I am well & getting along nicely they owe us 8 months pay now but I don't Suppose we Shall get it right away not until the fighting is over we hardly know how money looks it has been So long Since we have had any well I must close for this time & hoping to hear from you Soon I remain as ever your very

Affect Son Albert

I received The Paper that you Sent

Al

City of Atlanta Georgia
Monday Sept 12th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Hind leter last night & hapy was I to be the reciepiant of a word from home well I Suppose you have heard of the Capture of Atlanta it is ever So Hood was Whiped out Generald & demoralized in my last leter I told you of the 20th Corp falling back on the River to hold the Ford while Sherman with the rest of the army operated in the rear of the Rebs the Rebs Suposing that our army was falling back from Atlanta had cars [railroad cars] running night & day to Agusta brining ammution guns in to Atlanta to follow up Sherman with & annihilate Sherman altogether as that is what they Said but first they Knew their Railroad was not in working order Something must be the Matter come to find out Sherman was around in their rear & had two or three lines of works across their Railroad & they had no communications Hood takes his army & goes down to whip Sherman & drive him back but instead of Whiping Sherman he Gen Hood gets one of the worst whipings he has ever had they had two days of hard fighting when Hoods army was routed & cut in two one part went one way & one part another & of course they had to leave Atlanta which they did in a great Hurry They burnt 4 car loads of ammution all of their large guns they destroyed & any amount of small arms of all descriptions they left 4 Engines our Corp entered the City on 2nd of Sept the City was full of Citizens & great many Rebel Soldiers which wold not go with [the] army Most of the Citizens Said they was glad our army had come in they had holes dug in the ground to Keep away from our Shells which they Said was Killing Some one every day They Eate & Sleep in those holes in the ground another of a poor way of living I Should think their was hardly a house in the whole City but what our Shells went through & a great many Set fire by the Shells & burnt down it is a City as large as Hartford it was a great place for making Shells & Powder it was a great business place but the factorys have gon now Gen Sherman has issued an order congratulating his men for their good Sucesses on this Campagne its one of the best orders I ever heard read you will probly See it in print & then you can read I geas you will Say as I do Gen Sherman Says he has accomplished all he Expected to the Capture of Atlanta & now the army is a going to rest it is what they need very much & it is what they are going to have So Gen Sherman Says we Soldiers think that Gen Sherman is one of the Smartest Gens on record he has handeled his army nicely he is a very careful man Slow & Sure but he has drove the Rebs the most miles & the worst of Countrys of any Gen yet & we think him just as Smart as the next one any one to look at him wold think he was a Back woodsman there is no Show to him whatever he does not forget the poor Soldier under him he Speaks

to him as Soon as any one well I must close for this time I am well & all
right Pleas answer Soon from your
Affect Son Albert

handKerchiefe

P S pleas Send me a cheap Pockets HDK Pls
I will Send Mother a tassell which came from the City of Atlanta

Atlanta Georgia

Tuesday September 20th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind leter last night & also a Paper which was hapily
received we like to read the news from our own State Especialy in this
times I hope the draft will take Some of those fellows that want the war
ended & also want to Stay at home & have Some one else do the Fighting
for them I think the Peple at the North are getting rich if they can afford to
give 2 or three thousand Dollars for a Substitute I Suppose they rake &
Scrape every cent Some of them I wish they could not By a Sub then they
wold have to Come I have not heard as they have drafted any where we
have heard Such a Story that the President is a going to put off the draft
what for we don't See hope it is not So I don't think it is well Shermans
army is having a rest a Short one I Suppose we need rest I can tell you we
are in hopes we Shall be Paid off Soon whether we Shall or not is not
Known to us our Reg has a Beautiful Camp Ground & a healthy Place we
have all got a new Suit of Clothes all through So that we think we look quite
respectable good enough o receive visitors & a plenty to Eate only one
thing & that is Vegetables we get a very few Sweet Potatoes once in a
while but not enough to do any good only to Satisfy the taste for a Short
time I think if I was at home I might get a taste from Some Kind of
Vegetables Gen Sherman has issued an order ordering all Sutlers out of his
army they fell mighty bad Gen Sherman Says they have made enough out
of the Soldiers in his army he is a going to have a goverment Store in the
City of Atlanta So that a Soldier can get what he needs at a goverment Price
which will be cheaper than we could get them at home we can get the best
Kind of Sugar for 20 cts a lb which I think is cheaper than you can by it at
home & other things in porportion we could get them if we had the money
I mean & hope we Shall get it Soon I gess we Shall their is a good many
of the Citizens here in the City that come from New Haven before the war
Broke out to work in the Foundryes & are here now & Some of the Reg new

them or at least Some of them we have got 10½ Months longer before our time is out I hope we may have an easy time during our time well I must close for this time this is my last Postage Stamp that I Shall put on this leter & dont See how I can get any more untill I receive another leter from you I most always get a Stamp in your leter & Johns & Uncle Samuels their is none in the Company every one is gunning for a Stamp

Pleas answer Soon & belieccve me

ever your Affect Son

Albert

I am well



14th and 20th Corp Moving out of Atlanta

Atlanta Georgia

Sunday October 16th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received two kind leters from you on Friday the 17th of the Month one of them was wrote the 27 of Sept & one from the 18 of Sept So that they had been made one month on the road but you may rest assured They was a most Welcom Missive when they did come I have not written for a month nearly until now the reason being their was no mail went any more than it come the reason being the Rebs are on our rear or at least they have been & have had the road cut for Some time So that nothing could come or go on the road the whole Rebel Army was in our rear Commanded by the Rebel Gen Beauregard Except a few cavalry in front of Atlanta but Gen Sherman watched their movements & when he thought they had got far enough he took all of his army Except the 20th Corps & went after them well he has had two fights with them & whiped them Severley both times Scattering all

over the County Capturing their Suplys they had only 5 days rations with them & Gen Killpatrick with his Calvery destroyed all of their Pontoon Bridges that they had to Cross the River with So that the Rebs can not get back without going a long ways they are Steering for Alabama Gen Sherman Telegraphed to Gen Slocum that he would not let even the Smallest number of them get back again So you See they are getting terribly Punished for trying to Stop our Communications & draw Sherman from Atlanta but Sherman had his eyes open to -- for them there is no other Corps nor troops here only ours Gen Slocum was ordered to hold the city & Strongly Fortify it these orders are being Strictly carried out Since the Rebs went South our Corps has bilt 19 Forts of the largest Size & a line of works to connect each fort each fort is to have nine Guns in it Our Corps is to Stay here all winter So that I think on the whole we are pretty lucKey we have nice winter quarters bilt the lines around the city is three miles in length & every house outside of that line & inside our Picket line is tore down & Fixed into Soldiers houses there is not a woman or Child in the City of Atlanta they have all been Sent off Gen Sherman does not believe in Suporting the Rebs Wifes & Children although it was rather hard to See them go leave their homes well they Should not have been Rebs then I think Gen Hood got about as good as he Lent when he wrote to Gen Sherman Concerning the Women & Children in Atlanta we have not heard any news from the North for a long time Since our Communications was cut until within a day or two I Supose you was worried because you did not hear from me before but it could be helped we had not heard one word from Conn nor Seen a Paper nor anything of the kind for a month it Seemed a long time I can tell you but they was good when they did come I received the Paper Postage Stamps & more that you Sent for which I am greatly obliged we have not been Paid off yet but Expect to be Soon most Ten months Since we have been Paid we was on half rations for a Spell but Gen Sherman Issued an order that the Troops in Atlanta bilding Fortifications Should have full rations & theirfore we do I am well & getting along nicely I wrote to John before the road was cut but have not heard from him yet

Well I must close for this time
Pleas Answer Soon
From your Affect Son
Albert

Atlanta Georgia
Wednesday October 25th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter last Eve & hapy indeed was I to hear from you it was wrote the 9th of October we had just come in from a foraging Expedition from the Rebel Country Our Division all went down to Stone Mountain 20 miles below Atlanta we took 800 waggons with us & brought them back full Some was loaded with Corn Some with Sweet Potatoes Ham Chickens Geese Turkeys Hogs Sheep Cattle Honey Molaces Butter Vinegar & every thing one could think of I tell you we are living Gay old days Sweet Potatoes Fresh Pork Beefe & Mutton One Division goes out every week we were gone 4 days we have a good time Pleasant weather & not very warm I don't think Hood will make more of trying to cut our Communications the Road is open now clean through & Sherman has whipped him & drove him off their is a rumor now that our Corps is going back on to the Railroad near where we was last winter it is Said that the 14th army Corps will Relieve us here how true it is I don't know possibly we may Cant tell we are having very Pleasant weather indeed it Seems like Fall at home Major Pardee is in Command of our Reg now Lieut Col Buckingham is in Command of the Brigade the Commander having gone home on leave of absence Col Ross is in Marietta he has Command of a Brigade their & also of Marietta & the Kennessaw Mountains we had rather have him here with us Beebe & Myself are going to have Some Beans for Dinner we had Sweet Potatoes & Fresh Pork for Breakfast So I think we Shall not Starve at Present I also received a leter from Miss Anna Pratt the Same time I did yours really very Pleasant to hear from her & I will answer it as Soon as Possible I received a letter from Uncle Samuel the Same time I have wrote to John Some time ago but have not heard from him for Some time The mails have been irregular of late but they will get to going again Soon I can not think of much more to write So I will close I am well Pleas Answer Soon

From your Affect Son Albert

Atlanta Georgia
Saturday October 29th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I recieved your dear Kind leter Yesterday & hapy indeed was I to hear from you I also recieved one from John [his brother] it had been Some time Since I had heard from him but Beter late than never we are having very pleasant weather now not Very Cold Just abut right for Comfortable I Suppose we Shall Soon move I think in a few days it is Said that we go back on the Railroad near where we were last winter we Shall probly take the cars Cant tell Certain but that is the Rumor Part of our Division is on another Foraging Expedition I think we Shall Clean the Rebel Country of all eatebles if we keep on we have heard nothing from Sherman for Some days where he is we Know not but looking out for the Rebs I Suppose the Railroad is often Clear through now Rebs all Cleaned out Except Some Small roving Band that live in the Vicinity

Our Reg Voted yeaterday McClelon is gon up Salt River in this Reg nearly all Voted for Lincoln I could not Vote because I never was made -- [freeman?] but if I could I Should Voted for Old Abe that is what is the Matter their is a good many that has become of age Since they came out that cannot Vote I think they had ought to let us Vote but they wont well I gues Lincoln will be elected if we dont Vote we are Expecting to get Paid off any day & have been for a long time but have not been paid yet hope we Shall Soon Monday 31st of October we Shall have 10 Months Due us hope we Shall get Paid before we move I have never recieved my handkercheife yet & I have forgotten whether you Said in your last leter that you Sent me one or not but I have not recieved any yet I am well have plenty to Eat & wear & getting along nicly I cannot think of any thing more to write I wrote a leter to Miss Anna Pratt Yesterday

Pleas answer Soon &
Believe me ever your Affect
Son Alfred

I will Send home a Diary that
Albert Pratt gave me before he was
Killed

Atlanta Georgia
Friday November 11th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I received your dear Kind leter last night & hapy indeed was I to hear from home it had been Some time Since I had heard from you but beter late than

never we are Still in Atlanta but I but I think we Shall not Stay here long we are under Marching orders it is Said for a 30 days Campaigne our Corps & the army of the Tennessee are going Sherman has drove hard & Whiped him badly & now the army is back here it is Said we are going hard to the Gulf Savanah it is certain we are going Somewhere we Started last night and marched 3 mile when the order was countermanded on Tuesday Morning about day light the Rebs attacked our Corp but were drove them off in less then one hour I Supose they thought they were a coming right in to Atlanta but they were greatly Misstaken they could not get in we Expect to march very day but may not for abut a week you Said you had not heard from me for a long time it is not because I have not wrote you for I have wrote every week & I think you must have heard from me before this at any rate we got the news yesterday that Mr Lincoln was Elected by a large majority hope it is So & think that he is I have heard that Col William Wooster Made a Speech in D— the other night I will but he gave it to the Copperheads you know he was formaly Lieut Col of our Reg & now Col of the 29th Cold [colored] Reg he is a nice man it is Said that our time is out in May there is 30 days furlough about every year & as we did not get it it is to be allowed us at the end of the last year & they Say that we are to be Mustered out in May hope it is So it is quite cool hear now I am well have plenty to Eate & wear the Boys from Chester & Essex are all well I recieved the Paper & Stamps I can not think of much more to write Col Ross is in Command of our Brigade now

Pleas answer Soon
Believe me ever your Affect Son
Albert

It is a Picture taken the other day it is a black as the ace of Spades you must not think I am as black as the Picture represents

[Another letter written in VERY faint pencil]

Camp of the 20th Conn Vols
Near Savanah Georgia December
18th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

Yesterday I received 2 dear Kind leters from you it had been a long time Since I had heard from you & I gess you will think it has been Some time

Since you have heard from me but Sherman & his army has at last turned up at Savanah Georgia after Marching 370 miles we Started from Atlanta on the 15th of November we arrived here the 10th of December we are now within 3 miles of Savanah it is reported the Rebs have 19,000 men here whether they have or not Sherman will Soon be in Savanah he demanded the Surrender of the City last night he has not got an answer as yet we can look into the City it is a nice place we had 370 miles without any Communications whatever & lived on the Country & I tell you we lived well to anything we wanted we had Sweet potatoes fresh Pork mutton beefe Sugar Honey & most everything you can think of I tell you Georgia is a Splendid country but where Sherman has been everything is destroyed he moved in four colums all the way through the State he has destroyed all of their Railroads the agusta & atlanta road the Georgia central road the Mason & Agusta road the Macon & Savanaah road the agusta & Savanah road the Savanah & Charleston road & the Gulf road all of this are burnt all of their Businesses are burnt Depots we arrived here at Milledgeville the Capitol of Georgia 22nd of November & left the 24th as Soon as he got here he opened Communications with the fleet where rations clothing & mail were waiting for us we felt Safe when Sherman was our leader their was Some thought that he could not get through but he has & he has had no fight at all Except the cavely we came Some 50 miles through nothing but Swamp & pine forest but the rest of the way was a Splendid Country the citizens buried all of their Stuff in the Swamps but we found all of their things their was a good many nights that we Marched all night long but we were obliged to I Suppose I Suppose it is cool weather at home but we have warm weather we are obliged to Seek the Shade of trees to Keep Comfortable it is So warm in the Middle of the day nights are cool we have Brest works the Same as at Atlanta only not So Strong Atlanta was Burned to the Ground when we left if Sherman has not made a bold Strike this time then I don't know we call it a Big thing you may not be Surprised to hear of him around Charleston Soon for he can take Savanah at any moment he chooses his army numbers 90,000 men you had beter believe I was glad to hear from hom I received the Hand Ker Chief & Paper I have not received John leter yet
Pleas answer Soon from
Your Affect Son Albert

Pleas direct Washington D C

I will write more Particulars next time



Sherman's March To The Sea

Savanah Georgia

Monday Eve December 26th 1864

Dear Father & Mother

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines although I have not received a letter from you Since I last wrote but Expected one Soon Gen Sherman & his army marched in to the City of Savanah on the Morning of the 21st the Rebs having Evacuated the night before we captured all of their large Guns & a lot of locomotives pretty much all they had they did not have time to take up their Pontoon Bridges that they crossed the River on Gen Sherman was up to his old Trick cutting their Communications from the East he Sent a force across the Savanah River & they got up & Started immediately they had to burn their Gun Boats to get them out of our way none of the Citizens left we found them Scared nearly to death afraid of Sherman & his Yankees our fleet Comes right up to the City well what do the People North think of this movement of Sherman we consider it the greatest thing yet give us Sherman & we will go any where we have been bilding houses for our own comfort Lucien & myself have Just got ours done & don't you think to night we have had orders to march to Morrow Morning I think our labor is in vain this time we are going to move to some other part of the City we are now lying on the North Side of the City I don't think we Shall move far I have not heard from John [his brother] yet I received a letter from Miss Anna Pratt I Shall answer it as Soon as Possible I can not write much of a letter to night for the candle is most out

but I thought I wuld write a word or two When I had a chance I am well &
getting rested from our long March through the Rebellion Pleas answer
Soon & beleive me ever your Affect Son

Albert

Direct Washington D C
Instead of Nashville Tennessee
Al

Wish you a hapy Christmas

1865

11 Letters

Hardees Plantation
South Carolina Thursday
January 12th 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I received a Kind leter from you on Sunday but & now take the opportunity to give you a few lines in answer you will See by this that we have moved Since I last rote we moved across the Savanah River the last day of December we are 6 miles from Savanah across the River in South Carolina we are in camp on Hardees Planation it is a very good camp their is only our Division across the River that is the 3rd Division of the 20th army Corps we are here to Keep the Reb Cavely from firing on our Boats as they come up the River how long we Shall Stay here is more than I can tell 2 Corps of Shermans army has already gone off the 15th & the 11th Corps they took Transports where they have gone No one Knows except Sherman himself I Should not wonder if the rest of the army did not have to go of course their will be enough left to hold Savanah & I presume the rest of the [army?] will go Some where else it is rumored that our Corps is going to Virginia but I dont think that their is any truth in it the mail does not go out only once a week & does not come in only once a week it comes in on Friday and Goes out on Saturday So that we do not hear from home very often it is very warm & Pleasant to day but we have cold nights & warm days we are geting new clothes now a new Suit clear through we need them I can tell you we are geting a plenty to Eate now for the army I think after we get clothed up Sherman will Start for Charleston before Hot weather comes on for it is to warm to move an army here in the Summer time it must be very Sickly here in warm weather Such low ground & So many Swamps I hope we get away from here before that time I received a leter from John the other day I am glad he is going to Stay with Mr Clark longer he Says he wants inlist I told him not to I told him he had beter Stay at home our time is out in 7 months have not a good while longer to Stay I can not think of much more to write this time I am well Beebe is well & all of the Chester Boys I Shall write every week & I want you should do the Same Pleas answer Soon & direct as I told you in my last leter & believe me ever your Affet Son

Albert

I wold like a pair of Suspenders if you could Send them in a Paper I would like it Al I wish you hapy

New Year Al

Hardees Ville South Carolina
Monday January 23rd 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I received a Kind letter from you yesterday & happy indeed was I to hear from home & I was glad that you received my letters you will see by this that we have moved since I last wrote we moved from Hardees Plantation to Hardees Ville the distance of 13 miles so that we are now 22 miles from Savannah on the Charleston Road Sherman has issued orders to the army that our stay here would be short & to prepare for another campaign so that I presume we shall not stay here long Some say that we are going to Augusta Some Charleston & from there to Richmond but I don't suppose anyone knows but Sherman & he is not apt to tell his plans all over the world but I presume you will hear of him in another quarter before long the roads are so soft & muddy to move an army now we have had 4 days of steady rain so that the roads are very bad Gen Fosters army will hold Savannah when we move Some of his army is there already Col Ross has gone home on a 30 day furlough Capt Smith has just returned to the camp he left us before we took Atlanta last summer he went home sick he lives in Seymour Conn I received a letter from John yesterday & one from Miss Anna Pratt John sent his picture I don't see as he has changed much since I left I think he has grown there is not much news to write we do not get half of the news that you do at home but I calculate to write something every week when we are where we can Some times we can't write you know I am well & getting along nicely Please answer soon & believe me Ever your Affectionate Son

Albert

Roberts Ville
South Carolina
Tuesday January 31st 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I received your kind letter last Saturday at Hardees Ville & expected to answer it Sunday Sunday came & marching orders with it & consequently I did not have a chance to answer it we started Sunday morning at 7 o'clock & marched to Pereys Ville 18 miles got there at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a pretty hard march Stopped over night Started

Monday Morning & Marched 8 Miles to Roberts Ville we Started at 7 and got here at 9 o clock 2 hours March without Stoping to rest once our whole Corps will concentrate here the 2nd Division Gen Grey will be here to day & also the 14th Corps I Suppose the whole army will concentrate here when Gen Sherman gets good & ready he will Start we Should not Stay here long I dont think Shall be More than 2 or 3 days but cant tell as far as we have been in South Carolina we have burnt every house & building of every kind Roberts Ville is a Small village about the Size of Winthrop not a man Woman or Child in the place all left Sombody tryde to blow up the City of Savanah on the 28th they blew up the Magazine it burnt 2 Blocks of buildings they have not asertained how many was Killed or wounded & they have not found out who done it it is warm & pleasant to day I can not have tiime to write Much as we have an inspection this afternoon & I Shall have to get ready for that I received a leter from Miss Wealthy the Same day I did yours I Shall answer it the first opportunity I am well & all right I will Send Some Verses composed by the 20th Corps they were composed at Atlanta

Pleas answer Soon & believe me ever
your Affect Son Al

[this is the most unusual letter of all. It is written in pencil and was obviously written in haste, the writing basically scribbled in large letters]

Goldsboro

Beebe is all right

Goldsboro North Carolina
March 26. 1865

Dear Father & Mother

it is now Sunday Evening & we have Just been informed that the Mail goes out to Morrow at 6 o clock & I will [write] a line Saying that I am Safe & Well not a Scratch had 2 hard battles Reg loss heavy I will write again immediately

your Aff Son
Albert

Camp of the 20th Conn Vols
Goldsboro North Carolina

March 29, 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I now take the opportunity of writing home once more It has been a long long time Since I have been found with the Pleasure of writing I wrote a line to you a day or two ago So that you might Know that I was all right Night before last I received two kind leters from you which you may imagine was most hapily received & read & 3 papers also that did not go amis We have been Shut off from the outer world 58 days we have been cut loose from all Communications but have finally fetched up at Goldsboro a distance of over 500 miles we are now getting clothed up

Gen Sherman has issued an order to his army Saying that we Shall have rest & plenty of Supplies from the rich Graniers of our Magnificent Country before embarking again on new & untried dangers Since we left Savanah Charleston has been evacuated & also Willmington Shermans army having obliged them to do it South Carolina is entirely destroyed its Capitol burned its Railroads all destroyed and it is entirely ruined you Spoke about having a fight at Branchville we Should but Sherman flanked them out of this & I Shall always remember how he did it too by wading his army across the North Edistoe River on the Morning of the 15th of February before Sunrise the water was more than waist deep & oh how cold It Seems as if it wold take the Breath out of our Body their was Just a thin Skin of ice on the top of the water but we went throgh & consequently the Rebles left Branchville & then we went to Columbia & flanked them out of their & then we have marched untill within about 20 or thirty miles of this place they brought their whole Combined forces against us & on the 16th & 19th of March we fought 2 hard Battles but drove them from the field in both engagements leaving their dead & wounded on the field on the 16th our Reg lost 22 Killed & wounded on the 19th our Reg lost 25 Killed & wounded in both Battles our Company has 6 wounded & 3 Killed none of the Chester Boys or Essex Boys was hurt in the least Their was one Killed from East Haddam by the name of John Burns & Abner Smith lost his leg but Since died Their has 5 died out of the wounded within two days but I was again luckey & got not even a Scratch the Bullets was flying thick & fast arund me but I came out Safe & very thankful am I for it but Sherman & his army has accomplished great things I was greatly Surprised the day after we got here Who should Come to See me but Herbert Rose I did not think of Seeing any one from Essex & very hapy indeed to meet him he Said he left home 3 weeks ago he Said he saw you He is Quatermaster Clerk he is a going to follow the army I am greatly obliged to Miss Anna

Pratt for thos Mittens that She Knitt but I Shall not need them now it is very warm here Peach Trees are all in full Blossom I Shall write to her the first opportunity I received a leter from the Judge I was really glad to hear from him I Shall answer it Soon we have a good many leters to write keeps us writing all the time Just what we like to do I received a leter from John also I tell you it Seems good to hear from him & frinds Well I must close for this time & hoping to hear from you Soon I remain your
Affect Son Albert

Direct as before

I received the Suspenders

Camp of the 20th Reg Conn Vols
Goldsboro North Carolina
Thursday April 6th 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I now sit down to write you a few lines in answer to a Kind leter from you which I received last night & hapy indeed was I to hear from home but I feel Sad to hear of the death of -- Susie Munro although I Expected it from what you wrote me before She has wrote me a good many leters and Sent me a good many Papers She Sent me her Picture last Summer & I have it now & Shall Keep it our Division has just come in from review we have been reviewed by Major Gen Slocum our new Corp Commander Gen Slocum assigned two the army of Georgia our Junction with Scofield [Schofield?] & Terry makes them a very large army Gen Lee may Come with his whole hosts but he Cannot Budge us an inch Gen Sherman has organized his army thus the Right wing army of Tennessee consists of the 15th & 11 Corps Major Gen Howard Commanding the left Wing army of Georgia consists of 14th & 20th army Corps Major Gen Slocum Commanding the Center army of the Ohio consists of 10th & 23rd army corps Major Gen Scofield [Schofield?] Commanding So that you See that he has a Powerfull & well organized army we have Just now received news that Gen Grant has taken Richmond with 25,000 prisiners & 500 Pieces of artillery now I hope this is true & it is Said to be but we are afraid that it is not but if it is it has saved us a great deal of Fighting but then we ment to have the honor of taking Richmond ourselves & we may have yet Cant tell we have taken most all of the impregnable Places in the Confederacy we have Expected to move Soon in the direction of Richmond but if Richmond is taken it will alter Gen

Shermans Plans Materialy when we came here we was raged & a great many was Barefooted my Shoes was all wore out on the Bottom So that my feet was on the Ground no Stockings at all a great many had not a Sign of a Shoe to their foot but now we have got all the Clothes we want & need all washed & cleaned up & a plenty to Eate yesterday I Saw a New York Herald & it had the accounts of our Battles on the 16th & 19th of March but half of it was not true it Said that the Rebs attacked the 20th Corp & drove them Back with considerable loss & that the 14th & 17th Corps came up to our assistance & routed the Rebs now that is not So I will tell you how it was the 14th Corps was attacked By the Rebs & got flanked & fell Back about one mile our Corps was immediately called up to assist the 14th Corps which we did & our Brigade that is Gen Cogwells was placed on the left of the 14th Corp as Soon we got their to Stop the Rebs from Flanking the 14th Corp the Rebs Charged us three times but our Brigade repulsed them every time & we no Brest works at all but Stood right up & fought & many a poor Soldier lost his life now that is Just as it was the next day the Rebs was gone & the Herald Says that Cogwells Brigade of the first Division of the 28th Corp was in another place it Says of 2nd Corps now that is a MistaKe it was Cogwells Brigade of the 3rd Division of the 20th Corps that is Wards Division & Cogwells Brigade is the 3rd Brigade of Wards Division & our Reg belongs to that Brigade this is the truth & Just as it is when Col Ross left the Brigade Gen Cogwell took Command Col Ross is in Hartford I hope you will receive the Picture that I Sent home I received the handKerchief & Suspenders that Ma Sent

[on a separte 4½ X 7½ sheet torn from a larger one]

P.S. their is a good deal of Religious which Manifested in this army at the Present time their was Some forty Meetings held in different Regs last night & So it is every night our Chaplin Joined us Just after we Started from Savanah His name is Lyman he is from New Haven our Regs has Meetings every night & has had for a Week Past I am glad to See it

Al

I will Send this leter in a Rebel Envelope

[The letter is enclosed in a flimsy rust colored envelope & postmarked Newbern NC]

Camp of the 20th Conn Vols

Raleigh North Carolina
Sunday April 23rd 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I now take the opportunity of Sending you a few lines in answer to a Kind letter received from you a day or two Since & also two Papers which was read a great deal of interest I received a letter from Miss Anna Pratt She wrote that Father has been Sick & under the Doctors care as you did not Say anything about it I gess you did not calculate to let me Know it we are Still laying here in Raleigh [I] Shall write [when] we Start for home So Says Gen Sherman what a Glorious thought Peace Soon to be believed it Seems funny to us to lay here & a Sessation of Hostilities our army & the Rebs mixed together & talk freely they Say the Confederacy is gone up So we think their is a great many union Peple in this State our army was well come amongst them Raleigh is a Beautiful Place it is Surrounded by a nice Country & [its] inhabitants Seem to be nice Peple their was great rejoicing in this army over the Capture of Lees army we Expected to go up & help Grant but he did not need us Johnstons army is Surrounded Sheridan & Sherman on one Side & our army on the other Side So that he could do nothing else but Surrender he offered to Surrender his army to Sherman but Sherman wanted their whole army from the Potomac to the Rio Grande Gen Sherman reviewed our Corp yesterday he Says we Shall all be home Soon

the death of President Lincoln cast a Gloom over this whole army what a terrible thing it was I hope the Assassins will be caught we are having very warm weather here I hope we Shall all be home Soon I can not think of much more to write I am well have got Something of a cold but it is a getting beter Pleas answer Soon

believe me ever your Affect
Son Albert

I Sent you a Paper a few days ago

Camp of the 20th Conn Vols
Raliegh N.C.
Saturday April 29th 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines Gen Johnston has Surrendered his entire armies to Gen Sherman & therefore the war is ended Hostilities have ceased & we are to Start for home on Monday we have to March to Richmond & then will Probly take transportation for our State it will take 16 days to March from here to Richmond 150 miles & it will take a few days to get this whole army transported when we get there what a happy thought the war over Gen Grant was down to See us on Thursday the great taker of cities he is called I think Sherman will come under that head I Shall not have a chance to write again until we get to Richmond & then I will write So that I can have Some letters to read when I get there I am well they owe us 8 months pay now & they will owe us nine months before we are mustered out we have had no Pay Since last September the nine Months Pay & the 75 Dollar Government Bounty that we get will make it \$229 they will owe us well I must Close now Good By for this time I am your Affectionate Son Albert

Camp of the 20th Conn Vols
Alexandria VA May 22nd 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I received your Kind letter from you yesterday & happy indeed was I to hear from you & now will -- & write a few lines in answer to them we have made our last march we left Raleigh NC on Sunday the last day of April & on the 9th of May we arrived at Richmond VA I did not have a chance to write a letter there on the 12th of May we Started off again for Alexandria VA & we arrived here the 19th of May So you See we have Marched over nearly the whole Confederacy our Camp now is on the Banks of the Potomac we have a good view of Washington & the Surrounding country when we was on the March from Richmond have we encamped one night on the Chancellorsville Battle field we Spent Some 2 or 3 hours in looking over the hard fought field we Saw many Skeletons & Skulls & Pieces of bones they come from Some one that belonged to our Reg the places looked very Natural only the bushes had grown up very thick to Morrow & Next day there is going to be a grand review of the Army of the Potomac & Shermans Army to Morrow the Army of the Potomac will be reviewed and the next day Shermans army & after the review all those of the army that come out when we did that is the 62 all are to be mustered out of Service & Sent home So that Probly we Shall be home from the first to the Middle of June in the course of a couple of weeks it is thought that we Shall not get Paid

anything untill we get into our own State I presume we Shall not most of the Boys dont like the arangement much because they wont have any money going to NH well I can not think of much more to write I am well Pleas answer Soon & believe me ever your Affect Son

Albert

Camp of the 20 Conn Vols
East Capitol Hill Washington DC
Sunday May 28th 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I received a Kind leter from you last night which indeed was a very welcom Missive we are So anxious to receive leters & Papers from home & frinds as we were when in Rebeldome & are more anxious to go home than we was then for we Know the fighting is over & we want to go home we have nothing now to occupy our time well the Grand review is over I Supose to look on it was the Grandist Military display ever Known but to us Soldiers it was nothing new we were heartly glad when it was over So that we could go into our last Camp you will Probly read the whole account Gen Sherman was looked upon as the greatest Military leader of the age even Mothers took their little Children & held them up as he was Sitting on his horse to Shake hands with the Gen. the ladies covered him with garlands & wreaths of flowers & his horse also on the whole it was a most Splendid afair the President & Gen Grant even looked on with Surprise at the great Body of Soldiers Passing before them Gov Buckingham was their & a great many Conn Peple was their to witness the Scene I wish you could have been there their has been a great injustice done Gen Sherman in reporting things between him Sherman & the Rebel Gen Johnston Gen Sherman Says is not on his account that he cares what is Said but the injustice it has brought on his brave command Gen Sherman has his whole army to back him up the very thought is even absurd that Some are trying to ruin & make him out a traitor but that they can never do how foolish when a man has done what he has in putting this Rebellion he has ever conducted this war out of truly Patriotic Motives & the man Says he is not trying to rob him of the Glory which is Justly his due the thing is coming out all right Gen Sherman is not afraid of Gen Halleck or of E M Stanton Gen Halleck Knowing that he himself is thought nothing of is now trying to ruin the best Gen in the united States but he will come for that in doing it the whole thing will fall on the Shoulders of Halleck & Gen Sherman will come out Brighter in the Eyes of the world if Possible than he was before

what I have wrote is every Soldiers Sentiment in his army we have followed him & we know the man he loves us & we love him yesterday I went over the whole Capitol Building it took me 4 hours to go over the whole building the whole thing inside & outside is made of Marble [the Capital Building was being constructed at this time] Their is a great many things to See & it well pays one to go over it the Govemint is now ready to pay off & discharge every Soldier in the two armies now at Washington & as Soon as the officers of the Regs can make out their Papers & Square up with the Govemint we Shall go home it will probly be a weeK or two before we Shall get home you Say I have never answered your question in regard to Sate it was not because I was afraid to but I had forgotten it we have corresponded ever Since I left Home & I do now & I presume Shall as long as I Stay in the Service a Soldier always likes to have a plenty correspondents I have corresponded with a number of Ladies in Essex for just the Sake of receiving leters I have had Several anonymous leters in regard to Sate Stating that she did not Consider herself always as a responsible young lady but I have paid no attention to it either way & who was the other of the ladies I dont Know but I Should Say it was from Some lady by the writing whether it was done to make hard feelings or whether they had occasion for it is more than I can tell time will develop Pleas answer Soon & believe me ever your Afft Son

Albert



The Grand Review - Washington May, 1865

DC

East Capitol Hill Washington
Sunday June 4, 1865

Dear Father & Mother

I now take this opportunity of writing you a few lines as I assume this will be the last letter I shall write before I am in Conn. I received a letter from you two days ago & one from John. We shall all probably be home or at least in New Haven the latter part of this week Friday or Saturday not before. We are not going to get any money until we get home at NH. I suppose it is all for the best but then we would like a little going home or as soon as we get to NH so to get some little things that we might want. You know we want to look pretty well when we come home. We have all got new clothes. I have got two grey shirts & two pairs of drawers two pairs of stockings a new pair of pants cap & shoes & a blouse. I suppose we will not get any money under two or three days before we get there. There is not a man in our camp got one cent of money. It is not very often the case. I spent the last cent I had yesterday for a paper but we can get along with [what] we got to NH. I have not heard anything about Herbert Rose & did not know as he was here. I saw him in Raleigh the day we left & have heard nor seen anything of him since. You spoke about Sherman's men fighting. There is no such thing. Mr Beckworth's paper did not tell the truth nor we have not heard anything of our going to Texas here. That is not so. It is very warm here. We have a good camp & plenty to eat. You may look for us in NH the last of this week. I am well.

your Affectionate Son Albert