

Oct 4, 1862
No. 11th

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Pre-stamped envelope postmarked Banks Division, Nov. 26. Stationary is color printed with American eagle carrying red, white and blue shield of stars and stripes on the first page upper left corner. Letter is on two sheets of stationery folded in half and is written on eight sides in ink. Both envelope and letter are stained.)

Camp near Sandy Hook
Oct. 4th 1862

My Dear Wife -

After a week of hurry & vexing bustle & privations we have a peaceful Saturday night & light hearts - I wrote you Monday morning from Camp Chase, also from Frederick Junction Tuesday afternoon - Don't remember whether I wrote you Wednesday - Recollect writing to Joseph & John sometime during the week & also making up the company's report to the Soldiers Association or whatever it is called which I sent off without reviewing, being ordered to march before time was afforded. After we got under way I stopped in the main street of Frederick scratched a word or two on the last page & sent it to your address - Wish you would notify me of the letters rec. especially the report, above mentioned if it comes to its destination - We left Frederick, that is our camp at noon without dinner but did not get away from the place until 7 P.M. - Reached Sandy Hook at 12 ½, unloaded & after fumbling (**Pg. 2**) around for an hour the officers left us to ourselves without orders & we curled up by the roadside & fences & slept till morning - When morning came we were marched back ½ mile that had been traveled the previous night on to another road & halted in an orchard about 10 A.M. Our tents came along in about 2 hours & we have spent the time since then in cleaning off the ground, pitching tents xc, xc. - We officers have the same tents as at Camp Chase - The men have shelters made of their rubber blankets - I send you a rough draft of them - They take two crutches & a pole lying in them for a center over this two rubbers are stretched for the roofs & then two others makes the sides - The ends are left open - & if they prefer bushes are set up or anything to stop the wind - These do well enough in dry weather, but when it rains the dog kennel style would be preferable - that is two blankets forming merely the roofs - Two men can get under these very (**Pg. 3**) comfortably - The larger ones hold four - Our camp is in a fine apple & peach orchard close by a house & barn - The fruit however was all appropriated by our predecessor, the field having been used in the same way a great many times since the war broke out both by Union & rebel regts. Other regts. lie all around us above & below, right & left, far & near - We are also just at the base of what is call Maryland Heights on the east - Harpers Ferry lies the other side of them a little to the south west - Of course we look in that direction upon nothing but a high wooded range - somewhat resembling the one you see from S. Shepards - Stand at the foot of that range & it appears about the same height as this - We can see the fort &

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look out station with its signal flag upon the summit. Men are also engaged cutting down trees in order to give the guns range in every direction – This morning we could see the axis gleam in the sunshine & the trees fell ever second – During Jackson's late raid a fight occurred right up there (**Pg. 4**) in which the rebels are said to have lost 130 to our 3 – But the rebels got possession, our men falling back in the night to a fort further down which was also given up – I intend to go up there the first opportunity if we stay here long enough – Our rules are much stricter now & it is not prudent for officers or men to get very far from camp – we are subject to call at any hour & the Col. expects everyone to be ready at a moments notice – We left S. M. Bailey & J. R. Hitchcock behind on duty at Camp Chase – Richardson also & the two cooks staid to pick up things – They followed on across the country to Frederick & from there to this place arriving about noon today – We were glad enough to see them & they as glad to find us – Charley Clark had the good fortune to receive his box just before leaving W. & he brought it along – He also had the mail up to Tuesday night when he left that place – You may believe our joy was great over the letters & the box – The latter I never expected to receive – Yours of last Sabbath evening, Fathers, Idas & Franks all at once were indeed four fold blessings – But the sight of those pears & apples & grapes was worth a whole week of trouble & hardship – After I taken out the Porters & Louise's & grapes, lo! There was one delicious Seckel – I came near not finding it done up so snugly in a nest of cotton – I little expected to see any pears from home when leaving, certainly not to taste them way down here at Harpers (**Pg. 5**) Ferry – I did not suppose the Porter would be so good an apple – The box of lint & bandages from the good ladies of 10th District is all right – James was on hand & the taste I got of Mrs. Atwater snaps will lead me to cultivate greater familiarity with her pantry when we are neighbors again – It is a little singular that no other boxes came – Several were looking for such & they all felt envious of our good fortune or rather complained because the fickle dame had frowned upon them – I think you had better not try to send anything more until we are certain of staying somewhere for a while – If we go on from here probably our trunks will not be allowed to follow us – They have come along thus far all right – I have made no arrangements for carrying anything without a trunk – Don't know what to do – If sure that we were to be put campaigning over in Va. the less I had along the better – A single change of clothes & writing materials would compose my luggage – You speak of my letters having a sad tone – That is not the way I feel at all – Never was more easy – The troubles we have (**Pg. 6**) here seem to slip off from me like drops of rain from a ducks back – I feel sometimes like blowing up the Col., in fact he deserves it about once a day – Nothing yet has worried me an hour – Don't think my weight has altered since enlisting – My appetite is first best all the while; no looseness in the bowels, in fact perfectly regular strong, cheerful & expect to remain so – A good many officers & men in the regt. complain of diarrhea, dysentery & other troubles – They sip Dr. True, tincture of ginger, try brandy – pills & other nostrums without number – I have not touched any medicine or liquor & but for one days derangement at Arlington, which was no more than I have often had at home, & the last boil, which is now healing up, you would not know that I had changed from my usual health & spirits – Judging by what I have thus far seen I shall go right

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along & outstrip a great many of those who looked so strong & healthy – There is a vast difference in the toughness of men – I am surprised (*Pg. 7*) to see how easily some are used up – They seemed to be made of pith & the moment a strain comes they go all to pieces – Three miles march with overcoat & blanket, haversack & gun will lay out great strapping six footers weighing 150 or more, while others puny to look at come right along without any backwardness – Some of our company are puny enough but you would not suspect them at home – By the way, several who fell out on our march from Capitol Hill were indignant today after reading the letters from home – It seems some unkind friend wrote home mentioning names – That was not fair – The boys did as well as they could & after resting a little came up – I hope you will be cautious if I say anything of anyone remember it is confidential so far as it might of reported be unfavorable – I know you are discreet & hope this caution will not be construed as in the least fault finding – From what I hear there must be some most absurd stories set afloat with you in Southington – Don't get alarmed (*Pg. 8*) at the many silly things which some seem to delight in. I rather think a few of our men are given to big stories & black ones – It won't do to believe all that is written from camp – I am often amused at some of the rumors that run through camp – Jackson has been captured a hundred times – The rebels are near at hand – a battle so & so until I don't pay any attention to them. The press & independence are at hand – I read Franks letter with much pleasure, it being his first – Hope he will write me every week – Willie must be careful about going down stairs – Ida too will write often & give all the news she can of home & the children – Was glad to hear from father – Will try to send him another soon – But to write to all my friends keeps me busy – I don't see why some of them can't write me first - I believe I sent something to Miles this week – On the whole, looking back to last Monday evening over the marches, rides, watchings & peculiar experiences we have had besides letters & report, it seems as though the week had been pretty much filled up – It is 11 o'clock & Richardson just asks if I am going to set up till morning – Good night – I shall sleep like a tot without fear of anxiety – Hope you will be able to do the same –

As ever
A. Upson

(Written upside down on first page)

I wish you would send me some postage stamps – Can't get them here conveniently –