

Dec. 17th, 1862  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked with a 3- cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half, and one single sheet. They are written on six sides in pencil)*

Fairfax Station  
Dec.17th, 1862

My Dear Wife,

I suppose you must have heard last week of our departure from Harpers Ferry – I sent a hasty note the morning we got ready to start - We did not move at the expected hour – Slocum’s Corps was all moving & were so long passing that we could not get to the road – We stood ready upon a field next the road nearly all the afternoon – Teams, artillery & troops went by incessantly as they had been doing since early morning – Kane’s brigade were finally ordered back to their old quarters to spend another night – We got off next morning before sunrise & encamped Wednesday night about three miles below Hillsborough – Moved the next morning at 5 o’clock – I don’t believe you had as early a breakfast – At dark we stopped 8 miles below Leesburg – After supper (**Pg. 2**) & a great deal of running to inquire out Uncle Lancelot & get permission to visit him I got away some after 8 in the evening – The days march had been rather hard & my load especially was heavy; but I was determined to see him if it took me all night – I got there at 11 o’clock – He was up – the rest abed – Gearys brigade, which belongs to our corps, was encamped on his farm that night – He was much astonished at seeing me – Aunt Jennett was soon up & greeted me warmly – Before going to bed, I did that for the first time since parting from you, we had some good bread & butter with honey – I did not sleep or rest any better than usual – In fact it seemed very strange to strip off & get into feathers – The next morning we had a royal breakfast. Scrambled eggs, pancakes, ham & honey, with most delicious coffee & milk – Rather guess I did ample justice to a meal so much like those common (**Pg. 3**) to civilized life – Fortunately Kane’s brigade did not come along until 11 o’clock & I had a much longer visit than was expected – Aunt gave me some biscuit, a canteen of milk & a bottle of honey – I left my bed tick with her – It was too heavy to pack on my back – I shall write father about them just as soon as I can – Joined the regt. & marched on encamping after dark that night near Chantilly – The next morning we started off about 9 – Made slow progress until afternoon. Reached Fairfax Co. House at 12 & while we halted there a few minutes I penciled you a short note & gave to a soldier who promised to send it in the mail Monday - I had not written three minutes before the bugle sounded to fall in & I scratched upon an envelope & hurried on – We turned south from Fairfax Co. Ho. 3 miles to this place but did not encamp till after dark, & then on a chilly (**Pg. 4**) damp field – Up again very early & off by daylight – The night was a disturbed one – Owing to preparations for marching – In fact all these nights while on the march with a brigade occupying one field or pieces of woods are noisy – Men jump up to fix fires, then begin to talk & others to cook – Two or three hours sleep is about the average – Some get more – We moved south, passed Ocoquan Creek &

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encamped about 9 miles from the starting point – The road was very bad, part corduroy, & where not generally muddy – Trains occupy the road & we march along the sides – Most of the way is through the woods & half the time we dodge along through the bushes & trees – Tuesday morning was rainy & the roads exceedingly nasty – We got along very slow – Trains blocked up the way for miles – They must be guarded & consequently we have to keep along with them – We got within 3 miles of Dumfries & stopped for the night – Before morning orders were recd. to return to **(Pg., 5)** Fairfax Co. Ho. - We started about 5. The frost had stiffened the roads & we have made the distance passed over Monday & Tuesday & tonight are stopping near the field occupied Sunday night, but in a pine grove which affords good shelter from the wind & plenty of fire wood – I am now writing by the camp fire – Capt. Lewis & David lie the other side asleep & as I look around through the trees little fires blaze on all sides – Where we are to go next I can't say – We hear that Burnside has been repulsed at Fredericksburg but don't know the particulars – Our baggage except one carpet sack to each officer was sent by rail to Alexandria last Monday – Perhaps we shall follow it by another road – The men did not like retracing their steps – It has been a tough pull upon some - We have marched seven days right along & probably shall do a good deal of that sort of work – Our company has stood the hardship well – but a great lot of clothing has been thrown away – **(Pg. 6)** Men who have not patience will throw away anything when the load begins to hang heavy.

I am sorry that Burnside has waited so long before opening his guns upon Fredericksburg – The army will be much dispirited if he is seriously hindered or meets with heavy loss – I hope we may hear something good from him or Banks in a few days – We have recd. nothing from home since leaving Loudon Valley & do not expect to until we get somewhere in reach of mails – Your last to me that I have got was written Dec. 2d – Know there are others for me somewhere but we must wait & hope – I trust you will keep easy over our movements – We don't seem to be marked out for fighting – If we are like to get near the enemy something always interferes & we are ordered elsewhere – You must not worry if letters come irregularly – It is not easy to write when on the march early or late - nor can we **(finished on 1st page upside down in upper margin)** send them situated as we have been for the last week – With much love to you & the baby & all I close & turn in not knowing where another night will find us.

A. U.