

August 31, 1862

(Letter with no envelope is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Camp Buckingham
Aug. 31st, 1862

My Dear Wife –

My first Sunday in camp has passed & I sit down to tell you something about it - We got up very early here – There is more or less noise through the night, corporals shouting for the next relief, the tramping of guards to & fro xc. xc. But an hour or so before sunrise the fellows begin to wake up - & tumble out – The consequence is a sleeper pretty surely gets waked & thinking it time for good soldiers to begin the day he dislikes to be behind – I have got up every morning long before sunrise – But probably before long I shall get so accustom to these as to sleep clear up to roll call – After morning report was made out today I called on some of our boys & we talked up the best (**Pg. 2**) method of spending the day – Unfortunately our company was called on for 13 men to guard duty & it fell to the lot of the Sunday lads to do this service – This disarranged our plans for a forenoon meeting, & most of our men being away I & one of the surgeons & Charley Bagley went up to the Center Church – We heard J. P. Thompson of N.Y. – A great treat it was too – “But walk ye in love” was his text which formed the subject a rich discourse – But I have not time to make even a synopsis of it – At its close we returned to camp & finding the meeting boys all off duty we gathered together in my tent & spent a good half hour in prayer & singing while perhaps you were at Sabbath school – At 3 o’clock Rev. H. Upton came on to the ground to hold service having made arrangements to this effect (**Pg. 3**) with the Col. yesterday – He had an audience of perhaps 150 soldiers & some 150 more persons visiting the camp – He did very well – We had him give notice at the close, of a prayer meeting in one of the barracks at 6 o’clock to which all disposed were invited – At that hour we went down – two or three were waiting, strangers to me – We set about arranging boards for seats & shortly 20 or more were on hand – It being the hour of guard for our boys of course they could not attend – But we did have a good session – For the 1st time I found out that there were men around us whose feelings & purposes were the same as our own – The prayers were earnest the remarks short, the singing sweet indeed & all enjoyed it much – I now have hopes that we shall be able to gather our scattered (**Pg. 4**) moral forces together & organize them for some definite conquests over Satan – There are forms of wickedness in every camp - It would be to much to expect the 20th to be free from all depravity – I was very highly pleased with the spirit of a man in the Derby Co. He was a deacon in the Church at Ansonia – But I can not dwell upon this further – Yesterday I began to think the reports of early departure had some foundation – The Clothing for the Regt. arrived & most of it was distributed –

(8-31-1862)

The surgeon tells me that the Col. intends to get off this week, & furthermore that he is the man to put through his intentions – I want you to hurry up my stockings & what ever it is necessary to take – Shall draw pants & overcoat from the Q.M. & save the expense that seemed necessary – Shall come home once more if I have to run the guard but must not stay long –

Most truly yours
A. Upson