

Sep 16th 1862  
No. 4<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Ct.

*(Envelope with 3- cent stamp has no postmark. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)*

Washington –  
Sep. 16th, 1862

My Dear Wife,

I wrote you yesterday morning – A few moments are offered this morning & I improve them - I intend as soon as I can to get on my dress reg. & have a picture to send to Willie – Those other pictures in New Haven I hope will come all right, though I am sorry that the artist fooled us along as he did – As to news concerning ourselves the latest is that we have been brigaded under a General Paul whom I do not remember to have heard of before – He is a young man from New York – The regiments going with us are the 7th R.I., 108 N.Y., 11 N.H., This may not be correct altogether – We are assigned to Gen. Casey's division – The 1st intention was to send our Regt to Fortress Monroe but the Col objected & hence this disposition – So far as I can learn we shall stay here for drill a few weeks & then be put into service. **(Pg. 2)** The 15th is guarding long bridges & by accounts from some of the men who have paid us a visit our situation is decidedly preferable. Walter Crissey, John O' Neil & one of William Andrus' sons called on us yesterday – Crissey is a good deal worn, but John & Andrus are looking tough & plump as their friends could wish – You can tell Uncle Ned of John – There is no doubt that the soldiers life suits him - Have heard nothing from others – We have a short distance from our camp - an Indiana battery that has been in the service from the first – They look hard enough – Horses, wagons, tents & all the trappings show that the wear & tear of their service has been terrible – But it must be remembered that they are mostly a drinking set, without any of those habits of neatness & physical care which distinguish New England men - I can pick out an Eastern Regiment anywhere – **(Pg. 3)** Some of our boys are disposed to grumble at their fare since we reached Washington. Probably they will send back gloomy accounts which repetition will magnify until our friends at home all get indignant – For myself I do not feel justified in finding any fault – Amid so many pressing duties devolved upon all the head ones it is almost certain that something will miscarry – I am inclined to think our Q.M. did the best he could – Another thing some men will always growl: we have those who seem to expect that Uncle Sam is bound to furnish hotel fare at all times & in all places. We ought to make up our minds for hardship & I have - I don't mean to grumble & thus far there certainly has been no just occasion – I sleep soundly right through the night & am gradually breaking myself into the simplest forms - Last night I had beneath me a rubber blanket & one of Uncle Sam's over me the one presented by father & overcoat **(Pg. 4)** for a pillow – It was hard but I

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did not feel cold until towards morning – My clothes were all off except a shirt – so far as I can judge from comparing my experience & that of others in the company I shall equal any one in respect to endurance – Saturday night every body complained of being tired – They seemed to think our journey from New Haven had been awful hard – I have not yet felt as tired as I did every night last summer – Responsibilities of this kind suit me & the least of my fears is breaking down from overwork-

I feel some uneasiness lest you are having a wearying time over Mary – I turn in & sleep soundly while you may be spending long hours in watchfulness – Don't worry one moment about me – Keep easy & try to turn everything over until you see a bright side & enjoy that – Write me all about matters at home. The farm, the children, the neighbors, & general matters – Also send along the Press & Independent. Love to Father, Grandma, Ida, Frank & Willie & Julia Ann –

Truly  
A. Upson