

Sept 21, 1862  
No. 6

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope has printed on it a Union Soldier standing on a rock in water holding an American flag in one hand and his sword in the other. The rock is inscribed "The Constitution of Our Fathers". Beside him on the rock is an American Eagle. It is postmarked Sep 23, 1862 Washington, D.C. with a 3-cent stamp. The letter is on one sheet of lined stationary folded in half and is written on four sides in ink. Envelope is damaged and the letter stained.)*

Camp Chase  
Sept 21st, 1862

My Dear Wife,

After watching the mail for three days wondering why you did not write, at last Friday night brought me the wished for missive - You may not think we care for news from home - But if you could look into our street when the mail is distributed you would behold a scene of eagerness, joy & disappointment perfectly convincing - I was rejoiced enough to hear from home & that the baby is still alive. You must give me all the details & write often about business xc. We are getting pretty busily at work - The next day after arrival here came battalion drill the Col. put us through. Next day were out again morning & evening - Besides this there are regular duties that split up ones time very much - The men police the street every day - that is sweep it out & remove all garbage & whatever is offensive to neatness - Forts are served in the same way - Then there is the wood squad & the water squad - (**Pg. 2**) The wood is handy by - that which was cut down all around here a year ago - But water is not so easy to get - Every well is pumped dry early in the morning - & there the resort is to springs wherever found - There is generally a good one in every large valley but these are distant from ½ to 2 miles - Consider that there are several thousand men within a short space - That the weather is hot & dry - The roads terrible dusty & you will understand how much trouble arises from this source - There is no stream near save a brook about the size of that near fathers & the color of this is like a mud puddle - And well it might be for it washes the faces & garments of hundreds every day - On Friday we had battalion drill in the morning & at 12 o'clock marched off East of fort Albany to participate in a review of Gen. Casey's division - The ground was finely located being several great meadows - There were about 8,000 infantry & 2 batteries of (**Pg. 3**) artillery - The line was a continuous one & either end was invisible to me - The men stood in two ranks all officers in front all with white gloves & present arms looking strait ahead - Gen Casey & staff rode along the lines - It took him a good while & the necessity - of standing strait motionless the whole time was painful enough - After passing the line front & rear - himself & staff took position & we all wheeled into column & marched before him - This over we proceeded to camp reaching it about sun down & had our dinner - The boys were tired enough - I had barely seated myself to our meal when the order came detailing me as officer of the

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guard & so I got no sleep that night – Saturday I did not feel very well & this morning I found myself a little loose in the bowels – there is considerable diarrhea in all the Regiments owing to change of place, diet, water xc – But I have not heard of a serious case – It yields readily to slight remedies – I have not (*Pg. 4*) taken any medicine today except my usual one – no food – Feel hungry enough to eat a good meal –

We had preaching from the chaplain of the 15 at 4 o'clock this afternoon & this evening Southington Street was enlivened by a prayer meeting which before it was over must have had 150 attendants – It was pretty much impromptu but afforded us rich enjoyment –

Jo Twichill called at our street yesterday – He is looking finely & the way we greeted him was perfectly blissful. He is stationed below us at Alexandria. Our company is in good health except Wm. Wiard who was taken down Thursday & is considerable sick – He has a fever - Fransel Lewis has a bad cough & I think ought not to have enlisted – Still he may be benefited by & by – The Colonel has his wife along & also a little boy about as old as Frank – It is good to see one decent looking woman & all others that come within our range of vision are Irish with cakes, pies xc. – But none of their cookery is good – Watermelons and fruits are moderately plenty – but high - I wish you to write me at least twice a week – This makes four to you & I have recd. but one – Good night – you have my love & may god bless you & the children forever.

*(Written on first page upside down in top margin)*

I feel sorry for father in new of those hogs – But he must manage as best he can – Hope he will write me about affairs – Give my regards to all my particular friends – I suppose that record of Southington Co must be made out & sent along soon –

Yours Ever,  
A. Upson