

Sept 23, 1862
No 7

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Washington D.C. with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half, and is written on four sides in ink.)

Camp Chase, Va.
Sep. 23rd, 1862

My Dear Wife,

I have just (7 o'clock P.M.) read your letter of Sunday Evening – You may take my thanks, hearty ones, for it – It was a joy to look at the directions for I recognized your writing – And to read it was like chewing delicious grapes – Those Dianas I suppose – I must thank Ida too for her letter – It was a good one & I wish her to write me often & if Frank & Ida desire to put in a word to father she will gratify them – I wrote you Sunday night & father last night – Probably you would not have got this but for some things alluded to in your communication – A large mail came to Co. E tonight & a great many contain allusions to the same thing, viz our living – Now I want to say once for all that you need not get stirred up nor uneasy on that point whatever you hear – I don't believe any man will ever starve in Uncle Sam's service. They may occasionally get fare short in allowance & bad in quality: but generally we shall (**Pg. 2**) have enough – I don't know what our boys expected when they enlisted: but if they shall learn to save what is furnished them & not wasting that which they do not use they should be thankful for the experience of camp – I have not much compassion for those who are continually whining over the rations – For myself I have taken just what the men have & I assure you it has been enough & except in one instance good enough – We have better tea & sugar than you or I have felt able to purchase for a long while – The coffee is equally good – ditto the rice – ditto the peas – the bread which is baked in Washington - & almost always the meat – This morning one tainted ham got into our mess & the company very generally turned up their noses – We officers took our share & made a good breakfast – I should not have thought of complaining, but probably this circumstance will be magnified & exaggerated by a few & retailed at home until you all get indignant. I assume a good many made out a scanty (**Pg. 3**) breakfast on this account – Orders soon after came to prepare for a review of the division at the same place where we had one last week, which I think I described to you in one of my letters – We left early, drilled till 12, than were reviewed & as a finish marched down to the Potomac directly opposite Washington to a large plane, wheeled about & returned to camp, being gone about 7 hours – The roads were dusty, the sun hot, canteens got empty, guns grew heavy & some began to grumble about their treatment – But it did not appear to me that things were so bad as I had often seen them at home – The fact is we have a good many who have as yet seen very little of real work – or learned to exercise patience & make the best of what comes along – You must throttle those silly stories about our fare & also about our movements – The papers do lie like the Devil himself – Now don't get uneasy over any news – God reigns & I feel

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safe under his keeping. (**Pg. 4**) I feel that I have only done my duty in coming here & with him I leave the issue trusting that you & father, the children & every friend will maintain the same spirit of faith & resignation – I have no doubt whatever that we shall see service & that is what we came for – We may be killed, that would disturb the arrangements of this life, but we ought to live for the next & if that is the will of Providence that in rendering aid to the Gov. and to the cause of liberty – all be called upon to enter the dark valley & suddenly stand in presence if the Almighty let us still praise Him – I think often of you & the children in this connection, but my great consolation is that you look to the same source for relief – Troops are daily gathering here & probably we shall move in some direction toward the enemy in the course of a few weeks, perhaps days – I will keep you informed of our course as often as we make any change – I do not know under what Major General we shall be put – Our arms are Whitney rifles with which the men appear to be pleased – Wiard is still down – 4 others are off duty but there is nothing at all alarming – Our Co. reports move men every day for duty than the others – Jo. Gooman is well & I feel quite well & strong & like the exercise far better than I supposed was possible –

Truly Yours
A. Upson

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

I send you a leaf I picked from a maple tree – don't remember any at home quite like it – Have not found only pretty flower yet – Give my regards to S. Shepard & wife, A.W. Stow & wife & all my chosen friends –