

Oct. 13, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope postmarked Nashville, Ten. Oct 16, with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on three sides in ink. It also contains a lock of cotton.)

Cowan, Tenn.
Oct. 13th, 1863 –

My Dear Wife –

We left Decherd yesterday morning & marched to this place, a distance of about 5 miles – The regimental baggage was reshipped by cars & we are supposed to be located for some time at this point – You will see, if all my letters have reached you that we were here a week ago – One of Rosecraws Convalescent Camps is located here & besides there is a regiment of infantry – The principle demand for a force at this point is to guard RR Bridge & commissary stores – Col. Ross is in command of the Post – The defenses consist of one unfinished earth work & a new stockade one side of the river, a stockade on the other – Co. R. was ordered to take the Earthwork & Co. E. the new stockade – The other companies go into camp near by & will be kept for picket duty – Our boys are greatly pleased (**Pg. 2**) at their good fortune – It is considered a compliment to the company – This stockade is built of logs set end wise in the ground with portholes cut for rifle shooting – It is square in form about 75 x 75 feet – Our tent & 6 of the men are inside – The rest in regular form near the entrance outside – It is situated close by the RR track & commands the north end of the bridge – In case of assault we could stand a contest with a whole regt. of infantry – Heavy guns or shells would make short work with us – But these stockades are not constructed for such severe operations – They constitute a very safe position for light armed troops & we could make terrible havoc with common raiders should those fellows venture to disturb Cowan – The earthwork lies about 30 rods north of us & covers our rear – If they allow us to remain here we shall fix up nice quarters & be as snug as a garrison – The other companies feel a little envious of our fortune – We never got tents up till after dark – Ours is a large fly which we shall (**Pg. 3**) convert into a kind of wall tent – Col. Ross favored us with it & when favorable weather succeeds things will be put in fashion trim – We had barely hauled it over the poles last evening when a storm set in & continues still – It rained hard during the night & mud is sticky & nasty & abundant – We have a dry spot in the center & try to accommodate ourselves & keep away from the drops – Still several have fallen upon the sheet since I began to write & by the time it is finished the evidences of dirt will be as abundant as on others which I have sent you since we started for this region – Neatness is quite an exceptional condition with us lately – We are stirred so unreasonably & constantly – march – ride, & eat so much dirt that you might as reasonably look for clean hogs in a mud hole as clean soldiers – A good many of the men complain of colds – My health is entirely good & rations disappear before me as rapidly as ever – Quite unexpectedly the mail train has come along & I must close just here – I send a pigeon feather & a lock of cotton – Yours Ever – A. Upson

