

Oct. 27, 1863

Stevenson, Ala.

Oct. 27th, 1863

(Letter is written on six sides in ink on two sheets of lined stationery, one is folded in half.)

My Dear Wife –

I wrote you just after we arrived here a penciled letter – Did it while sitting on my knapsack in the road where we halted awaiting orders – Our third mail was recd. in the midst of the halt – I ran over the letters from you hastily & had a few moments to scratch off another half sheet when orders came & we marched off – I sent the letter to the office – We did not move far before stopping for the night when I took another look at the words from home – Perhaps my hasty reading gave me a wrong impression of one point & you may think me cautious, particularly as once at Cowan I remember responding to some of your allusions to Lt. Lewis writing more frequently – Don't think I meant to wound your feelings – I am a little sensitive about comparisons & know that he does not send as many missives home as I do – **(Pg. 2)** The fact is we do not always write for the same mail & so frequently one or the other is likely to have later intelligence – But if you will count up with her & my communications do not outnumber his by dozens I will never say any more about your complaints – Let this subject pass – Col. Ross has been put in command of this post & now the report is that we are to stop here for the winter – I hardly credit the story, but matters move as though such is the fact – Everything is confusion confounded – 1st 4 companies, E. F. I. & K. were sent to an earthwork & ordered to build quarters – The boys went to work & got together materials which were handy by – This way yesterday morning – Soon after an order came for I. Co. & they were sent up to the RR to guard a bridge – Next E. was called for & sent about 4 miles on a similar errand – An hour later 20 men from my company were summoned to guard a wagon train – Other companies had previously been distributed here & **(Pg. 3)** there until the regt. must have been distributed over 15 or 20 miles – Officers were assigned to various stations – Capt. Post was made Provost Marshall – Capt. Smith helps him – Capt. Morse is a kind of Commissary for citizens, those poor people who receive rations from the govt. – Several Lieutenants are employed about the Hd. Qus. & a strange medley is made of public business – This morning I found myself Field Officer of the Day & furnished with a horse & mounted orderly to carry & attend me while I visited the picket line – The duty has occupied me most of the day – Tomorrow morning I shall be relieved by some one else & what will come next is unknown – Returning to night to our camp, which consisted of F. & part of K. I find E. & I have been ordered back – They are in camp – It is curious how men manage – One would think a crazy man ruled & that we put his orders for each day all in a hat & shook them up well & then gave them out at random – **(Pg. 4)** But enough of this for my candle will be spent before I can finish the page I fear – There is an Express Office here & I have made up my mind to get some things from home – If you have not already sent the shirts xc. you may fill a small box &

(10-27-1863)

forward by Adams & Co. – I want 1st the shirts, another pair of drawers, a pair of stockings – my woolen mittens, a pair of well fitting buckskin gloves - & a pair of boots – The boots should be about 8s – double soled & nailed – I want handsome ones, but not patent leather – I mean a military boot with legs that come near to my knees, but not the large legs that can not be worn with pants outside, though generally they would be tucked in – I am particular about something stout & durable & at the same time not too stiff – The importance of having the soles nailed is such that I wish you to have round head nails put in if you can not buy those made so – We are in a region where mending is impossible & probably the wear will be severe – Therefore I insist upon the nails – within soles & heels – The hat may come too unless the Capt. is on the way – Next I want paper & envelopes – If any room remains send me some dried currants or small fruit that is not bulky but will swell to a good deal when soaked – Pears or apples are too bulky – You can buy the currants – I would like one can, a sealed one of your butter or preserves – Also a mess of cod fish, picked & pressed & two or three dried tongues or something of that sort – You can crowd the things full – (**Pg. 5**) You may think I am going into luxuries – Well I do want to taste cod fish once more – Get a sweet one pick it fine & dry it. I guess you can press the meat that is eatable into a small space - The skin & bones I have no use for & it is not best to pay freight on them – I don't think of anything that you can afford to send besides – Direct as follows –

Capt. Andrew Upson
Co. K. 20th Regt. Conn. Vols.
Stevenson, Ala.

12th Army Corps
1st Div. 1st Brig. Via Nashville, Tenn.

Matter is coming every day to the Express Office here & if you start this right along I may expect to get it about Thanksgiving time –

You ask about my company – I do not know much about it yet – But it promises better than I expected – Have two good officers with me – 1st Lt. E. N. Doolittle 2d. Lt. Royce, just promoted – Doolittle came out as 2d. Lt. of I. Co. & was promoted (**Pg. 6**) to 1st Lt. of K. after the battle of Gettysburg – He is a cousin of the Doolittle from Cheshire & used to live there himself – He is a son of Warren Doolittle – Guess father used to know him – There are present with the company now 41 men & non commissioned officers – That is about the average number in each – There is a good sprinkling of Irish & some Italian & German in the lot - They seem to be pleased under my command & manifest a very respectful & ready disposition – I expect to have their confidence & entertain no fears about maintaining proper standing in the regt. I will send you a list of their names before long – Enclosed is part of a flower that Jo Hitchcock picked in a garden to a deserted house on the top of a mountain about 3 miles north of Stevenson today – Some of the seeds have fallen out – I borrowed a piece of candle & that is nearly out – Here is love to all – Hope they are sweetly asleep & happy at this hour – To you as ever a heart full –

Yours A. Upson