

Oct. 30th, 1863
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Nashville, Ten., Nov. 2, 1863 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Nashville, Tenn.
Oct. 30th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

You will see I am quite moveable – About 10 o'clock Wednesday night I was wakened from sleep & notified that I must select 24 men from Co. E. & report at 7 o'clock next morning at the Provost Marshall in Stevenson for a trip to Nashville as a guard of Rebel prisoners – It so happened that only 23 men of E. Co. were in camp & so there was no chance to select – I took them all & left my own Co. in charge of Lt. Lewis – The prisoners number 42, five of their officers – One of them, Capt. Gurley, is the man who murdered Gen. McCook about a year since – You probably remember the circumstances – He was being carried in an ambulance, either sick or wounded when Gurley & his party attached the train & McCook was shot – A brother of Gurley 2 Lt. was also in the lot – Several of the (**Pg. 2**) men were concerned in Wheelers late raid which caused us our tedious trip to Shelbyville – Taking altogether it was considered an unusually dangerous lot of men & Col Ross & Wooster warned me against any laxness of care – In fact the tone of the order & their verbal instructions were such that I felt complimented by being assigned to this duty – There was a little satisfaction too in going on an expedition in which my relations were the reverse of those in May last – The trains were delayed & we did not leave Stevenson until after 11 o'clock – the regular hour is 7 ½ - Two box cars were furnished me – The 5 officers & 17 men were put into my car , the remaining 20 men in the next under charge of Lt. Royce – The guard was distributed nearly equally – At all the stations there was great curiosity to see Gurley & the threats against him were severe enough – Ohio men in particular were exceedingly vindictive & some were almost ready to (**Pg. 3**) lynch him on the spot – I cautioned all the guard against informing the station soldiers of the character of our charge, because it would have been the easiest thing in the world to have excited active hostilities from the intense hatred that exists against this man – But the passengers on the train were not so judicious & not two minutes would elapse at any halt before men would come thronging & making their utmost endeavors to get a sight of the distinguished prisoner – But we held the reins all taut & were ever on the alert for any danger – My men behaved well – The greatest danger was from accidents on the road – These are of almost daily occurrence – You would be surprised to see the wrecks of cars & engines that strew the roads – Of course any such occurrence would have been improved by the prisoners to escape – In passing over the mountains & through the tunnel we were doubly cautious – But everything seemed to work safely – We arrived here a little after eleven & by mid- (**Pg. 4**) night I

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had my responsibility shifted upon the shoulders of the Provost Marshall of Nashville – The prisoners were turned over to him as I received them we all felt relieved – The Provost Marshall office is in the Capitol building – It is a large structure & we lay down upon the stone floor & slept in a “frescoed hall” – This morning I found Charlie Clark & now write from Capt. Steiners office – Shall draw rations for the men, get an order for transportation back, look about the city & tomorrow morning return to Stevenson – This opportunity would have been more prized if I had any money – We are all dry of that article – Stevenson is 113 miles from Nashville – It is a rainy day here, but we are all well sheltered a fortunate circumstance indeed – There is no particular news at the regt. Hope we shall find a late mail on our return – How much this sight of good houses make me think of our sweet life in Washington & Alexandria – Would my wife were here or more that I were on my way to the bosom of home & friends – My love to all the babies & very much to you –

In haste
Yours
A. Upson

(First page written in upper margin)

I had no time for writing yesterday