

Feb. 26, 1863
No. 54

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

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

Stafford Co. House Va.
Feb. 26th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Yours of the 19th was recd. this P.M. Probably the mails favored you before the week closed – Don't remember how many I wrote, but think not less than 3 – Glad to hear that a gloomy rainy day did not break you down even when an expected missive fell short – I get served that way by our irregular post pretty often – Sometimes we get no mail at all for 2 or 3 days – My box has not yet arrived – Can't say where it is but should be happy to lay hands on it soon – The snow which fell Sunday abides with us yet – There has been some thawing today but it froze hard last night – Tonight there are indications of rain, & as I go on picket tomorrow the prospect is encouraging – Alex Lewis & his son left Monday - Jim went with them as far as Washington (**Pg. 2**) I expect him to return at the end of 7 days – D. Twichell left Tuesday – As he intended to go to Harpers Ferry I sent no letter by him – He had a good view of our life in snow storms, as two fell during his visit – But what impressions he formed I cannot state – We have no news in camp that would be interesting to you. One of our Lieuts, the first who went home under the new order for furloughs, returned last night – He thinks ten days are too few, especially as one is expected to go & come within that period – The Q. Master, Scranton of New Haven, brother in law of Levi B. Bradley commences his tomorrow & Major Buckingham goes in a day or two – Sergt. Barnes, I guess, will be the 1st of our Co. to go home though it is not certain – About 20 of our boys have made application, so that returning volunteers, on flying visits, will soon be so common as to attract no attention – The Capt. & myself still preserve our equanimity (**Pg. 3**) & poke some lips at the fellows so desirous to fly away – Not that we wouldn't like to do the same, but to keep Co. E. in due bounds until the novelty of the thing wears away – I imagine there is some lively dreaming among the expectant ones – You ask of my slumbers are ever broken by night visions – Really I don't remember of dreaming since we left New Haven – Still I may have done so – But I do some pretty strong thinking awake & on the whole, you may, without any stretch of credulity, believe my recollections quite as vivid & entrancing as though they befell me with eyes shut in the still hours of Morpheus - Yes, yes I think of home, wife, babies & all – I love them never so well & hope bye & bye to nestle in the dear circle & enjoy once more for a brief period the bliss that Heaven has given me – But it won't due to dwell to much on this point – You see the subject is a tender one & I don't want to get uneasy – Since my duty is here it is wiser to avoid distracting my thoughts to no purpose – I see those who (**Pg. 4**) have made application become very impatient as the days draw near when they expect an answer – I noticed one of the Lieuts. today, walking back & forth,

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turning this way & that, evidently with a burden on his mind – Finally, getting a good chance, I asked about his furlough – He said it had gone up to Hd. Qrs. & he wished it would come back so he could start home tomorrow - Lt. Lewis don't forget his, I notice, but keeps a good look out on others – Now, my wife my turn will come after a while, & my faith is that we shall all be permitted to enjoy our ten days as well as any of them - It will be a satisfaction to feel that we patiently denied ourselves in obedience to a sense of duty – Your letter brought up old scenes with great vividness – I infer that the whopping cough is pretty much vanquished – But enough – My tent mates are making their beds, which consists in spreading down the blankets on the ground & creeping between them – 1st the Capt., next Lt. Lewis, then Charley Clark, after him David & finally your husband – ready enough to share his blankets if there was sufficient room. But I guess you would not fancy such close work & so much company – We fill up the space & sometimes our elbows overlap –

Yours, Yours,
A.U.