

Feb. 4, 1863
No. 45

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked New Haven, Ct. Feb. 4 with a 3 - cent stamp and written on the back of the envelope - "By Hensdales express which will leave New Haven Friday night Feb. 1, 1863 for the army of Potomac". Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Stafford Court House
Feb. 1st, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Yours of a weeks since was recd. last night & the mail of this evening brought the one dated the 27 & day following – Both were welcome & afforded the usual satisfaction not withstanding your our unfortunate surroundings – I came in from picket yesterday morning & have just had notice that my turn comes to go again tomorrow – Don't care much about it, save the 8 or 10 miles tramp out & back – That is tedious because it don't appear like going ahead – But this will be our life here I imagine for some time – It bothers me to see how it is possible for the army to move any distance from their present base until spring comes – The snow of last Wednesday will keep us in mud for a good while yet – It melts away every day, but there is more than I supposed the morning of my letter from Acquia (**Pg. 2**) Creek – If it had not melted all day long as it fell we should have had two good feet – It was a hard day for the soldiers, one they will remember until something bigger happens, which nobody expects from the skies – One of our Captains, Smith of Co. C. was killed that day by a falling tree – He belonged in Hfrd. leaves a wife & I believe one child – The Adgt. says in low circumstances – At least he came round with a paper soliciting aid in her behalf – The officers all gave 5 & 10 Dollars – I the former sum, though not with the best grace. For I felt that the people of his own town sould see that his family are properly provided for – I shall think of my own family & be selfish next time – I was not intimately acquainted with him – He was killed instantly – Lieut. Post went home with the body, getting a seven days leave of absence for that purpose – Three of our sick officers have returned – (**Pg. 3**) They came up with me from the creek & it amused me to see their vane efforts to keep out of the mud – They left us at Loudon Valley & of course had never enjoyed our advantages upon Virginian roads – I shall be greatly mistaken if they don't wish themselves home again many times in the next two weeks – We fellows that have kept right along him become so hardened that nothing abashes us – Yesterday afternoon we turned to & began another hut – Got it ready to put on the cloth roof & today we stretched it over & tonight for the first time we shall sleep there in – I did not feel any strong scruples about so much Sunday work for a storm is threatening & already it rains some – Any how I am glad for the shelter & the more so because C. Hotchkiss bbl arrived tonight & of course we had sausages for supper. The Capt. too recd. a box containing various (**Pg. 4**) stores including doughnuts & shell nuts - They came about the right time for our living has been rather lacking in

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variety – I am inclined to let you send me a small box provided you do it pretty soon – Direct same as a letter except instead Washington put Stafford Co. House & prepay – But act your own pleasure & don't go to any expense – I intended to say in my last that you would pay the express fee on the money forwarded – Let me know how much was the whole bill so that I can collect of the men their respective shares – If you send me a box put in a pair of soles for my boots that is the leather – Also that copy of Dickens if not already sent – My candle is out & here I must stop with a good night & much love – Tell Julia Ann I can burn up the letters –

A. U.