

March 15, 1863  
No. 63

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Mar. 1863, Washington, D.C. with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on two sheets of lined stationery folded in half and is written on eight sides in ink.)*

Stafford Co. Ho. Va.  
March 15th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Another Sunday has come & I take a few moments to fill up another sheet to you – Yours of Monday & Tuesday last arrived yesterday – It is a chilly day with prospects of storm - I went on duty at 8 ½ as Officer of the Guard – We have to stay most of the time at the guard quarters & I indite this from that place – The men not posted stand around the fire – Seven go on at a time, stay two hours & seven others take their places & stay two hours & then are relieved by seven others who stand as before & then the first set go on again & so round for 24 hours – It is now nearly 4 o'clock – We had quite a fall of hail half an hour since & little pellets of ice are dropping upon my paper as the words are penned – The wind (**Pg. 2**) has blown from the N.E. & like enough you are enjoying a big snow storm – We have none now but all last week the weather was cold, Marchy & two or three nights it froze hard enough to bear up a mule team loaded – that is the mud did – Our Chaplain is here but we hear nothing about service – He is going home the 1st of April for good – While writing the last sentence it thundered off to my right which is towards the Potomac - We have heard several claps in the last hour – I imagine we shall have more of that phenomena here than you will – Two more Lieuts. started for home this morning – Lewis thinks his turn comes soon - I shall enter my application in a day or two, but when it will be answered is more than I can guess – There is no particular evidence of any movement immediately ahead – We are getting along (**Pg. 3**) pretty comfortably – enough to eat – enough to do – snow squalls, March winds & brigade drills or something of the kind keeping us in variety – The minds of the soldiers are considerably exercised over political affairs – Seymour has a few friends in the regt. but the great majority utterly detest the man & his principles – So hostile do some of them feel that I verily believe he could not visit our camp & get off with a safe hide – We all note with great satisfaction the rising tide of patriotic feeling that is manifesting itself at the north & west – I see ground for encouragement in these demonstrations – We shall triumph finally & all these copperhead peace croakers will go down to coming generations with shame in their faces – I was pleased with your statement of business matters. If you don't run up heavy bills for groceries & such things at the stores I see no reason (**Pg. 4**) why we should not raise our heads some ways out of the water before the year comes round – This morning I waked up rather early & lay there thinking about you all – Could see you all getting up & going through the exercises of dressing, washing, cooking, eating & the like – But some how it hardly seems that I shall feel quite a home

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at first among you – We after a while, get so accustomed to our mode of life that we suppose others living in the same way – Sometimes I almost wonder when it occurs to me how roomy our house is – We should be lost in any thing bigger than a wall tent while under cover; but put us out doors & we are not embarrassed – After turning out I sat down & while Jim & the Capt. were getting breakfast I imagined the way you were going through the same business – We had cod fish cakes & buckwheat flapjacks for our meal – They went down good you may believe – I have finished up your doughnuts & snaps – tasted the dates, raisins, grapes, peppermints, lozenges, cheese, dried beef, bread & whatever the box contained & must pronounce it all good – Capt. had some cheese sent in his box; but he pronounces yours the best – Any how it is good enough – The beef I shall keep for a march-

**(Pg. 5)** Monday Morning - We had showers of hail & more or less thunder through the evening – The ground is white now & the wind still N.E. & moist – Clouds hang motionless above & it is just one those days when one loves to sit down by the fire - & be comfortable – I shall be off duty at 9 & there intend to take hold & finish the last months report – Have not felt interest enough in it to begin & more than all could not see how to make one that would be worth reading – We have had no exciting scenes since coming to this place; no marches nor any exercises but what I have often described – And I hope we shall not leave here till the season is so far advanced that we shall no longer need to build huts – Lewis went on picket yesterday – he had a pleasant watch last night – Still it did not rain – I consider a hard rain as disagreeable as anything. **(Pg. 6)** Wonder who is bringing your water for washing this morning – Guess too the path is not cleaned off under the close line – I want you to avoid those hard days work – Another episode – Had only penned that last word when Jim came running to the guard house with your letter written Wednesday evening & Thursday morning – Am glad you had a chance to sleigh ride with jovial company – You are right in reference to always wearing a long face – I find it all together better to knock away the blues & do not allow evil imaginings to disturb my peace – We can generally find some good post to hitch to – a book – a friend – a thought – some means of diversion or comfort, that will neutralize the discouraging feelings that often creep into the soul – Just act on the good philosophy you put forth & the days will pass away lightly & your gain will be great – It is true, as you say, that constant depression **(Pg. 7)** & mournfulness fail to awaken sympathy – A proper degree of seriousness & even sadness is to be expected – But people tire of seeing only long faces & agreeableness under embarrassment & trouble is more likely to on the whole gain friends –

Don't get envious of the young deacons wife – She will need a good deal of labor spent on her to become a proper person for her station – It is well that the older Deacons have begun early – I must close right here in order to send this by Sheriff Riley who leaves here in a few moment – He came last night – Looks plump & well – About furloughs I will make my application in due form today if I can get time – The Lt. Col. told me last night there were five applicants now down – If these all go in regular order I can probably get away the last of April – perhaps **(Pg. 8)** sooner – The mischief is some of the scamps let off overrun their time & that keeps everything at a stand still –

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But father need not fear – I don't wish the farm rented to any body – Rather have it ly  
still – Will write more particularly soon – Glad to see there is so much hay in the barn –  
Am likely to receive some reward for my labor –

Truly  
A. Upson