

March 7th, 1863
No. 59

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

By the politeness Mr. M. H. Smith

(Envelope is yellow and has no stamp or postmark. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery, which is folded in half and written on four sides in ink.)

Stafford Co. House, Va.
March 7th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

I wrote you by Mr. A. Hotchkiss yesterday – Hale Smith starts home tomorrow morning & I send you a few lines, although there is nothing to communicate of importance – It rained last night & today the appearances are favorable for stormy weather though we have had only slight showers – These last visitors found us in very good shape & I think they enjoyed themselves – At least they have now some correct ideas of the state of things here –

The hand of Joe Hooker is more & more visible in our affairs – Greater strictness is observed in all matters of discipline & we are like to have plenty to do whatever our situation – Drilling, reviews (**Pg. 2**) & the duties incident to soldier life will very likely compel me to write briefly – But I will endeavor to send you something two or three times each week – We are enjoying our living very much – Have never before commanded so much variety as we can here – I went two or three weeks since to get my picture – But the artist said he could not in his small tent take standing figures – I had on my trappings, intending it for Willie – Finding it must be in a sitting posture I concluded to do nothing about it as it would not convey any true idea of me farther than features go – If you desire me to spent one dollar for a representation of my face & upper body I will do so – But they are not such pictures as you get at home – He is making piles of money, his tent being constantly (**Pg. 3**) thronged – Many times a long row of soldiers stand outside each waiting his turn – Of the first ten soldiers from this regt. allowed a furlough, only one, George E. Tucker of our company was back on time – Two have not come yet, seven days over the period – No more will be granted until these two are back – Those who were expecting the next chance feel disappointed & indignant – Hale Smith being one of the scouts & not directly connected with the regt. gets his all straight -

We were called out on review yesterday expecting Gen. Hooker; but he did not come – We shall have a chance to see him before long in this way – I enjoyed very much a letter from Julia Ann - The Sewing Society Mission also came to hand yesterday & has been perused with much satisfaction by the men - (**Pg. 4**) It passed along through the street from hut to hut & I doubt not caused a thrill of joy & gratitude – The pay master does not make his advent – perhaps will not – But you are not out of funds & so it does not worry me – The rain has begun to fall thickly & a wet night is before us – Some how

(3-7-1863)

lately they are sparing me – I get on picket once a week & also on camp duty once – That is very light – But you must not infer that my time is otherwise unoccupied –

We have a good load of hickory wood at the door & plenty of provisions lying loose around the tent – Hope no marching orders will come till we can use up these supplies – Enough – You must think we are favored with opportunities to send off letters - Guess the future will be equally good –

Ever Yours
A. Upson