

Apr. 15, 1863  
No. 74

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Washington D.C. Apr. 18 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.  
April 15th, 1863

My Dear Wife,

So the old form of beginning a letter – Surely I am back – But the return journey has been unlucky – That break down at Baltimore of which I told you by mail from Washington was the beginning of trouble – We lost the boat by 15 or 20 minutes & had to stop all day in Washington – Then this morning the large regular boat running to Aquia was taken to transport troops to Fortress Monroe & the one substituted in its place was too small for the crowd of passengers – Not more than half got aboard – About 10 ½ we officers, numbering 40 or 50 was provided with an extra steamer & were landed at Aquia at 3 – Barnes & the men are on the way I suppose – (**Pg. 2**) I got to camp about 6, walking from Brooks Station – It has rained like a torrent half the day – Well for me that I bought a rubber coat – some of the things in the old carpet bag were wet – They would have been in much worse shape but for the second – But nothing is much damaged – Of one thing though I am sure – Next time I go on furlough I will limit the amount of freight – Found the regiment under marching orders & all paid of yesterday – But for the rain they had been on the way today – Now I am not altogether unlucky, for the paymaster had not left the corps – Found him at Gen. Williams quarters & obtained mine – I send you here with a draft for \$400 – You can send it by Wm. I or Hitchcock or somebody to N. Y. & get it cashed – The whole (**Pg. 3**) amount paid me was \$426.90 – I ought to have retained a little more than the \$26.90 – For you see I borrowed \$10 of C. Clark & also 5 of Sergt. Barnes in Washington to get a pair of boots – Am glad of the latter purchase now that we are to march – The new ones are knee high, handsome, light & yet thick & will keep my feet dry – The old ironclads are too stiff & clumsy for summer use – Moreover Jim will want some pay – But you can send me a little at a time along – Better not therefore dispose of all this at once – Refund to grandma her amount – take what you need yourself – & make as large an assault on the debts as possible – We are now paid up to the 1st of March – I have you see just saved myself & that is all – The Col. Recd. me very warmly & said not a word about my over running the furlough – (**Pg. 4**) But the Lt. Col. thought it much easier making connections when homeward bound than on the return – I should feel a little better if we had started Saturday – The fact is, there is nothing like always coming to time – This child will see here after, that there is a margin for contingencies – The camp looks charming – Company E's arch is splendid – It spans the street; from the center hangs the company letter & above sits the plumed bird of our national banner all in evergreen – I wish you could see how beautifully the work is done – But we have got to

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leave it – The President reviewed our corps last week – They were all together for the 1st time since we have in it – You see I lost something by absence - But then I enjoyed myself never better - & if Sunday had not come just as it did I should have kept my character good for punctuality – However I go on picket tomorrow if we don't march – They ring me in without ceremony –

*(Written up side of this page in right margin)*

But feel first rate – Have good appetite tonight & demolished two plates of beans-

*(Written on first page sideways in top margin)*

They tasted good – I have thought of you doing chores in the rain today – Hope it has not poured down so much. Peach trees in blossom & the grass has started wonderfully since I left – Here's my love to you girl – for I care –

A. Upson