

April 19, 1863  
No, 76

Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked but is unclear with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on three sheets of lined stationery, two are folded in half and written in ink on eight sides. The third is written on two sides of a full sheet and is in ink.)*

Stafford Co. House, Va.  
April 19th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

It is Sunday 2 P.M. – I am again on picket – My post is the right one of the line & Aquia Creek is close by – The day is beautiful & I cannot help thinking of you – Last Sunday I was in Southington – It hardly seems possible – My whole visit seems more like a dream than anything real – When I succeed in believing that I have been home & enjoyed domestic comfort the whole affair is so hurried & short that it partakes more of the character of a play – There was nothing like rest about my ten days – I guess another week would have left me some leisure – However it is well I returned so opportunely – It would have come rather tough to wait for next pay day; for like enough it will not happen in six months – Moreover we have got to move soon & it is best to be on hand – Everything has been packed for three days – Our tent was (**Pg. 2**) pulled down & sent off with the other belonging to officers last Thursday – When the march begins we shall take a common shelter like the men – New Knapsacks have been given out to the regiment – This became necessary to carry the rations that were ordered – Viz 8 days of hard bread & meat for 3 days – The remaining 5 days meat will be driven on the hoof – We are simply drawing from day to day, not touching that furnished for the march – 8 days of hard bread count about 100 crackers, quite a bulky pile & larger than can be crammed into the haversack – This amount of rations with all the other luggage is more than the men can carry & do much marching – The whole burden including gun & equipments will not fall much short of 50lbs. too much for any but the toughest – Besides the weather is getting warm & no little anxiety is felt by many as to their ability to accomplish the feat proposed – I have not yet (**Pg. 3**) believed we should start with such loads – But there is no disposition manifested to reduce the amount ordered – Early last week a strong force of cavalry 15,000 with supporting artillery & infantry started on reconnaissance in the direction of Culpepper – It is supposed we were to follow them whenever it became necessary – Nothing had been heard from this movement when I left camp this morning – I should think intelligence must come today at least & very likely we will move tomorrow – The fact that I am on picket is significant – You know it has always been my fortune to finish up that business for the 20th at every camp since we began that kind of service – We may not go at all – There is no letting anything about it until we actually start – I am glad Hooker keeps his plans so much concealed – No letter has come to me since my return, so I conclude you did not write as soon as you wished me to – If the mail today (**Pg. 4**) brings nothing & we march tomorrow it will be several

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days before I get anything from home – That leads me to caution you about getting anxious if nothing comes from us for a week or two or even three – We shall write whenever it is possible – But on the march & advancing whither we know not it is impossible to have many facilities for mail transportation – Then again our letters may be stopped – Sooner or later you will hear & just keep easy – We are just as much deprived as you in this respect & the same God, infinite in goodness & power, is always over us all – We may meet the rebels soon; we may not see any fighting whatever – So far as my observation goes we are enough more composed than when leaving Arlington – In fact most of the boys would choose to be in a fight if there must be one – The roads are getting settled & when the ball opens I suppose it will be kept rolling – We observed the monster balloon up yesterday in the direction of Falmouth – Wagons are loaded & whatever preparation can be made seems already accomplished. (**Pg. 5**) I find on my return that several things of interest have happened – In the 1st place our new brigadier fell or was thrown from his horse the early part of last week & broke his thigh – He was taken to Washington Friday morning & Col Ross has assumed his place – Of course Lt. Col. Wooster takes command of the regt. & is like to act in that capacity for a good while – Burbank, our regular adjutant went with Ross & Wooster has taken Lt. Sprague, who came from his town, to officiate in that relation to himself – Another Lt. from the same place, Beardsley, is acting as a kind of inspector – C. Clark failing to get the ambulances, is more lucky still & has been detailed in the brigade quartermasters department – He will thus continue to deal in forage – Another Lt. Holt, is on duty at the landing. Brown who would not give up his place to Clark remains with the ambulances & Kirby has been made adjutant in a battery – Campbell, who recently returned from (**Pg. 6**) furlough has resigned. Newton is sick & Lt. Lewis ailing – There are also two or three captains who perform very little duty – You can easily see that the well ones will have enough to do – Thus I was detailed for picket next day two hours after my return & here I am again – I am informed that several of our officers had a high time a few nights before my arrival & some who were supposed perfectly steady got tipped over – Many of our E boys have told me since that they were thankful the Southington Company had no stain of that kind upon its character – That we have some officers without much real principle I have long known – Above all vices here drunkenness produces the worst consequences – I wish the rule that excludes whisky from privates & non commissioned officers was as rigidly applied to those wearing straps – Col Wooster is no tippler & no card player – (**Pg. 7**) I am inclined to think he will straiten up certain commanders more than Ross – If he would rely upon those who will be his best supporters & try to fetch all alike to duty I will say nothing – But it is rather hard to bear the burdens & see others bag the rewards – Wooster of course looks first to those companies raised in his own vicinity – B. & H. are lucky because of his advance – Yet as companies they are not superior to ours – Wooster has always shown me proper respect I presume will regard me with as much favor as any of his Lieuts. - that did not come from his region – If he but knew it his main dependence is on those officers who will try to aid him because they wish the 20th to do well let the commander be whoever chance shall put in that position. The men do not like him &

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entertain very little confidence in his military capacity – He succeeds rather poorly on drill – Still he is liked to be our Col. for the (*Pg. 8*) present & I intend to render him all the assistance in my power – Probably the next promotions will fall to those who know a shorter way to place than the road of faithful, uncomplaining duty – How lively the weeks fly away – Last Sunday in Ct. today in Va. & a mighty sight of hurry & whirl & travels between the two – You have had your troubles & cares & I suppose been to church today – We were enjoying a sweet time an hour later than this 8 days since – I hope you will tell me all your experiences through the week after we parted in New Haven. Whether my furlough was as productive of happiness to yourself as to me I can only surmise – But if my absence is joyous & I hope you will help me in making it so, there is probably some months of happiness before you – Capt. says Lt. Lewis has been half sick ever since I went home – Poor fellow – he did not happen to be lucky, that's all – Write me all about affairs - I have had some conscience twinges over Jenny's stable - Keep me posted – Has that pig begun to grow? Peach trees in blossom here & the buds of some trees breaking – In my heart fresh & full the current of love flows on & for you

*(Written up side margin)*

Truly, A. U.

*(Written on first page sideways in upper margin.)*

Monday 11 ½ A.M. have just returned from picket – We have an April day – No orders to march yet – No news – Find your letter awaiting me – As for the picture, remember my position – You wanted a military picture & I gave you one – Though I don't remember that there was any effort at trueness – But I had no time for a second – Will try again sometime in different posture – That is one of attention & close observation – Of course there would some rigidity of feature –

*(Pg. 9)* The Chaplain had service this A.M. at 11 – Capt W. & I went up but we were a little late – More in attendance than last Sunday – After meeting I went with the Capt. & called on Mrs. Ross. By the way I dressed up today in complete outfit – New shirt vest, pants & hat – Really, when “George Washington” asked if I was going to be married, I thought there must be a change in appearance & upon looking in the mirror there was satisfactory evidence than ones dress does alter his figure – Have never tried the trousers before – They are a grand fit – Freidman did honor to his customer this time – at least from first observations – the wear may alter for worse this judgment – Capt. says by your request he tried to find some blackberry wine in New Haven for me – No wine was there but he got some blackberry brandy – Unfortunately the bottle broke in his carpetbag & so I am no better for that expense – Capt is unlucky about such things – His bottles almost ever get broke – But I am in no want now – Never felt better – If you ever send anything of that kind put it in one of the little willow bound flasks that have a screw

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stopper – They can be carried & tumbled but glass bottles generally get smashed – I have all I want of clothing now except a towel – If you send me another box put in a two quart tin pail with a cover & a smaller pail & cover that will nest inside the larger one – Also a knife & fork & large & small spoon & two medium sized round pans – about 3 quarts – I am going to have a mess box & when we move put it in with the baggage – For a long while after coming here I could not get dish or anything – Our fitting out now is quite deficient – You can fill the pails with butter or sausage meat – Don't forget the ruler – As for maps Capt. Woodruff says he could find nothing in New Haven – You need not trouble yourself unless it is convenient – I want a map of the whole country that folds up – One that gives the places rail roads, rivers, mountains xc. But I doubt whether you can get it reasonably – Hold on, now – I think this minute that Mitchels school Atlas is just what I want except its shape – But I have a company chest for books & records & it will go in that all right – You may buy the latest edition of Mitchel – simply (**Pg. 10**) the atlas – As long as we staid in Va. I could get along with a map of one state – But this is an entirely new region & we are sometimes in Tennessee, next in Alabama & then in Georgia – I need the map very much – Should use it every day – have enough writing paper – You see a Capt. is entitled to so much each quarter & I intend to make the Q. M. fork over – Have drawn my 5 quires – You need not send me any more till I request – As for boots I am minded to let them alone – I am not in immediate need & if hard pressed could wear those you sent – We will let the leather question rest for a while – In place of boots I will suggest a night cap – Don't laugh – We often lie out of doors & ones head feels the air unless the hat is kept on – But it is difficult to sleep in a hat without crushing the brim – These sleeping caps are generally knit – You have enough to do & I do not wish to suggest one moments additional labor – Cannot Ida make one? Or does it require old hands – Do as you please –

I recd. a letter from Charlie Clark last night – He is at Shelbyville – Expects to stay there some time – Is engaged collecting forage – Goes out everyday with a wagon train – We are doing the same thing here – It is exceedingly difficult to get forward adequate supplies to the front & those animals along the road are flung upon their own resources mostly – There is plenty of corn in the country 20 or 30 miles away & I rather guess a part of our business is like to be the furnishing of fodder for ourselves & others – Charlie says he likes Shelbyville better than Nashville – Stevenson is dull as Wolcott – Everything is gone to Bridgeport – But the passage of trains night & day prevents us from going to sleep like woodchucks – Well, here I am at the end of six pages – I have come to the conclusion that one occasion of your nervousness is my long epistles – Alas! How much white paper & black ink have got into your hands since I enlisted enough to make any woman crazy – I must reform – Unfortunately the Q. M. has issued me no note sheets – His stock is entirely letter & cap – But I will stop – only dwelling to say good night – Love – good night – About my back pay – That is all right – I mean from Aug 18th to Oct 23rd – Hope the other from June 30th to Aug 18th will come yet – I will say the last – Would you bend to listen? Well, the pledge was meant & will be kept –

Love Yours

A.U.