

June 1, 1863
No. 95

Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Annapolis Md. June 1, 1863 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on two sheets of lined stationery folded in half and is written on eight sides in ink.)

Annapolis, Md.
June 1st, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours not dated but mailed the 29th is just recd – Saturday I recd one written a week previous that had been miss-sent to Frederick – Several items of news are brought by the former – 1st Capt. Ws report you allude to I wish you had given some account of it – It is rather a delicate matter to write of the same scenes which have been related by another – Besides I have become tired of doing this work – Can sit down & dash off a snatch to you or some one else & not feel it a burden – There is another reason why I feel backward about making any communication – It is necessary to speak of myself too much if I attempt a description of the journey to Richmond – Aside from some general matters I don't know as the people of Southington have any business to expect a detail of this for public use – I don't consider myself a public character – True I am in Uncle Sam's service, but that does not make (*Pg. 2*) me the hireling of everybody – I have due regard to the wishes of my own friends, especially the circle at the corner & will do anything in my power to gratify them – Those also at the center who feel right towards me & the good cause are taken into consideration – But if the spirit of hostility is so strong that men & women rejoice over our exposure to danger & chuckle to hear of disaster & death I have no desire to come before either in person or by letter – But I have begun a report & expect to finish in a day or two – Rather guess if Capt. follows up the subject no more need be expected from me – Perhaps you don't quite understand this – You are posted on the history of affairs pertaining to Co. E. The people of Southington have a strange way of showing their appreciation of those entitled to some esteem – I feel disposed to hand them over to those they so fit to honor & let the community learn something if they will – Suppose I send a well written description of all my experience – folks go to hear it – at least you seem to think they will – Some are (*Pg. 3*) entertained & some are instructed – Well, I have been doing this for a good while & don't see where in I am benefited or like to be – Others who hear it will pervert my acts & make them the occasion of new scandal & evil report – Even today you tell me “some would like to make out you ran first” - First; Do they mean before the regt. left? That is strange indeed – When I jumped the breastwork not another man so far as I know remained there who had not thrown down his gun – Griffin, in conversation I had with him just before he went home, says he fired after I left - I can't say he did not: but it seems very strange that he did not keep up firing while I did – The last I remember of him he was walking back & forth about two rods from me with his gun in his hand as if in doubt what to do – I exhorted him to go to work

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but did not hear him fire – If he staid & shot after I left he shall have the credit of it – But before that point can be settled to my satisfaction I want to see some who were nearer me & know all the facts – Now about those (**Pg. 4**) running there is no truth whatever – I walked – It was necessary to go cautions for I had to look on all sides of me – Mind, I was in front of the breastwork, not back of them now & moving in the direction whence the enemy had come – But I know this spirit of Copperheadism is meaner than Satan himself & that it will torture every act so as to rob a man it hates of his just due – Don't you patronize a copperhead in the least respect & much all their taunts & lies with open & brave defiance – Speaking of furloughs – Griffin need not take to himself much smartness – He bought his furlough as all who get them have to – I knew all about it – Don't know but officers could buy theirs – Have not heard of one doing it – But since Griffin got through the man doing this trade has been arrested – They all ought to be – I should not have loaned him the money under those circumstances but for the condition of his wife – Has he returned it? Gracious goodness! Co. E. must look small in camp – Well I wish the boys all a good time – Keep me informed of things – Sergt. Grannis is a queer man – It is curious how many in one way & another get out real soldier duty – When the fighting is on hand (*Written sideways on this page in right margin*) every man ought to help – There is quite too much extra service – Wish I could (sideways on 1st page in upper margin) be general a few weeks – Such fellows as Hen. Clark & a good many more, both officers & men would get an old overhauling – This is confidential – do you understand? – (**Pg. 5**) If you intend to visit me here it better be soon – We may be ordered to join our regiments any day – I don't see how to get home honorably & I shall not put on citizens clothes nor buy leave of absence – It would be very pleasant to have you enjoy this retreat with me – It is a quiet place – I expect in a day or two to hear positively whether you come or not – I wish you to come if it is agreeable to yourself & practicable – The staff officers were all ordered last night to join their respective commands – They are exchanged – You ask about Smith & Beardsley – The former is married – the later not – Smith is much the better man – Beardsley is young & loose – His parents are rich & his position is owing to friendly influence – How he departed himself in the battle I can't say – Have not heard from him or any other any account of his fighting – Being an aide his time was taken up in conveying orders – He is smart but not one of the class who work for the sake of the cause – He behaved well among the rebs – We marched (**Pg. 6**) side by side slept under the same blanket in fact lived like brothers – Smith fought well & is a true man – Though not so perfectly correct as I supposed him before the intimate acquaintance of our Richmond journey – Taking our officers as they run – I have had more or less opportunity to form the acquaintance of nearly 200 from 2d Lieuts clear up to brigadiers – They are not of as good character as I had previously supposed – They drink & swear worse than I thought for & too many of them are full of low talk & impurity – Maybe there is no more of such wickedness than is to be expected under the circumstances – Men in the army are shut off from their usual gratifications & knowing what human nature is perhaps we expect too much when we look for godly lives & blameless conversation – What I have seen of this kind of sin latterly makes me less hopeful of our cause than formerly – Real pure character is a rare

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gem – There is patriotism to some extent in almost every bosom – But the extent to (**Pg. 7**) which other considerations than real merit regulate public affairs & gain men position would astonish you – My observation attains wider & wider range each day – I fall in with men who have been in this & that fight from the very beginning – My latest conclusion is that nearly every battle that has resulted adversely did so result because of some egregious blunder or palpable in competency in our commanders – When we shall attain to a state of things consonant with victory I don't know – Hooker got the idea into his head that the rebs were retreating when really they were moving round to attack his right wing – If he had assailed them first, before they had time to turn his flank I think the result had been different – Even after the 11th corps was pushed in seems to me we ought to have whipped the enemy. Our force was not all brought into action - nor was the ground contested with that stubbornness which retrieves defeat & turns the tide in our favor – I expected the rebs would all be driven back when our (**Pg. 8**) strength around the brick house was brought to bear – I had seen only the day before how the artillery was massed there & my confidence, when jumping the breastwork was almost sure that it would not be long before I should see the rebs. skidaddling and than I could regain our own boys – But the fire receded further & further until I gave up my hope of victory & began to plan how to escape when night set in – That was arranged – But you know the result – We are having strawberries here now very plenty – Peas & asparagus, radishes, crabs, salad – fish – plenty of good living – Mooney nights – too! But I get very discontented over them – Love to Grandmother & Julia Ann – Glad to hear that Ida & Frank mean to be punctual at school – Willie will be old enough by & by – He must help mother at home – I remember how he used to come up the road & call us to dinner – Give my respects to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Shepard –

Yours Ever

A. Upson

Send a little scrap taken from the Baltimore American John O'Neal, it seems is a little unfortunate –