

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863  
No. 99  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Envelope is postmarked Alexandria, Va. Jun. 14 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on two sheets of lined stationery folded in half and is written on eight sides in ink.)*

On picket 1 ½ miles from camp.  
June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> was recd night before last – Last night we had no mail but instead orders from Corps Head Quarters to get ready three days, cooked rations in our haversacks & 8 days of small rations, hard bread xc. in the wagons & be prepared to march on twelve hours notice – This morning the regular detail for out post duty is sent out, myself in command of all from our regiment – Judging by past experience we shall march to-morrow morning – But of course nothing can be learned – Where are we going? is the question all ask & doubtless friends at home will repeat the same to each other – The amount of rations looks like some distant point – The most common surmise is North Carolina – In case that is the point we shall likely march to Alexandria & thence ship to Newbern or ..Breufort (**Pg. 2**) Any other spot is just as probable to be our destination – We may not leave at all, but my opinion inclines to the view that we have enjoyed our winter quarters as long as can be expected. I have got the report nearly done – hope to finish it today if it don't rain, the prospect of which is fair enough – It is a mild foggy morning & mud is plenty on the road. If we have much traveling to do here at this season I pity the mules – I think the boys generally would be pleased to leave Va. They have conceived a very unfavorable opinion of this state & don't care much where they are taken provided an opportunity occurs to leave this sacred soil behind – I entertain much the same views – If we are to go further south it is far better that we do it before spring commences – We are not much farther from home practically any where on the coast below than here in Va. if stationed inland – Besides I wish to see Southern (**Pg. 3**) life in the turpentine regions & shall not object to a view of it where they raise cotton or sugar cane – You will, I imagine be somewhat stirred up by these tidings – But let me assure you that I feel just as safe in one place as another – Gods protection is not limited by the petty boundaries by which we mark off the earth – He has blessed me with continuous health & today I am as well as when we left New Haven – Yes I am better than then, feel more vigorous & don't care the snap of your finger for what some would give much to avoid – Nothing here very much disturbs my equanimity – Of course my heart is touched for others who break down under the duties required – Some can not get over diarrhea – others, suffer from piles – Rheumatism, fevers, ague & a great many other complaints; But I drill, go on picket, eat, drink, sleep & find myself fresh as the morning day by day – Don't think me gaping – The above is (**Pg. 4**) true to the letter – A day or two since the scales said my weight was 141 & with that testimony to my condition I think you may dispel all fears as to my health - I am however grieved by what you tell me of father – Is

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he going into a decline? Wish now I had not imposed upon him the cares of our business – Sell off the stock or do some way to relieve him – Would he be any better off in his room at Mile's. If so urge him to go there – Anna's course is what you might expect of Irish character – Now for some of your questions – I generally think of them after my letters are sent off – You asked a long time since "who is Suff of the Press's?" Lieut. Post of Co. C. from Hartford – The letter in the Palladium excites some curiosity in camp – I don't know the writer, but came near being provoked yesterday when one of the captains imputed it to me – Evidently he was ignorant of my style or he never could have thought me guilty of such a foolish production – Who the officer was that had his toes in the mud & was so short of food is unknown to me – That is pure fancy or else there is one bigger fool among our commissioned than I had supposed - You also ask about the rations – The govt. (**Pg. 5**) provides for soldiers but leaves the officers to take care of themselves – The brigade commissary is required to sell to us what we want for our own use – We can always buy anything that the men have of him provided our money holds out – Some of the officer I guess are pretty much minus money & have been for a good while – Your remittances, there was 30cts in the last but one letter, have kept me solvent – But a few days since Burnside issued an order, requiring the Commissary to trust officers who are without the means of paying – I am not afraid of starving & do not believe one fourth of the grumbling about short rations is justified by the facts – Soldiers waste a great deal they lack providence & when supplies fall short a few days they, not having laid in anything ahead as they might, are fetched up suddenly – You see how some folks at home always live only one day ahead of the wolf – It is just the same in the army – I don't remember any other questions now – Wish you had not (**Pg. 6**) returned Clark the V until I had recd. my pay – He might as well wait as yourself. Bill Clark is a curious fellow – I presume he puts on the patronizing air at home – It amused me to see his individuality stick out in Washington – Guess he means well generally – As to Mr. Atwater & his suit with Clark my impression is that both are excessively stubborn – I don't believe the former is injured at all by the latter in the matter of dam – But the deposition I could not help – The boys here are rather gleeful over what comments are made by wives at home at the expense of Charley & his youthful spouse – They were much amused to see him put on sash & sword when he left camp – There is no use in taking airs unless you can back up the assumption by some real authority or character – The difference between easy carriage & strut is so apparent that soldiers at once recognize the sham & the genuine, & when ever a chance for fun (**Pg. 7**) at the expense of comrades offers it is improved – Jim has just come with my pack & I must close & send this back by him in order to have it go today – Will write all that can be learned of our movements as opportunity occurs – Did not get my picture in Washington – Shall have opportunity some time – As to not liking a furlough that is hardly true, but my sense of honor would not justify me in asking it - I hardly think Wm. J. needed one for his brother more than many others in the regt. – But keep easy – our time will come & it will not be alloyed by any convictions of short comings in duty – All officers are ordered back by telegraph if absent – The Quartermaster Sergeant is not probably of so much consequence as to receive such a summons, though some had the mind last night to send

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him a dispatch – But I don't intend (*Pg. 8*) him any unkindness – He is very good company & we shall be glad when he is with us again – I send you enclosed a leaf I picked from Uncle Lancelot's creeper – also the leave of absence given me by Gen. Slocum - Should be glad to enclose you something more valuable – We ought to be paid off before leaving – But there is no certainty about that – I can only encourage you by the same hope that animates me - Give my love to all the friends – Tell the babies of papa, & how much he would be pleased to see them – They must be kind to each other & not perplex mother by too much noise in their sports – To you my wife, I speak the words of early days – We vowed fidelity & is the solemn promise broken? Be cheerful & trust in Him who directs all our ways –

Yours truly  
A. Upson

The pass spoken of above I supposed was in my pocket, but I must have left it in the tent.