

June 24, 1863

No. 107

Mrs. Andrew Upson

Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Alexandria with a three cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides and one small scrap of paper, with short note, all written in ink.)

Convalescent Camp,

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife,

Yours of Sunday evening arrived today – Also Mr. Griffins & one from Mr. S.H. Nortons – Griffins tells me of the copperhead slanders of which I cease to care – Mr. Norton is brief; but seems to entertain no hope of his son – Says his (Luzernes) Mother is nearly crazy – I feel sorry for the man & his family –

There is nothing new here – I take my meals – read my war books & the papers – chat – play checkers – at which my skill is improving – watch the mail, & once in two or three days go out with a fatigue party & help them do pretty much nothing – Co. E. boys drop in evenings & so I get rid of the day light & some darkness – The balance is given to reading & (Pg. 2) sleep – Today have been witnessing pay rolls – Would like what money has passed under my eyes – We could clean off those debts on the double quick – Have not been down to Alexandria since you left – Should have gone last night, but had an intimation that I should be sent out west in charge of a lot of men belonging that way – Understood the squad would start today – But nothing further has come of that – Military men change their minds a great many times – Should rather like such a trip, though it might be attended with much responsibility – Will write you before I go, if that fortune happens to me –

I have been informed tonight that the men here will be exchanged about the 7<sup>th</sup> of July – This is not official – But I should not be (Pg. 3) surprised if it proved true – The boys want to go to their regiments very much – Those regiments we saw lying just north of this camp recd. marching orders today – They go to the front & the report is that colored soldiers will take their place – The sneaks are rather huffy about having darkies for guards – Guess the colored boys will get insulted – But I hope every white casting reproach upon a sable soldier will meet with severe punishment – Now we will see what sort of a governor is Col. McKelsy – If he carries a steady hand matters will go well – Decision is necessary & a purpose to do justice by all kinds & colors – There is quite too much of caste feeling among our folks – Shall we have to be tried with double & triple reverses before we learn the great (Pg. 4) lesson of human brotherhood? –

I wrote to Sam C. Root this morning; likewise sent you the last of that report – Hope you keep shady about its whereabouts – Be wise – If I should be sent off with a company of men West I might possibly dodge home a day or two on my return – You see transportation would be furnished me most of the way – But there are many slips in all

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calculations – We had a pretty good draught of domestic happiness – Though I should not object to a renewal even so soon – That seems too good to be hoped for – Well, we shall never forget nor regret the ten day visit to Washington & Alexandria – That put the polish on our wedded life I think – “A good wife is from the Lord” – So are all our blessings – The band is playing – We have plenty of music – I had rather be with my brow - That being contrary to fate here goes my best love & to you –

A. Upson

(Written on first page sideways in upper margin.)

Have paid Jos. Atwater & Lee – Remember I owe nobody here – There is probably a little due Capt. W. as we did not square up board bill before leaving Stafford – About swords I want one with a steel scabbard but they cost \$18 - here – That is too much – Did not tell WJ to buy but only to get the price – He has written that they are as dear in N.Y. as Washington Possibly N.H. might be a better place-

(Written on small piece of paper)

Wish you would send me a red star with five points – You remember how they look – I can be put in a letter - Lieut. Bunnell two dollars yesterday – Capt. Smith has gone to his regiment – He owes me \$12 – I did not see him –