

July 24, 1863

No. 120

Mrs. Andrew Upson

Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope with a three cent stamp is postmarked Georgetown D.C. Jul 24 1863. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Union Battalion

July 23d, 1863 –

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 20th was recd. today – The mails have got regular again – I also had one from Wm. J – Was in the fort when they came – You see I had charge of a fatigue party of a 100 – The sergt. who goes for our mail was kind enough to bring me my missives & I sat down upon the carriage of a big gun & read what you had to say – It is worth something to have a go-ahead wife – Guess your circumstances are not unfavorable for the development of character – though your failing never was laziness – If 20 shock is safe you have enough for a years bread – Really Aroma happened around in a fortunate time – But you will need to stir up a hornets nest under his heels to get the harvest secure (Pg. 2) by his help – Glad you persuaded Mr. Smith to do the carting – Has that board been put on the gable yet? If not a great deal of rain will beat in when the fall storms commence – If I understand aright you sold all the grass except what grew in the house lot – How much hay have you in the barn? There will be another crop I judge in the house lot – How does the young grass look on the various rye fields? I wish you to tell me about it in each field or else have Miles do it – If you shock all the rye would like to be informed the amount on each lot – These things afford me no little comfort – Every item is of value & you can not be too particular – There is enough about which to write & my desire is that you & Ida & all should practice until whatever the farm affords has been described – Wish I could see those grapes – How far has the (Pg. 3) Delaware grown? Same about the pear trees & apples – Are the latter bearing? I should enjoy, O how much! looking at all those evidences of my labor & improvement – But you see them & that is some satisfaction – There is nothing unusual here – We have little to do – 1st in the morning comes the papers – Then we go to breakfast – Then guard mounting – Then ly around, read, talk, play checkers or go a fishing until dinner which comes off about 1 ½ P.M. the breakfast being at 7 ½ - Afternoons go pretty much as the first part of the day – Our mail gets in about two & so letters become the desert – They are the best we have too – Our boarding place is pretty much a one horse affair Ham, cabbage & string beans – Beef always roasted dry & cucumbers spoiled with raw onions – Coffee, but no tea – A darky stands back & with a long bush keeps the flies off the food & makes himself (Pg. 4) variously useful – He is black as ink & rather thick headed – If certain that we should remain here long I would get some dishes & board myself – Have not felt like doing it until within a day or so – But won't stand such fare as we are getting much longer – Consider my reinstatement a hopeful matter & shall hold on until something turns up –

(7-24-1863)

A plucky wife is worth a fortune & if the chance offered I should show how mine is appreciated - Really you are more master of yourself than a year since - Keep your head up, brave spouse - I could kiss those lips with gusto about these days - But if somebody, given to bushwhacking would catch this strumpet of a moon & shut her up I should get through the night easier - My couch is made of poles with a little hay over them & then a rubber blanket - You would think it a hard resting place - But no more tonight - I have been hindered this evening & my eyes say go to bed - Here is my heart full to the dear one -

A.U.