

Aug. 15th, 1863
No – 133
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Envelope is postmarked Alexandria Va. Aug 16, 1863 with a 3- cent stamp. Letter is on one large sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink. It also contains a small drawing of a “hut for four”)

Camp Distribution
Aug. 15th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

It is Saturday night – We have had a hot day – I was intending to go to Alexandria this evening & stay until to-morrow – About 5 o'clock sent over to Col. M. Kelvey for a pass – It was soon brought & with it an order from the War Dept. restoring me to my rank & pay from the day I rejoin the regt. provided the vacancy is not already filled by Gov. Buckingham – Of course the latter has not been done – My days at Convalescent Camp are numbered to-morrow – I shall go to Alexandria & thence, probably on Monday, start for the 20th – Here is part of what I have been looking for - You see they would knock me out of nearly four months pay – But luckily I am ahead of Uncle Sam now – Have already pocketed two months of those wages & guess there will be no doubt about the remainder - Singular that this happens just a year very near from the time we finished up recruiting our company – You remember all about it & I doubt not have already reviewed the various scenes as they are mirrored on your memory – A year almost in the service! **(Pg. 2)** Though latterly somewhat eventful it now seems to run off rather easily – Don't know that I feel the effects of its toils & hardships in a remarkable degree – Guess I am quite as fresh & boyish as a twelve month since – But in experience of many things I feel vastly older – What I have seen of human nature, its vices, follies, weaknesses – this has enlarged my views much & left impressions that will not be effaced – These last four months of the year have been fruitful of observation – I have lost something by absence from the regt., but that is not to be compared with what I have gained – And now, about to return to duty my heart is ready to acknowledge the hand of God in all the vicissitudes that are passed – I thank Him for thus conducting me to an enlarged understanding of all that pertains to this struggle & to our country & to our fellow men – I am sorry that a repining or fractious spirit has ever colored my thoughts & words – How mercifully he has dealt with me! How kindly he has provided for us all! My Dear, let daily praise & thanksgiving go up from your soul & mine & from the tongues of our children that he has been so kind & constant in care & bounty – And hereafter let us do our whole duty & trust to God only – **(Pg. 3)** I have settled my board bill with Mrs. McDonell & owe no debt here – Have \$70 Dollars in packet – Have lent Henry Bunnell \$7 - & Henry Bishop \$2 – They may never be in a condition to return it – Though I doubt not both intend to – Bishop has gone into the invalid corps & it is hardly probable that we shall meet again, at least for a long while – You need say nothing about this unless they should possibly open the subject – Bunnell is here – Lieut. Crow owes me two dollars & I guess always will – Smith left for home I have been informed of similar obligations to several officers & also

(8-15-1863)

to Mr. McD. (This is said to my wife) If it fares thus with me about being reinstated don't see how he will get through – Perhaps all the easier – Have not heard a word from him since he left Fort Ethan Allen – Smith & I have just got our mess well a going – I am sorry to part with him – There is no real meanness in his composition – Don't know the officer in all my acquaintance who has won a stronger hold upon my esteem – That he reciprocates the attachment is evidenced by his constant demeanor – We have got along like two brothers & I don't believe there is chance for jar between his nature & mine. In many respects we are very unlike – I hope some day to receive Charles J. Smith, 1st Lieut. 2d Del. Vols. as my & your guest – (*Pg. 4*) Carter our cook is quite disappointed – He is a very obliging man, not exactly a forcible character, but in some respects quite – decided – He seems to have taken a fancy to me – Naturally he is of a refined turn & abhors every shade of wickedness – He is the best hand, for a man, to fix up a good meal out of nothing almost that I ever saw or expect to – But he too will be left behind – How many nice plans & arrangements are brought to a sudden termination in the course of a soldiers life! How many dear friendships are sundered! As I have stood at the eating room barrack & seen a thousand or more men file in past me the thought has often occurred “They are moving on to the Great Judgment Day!” – Now they are here to-morrow on the way to join their comrades - & thus we meet & separate once & forever! Wife, I have an impression that there is yet a great deal for me to do – Some how my vision stretches on to scenes beyond this three years – I seem rather to be more active & useful in the use of my powers upon affairs as they shall develop subsequent to this rebellion – Events shape themselves in conformity to the earlier visions – I see coming many struggles between truth & error – between parties & policies – When this war is over there comes the real work of possessing the whole county for right – Rather think I have a destiny in that connection – In health & hope I step out now upon another stage of experience – Let us both pray for wisdom, strength, devotion to duty & may Gods name be honored! I still think it was right for me to enlist in this war – Don't you? – Recd. yours of the 12th yesterday – Intend to wait for to-morrows mail if possible – Smith will forward whatever comes for me – And now, my Dear you can resume the old direction of letters – I shall write often as possible – Love to all the babies & friends, Ever so much to you

A. Upson