

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863  
No – 143  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Yellow envelope is postmarked Washington, D.C. with three-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)*

Camp of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Near Kelly's Ford, Va.  
Sept. 2d, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of Sunday evening came in this afternoon – Don't know what we should do without our mails – They are a great comfort – Especially here where our life is so quiet that it really seems unlike war – Anything that breaks this monotony is welcomed – I was pleased today to see the rush when the sutler arrived with three loads of supplies – He was supposed to be in that crowd caught by Moseley last week – Officers & men all assembled to see the new things – Of course when matters are so dull a letter from home, tender & loving, is no lightly esteemed favor – I also recd. two from Capt. W. & one from H.D. Smith – Monday brought one from Miles in which he takes me to task for not showing a brotherly feeling – Thinks (**Pg. 2**) me blameworthy for not writing him oftener – That is cool – For the last three days we have been living better – To tell the truth, when I first arrived here the chance to fill up was not good – This week we have potatoes & with occasional fresh beef & stewed dried apples I manage to keep my stomach from collapsing – You know I had rather got out of soldier ways & it was necessary to take a new breaking in – It makes a mighty difference whether a cook prepares ones food – I cannot do that service satisfactorily – Taste runs more to eating – For a few days Henry Matthews has prepared our meals – He is neat & suits us very much – I am satisfied that one reason for my continued good health is the fact that I have always tried to live well – not highly – but to have enough of wholesome diet - Of fruit we get none here & shall not – The rail road is hardly equal to this daily needs of the army – In the winter it (**Pg. 3**) would prove entirely inadequate – At this season the mules & horses are allowed to graze two or three hours when it is practicable – But green feed is getting very short around here now – Monday we had orders to draw three days rations & be ready to march at short notice – We understood a movement to be near at hand – The 2d corps started that day down towards Falmouth – As yet we have heard nothing further – I hardly believe we shall move far – But it would be a good plan to shorten lines & get nearer our base of supplies – As now located the army can not be rationed far ahead & there is a possibility of Lee by a rapid movement cutting off our communications – I suppose the new position of the 2d corps had reference to that contingency – Rumors prevailed yesterday of aggression intentions on the part of the rebs – But they are traced to nothing reliable – We never know what to believe here – This evening a batch of conscripts (148) have arrived – They left New Haven on Saturday –

(9-2-1863)

Seem to be mostly (*Pg. 4*) foreigners – The boys gather around & looked at them as curiosities – Generally the old soldiers are indisposed to receiving them – Still if they behave well I doubt not all will be kindly treated – But the impression prevails that being substitutes who have sold themselves for selfish considerations their conduct will be graduated on principles not conducive to honorable action – Probably the regulations of camp will more strictly operate, bearing upon good & bad alike –

The days here are delightful – They appear as much like early fall as in Conn. – We have the same stillness – Grasshoppers & crickets here & there breaking the silence of day & catydids making the groves vocal at night – Monday evening, being on picket, & lying where the moon overhead peeked through the leaves into my face it was charming – If I turned my head & looked down the ledge the Rappahannock gleamed & I almost expected to see maids spring out & come up to my couch – But these nights are very cool & blankets are a necessity before morning particularly if one have to sleep alone – David & I curl in together & keep warm – I sleep good & wake fresh as a bison on the prairie – There is nothing like a bed of poles & the open air – that is if you are a soldier – In civilized life one can endeavor a spring mattress for the sake of not offending his friends – most of all his wife – Glad Frank remembers papa – Where is Willie & Ida? Love to all – The press has arrived – The promotion of Ross is not known here – To override Wooster would be too bad – But such things often occur –

Yours Ever,  
A Upson

*(Written upside down on first page upper margin.)*

Do you suppose Arona would be good for anything as a waiter? I guess he doesn't know how to cook – Can he stir any quicker than formerly? Thinking of the changes in officers of which you wrote it would not be surprising – There is always a great deal of scheming going on & nothing really would surprise us unless it was appointments according to merit – We will see – Things often tumble -