

Sept. 29, 1863
No – 161
Mrs. Andrew Upson
Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is addressed in pencil and is postmarked Licking Valley O. Sep. 30 with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in pencil.)

Belair, Ohio
Sep. 29th, 8 A.M.

My Dear Wife –

I wrote you a hasty note from Grafton yesterday – The mail train going east came along while I was on the 3d page & I finished immediately & sent it along – We left soon after & arrived at Benwood opposite on the Va. side at 1 ½ this morning – Benwood is 4 miles below Wheeling – We crossed on a pontoon immediately, had coffee & pork, all ready for us upon the river shore & have been waiting ever since to be loaded on to cars again – Shall go from here to Columbus & thence either to Cincinnati or Indianapolis – probably the latter & thence to Jeffersonville, Indiana, opposite Louisville – The river is so low that speedy navigation can not be had – The journey has been a safe one for our company except that Kennedy, my N.Y. boy, is missing this (**Pg. 2**) morning – He got off with others where the train halted a moment just at dusk & we suppose delayed so long as not to be able to get on – I think he will come up on some of the trains that follow – Our brigade is all here – The 11th corps preceded us – Joe Hooker passed on ahead this A.M. The movement is going on as fast as possible – It is a great undertaking to transfer a few regiments 1000 miles within a limited period –

I had got so far when we were ordered aboard – I resume just at sundown – We have got as far as Louisville & had a good opportunity to get nice things for supper – Our journey through Ohio so far is an ovation – Every where solutes & waving flags attend the course – Not a house or hardly a person but greets the arrival or departure of the train – It seems too like going through (**Pg. 3**) New England – Our company is all safe up to this point except K – nothing heard from him yet – I am sorry to say that some of the soldiers manage to obtain liquor at the stations & that we have witnessed no little intoxication – Co. E. has kept perfectly sober & I intend shall – As a result of drinking three or four in the corps have been killed, several more hurt – others left behind – these are mournful facts – I think they might be prevented – But when the higher ones indulge it is not wonderful or strange that the common folks follow their example –

We shall get to Columbus about midnight – This is a beautiful state – You would like the houses we have seen today – The land is good – crops fine (**Pg. 4**) & buildings neat – Everyone remarks the contrast between Ohio & Virginia – We have a fine opportunity to judge the comparative merits of free & slave labor – By this time you have doubtless got my Sunday letter & know about our sudden movement – Keep easy – I rather think the

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change is favorable to our safety & comfort – Will write the children when we get settled
– Have little opportunity now as the character of this & previous notes show – But the
cars jolt & it is too dark for men – I shall mail this where opportunity occurs

Ever Yours
A. Upson