

Sep. 30, 1863  
No 162  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Yellow envelope postmarked Indianapolis Oct. 6 with a 3- cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of unlined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in pencil.)*

On the cars 40  
Miles East of Indianapolis  
3 ½ P.M. Sep. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife,

I take a few moments while we halt to inform you of our progress – As you will understand we are making rapid headway – Nor is the journey without pleasing incidents – From Louisville we have been feasted - We arrived at Columbus at 2 this morning & had things provided for us – Made Henia at 7 & were again entertained – But Centerville Ind. surpassed everything – We were not expecting such greeting – It is a country village – As our train was just nearing the depot a church bell was heard ringing – I thought to my self a meeting is coming off – But we soon understood its meaning: for soon were seen issuing from the houses (**Pg.2**) & hurrying to the cars loaded with baskets & pail – We soon had business – Every description of nice food was in abundance – It reminded us of the entertainment we enjoyed in Southington - The train stopped half an hour & a rich treat it was – What a contrast within one week! Five days since I was eating hard tack & green corn on the Rapid Ann – Now everything is abundant & the quality unsurpassed – The best of feeling exists all along the route & soldiers are the lions of the hour - As we pass the smaller places boys & girls stand at the crossings with apples & pies which they try to throw into the doors – The greater part thus sent falls to the ground - But we succeeded in getting one nice basket of fruit & food while riding through one place – We speedily (**Pg. 3**) emptied the basket & flung it back speedily – Accompanying the contents was a scrap of paper bearing the compliments of Mrs. Mary Johnson to all the soldiers in the regt. These scenes have put the boys in high spirits – Though the ride is tediously long & wearisome all are feeling well – But for the disposition to indulge in drink which makes fools of men we should have a pleasant time – It seems impossible almost to keep men from getting whisky – Three soldiers of the 3d Md. were killed this A.M. They had been drinking & were on top of the cars – When passing under a bridge they got knocked off – Co. E is all sober & well – No company in the regt. has conducted so well – That I can affirm without fear of contradiction – But Lt. Lewis & (**Pg. 4**) myself have kept very watchful – Some of our officers are culpable – They have not only neglected care but lent the force of their example on the wrong side – I guess when we get to our destination the whole force will be minus one or two hundred strong along the route - There is a great negligence somewhere –

The finest country out of doors is this through which we are passing – Fields are level, soil rich, crops good, & the signs of prosperity & wealth abundant – Sell that farm of

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mine if you can – There is no use in talking on this subject – One need only see to be convinced – I am a western or southern man when the war ends – Don't you stop writing to me until you hear of our final stop – Letters will find me – Keep them coming – The weather so far has been fine but there is prospect of rain – I hope it will hold off until we reach our destination – You must excuse the horrid writing – Some of it is done while we are running – My love to all – At every station we see women & children who have husbands & fathers in the army – They all rejoice to see us going to help their friends –

Ever Yours  
A. Upson

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

We are now 29 miles from Indianapolis – It is 5 o'clock