

JSC = 0610.61

JSC 6106.10

(Undated;
Monday ~~(?)~~ 6/10/61
~~May/June~~, 1861)

June 10

My Dear wife

June 8

I wrote you a few lines on Saturday morning which I hope you received ere this. Spent last night in camp first time. Had a soft pine board for a bed my blouse folded for a pillow & part of a blanket for covering. It felt a little hard but not so bad as one would suppose. We were offered as much oat straw as we desired but the company with half dozen exceptions have concluded to sleep on the boards. I have no doubt that is the better way.

We have abundance of provisions of excellent quality except sugar & coffee, which is not the best. The variety is not extensive - fresh beef, smoked shoulders, beans, rice, potatoes, bread, crackers, pepper, vinigar etc. I have not discovered yet how we are to use the vinigar. Presume we will learn by & by. I have been very well since I last wrote. Did not get to church yesterday being officer of the day. If I had you and the children here I would be right well contented. I have met a number of the citizens. The(y) seem very kind, thought they have sent no pies, cakes, etc.

I suppose that you have heard that the 1st Regiment Penna. Reserve has been formed here. Biddle Roberts Pittsburg Colonel. Capt. McIntyre of this place Lieut. Col. L. Todd Carlisle Major. We are not in this regiment, Capt. McCartney's co. & Todd's are.

I forgot to mention before I left that I was taking the Press & Tribune. They are paid up till the 1st of June. You can take them on, or if you do not want the Tribune (I believe you don't read it) you can pay from ~~(107)~~ 1st June and discontinue it. I think you would like the Enquirer better than the Press.

I would like if you could make me two undershirts of that best unbleached muslin. No collar or band at the neck merely hemmed or bound below the neck like an undershirt. I do not know how you will get the length of the sleeves. You will have to guess as near as you can so that they will come just to the top of the wristband and wide enough for the hand to go through easily. Please excuse me for troubling you with such particular instructions.

Major Todd who leaves for Carlisle today will return next Friday or Saturday, and I presume will carry back anything if the package is small as I presume he will have a number of them. I believe no clothes bag was in my trunk. I have not unpacked it yet having left it in town. Please send it and an extract cut

from a newspaper relating to cooking. You will find it in the desk in one of the drawers inside at the left corner. You can enclose that in a letter.

I hope you will all get along charmingly & try to make yourselves comfortable. If Minnie leaves; do not hesitate to write to sister Libby. She will come with pleasure. Please kiss all the children for me, and tell John Nan & Daisy they must be good and do everything you tell them.

I am exceedingly anxious to hear from you and expect a letter today or tomorrow. Direct your letters care of Capt. Henderson, Camp Wayne, West Chester, Penna.

Best respects to Minnie & George if he is with you.

Truly your affect. husband
J.S. Colwell

JSC-06.13.61-?

~~JSC-6106.123(7)~~

(Undated;
May/June, 1861)

WRD 6/10/61

Camp Wayne
West Chester, Pa.

I have heard nothing of you since I left and feel anxious to hear how you are getting along. I wrote on Saturday & Monday, which I trust you received in due time. I expect I will hear today.

I find cam(p) life very monotonous as I supposed it would be. There is an everlasting din of drums and almost unceasing marching. The cam(p) is beautifully situated and is said to be a healthy. The drawback is the great number of men huddled together. Capt Henderson, Beatty and myself have our quarters together. I wish you could see them. There has been considerable rain here and so many running in and out the floor you can imagine is (not as) clean as it might otherwise be.

I presume the beets are large enough to plant out and the corn too _____. W. Croft (?) will get someone to attend to it if you speak to him. He told me he would do anything of that kind.

I would like to see you and our dear little ones if only for a few minutes. Tell them all to be very good & John & Nan must learn to read very well before I come back, which I hope will be before a great while.

Love to all friends. Breakfast is waiting & I close.

Most sincerely,
Your loving husband
J.S. Colwell

ANC-0614/61

~~ANC-0614/61~~

X

Friday evening
(June, 1861)

6/14/61

My very dear Husband,

Mr. Harkness kindly sent me word twice today that he would carry a letter so I avail myself of the politeness although I have nothing excepting very domestic news to write for this morning I mailed a letter to you. On examining the Herald this afternoon I came across a letter from Camp Wayne & also a notice of the entire company of "Carlisle Fencibles" whereupon I took a comfortable cry to myself just by seeing your name - ain't I a baby? Soon after Mrs. Johnston came and I suppose my doleful manner must have induced the remark, she said I was the most desolate person she knew which so entirely agrees with my views that you must excuse my disagreeable letter this time. To do Mrs. J. justice she heartily approves of your conduct thereby agreeing with Mr. Watts. - You see your home here!!(?)

Mrs. Penrose was to see me a few evenings ago - she thinks her husband will remain at home. Miss Martha tells me say to you that she carries a flag for us. Elize bids me say she carries a palmetto.(?)

We have had a long season of dry weather - the cistern is dry. Our landlord mended the step yesterday and promises faithfully to make the wash-house _____.

I have purchased 3 pairs of chickens to which I attend entirely myself just because you used to do that. Ys day's papers anticipate a battle very soon. I do hope it will be the last - the blunder at Vienna is much gloried over South.

I am very glad you are so comfortable, I hope you will enjoy yourself & take good care of your health for your life is more precious to me than all the gold and glory this world could afford. I sometimes think I have been too careless and ungrateful regarding the blessings of my past life & now God is punishing me I hope for future good.

My dearest husband don't be angry with me but I feel so choked up this evening & my next letter will be more cheerful & when you write about coming home I will be the very happiest woman the world ever knew. Cousin Henriette has been up this evening, 'tis a great relief to her to have Will in your company. She hopes he don't drink. (Watts?)

I notice by the papers that Lincoln has been trying the balloon, I should think it would be rather a dangerous operation if rebels hear about. They would have a good chance.

John is beginning to anticipate the 4th of July, all the cents

JSC-0619.61

JSC-6106.19

Wed
Camp Wayne
West Chester 19 June /61

My Dear Wife,

I received your letter of Saturday night on Monday morning. It came by Mr. Monyer and was handed to me by one of the Haversticks. I was very glad to receive it and hear that you are getting along so well. You can surely imagine the longing I have to see you and our little children, still I believe I am as well contented and happy here as I would be any place away from dear wife and children. You ask me how I amuse myself in the evening. There is always something going on. We have a small band in our company - violins, flute, banjos & singing. Sometimes they dance on the green & walks and various other amusements. As for myself I very often amuse myself by thinking of you all at home and wondering how you are employing yourselves. When I think of "our house at home" it has a different signification now from that it had when we are together in our house.

I feel sorry that you permit hard thoughts to possess your heart at our separation. Believe me that in taking the step I have, I did it from a sense of right and duty, and for the welfare of you and the children.

I should like to see you very much, but that cannot be at present. I hope before a very great while to have that pleasure. W. Watts informed me his mother was coming this week and you with her. As you said nothing about it in your last, I presume there is a mistake in the time. I think it would be pleasanter for you a few weeks after this.

I sympathize with Mary & Ettie Ege. How much pleasanter it would have been for them had Virginia remained true to the Union. See how well off comparatively is Maryland. Had the latter seceded as many of her prominent citizens wished to compell her to do what would be her situation now? She by this time would have been ground to powder as Virginia will be if she does not retrace her steps as I think she will before a great while.

My dear wife, the North is right and the South wrong. The latter have not, in right and justice, an inch of ground to stand upon, and posterity and the whole civilized world will so decide. Of this I have no doubt.

You need have no fears of wearying my patience by writing long letters. I will always be rejoiced to hear everything you have to say, and as often as you have leisure to write. Give my best regards to Minnie and George. Don't let the children forget me & believe me

your ever affect. husband.

James

AHC - 0620.61

Mrs.

Carlisle June 20th /61

My very dear Husband,

Ysdy(?) two very welcome letters were received with great pleasure & re-read many times for whenever I feel low-spirited, I fly upstairs and go over them again & re-assure myself that I still have you - so please don't forget to write me as you heretofore have done every other day for 'tis such a comfort & I would be miserable without my letter & conclude at once that this terrible war was only a diabolical plan enacted between Jeff David & Lincoln to deprive good wives of their husbands & thereby try their tempers not a little.

Mrs. Robt. Henderson & Beck kindly brought me up a letter of May Hayes relating to her visit to Camp Wayne. It was very gratifying for she entered into particulars so satisfactorily. She mentioned you and the other gentlemen looking particularly nice and clean. I knew you must have had a white collar on. Now I want you to write me just how you look. Have you shaved any? Do you wear that horrid flannel shirt all the time or only in the morning? Do you wear that blue coat when you go to town or look as a civilian?

Thinking of military matters reminds me that George has applied for a Captaincy in the regular army to be attached to the commissary department, his knowledge of business being such he is better qualified for that than for active service. If Genl. Cooper's answer is favorable he will not go to California as he would prefer a certainty. Poor Charley don't know what to do. His business has resulted unfavorably and he hopes that the California correspondence will be encouraging.

Mr. McClure was down two days this week. Today letters for the firm arrived from Phila. for the collection of bills for Knight & Co. from Clark & Sons. I enclosed them for Mr. McC. by Mr. Drake as you desired.

Sallie Anderson got off on Monday. The Gorian(?) family who are her travelling companions to Tennessee are red hot secessionists & say they have paid their final visit to Baltimore unless she secedes. They will have a good talk. About four hours after her departure a letter from her husband came from _____. She had not heard for five weeks owing to delays.

On Wednesday morning the children went to school at 7 & 1/2 o'clock and I at 9 to the examination which passed off very creditably both children and scholars acquitting themselves well but I think both Mrs. Lynn and the children felt called upon from a sense of duty & like other patriots to sing Yankee Doodle with uncommon emphasis. I returned home with a terrible headache ever since and the adventures of Yankee Doodle have been singing through my head ever since. The children are now in the first class - John hopes you will make some comment on this

distinction.

George is laid up with a sore heel which is and has been very painful but Dr. Harmon says it is doing so pretty he'll be up in a day or two. Cousin Margaretta was up this evening. She says Mrs. Mahon was the originator of the plan to order Sallie away - such impertinence! There was a shade of melancholy attached to her departure which made me feel very sad. Jack Ransom has resigned. The old Genl. is very angry. Roger Jones is very uncomfortably situated - two brothers in the Southern army, all his friends living in Virginia & most of them in arms and he not able to go there on account of his late action at Harper's Ferry.

On Thursday afternoon I planted out _____ beets, hoed the corn & _____ the garden but I found that hoeing in hoops was not very convenient for I would occasionally come in contact with an adjoining hill of corn. The next morning I rose early, went to market, bought wretched beef and 14 lbs of elegant butter at 9 cts a lb, marked it all over & packed away - ain't I turning out a worker. But indeed my dear husband I can't sit still any time & sew for I'm imagining all sorts of things about you. I'm _____ that Ike Parker could like and enjoy camp life of yours. May Henderson and I came to the conclusion that you would all return as fat as Alderman. She is really brave hearted & enviable in that respect and just as pretty as she can be.

Cousin Galbraith is off again to Washington - such energy surely ought to be rewarded. If not he will return shortly to Kansas. Raymond Stevenson is clerk for something I've forgotten at Chambersburg - \$80 a month. I told Mrs. Beatty of the good things her husband had received from Mrs. Prince(?) & I also told her I hoped I would be able to tell of many more nice things he would get. She and Katie Sharpe sent blankets - have you any? Beware of rheumatism.

Our baby has 5 teeth & is as sweet as possible, walks with one hand. Daisy is a real boy (or hog?) & misses her Papa's knee & the carrying down to dinner. She is a winning little puss. Nan is my chief companion, & promises to be a fine girl & tries to do what I tell her. John is making collections of old locks, screws, hinges, & nails to learn a trade during vacation.. Today I overheard a conversation between him and Viena - "Mama always does what she says for she promises me a cent each (?) if I am bad I get it" - so I'll take the hint and put in a promise in future.

I do want you to come home so much, my own dearest husband. Do come as soon as you can. Write me very often. The friends(?) in Shippensburg Mr M.C. says are well. A kiss and a very good night from your sincerely attached wife.

Annie

0621.61
jsc-6106-21

Camp Wayne West Chester
21 June 1861

My dear Annie,

I had the pleasure of receiving your letter by Mr. Monyer, addressed care of Mr. Haverstick. I have written you I believe since that, at any rate I wrote on Wednesday.

We have very little change in camp nearly the same routine every day, but I have good health and get along exceedingly well - and if my dear Annie & children were near would be perfectly contented with my lot. I feel quite glad that you seem to get along so comfortably and that the garden is now flourishing under your management. I am surprised to hear that you have had so little rain. We have had rain almost every day here and no time more than two days without since I have been here. I judged by the clouds that you must have had rain Wednesday evening.

If your flour is nearly out, write to John McLeaf near Shippensburg to send you a couple barrels. I told him to keep two barrels of flour for me which I have no doubt he has done. Write to him a week or two before you are out. Or you may just as well write to him at once. I suppose it is ground and it can stand in the house just as well as at the mill. Ask him to write you what day you may look for it to be down so that you may not lose it. I presume it will be consigned to Rhoads.

I did not go to the party at Mr. Bull's on Wednesday evening. Capt Henderson, Lieut Beatty & two or three privates were there. The party was quite an elegant entertainment & our men were highly delighted. One commissioned officer in each company is obliged to be in camp and it was my turn to remain. Mr. _____ was on guard that evening and was also unable to be present.

Capt. H. & one of his brothers and myself took tea at a Mr. Darlington's last evening & had as many strawberries and cream as we could eat. So you see we are still getting something better than camp fare. Since I commenced writing we received present of 4 lbs of nice butter from a Mr. Davis who keeps the Greentree Hotel, the place where we stopped in town. We have a standing invitation to dine at the Greentree any day we choose to go to town, and a special one for Sunday.

I am longing for a letter from you. Take good care and do not let the children rule you, John in particular. He is pretty headstrong and needs curbing(?). Kiss them all round for papa. Best regards to George & Minnie and all other friends. I am sorry Sallie Anderson went south. I think she was safer in Carlisle. You will please excuse mistakes. I never have time to read over my letters.

Your most afft. husband
James

0623.61
jsc-6106-23

Camp Wayne
West Chester 23 June 61

My dear wife,

I have received your letter of the 20th, also your note accompanying the jar of pickles & the night shirt. The latter was particularly illegible from the vinegar which nearly all leaked from the jar and saturated the shirt. I received also your letter of Friday evening by Mr. Harkness.

Your letters are always looked for with great anxiety. I would like to receive two or three every day. But there is such a strain of unhappy feeling, and wretchedness runs through some of your letters, that the perusal fills me with sadness. You say that you are the most miserable woman in the world. My dear, dear wife, why should you be so? Have you not a husband who loves you better than all else in this world and who holds your best interests and that of our little children before everything? My absence should not make you so miserable. I am only about 100 miles from you and how many are separated for years. You say if I only would say I was coming home it would make you the happiest woman in existence. Now I am sure my own Annie would not wish me to come back with dishonour, and thus bring disgrace on her and our children. No, she is too noble, too good, too true, too loving for that. I feel that I will be with you before a great while and hope that we will live many happy years together.

You mentioned in one of your letters that you were talking of coming on with Mrs. Watts. I advised you to postpone the visit, but I have begun to look on the visit as a certainty and felt considerably disappointed when you wrote that you had abandoned the idea.

You speak of rumors of our being sent from here. We hear these rumors but know no more of their truth or falsity than you do. I do not think, however, that we will be sent away for two or three weeks at least. If you would wean baby, you could come here without much inconvenience and perhaps it might do you good. It is said that the citizens of West Chester are going to give us a dinner on the 4th of July & that we are to have a grand parade etc. That might be a very good time to be here. You could get no better company than Mrs. Watts. Mrs. Sharpe I believe is coming on perhaps this week or next. I do not know that any others are coming but it is probable they will. When you are coming, let me know before and I will make arrangements for you. I suppose Minnie & George could get along with the children for three or four days. I know sister Libby or Jane would go down if you would write to them.

If we remain here three months I expect to be in Carlisle within that time, but if we should be ordered away within a short time, I may not get home for some time. I presume you have received all my letters, but a number of letters between this and Carlisle have been lost I am told. I would like if you would write always how much money you draw out of bank as I must make arrangements to replenish when the deposits are nearly withdrawn.

The pickles you sent are very nice but I have no use for the night shirt and will return it. I sleep in my flannel shirt, I have one muslin night shirt and have never worn it. I know of nothing that you could send me. If we stay here I might use my slippers. If we leave I suppose I will have no use for them.

I will probably send this by Mr. Christ Long. He will leave camp soon after five o'clock tomorrow morning. I would like to send the children something, but cannot get to town in time at 5 1/2 o'clock when the stores close.

John and Nan ought to say a lesson every day during vacation, commencing at the beginning of their old book, and go regularly on. It will prevent them from forgetting what they learned and will enable them to progress easier when commence school again. Tell them I am very glad that they have been promoted to a higher class and I hope they will be good children and try to learn so that they may not be at the foot of the class. They must do everything Mama tells them and not quarrel with each other as bad boys and girls sometimes do.

I might write you much more but I have not the time, and it would hardly interest you much. I hope I will have the pleasure of seeing you before a great while. Give my best regards to George & Minnie. Try to keep up your spirits and get fat. I fear you are dwindling away. I remain your sincerely attached husband

James

ahc-0625.61
(probably June 25, 1861,
in response to JSC letters
of June 21 & June 23, 1861)

Tuesday night

Your two letters have been received my very dear Husband, & I can assure you I was most heartily glad to have them, for on Saturday I did not get the expected letter, & I was sick on Sunday from disappointment. I have learned to hope so much every day to hear as soon as the car whistles I begin to be fidgety till 'tis time to send to the office. Don Packer brought the letters, rejected shirt & s_____ this morning. He was much pleased with his visit & is anxious to enlist.

Mr. McClure spent this evening here. He & Mr. Harper will see you with this. Kate Sharpe leaves on Thursday for three weeks. Mrs. Graham was up this evening & wants me to go with her, but declined. Miss Martha also by way of inducement offers to go with me. The fact is I inferred from several of your letters that you could come up here soon on furlough. (I hate the name for I don't recognize any military terms in connexion with my Husband with his legal head.)

The old ladies of town have been very particular in visiting me in your absence, but Bother Ealls(?) has failed to appear. He & George differed very materially the other day in conversation. George finally told him that they had better not discuss the subject he being rather ultra. I am glad you have a good dinner in anticipation on the 4th. Tea parties & strawberries seem to be the order of the day in West Chester. Mr. McLeaf sent me a message relating to the flour by Mr. McClure. We have used only a little out of the last barrel. When I draw money from bank I'll write to you.

I sincerely hope the company will not be sent to the border. The map in the Inquirer of the fortifications around Richmond make me shrink. The Administration ought to take everybody (since he has you) & _____ as a Girandiere (Grenadier?) even if Amy Noble(?) would turn my motives upside down.. Mr. Morse's father-in-law died yesterday which make him very wealthy. Mr. Haverstick & George are very much in love with each other, spend part of every day together over some fine old brandy which Mr. H. brings out.

The children are all well & growing fast, & the time when Papa comes home is quite an epoch in their history, for everything is done in anticipation of that event, & I my own dearest Husband grow almost wild with excitement when I think of seeing your dear face how soon again? Tom Sharpe has addressed Julie Watts since his sojourn at Camp Wayne & says he will give "the angel no rest till she accepts." This is a secret. Mrs. Graham tells me that John & Martha Craig promise to have an addition to their family & help fill the new house. I would like to go to Shippensburg with the children & leave George & Minnie keep house for a few days. When do you think would be most convenient?

It is now 1 o'clock so as usual I will finish & go to bed. Would you like to have your light pants or vest? A kiss & a very good night from your ever affecate. wife

Annie

Don't forget about writing. Cousin Galb. Ege expects to get office of Quartermaster, Charley Paymaster, & George something lucrative but as Cousin G. is rather visionary we don't place much reliance. I feel in good spirits tonight thinking that the South or Congress will compromise after the 4th. Do try to come home soon. You forget to daguerreotype yourself in answer to my questions regarding your appearance. No rain for 3 weeks.

0626.61
jsc-~~6106-26~~

Camp Wayne West Chester
26 June 1861

My dear Annie,

The last letter I received from you was by Mr. Harkness. I wrote Sunday night and forwarded with the shirt. I presume you received it. Capt. Henderson announced suddenly this afternoon that he was going home and left immediately. He will return in a day or two. I had no time to write you by him after I knew he was going. I presume he will call to see you. I was up all last night on duty and do not feel for writing a long letter.

I believe I did not write you that I was at church on Sunday last in town at the court house, that being the Presbyterian place of worship at present, their church undergoing repair. I also heard a sermon in the afternoon in camp from Mr. Newton, the Episcopal clergyman.

There have been quite a number of persons here from Carlisle at different times. I forgot to bring my old bible that I have always carried with me wherever I have gone for the last 20 or 25 years. I left it in my office. You might get it out and send it down by someone.

I still hope you are getting along better and feel more contented. It grieves me to think that you are miserable and unhappy. Do try for my sake to amuse yourself, and enjoy yourself and don't give way to despondency. It does you great injury, and makes me unhappy. Still I would rather that you would write your true feelings just as they are and not deceive me by expressing sentiments you do not feel. I only desire that you endeavor to make yourself as comfortable as possible and enjoy yourself as well as you can, always bestowing your best affections on me. Now do not deem me selfish. I have only your happiness and best interest at heart. I am expecting a letter from you. Perhaps I may not write you again this week, but do you write at every convenient time.

Best regards to Minnie & George and do not forget me to Nan, John & Daisy. I expect to see them all good children when I return.

I remain your true
and devoted husband

James

ahc-0629.61
(Probably Sat., 6/29/61)

Saturday morning

My dearest husband,

I hope John's going to see you will meet with your approbation. He was so desirous of availing himself of Mr. Croft's invitation that I thought it would be a recreation as they have now vacations. If Mr. Croft does not return on Monday & if you don't wish John to remain till Tuesday, either Misses Beetim(?) or Haverstick will take charge of him home.

I was up last night till 1/2 past 1 o'clock & up this morning to market so you will excuse this scrawl. Our tomatoes are in blossom but I don't know why the onions fall down.

The proclamation of martial law in Maryland seems to have dissatisfied some of the Union men of Baltimore. Miss Williamson & Mrs. Rankin's brother-in-law (in whom George discovers a California friend) are here now. Wm. Penrose is quite sick. On his wife's account I hope he will continue so till the regiment is off. She is so unhappy & I know she will be much more so. The army ought to be composed of those whose wives are great patriots. Yesterday I was out paying visits & I heard several places that you had been made Capt. of Todd's company. Is it true? I received ever welcome letter yesterday morning. I regret having sent mine. It was written from the impulse of the moment. Please destroy it.

From market I went to your office to look for the Bible but can't find it high or low. I think you must have put it away. If you remember where I can send it by some of the ladies on Monday. My dear dear husband I am much hurried. 'Tis breakfast time & I have much more to say but no time. I do hope I shall hear from you today for it is the only Panacea for all my anxiety. Nan & Daisy want very much to see you & oh I can't tell you how much I do. I'm getting quite courageous sleeping alone with one window in the sitting room up. Little brother is growing & looks more healthy.

Cousin Galbraith is off again to Washington. I'm afraid he'll spend his fortune seeking an office. Do please write every other day at least. Ever your own attached wife

Annie

0704.61.
jsc-6107-04

Camp Wayne
West Chester 4 July 1861

My own dear wife Annie,

I have been more sad since my last than any time since my arrival in this place. You cannot imagine what a weight your letter of the 2nd lifted from my heart. It was handed to me today just after our arrival on the ground where the celebration took place. As soon as I could get relieved, I sought a place to sit down & devoured its contents, and oh, what joy it brought to my heart. It was like my own wife, and I cannot thank you too much for it. I hope now we understand each other & that you will scold me no more, but that rather you will forgive my many faults. I know I err frequently but it is nearly always an error of the judgment & not of the heart. It gives me pain to do anything that may bring unhappiness of mine to you. My whole effort in this world is to make you as happy & comfortable as, under all existing circumstances is in my power and if you will only not permit your affections to become estranged I think we will be very happy. It is not worth while to enquire at this late day whether I was right or wrong in entering into the present movement. It may be that I should not have done so. I did it with the best motive in the world. I have no hostility against the south, and this war is not in behalf of Lincoln or any other man, but it is to sustain the government. And if Jeff Davis had been elected president and was endeavoring to preserve this union, I would have been found aiding him with all efforts. But whether I am right or not, I do not see how I could get out of the service without bring(ing) disgrace and dishonour on myself & my little family, and my prayer and hope is that I may be saved from any act of that kind.

The great parade & dinner is over, and a laborious time we had of it. We were out at half past 8 o'clock A.M. and paraded & marched & stood for inspection & review from that till 20 minutes after 12 o'clock. And when we arrived on the ground selected for the orations etc. having marched through most of the streets in the town and stood for more than an hour in one place in the sun for review and inspection, a number of men fainted in the ranks, ten in one company. Our company had one only who became sick & was obliged to sit down a while and after joined in the ranks. I stood it very well & do not feel much tired tonight.

We had a good dinner, cold beef, ham and other things as much as we could eat. The address I did not hear, being engaged in pondering over your letter & enjoying its contents. I also received a letter from Mr. McClure at the same time I received yours which gave an account of his stoppage at Carlisle and visit to you.

I have seen Mrs. Beatty at camp and out at the celebration, but have not called on her which I intended to do every day, but somehow could not get it accomplished. I have also seen Mrs.

Graham & the judge. The latter was with us at a gentlemen's party at a Mrs. Buckwalter's last night. The last I saw of him was climbing in at a window in his hotel - the Green Tree, about 12 o'clock last night. There are quite a number of visitors here from Carlisle. I have named most of those with whom you are acquainted.

O how I would like to see you. I hope to have that pleasure next week or the week thereafter. I will if I can conveniently get permission. I am tied here and cannot get away without leave, which I have no doubt I can get unless something should turn up of which we are not now aware.

I was vaccinated, as was the whole camp some days ago, mine has taken the doctor says. I wish you could have been here today. You would have seen some 1500 or 1800 soldiers together on a march, and thousands of citizens from the town & county, and probably a great many from other places. There were two or three small enclosures fenced off in which we dined, and the people gathered round to see the animals feed, and watched us with great interest while we were eating. I must say here that the Carlisle Fencibles are the crack company here for good behaviour & for proficiency in drill. We are attached to the 7th regiment and have been assured the post of honour every time we have parades. But as you do not like that subject I will drop it.

Now I hope my dearest Annie that you will endeavour to keep up your spirits & enjoy yourself as well as you can. I would like to be with you beyond all other things, but let us have patience and all will be well. Write me as often as you can as nothing affords me so much pleasure as your letters excepting those that scold. I do not know by whom I shall send this or whether by mail, as I may not see any of those who are about to leave in the morning. My space is occupied and I must now bid my dearest Annie adieu for this time. I remain your devoted and loving husband

James

0706.61
jsc-~~6107-06~~*

Camp Wayne 6 July

My dear wife,

I wrote you last Thursday night which I forwarded by Harry Duffield which I suppose you have received ere this. I have only time to write a line now as Sergeant Adair & Sergeant Henderson will leave in a few minutes for Carlisle to recruit. Orders were given yesterday to raise all the companies from 77 to 104 men.

Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. Beatty & Judge Graham & wife & several others leave this morning for home. I suppose all the companies will send men home. The men are going for a week.

X
jsc-0707.61

Camp Wayne
West Chester 7 July 1861

My Dear Wife,

My letter of yesterday was cut off very abruptly, it being called for a little sooner than I expected. Perhaps I will have time to write a bit the more this time.

I was at church today and heard a sermon from the presbyterian clergyman. It was exceedingly warm and I had great difficulty in keeping awake. I saw some little girls paddling along so innocently & happy that I could have taken one up and kissed her for Daisy, so much did she remind me of her. When I see little children it reminds me of our little darlings, their innocent prattle being so similar in many cases.

We have very little variety in camp life. Almost the same scenes pass before our eyes every day, and almost the same to eat each day.

Yesterday I was at the Brandywine with a squad of men to bathe. It was a pretty long walk - from and to 4 miles & back. We went out in the morning taking provisions along & remained out till the afternoon.

Mr. & Mrs. Miller arrived here yesterday evening, or rather they arrived in town. Mr. Miller was in camp last night, I saw Madame Miller in town today. The visitors all give the same account of the extreme dullness of Carlisle. The lawyers are doing nothing although nearly half of them are absent. If we had all remained at home, we would have starved all together.

I hardly know what to say to you about my going home. I did expect I would be able to see you the last of this week or next. But we received an order that we were to have officers drill tomorrow and to be continued. This may prevent me from going for a week or two longer. I should like to see you above all other things now since you have promised not to scold me. It seems to me that my coming here has done one thing that I had some idea of before but not the same realizing knowledge that I have now. It has taught me how much I love you my dearest Annie, and how badly I could get along without you. It seems to me that my earthly happiness is bound up in you and your welfare, and your love. If I should lose that then all would be a blank. How could I get along? is a question impossible for me to fathom. O my dear wife bestow on me your love while life lasts and I will strive always to deserve it. You cannot imagine how utterly miserable I was before I received your last letter. I did think that others were poisoning your mind to such a degree that possibly you might forget me.

If you can you might get another shirt made for me to wear when I go home & to bring with me. The two old ones I brought

along are giving out. As you have never said anything about getting any money out of the bank I am afraid you are using all your specie. You ought to save that as much as possible by getting a note changed every opportunity as I have an idea gold and silver will become very scarce after a while. You can get the small notes which will answer your purpose nearly as well as the specie.

How I would like to see you and have a talk with you. If I cannot get to Carlisle I think you will have to come here. If brother was weaned you could come without much trouble. But I hope I shall be able to get to Carlisle for a day or two sometime this month if not this week. I have not received any letter from you since Thursday now more than three days. I hope to get one tomorrow morning.

I was glad Libby was down to see you. I know she will go down and remain with you whenever you desire it. While George & Minnie are with you she thinks it would be increasing your family unnecessarily, and she could be of no use to you, and you will not be lonesome while they are in the house. Besides I suppose it is a throng(?) time at Mr. Hayes' and probably they would like her to stay with them at present. But whenever you are left alone she will go.

I hope you are getting along comfortably and are happy. To know that you are will afford me more happiness than any news you can send me or anything else. To make you so shall be my every endeavour although you may differ at present from me as to the means to be used.

I remain your ever loving husband

James

X
ahc-0708.61

Carlisle July 8th /61

My very dear husband,

I have risen this morning quite early so that I shall have time to write before breakfast, for as this is the farmers wash-day I shall have no time till night. Your letters by Messrs Duffield & Henderson came duly received and of course you know how very welcome they were but I must confess when the latter told me his special business in Carlisle at this time I felt considerably disappointed for I had begun to consider your being here & recruit for a couple weeks a certainty. Mr. Haverstick had apprised George of the necessity of enlarging the companies & told him he would give Robt. Henderson a hint about sending you for that purpose. Therefore I counted on it as a certainty but at any rate I'm now looking forward to seeing you very soon.

Last Friday I had a presentiment of your taking me by surprise, so I hastened to the parlor window & peeped through the shutters for 1/2 hour thinking every footfall was certainly yours.

Yesterday several regiments passed through & also through the night I heard engines. The president's message seems to be hastening matters. I hear a good deal of southern movements and am so uneasy so that (if) you are only kept at Camp Wayne & fight imaginary battles I'm satisfied. Annie Ege thinks there is a possibility of John Smead's being ordered to this garrison shortly. John Hays is off to Washington to get a commission in the regular army. Cousin Galbraith is Colonel at last of a mounted troop. In a letter from a secession cousin of mine last week there is a particular desire to know in which regiment you were so particularly enlisted. If you receive any letters from that quarter you need not answer for they are so silent(?) as not to shake hands with any who voted for Lincoln.

Mr. Roberts has sent for Ben R. to go out in Sept. Ben's health is bad so Cousin Margaretta urges him to stay. I saw Kate Sharpe (Harper?) at ch(urch) yesterday. She appears much better satisfied with the military arrangements than when she went to West Chester. I suppose the patriotism of the 19 officers and 16 captains of the regiment is superior to any feeling of disappointment at Sharpe's rapid promotion. You see I have not included my own husband for I have no ambition regarding him in this matter & still hope to have him stationed down next Miss Martha's with the closed shutters flung wide open & the old shingle as large as life without any military approaching. My own dear husband I'm only writing this, & don't intend to talk one word of it when you come.

We had quite a political discussion at Miss Martha's steps on Friday evening. She says she will hang out a flag because she is in such a nest of secessionists. Mrs. Penrose hopes the south will last and thinks her husband's day of retribution is coming. Miss Virginia Lyons & I took more conciliatory grounds while George, Minnie & Cousin Annie Miller were at loggerheads.

I hope you will be able my dearest husband to read this. I'm in such a hurry. The children are all well and talk much of your coming. Ever(?) your affect. wife

Annie

I took Daisy to church one Sunday. During the sermon whilst I was giving my undivided attention to Mr. Eales she crept through the under part of the pew to Mr. Miller's and the first we knew was the white head popping up.

ahc-0709.61

Carlisle July 9th /61

My dear Husband,

I was very glad to receive your highly interesting letter this morning but feel too much disappointed at the idea of your not coming this week to write in any spirit at all. I had considered it a certainty but Mr. Watts informed me a few moments ago that business would require your presence of which you were aware being auditor(?), so I suppose that will bring you.

Last night there was a terrible affray in a lager-beer saloon in which Robt. Noble was stabbed & died of his injuries two hours after, the whole affair & attending circumstances make me feel very nervous tonight.

Mrs. S. being in ill health was spending the summer at Pipertown. Cousin Galbraith has at last the offer of a colonelcy of a full brigade as a Quartermaster Generalship. He is to make our George Assistant Quartermaster. Tomorrow he leaves for Kansas to drum up a full war compliment & will telegraph George accordingly. When he was taking leave of me this morning I laughingly observed "I hope you won't return with too many honors so we'll be able to recognize you." He replied rather confidentially "child I'm rather old for that but hope to come back with many crowns in my pocket. He says Bon is a red hot secessionist backed by his wife's family.

Col. Penrose has returned to take his family to Harrisburg until he leaves there. Mrs. Beatty tells me you have become so fleshy and look so military. Mrs. Graham also has a great deal to say about you. The judge joined me on the street a few evenings ago but with his thundering voice attracting so much attention I was glad to land at a genteel looking house in the southern end of Pitt St. I think he can never tell his wife any secrets without the neighborhood hearing them. They were all delighted with their visit.

The children are all well. I hear the older ones two lessons every day. I read Daisy your remarks regarding her in your letters. Darling brother grows prettier every day. I have heard nothing from Shippensburg since I wrote. This evening I have been unusually stupid & almost fell asleep talking to Cousin Margaretta. Our little boys & girls are very good. I have a great deal of pleasure with them.

The garden needs rain sadly, this afternoon we had a promise of rain but got only a sprinkle. Your shirts I will make as quickly as I can. The neighbors are all very kind to me. I like Pitt St very well. There is a beautiful Mrs. Hutton here from Washington to whom I have taken quite a fancy. George is quite intimate with her husband. This afternoon I pulled Nan's first tooth out & on examination I find she has two teeth growing inside of her present row. In the morning I will show them to Serdick(?).

It is now 12 o'clock so good night dear husband. Yours ever.
Don't forget about writing regularly & often, no matter what
happens, for I feel after sending to the (post?) office almost as
though my life depended on the issue.

jsc-0709.61

Camp Wayne
West Chester 9 July

My Dear wife,

I have just had the pleasure of reading yours of the 8th inst. which I received a few minutes ago.

I have not time to write much just now, and merely write a line to say that I expect to be with (you?) on Thursday afternoon. I have not obtained leave yet, but think I will, still something might occur to delay my visit. I hope not. If I do not come, conclude that I could not get off. In that case I will write you, which you would not receive until Friday.

Hoping to have the extreme happiness of seeing you in a little over 48 hours I bid you adieu for the present.

Your loving
husband
James

jsc-0718.61

Camp Wayne
West Chester 18 July 1861

My Dear Annie,

I arrived here about 7 o'clock P.M. I saw Mrs. Watts almost the first one when I entered the camp. I had not time for any conversation and do not know when she will return. Everything is pretty much as it was when I left except there seems more bustle & excitement, and some canvass tents of which there were none when I left.

The order for us to leave tomorrow has been countermanded, but it is expected that we will leave soon perhaps on Sunday, but not till the new recruits get their uniforms & accoutrements. Where we are to go is all surmise but the prevailing opinion here is that we are to go to Washington City. I know nothing more than any other~~s~~, but I think we will hardly leave before the middle of next week. We are to hold ourselves in readiness to march at any time, and I should not be surprised if we are ordered off at a few hours notice.

I hope you will soon make up your mind as to whether you will go to Mr. Hayes. You can just use your pleasure in the matter that will be mine. I know that they will be glad to accomodate you in a plain way if you would like to go. You can get someone to dispose of the flour if it arrives. The garden you can give into the care of Mr. Croft or some other.

19th As the Capt. will leave soon I will close. We had considerable rain last night.

Most sincerely
your affct. husband
James

ahc-0727.61
addressed to 7th Regt.
(near) Washington City, D.C.

Carlisle July 27, 1861

My own dearest Husband,

It is surely unnecessary for me to tell you how very glad I was to receive your anxiously looked for letter this afternoon and I hasten to reply. Several times I thought of writing but having different accounts of your whereabouts I concluded to wait. We reached home safely on Tuesday about noon after a very pleasant ride up (as far as outward(?) circumstances were concerned). We drove around by our dear Mother's long last, narrow home, & oh my dear Husband how I missed you then for on such occasions you have usually been with me. I do beg of you to help me pray every day for your speedy return home & as the united prayers ascend every day to the throne of Grace we may hope that a Father of love may have pity on his erring children & answer them in his own good time. I never knew how much I loved you, nor how entirely dependent I am on you for all my earthly happiness.

Jim Cooper spent yesterday with us, he tried to see you whilst you were in B. but failed. He is with his father at Camp Carryl. He promises to hunt you up the first opportunity. George is still here waiting for advices from Cousin Galbraith.

You said nothing about your diarrhea. I hope the ginger checked it entirely. I enclose a receipt which any druggist could mix.

I felt uneasy. This cloudy Monday^(7/29) morning finds me seated in a nightgown & blanket shawl finishing up my dear husband's letter having broken my pen on Saturday night.

We have an encampment of 2,000 men of Patterson's Division out at the gas works. Yesterday after we had dined I was in the yard & two very hungry fellows passed & I invited them in to dine. They had not eaten at a table for three months. They are waiting for pay of which they have never received a cent, but they talk of re-enlisting of which I am very desirous, for I think if all go, you will have an easier time. It is rumored here that 20 of McCartney's Company have returned, 17 got off at Mechanicsburg & only 2 here which some think looks suspicious. Another rumor that Capt. Cross has had his legs shot off. His wife went to Balt. on 1/2 hours notice on Thursday. These awful accounts of the minnies(?) of gunpowder which the rebels have made make me so unhappy. Do you think there is any truth in it? I was asking the soldiers yesterday but they were so Dutch I couldn't understand them.

The children are very much delighted at the idea of going to Shippensburg. I think of going next week. I will write to Sister Libby soon about it. Nan & John say frequent lessons to me. I don't think they have forgotten their learning. They were at a tea party at Judge Graham's on Thursday. John tells me that Capt. Kuhn engaged him as bugler & he is going to War. The returned

volunteers are to have a dinner on next Thursday. Daisy tells me she is still a boy, evidently preferring the other sex. James was no worse after his ride. Two new teeth are coming.

Now my own precious husband, good-bye. Write to me very soon for I am always anxious. I hope you are comfortable & my most earnest prayer night & day is that you will return safely & shortly. Accept my warmest love & believe me ever your affect. wife

Annie

Do you put a wet handkerchief in your hat in marching? Write on receipt of this if only two lines saying how you are. The flour has come.

(Written on the inside of the envelope flap:)

I enclose three snares(?) because every one ought to be aware of them.

0729.61
jsc-1720.61

Camp called Camp Harvey (DFAH-21)

Washington City 29 July 1861

My dear Annie,

I wrote to you on Friday I believe it was but have not heard a word from you since I saw you. I hardly expected to hear from you before this but I hope to get a letter from you today or tomorrow. I always feel anxious to hear how you all are & where you are.

We are in the same place as when I last wrote, from two to three miles north of Washington, out the street beyond the park. It is said we have one of the best camps about the city. We are much more confined here than at Camp Wayne. I have not been out of camp since we arrived except on Friday when we march(ed) to Washington to the arsenal to get our arms exchanged. The distance is variously estimated at 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 miles which we marched in the morning and waited all day without a bite to eat getting home about sundown.

We are as much cut off from the world here almost as if we were at the Rocky Mountains. I scarcely ever see a newspaper and know nothing of what is going on in the country although within three miles of the capitol. I don't know where Penrose's Regiment is although it came to Washington the day before we did. I don't know where Todd's Regt. is. It arrived at Baltimore a day or two before us. In it are McCartney's and Cross's companies. You will perceive this is written in pencil. The facilities for writing with pen & ink are not very great. I write this sitting on the ground in my tent with my trunk for a writing desk. Mr. Beatty & I have a tent together but being small it crowds us considerably.

A couple of Shippensburgers were to see us yesterday & Saturday, Mr. Cox & Mr. McPherson. I understand Rev. Mr. Harper & several others from Shippensburg are expected here this week. I presume we will not have as many visitors from Carlisle as we had at Camp Wayne. We have had no person to call on us from Washington except a few acquaintances. We do not expect any.

I have no idea how long we will remain where we are. It was the current report before we left Camp Wayne that our regiment with four others of the Penn. V.R.C. were to be under the command of Genl. McCall. I have seen by a stray paper that he has been assigned to the Department of Alexandria. It may be that we will be ordered there shortly. Wherever I am ordered I am prepared to go, and there is no service I would as willingly engage in as in the defence of Washington City.

And now my dear wife I must again say farewell. Remember me with kindness to our dear little children. Tell John & Nan & Daisy again & again from me to be good children & do everything you tell them.. Write as often as you can. I fear I shall not be able to write as often as I did from West Chester, but will as often as I can. Direct to me Co. A, 7 Regt., Penna. Vol. Res. C., Washington City, D.C.

Your ever affect. husband
J.S. Colwell

ahc-0731.61

Carlisle July 31st 1861

My very dear good husband,

Oh, I cannot tell you how thankful I felt for your letter which I received this afternoon, for I was feeling so anxious that my heart almost grew sick as the mail time came round, so please write as often as possible telling me how & where you are. Please never eat anything which a stranger gives you for fear of poison; these returning volunteers tell us that food was frequently poisoned which was offered them at Charlestown.

John brought his soldiers in to tea this afternoon and seemed perfectly delighted at offering them hospitalities & when I think of your ever being placed in the same situation I feel as though nothing was too good for them. John's military enthusiasm is at a high pitch; he tells me that in addition to his duty of bugles he has assumed that of drummer for another Co. for he is bound to be a soldier. The inducements to run at large are very great since the encampment so I have to devise many plans to keep my boy at home. He has noble traits of character but he requires careful training.

Sister Jane & Mr. Craig^{Philby} were down in a buggy this morning & remained till after dinner. They report all well in Shippensburg. Miss Jane Galbraith was buried on Saturday. Charly McClure mentioned having seen you.

I send you by this mail today's Inquirer & as you so seldom see a paper perhaps you would like me to send it regularly. I am sorry you are kept so closely confined for I was hoping that all these people from town were thrown together so that it would be more like home. Todd's Regt. are near Annapolis at the junction of the road. I hear that McCartney is tyrannical & 40 of his men have left & won't serve under him. Speaking of reports yesterday I was on the street & Mr. Harkness informed me that your Co. had gone within 10 miles of Manassas, which excited me so much that George made it his business to go down town to inquire into it & discovered no foundation for the report. Everything almost seems to devolve on McClellan & I do pray that an all seeing God may give him wisdom & control his movements. I read ___ with a great deal of interest the opinions of the press regarding Genl. McCall's ability & past experience, but I hope you won't be sent to Alexandria as you intimated.

My dearest husband my whole being seems wrapt up in this movement where you are concerned & I cannot express my solicitude regarding you, but I can look to a Higher Power & rely on his strength & know that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without his knowledge. If this was only among the things that are past & we were all united & happy in the enjoyment of peace. Nan Daisy & James are well & very good. Nan is my little comforter.

My darling husband good night; write as soon as you possibly can & always think of me as your sincerely devoted wife

Annie

I can't leave this space without filling it up with kisses. If you think you will go away I could leave the baby at Cousin W. Lossoners(?) a day in B. & go to see you for a few hours. I cannot give you up. Thursday of next week I propose going to Shippensburg.

jsc-0801.61

Washington City 1 Aug /61

My very dear wife,

Your very anxiously looked for letter was received in due time. I was glad to hear of your safe arrival home with no injury to the children.

As you are concerned about my health I will say my disease clung to me several days but I am now, I think perfectly well.

I forget to mention in my last that Charley McClure & George Gibson had been out to see us. Charley has been out several times since & invited W. Watts & myself to dine with him day before yesterday which invitation we accepted. We had a good dinner which last we do not often get these times. After dinner we called to see the old Genl. Gibson. He looks very feeble, and cannot live a very long time. He still seems cheerful. He was very severe on those army officers who were educated by the United States and took an oath to support them and are now fighting against their own oath etc. and mentioned particularly the one that married his niece and the one that married his ward, meaning Anderson & Ransom. He thinks they are utterly dishonoured. I saw Fanny Hunt at the general's. She looks as neat and pretty and is as sprightly as ever, but time is beginning to touch her lightly and will soon leave permanent traces of his passage.

We are a good deal confined to camp here. I have been in Washington but once - the time above mentioned - since we are here except when we marched through with the company.

Last night, or rather this morning before daylight & after we have had a heavy rain and as I write it has commenced again. It is near nine o'clock and we have had no breakfast, the rain interrupting the cooking. Our tent is perfectly watertight and none comes through, but it is tiresome to sit on the ground and write on my trunk.

I wrote to you on Monday morning but the mail carrier left earlier than I thought; it did not get to the post office until Tuesday. I suppose you see it yesterday. Please do not wait to hear from me before you write as I cannot always write when I would like to do so. And you can scarcely imagine how I long sometimes to hear from you and to learn that you are well.

The rest of the company are all well with the exception of one or two complaining who are strangers to you. As you are going to Shippensburg soon when you go let me know that I may direct there. You will probably find it lonesome out at Mr. Hayes'. If after a trial you are not contented leave and go wherever you can enjoy yourself but take good care of the children & make them obey you, and do not let them forget their father. Good bye my dearest wife

your husband James

Direct as before Co. A, 7th Regt., P.R.V.C, Washington City, D.C.

1
jsc-0804.61

Camp Terrally
Near Washington City, D.C.
Sunday morning 4 Aug. 61

My Very dear wife,

I received yours of the 31st ult. day before yesterday and was glad to hear that you are all well. I expect I shall receive another today. I would have written yesterday, but about ten o'clock on Friday night we were called together to hear orders to be ready to march at 9 o'clock next morning. Where we were to go we had no idea although there were various conjectures. We knew the direction we were to go and that was all, which was to the turnpike leading to Frederick from Georgetown. We were ready and left our encampment at 9 o'clock A.M. precisely somewhere about 900 men and 25 wagons with four horses each. w/f
8/3

We passed through Washington City where we were detained an hour or two waiting for the 6th Regiment (Penrose's) which finally joined us and we proceeded to Georgetown and north from that towards Frederick where we encamped some two or three miles from the former place having marched seven or eight miles in the heat of the day. What is to be done or where we are to go next you can tell as well as I. We are still in the District of Columbia I believe, but are said to be in the enemies country. That is there are a good many secessionists about. Unfortunately I broke my pen & am compelled to return to the pencil. A boy here selling cakes and lemonade says there are no secessionists about here, & I am inclined to think that there are not many, but probably a mile or two off in Maryland there are a considerable number.

Mr. Haverstick has been in Washington several days and has been out to see us every day. He was out yesterday morning before we left the old camp & said he would follow us today to whatever point we might be.

You spoke in your letter of coming on to see me. I often think of you & our little darlings. Indeed you are all in my thoughts continuously, and you can scarcely imagine how it would delight me to see you if only for a few minutes, but I do not see how it could be accomplished, and besides it could be only for a little while and there would be again the sorrow of the separation, and then our movements are so uncertain that you might have great difficulty in finding where we were and perhaps not get to see us. We are kept pretty closely in camp & cannot go to the city without a written pass from the commanding officer and on special business which must be mentioned in the pass. I hope my dear wife that this difficulty will be ended before a year and that I will be home to live with you for many years of happiness to us both & to rear our children to virtue, religion & usefulness. You cannot conceive how my heart yearns after you & them. And I am away from you only in the discharge of duty - that performed I shall be with you without a moment's unnecessary delay.

This is Sunday but we do not have much Sunday in camp. We do not drill but that is the chief difference observable between

that & on other days. In fact I can scarcely keep the count of the days, very often not knowing the day of the month or week.

My health is very good for which I am thankful. Indeed it has been since ever I left home at first, which I attribute in some measure to your prayers and in answer to them. I trust you will pray for me in all your devotions.

I saw Charles McClure as we passed through Washington yesterday. He informed me the Genl. (Gibson) was not so well & not having been up that day. I fear the Generals days are coming to a close very rapidly. I wrote you I called to see him in company with W. Watts. He seemed in good spirits that day and was much amused & laughed heartily on addressing some remarks to Watts to find that he was sound asleep sitting on his chair. He took a good nap of half an hour or more.

By the way I may say here that Watts has been doing remarkably well for several weeks. I think he does not drink at all. He certainly has not taken too much for several weeks. The day we were to dine with Charley McClure we went into the city in the forenoon. He was put under my care. I thought it better to trust to his honor, and separated from him making an appointment to meet him at three o'clock. I went to the place a little before the time & nothing had been heard of him. I started out to look after him & had not proceeded but 3 or 4 paces when I met him coming as straight as anybody. I doubt whether he had tasted whisky all day & having (being?) one of our men who was addicted to taking too much has quit it & does not taste it.

My next letter I will direct to Shippensburg unless I hear from you that you are not going up on Thursday. After that I will direct to Ship or to Middle Spring as you shall instruct me. The latter would be more convenient for you but the former more certain I judge. Direct as heretofore Co. A, 7th Regt., Penna. Res. C., near Washington City, D.C.

Now I must bid you good bye & believe me ever your most loving husband devoted to you only of all women now & hereafter again farewell

James

Several of Edgar Hayes letters miscarried. I think none of ours has thus far.

jsc-0807.62

Camp Tenally
Near Washington City, D.C.
7 Aug, 1861

My dearest Annie,

I recd. yours of the 5th inst last night on my return after a pretty hard days work. We are by degrees getting into actual service, although we have not seen the enemy yet. I believe I informed you in my last that we had moved our camp. On Monday evening we received orders to go out on Picket duty. The whole regiment marched out between 5 & 6 o'clock P.M. except one company to guard the camp. Just after we got started it commenced raining pretty fast & continued for an hour or two. We were posted in a pine & cedar thicket where we had great difficulty in getting through and where it was so dark we could not see a yard ahead, and the bushes & trees were dripping with the rain so you can imagine how pleasant it was. Although it had cleared off and the stars were shining beautifully the thicket was so dense that we could only get an occasional glimpse of them from the openings. I had about 20 men posted with a reserve of 20 men beside me. In travelling around to see the posts once I got lost and could not find the place, but made my way back to one of the posts I had left and then at the second attempt I succeeded. You would not dream of such a wild looking place so near Washington City.

About 12 o'clock I received orders to move to another position, when I gathered up my men & started being challenged every ten or fifteen yards by sentinels of our own regiment. The whole company was together in one spot as a reserve till morning. About 7 o'clock A.M. we had orders to advance some 2 or 2 1/2 miles further on into Maryland and then we were posted till about dark in the evening when we were relieved by another regiment and left for camp where we arrived about 10 or rather between 9 & ten, got supper & retired about 11 o'clock.

Between 3 & 4 in the morning I was aroused by the rattle of the drum which intimated something to be done. I sprang up & found orders to get into line and after getting there learned that we had orders to march at once and off we went without breakfast. After marching a half mile or about that we were halted and informed that Genl. McClellan had telegraphed that the secessionists were approaching the river and it was reported they were commencing to cross, and that we would probably have to fight them where we stood. We were formed in line of battle and waited for them. In front of us we could see regiments drawn up as far as we could see. And I have no doubt there were some thousands behind us & north of us but we could not see for a woods just behind and a hill on our right. The men all seemed in good spirits and ready to meet the enemy. For myself there is no place I would prefer to battle to that in defence of the capital of our nation. If we cannot preserve that we are unworthy of the name of free men. I feel if he had come we would have repulsed him at all hazards.

After remaining on the ground some 4 or 5 hours we were ordered home and to hold ourselves in readiness to march at a minutes notice at any time, so we returned having seen no enemy & got breakfast about 11 o'clock. I suppose it was a false alarm so far as it was reported that the enemy had crossed the river. It was said while we were waiting for them that Genl. Johnson was on this side with from 33,000 to 40,000 men, his intention being of course to attack the city from this side. It was reported that Beauregard was approaching the city from the other side. That I did not believe, but thought they might endeavour to cross the river above, and attack this side which is not fortified.

There is a report in camp this afternoon that the enemy attempted to cross today some 5 or 6 miles above and were driven back with a loss to them of 17 killed. What truth there is in the report I do not know but it is probably only a rumor of which we have many false ones every day.

I have had plenty of time the last 48 hours to think of you, not withstanding I have been so busy. Many a thought went after you and our dear little Nan & John & Daisy & brother this morning when drawn up in battle array. My dear Annie be of good cheer. There is a providence that guides & protects us. I feel that we shall be together again. Yet I am no prophet & will make no prophecy. I believe that "There is a divinity that shapes our ends rough hew them as we will."

Edgar Hayes has been sick a few days and was not out with us. The doctor says his case has taken no definite form probably a head cold. I think he is in a fair way to be better. It is nothing serious at present although he has taken some medicine which made him very sick.

It has been very warm here for a week or ten days especially two or three days last week. But I suppose we will soon be complaining of the cold instead of heat.

Farewell my dear Annie, your husd. James

jsc-080961

Camp Tenally Near Washing
ton City 9 Aug, 1861

My dear Annie,

I have recd yours of the 5th which is the last. My last giving an account of our military operations I directed to Shippensburg. I believe it was on Wednesday I wrote. That night between 10 & 11 o'clock we received another order to march at 3 o'clock next morning. At that time we were in line ready to march, but the alarm that the enemy were crossing the river not being confirmed we were dismissed with the order to be ready to march on two minutes notice. About 7 o'clock we were called out and marched on regimental drill. I judge all apprehension of Johnson or Beauregard crossing the river to attack Washington has now vanished. It would be the sheerest folly for them to attempt it now I think.

We only get a mail three times a week now being some five or six miles from the post office at Washington. I presume there is a letter for me there but I cannot get it till tomorrow evening. I can scarcely write as often as I have been doing but I will write as often as I can. I believe a bill has passed congress to permit us to send our letters without prepaying them & I suppose I will have to avail myself of the law & let you pay for the letters. You can scarcely conceive of the difficulty we have in getting stamps. If you get a supply, so many have none and you must give them & you soon have none. I presume you are at Sister Nancys but I will direct to Shippensburg till you tell me to direct to Middle Spring.

10 Aug. Last night I stopped, being called to something else till too dark to proceed. It commenced raining in the evening & continued till about 10 o'clock when it ceased but did not clear off. This morning it is still cloudy & very foggy, but will probably clear and be very warm after a while.

We have had no more alarms in camp and I presume will have no more till we get into Virginia, or farther into the enemy's country. The different companies are getting breakfast and I hear coffee mills going around which is one of the most home-like sounds I hear in camp. How long we will remain where we are I have no means of knowing but it seems as if we would be here for a few weeks. Still we might leave any day. Edgar Hays is better or was yesterday but has not been out on duty. I think he will soon be well but it is better he should not exercise for a few days. It was nothing but a cold & a bad condition of the stomach that was the ailment. He took some medicine and it has weakened him.

I must close lest I may not get this ready for the mailman. Give my love to Nan, John, Daisy & brother. You will know how to do it. Remember me to all friends. To you my dear wife I say again good bye. Let me hear from you often as you can.

Your ever loving husband
James

Since writing the above I have seen Edgar. He is still getting better. The Doctor says he will soon be well. There is no cause for uneasiness as he is not ill & was but sick from the effects of medicine & weak from not eating.

Yours as ever
James

X
ahc-0812.61

Middle Spring
Aug 12th 1861

My very dearest Husband,

_____ of the 7th inst reached me on Saturday & I do assure you I was very anxious to get it for I had not heard since Tuesday. I was sorry to hear you had such an uncomfortable time in your late military experience, but very glad to know that you were still well & had not seen the enemy & do sincerely hope you never will for I shall be more anxious than ever then.

Another comforting assurance for which I must thank you doubly my own Husband - that in the midst of all your duties you still find time to think of us at home. Indeed I cannot realize that you are away for any length of time, & often find myself picturing you in your red gown & slippers in the old rocking chair, beside the children & me, in our little nursery. A few nights ago I dreamed that I was in the midst of the battle. The weapons used were long rods such as the one we have on top of the wardrobe, for chastising purposes, & I figured as Pocohontas between you & the enemy. I think little Brother must have been kicking me in the back just then for the sensation in sleep was similar to a scourging.

Have you got anything to protect your neck from rain? I regret so much we could not get the silk oilcloth cape. It troubles me very much that you belong to the _____ Co for I'm afraid you'll be put front - but we must rely entirely on God. He has said "as our day is so shall our strength be." His strength is perfect for our weakness. Have you a chaplain in your regiment? By the Prsbyn(?) I notice that both Drs. Scott & Leyburn have resigned to go south. Yesterday I heard a sermon by Mr. Hays at Middle Spring.

The weather is still very warm. Yet it is drizzling today. Vienna has gone to live with Cousin Margaretta for a few weeks. I will put up the tomatoes in our garden for winter. They seem to be particularly fine & they promise to be quite a drug in market selling for 25 cts per bushel. I was very sorry to hear of Edgar Hayes' sickness. I (hope) it proves nothing serious & he has recovered ere this. Dr. Mahon & his wife are here from Baltimore. John is enjoying himself. Very much constantly on his feet & bare-footed too from morning till night. He says he does love Rarbert. Nan make a great many tea parties with the shells. Daisy tells Aunt Nancy to make soup like Mrs Cross, & she is enjoying everything Aunt Nancy gives her; dear little brother James is very fond of walking alone & can nearly walk the length of the entry without assistance. A letter from Minnie reports the house being well fastened up. George is still in Carlisle.

If you should be so unfortunate as to get sick won't you send for me? In that event I would not hesitate about leaving James. Let me hear from you as often as possible. All send love. Good-bye my own precious Husband. I am ever your sincerely attached wife

Annie

jsc-0812.61

Camp Tenally 12 Aug. 1861
Near Washington City, D.C.

My Dear Annie,

It is a week since your last letter was written. I mean the last I have received. There may be one at the post office. We have mail only 3 times a week Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday. I did expect a letter on Saturday but was disappointed. I can get none till tomorrow evening.

We go out on picket duty this evening at 4 o'clock and will hardly return before 9 or 10 o'clock tomorrow night. I thought I would write a line before leaving as no mail will go before Thursday after tomorrow. I shall return with the full expectation of finding a letter here from you. I know it is not so convenient for you to send letters to the office, but I presume John could take them, either to Middle Spring or to Shippensburg, by going in in the morning & coming out in the evening, if he had company.

It rained very heavy here yesterday evening and continued all night more or less, and today also. So you see we have the fortune or misfortune of getting rainy nights for duty. Mr. Harkness of Carlisle is in camp but I have not seen him to speak to him. We do not have so many visitors here as we had at Camp Wayne.

Edgar Hayes is still getting better. I suppose he will write soon if he is not too lazy. He received a letter from home a day or two ago with some postage stamps in it. The men were paid off yesterday. The officers have not received any pay yet. Yesterday we were under arms undergoing inspection from 8 o'clock till 12. So you perceive not much regard is paid to the Sabbath. We are to have a chaplain at an early day, Thos. P. Hunt the celebrated Temperance

It is now 2 o'clock P.M. & I must pack up and get ready to march. Remember me to all friends, particularly to our little darlings.

I remain as ever
your affectionate
Husband
James

ahc-0815.61

Middle Spring
August 15th 1861

My dearest Husband,

I have not heard from you since Monday evening consequently I am so anxious that my knees are quaking (that is where anxiety always affects me first). I'm sure this evening's mail will bring me something. You may not have received my letters since my sojourn here. This is the third one. From your letter of the 9th I infer you have had a great deal of disagreeable weather. I hope it has cleared off & you have taken no cold.

You seem to be kept in a constant state of expectancy in regards to alarms of the approaching enemy. How much discomfort they are causing us! Someone mentioned in town the other day that you were very much fatigued after your day's march from one camp to the other; you said nothing about it, so I don't always credit everything I hear. Another rumor is that your regiment is ordered to Harper's Ferry. If it is true Mr. Hayes intends to go there on a visit. I am glad to hear that Edgar is better. I hope soon to hear of his entire restoration.

The late battle in Missouri resulting in Genl. Lyon's death has produced quite an excitement here. I suppose the loss of McCullough will be equally felt by them. This section of country appears to be filled with secessionists who regularly subscribe for rebel newspapers. I notice that Greeley condemns Scott & the Administration very much for their leniency towards the rebels in allowing them to live amongst us whilst they constantly communicate our movements to their kindred spirits in the South.

Nan has just presented me with a bouquet & she desires me to send you a flower which you will find enclosed. I still keep up the children's reading & spelling lessons. John says "tell Papa that I can ride a horse alone and drive the carriage from church, & they all call me farmer John." The _____ nurse(?) Daisy a great deal she is getting a little (petted? fitted?). She told me yesterday that I looked like a clean pig. She says she wants to live always in the country. They frequently converse about you & on hearing strangers mention your name immediately inform them that "my Papa is a Col & a Major & a President." James has not been well for the past three days but I attribute it to teething.

I have heard from Carlisle only once since I left. If you go to Harper's Ferry I hope it will be possible for you to get a furlough. All of your sisters are well & indeed all of the friends whom I have seen. Do you think I should ask Mr. Rheem for the \$25 so I won't have to use the specie? Now my dear Husband do please take care of yourself & we will trust that Providence has foreordained that you shall be restored to us for I know I never can be happy again without you. Write as often as you possibly can to your ever anxious and devotedly attached wife.

Annie

I enclose a receipt for anointing soldiers feet in marching.

jsc-0816.61

Camp Tenally Near Wash
ington, D.C. 16 Aug. 1861

My Dear Annie,

Since I wrote you Monday afternoon I recd. yours, being in waiting on my return from picket duty as I wrote you in my last, which I presume you have received ere this.

It cleared off the evening we went out and the night was very pleasant but the next day we had frequent showers and a tremendous rain in the afternoon which drenched everything in it. Fortunately for (us) I was stationed as a reserve with a few men at an old stable which kept us perfectly dry. Everything went off quietly and we got back to camp a bit after dark Tuesday. The only thing causing any exciting was the capture of 4 troopers belonging to a New York Regiment. They had been sent along the line of pickets for some duty and had the wrong countersign, some think for the purpose of trying the pickets. They passed one company but I stopped them. They were all Germans & very stupid, and there statements were contradictory; and one of our men sneaking around them reported that the two hindmost had officers uniforms. I thought I had some secessionists certain. They craved to be permitted to go on, then to go back, but I refused. They then commenced making preparations as I thought to charge past. I had eighteen men with me whom I brought to a ready, and the clicking of the locks, coming to a cock changed their minds if they had any such intentions. I then made them dismount and hitch their horses. As soon as they took off their overcoats, I knew (from) the uniform that it belonged to the New York cavalry, but I detained them for over three hours till we sent back to headquarters, when we got orders to give them the countersign & pass them on. That was the end of the secession cavalry.

I have been perfectly well and caught no cold. You recall I had a very bad cold when I first left home for Camp Wayne. I speedily recovered from that & have not had the slightest cold since. We have had quite a change in the weather. It was very warm till day before yesterday.. The last two nights have been uncomfortably cold.

An attack is undoubtedly expected here as intrenchments are being thrown up, and the timber in front of us is all being felled. I judge from that we will remain here for some time, at least till all apprehension of an attack had vanished. Edgar Hays is nearly well. He told me this morning that he would _____.

Kiss the children for me. Your most loving husband
James

Park. Henderson & John Hayes are here as also Mr. Harkness.

jsc-0817.61

Camp Tenally 17 Aug 61
Near Washington D.C.

My dear Annie,

Yours of the 12th was received on Thursday evening. I was glad to hear from you & to know that you are all well & the children enjoying themselves and happy. I hope you are in the same comforting condition. The warm weather here has given place to wet. We have had a great deal of rain in the last few days, and this morning the appearance is for the same to continue.

It has been very quiet here since I last wrote but we continue to throw up earth works, which extend to the very borders of our encampment. It is said some houses are to be taken down & removed. The timber is still being cut down. All this looks like apprehension of an attack on this side. Still I do not believe there will be an attack at this time, nor unless we should meet with reverses, at any time on the other side of the river. How long we will remain here it is impossible to tell. Several of our Pennsylvania Reserve regiments have moved away, reports say up the river towards General Bank's column. We sometimes see them going or miss them after they are gone. That is all we know. When we march ourselves we never know where we are going till we arrive at our destination.

I suppose your funds must be out. I mean your paper funds. And I would not use the specie only when you cannot avoid it. Specie may become very scarce. You can draw a check on the Carlisle Deposit Bank & sign my name and your own. I presume the bank in Shippensburg will cash it. Batem(?) told me last spring he would honor your drafts. I received my pay for the time we were at Camp Wayne. Part of it I sent to R.P.M. McCluett to pay a debt and part I kept to live on. We have to buy all our provisions ourselves. I mean the officers. The men draw theirs from government. I will write to McCleaf to pay you all the money he takes in for me. I suppose that is not very much at present.

Edgar Hays is well enough now to write. I don't know whether he has or not. He is in his quarters & walking about, but ought not to go out (in) such rainy weather. The mail man is waiting. Love to all friends, the children & especially to my dear little wife.

Your affte.
husband
James

jsc-0819.61

Camp Tenally Washington
City D.C. 19 Aug. 1861

My own dearest Annie,

I only received two letters from you last week & two the week before. I think I will have to curtail mine as you ought to write two for my one. I write today as we go on pickett duty again this afternoon which will prevent my writing till Wednesday. It has been raining now for several days, not constantly but at intervals. Last night it rained pretty steadily all night, and today it is still raining slowly. So that we will have another wet night. We are getting used to it.

Yesterday we had a sermon in camp, the first we have had since we left Camp Wayne. It was by Mr. Conser formerly Methodist preacher at Carlisle. He is now chaplain of the 5th P.V.R.C. encamped in sight of us. His text was "what must I do to be saved." He gave rather an exhortation than a sermon & was very much liked. I think I sent a shirt & some stockings by C. Long who was here last week, directed to care of R.P. McClure. I presume you will get them. I think I will send some more white shirts home as they are very much in my way & I never wear them. I cannot get away from camp except a few rods from the outside.

I hear W.M. Penrose left for home this morning. His regiment is camped a short distance from us the 8th being between. He has been sick for some time - not very bad having a diarrhoea. He informed me last week he had written home only two letters since he left. What do you think of that? How many he received from home he did not state. I understood on Saturday morning that Genl. Gibson was very ill not expected to live. Our mail carrier (who is David Nevin of Shippensburg) brought out the news which he heard somewhere in the city. Heretofore we have had only three mails a week. I understand that hereafter we will have a daily mail except Sunday.

I hope you are enjoying yourself out in the country & are perfectly happy. I endeavor to make myself as happy as possible, under the circumstances. But I cannot exceed to any very great extent when you are absent, but it will add immensely to my comfort to know that you and our children are well & happy. O my dear wife, I love you with a love, not only unabated by time - but stronger & brighter & purer as months & years pass on, and which I believe only the night of death can obliterate. Take care of yourself and do not altogether forget me.

I think there must be some misunderstanding or disagreement between W.M. Penrose & his wife. The general opinion seems to be that she is a secessionist.

My letter paper is all used up, and not being able to get to the city I must have recourse to the _____ which I hope you will excuse. Kiss all the little darlings & tell them to be good children, and obey you in everything. Give my love to all the friends. Edgar Hays will write this afternoon or tomorrow. He is

still excused from duty & will not have to go on pickett tonight. I shall expect a letter from you tomorrow night when I return.

Your most loving husband James

There were a number of Carlisle people here yesterday, Wm. Beetem, Glass', Zuck, and Wm. Alexander, and a number of others. Beetem will honor any draft you draw. I shall want some flannel shirts & stockings but perhaps I could get them better in Washington than you can. I am in hopes I will be able to get in after a while. I shall not need them for a couple of months or so.

Your James

X
ahc-0820.61

Middle Spring
August 20th 1861

My dear Husband,

I received your letter of the 16th inst. & feel truly glad that your health has been universally so good through the many changes of weather in the last two weeks. I hope you will always be fortunate enough to get under some shelter in time of storm when you are on duty. But I don't like these picket guards at any rate. It must be some new regulation to have the officers go on such duty.

I received by Mr. Long a dirty shirt of yours & three pairs of stockings. Are your stockings getting pretty thin? I sometimes hear of persons going where you are & could send you any thing. I will wait for advices before I make you more flannel shirts. Your adventure with the secession cavalry must have been quite exciting. I hope all your adventures will terminate as happily.

Your cousin Dr. Mahon(?) of Balt. asked me if you had gone for the glory of the thing. Feeling rather indignant, I replied that your motives were purely conscientious, but that you & I differed widely in regard to your taking so active a part. At the same time I could not suppress a thought that such extravagant love of country was certainly very powerful so as to make every other feeling subordinate to it, but I feel thankful that those conscientious motives have been dormant for 7 years at any rate & I trust they will be restored to the same happy state & remain so for ever. Methinks I hear my Husband say "you are in a bad humor." No indeed I aint, but I would like to have a husband to talk to just now, & if he don't get a little teasing occasionally he'll get too fat.

I spend my time very pleasantly in the country for Friday afternoon we went over to Mrs. Robt. McCune's to tea. Sister Molly is staying there now. Sister Nancy & Mr. Hayes both had cramps that night but have recovered. The children are very well & enjoy themselves very much. John thinks he could live on corn all the time. We all do justice to the corn field. Daisy is getting very fat. Nan won't get fat despite of her stuffing which I think so very ungrateful. James is a darling fat boy. I do wish you could see him. He is always laughing & showing his two big butter teeth. Sister Nancy had a letter from Edgar last week. I hope he will rapidly regain his strength.

*May
Colwell
McCune*

I have no news to tell you excepting domestic. Mrs. Creigh(?) has died since I left home. Have you seen anything of George yet? He expected to be in Washington last week. I have not been in town since I've been up. Yesterday we heard Mr. Hays preach. How do you like your chaplain? The proper person in such a position would be very useful. Now good bye my own husband. Always forgive me for everything I say or do wrong & write to me very often.

Ever your sincerely attached wife

Annie

The children & I have (been) making excursions very often. I put on an old wrapper of Sister Libby's & can almost swim. They are waiting on me now. I wish you could see the mermaids.

ahc-0822.61

Middle Spring
August 22nd 1861

My dear Husband,

Since I last wrote I received yours of the 17th inst. & you know how glad I am to hear everything concerning you. You speak of having had much wet weather. We have shared equally with you for I think since our sojourn here (just two wks today) we have had but one entirely cloudless day.

Your account of the extensive preparations to repel an attack, together with the newspapers' call for all troops whether organized or not make me feel rather better satisfied, for since you have gone I think every body should go too & when the President makes a requisition for a detachment of Amazons you may expect to hear of me going with our little infantry beside me. A letter from Clay McCune yesterday spoke of a battle being apprehended shortly & also of 11,000 (17,000? 1,100?) men having crossed the river & the probability of their being captured by the Rebels. At first I felt very unhappy about you but again I remembered that Clay McCune was of your Co so it was not likely that you would be one place & he another.

The departure of the Adamantine(?) Guards from Newville has created quite an excitement in this neighborhood, & the report of their having gone to California increases it. But indeed we are always hearing reports; one can scarcely credit them. I'm afraid Mr. Russel is injuring us with England & France by his letters ridiculing the conduct of our troops at the Manassas battle. If those countries recognize the southern Confederacy I do wish you could come home, for I'm afraid we would be beaten.

My paper funds are not out yet & I use the specie as little as possible. Please tell me what I shall do about Jacob Rheem's \$25. If I had that I would not require money from the bank for some time.

The children are well & very happy in the country. James tries hard to talk, & walks about quite proudly. Lately, Daisy is burnt very brown & is as fat as though she had been corn fed. Today after eating heartily she stuffed a corn cob inside of her dress & would occasionally take it out to gnaw it. John is rather vacillating in his attentions to the horses & the water. He rides the horses to water several times a day & wades & dances in the water to his heart's content. He says when we return home we must convert the garden into a pond so that he can wash himself. Nan is learning to sew, & reads tolerably well now. She promises to be a great assistance when she grows up.

I have not heard from Carlisle since I last wrote. The friends here are all well. Sister Molly spent yesterday with us. Sister Libby is going to Carlisle shortly to can our tomatoes for as (you _____) I cant go & come in one day & tis not convenient to take baby so she volunteered.

Do you forgive me for writing as I did in my last? I won't do it any more & promise to be a good girl. I always like you to write. I hope Edgar is well. Good night my own dear Husband & always believe me your affectionately attached wife

Annie

I have just received your letter of the 19th inst my dearest Husband, & I'm in such a very good humor because you had so much love in it, but you make a mistake about my having written only two letters. The last you might have received on Saturday night & at farthest on Monday. Please don't threaten to write less than you have done. Your letters are all that keep me up, so write if you don't hear from me at all, for my letters might miscarry. "Remember" Sister Libby sends her love & says she hopes the war will soon end. She has kindly volunteered to knit your stockings & I will make your flannel shirts. Do you wish any particular pattern? A yoke or without? I would rather make them than have you buy because you can always think of me whenever you turn over a new leaf (as Obadiah Olbruck would say) provided you turn one very often.

In that corner of your letter you speak of "coming in." Do you mean home? That would make me so very happy. I do hope you can accomplish it soon. The boys are impatient to carry this to town _____ Sister Nancy says that if Edgar don't recruit(?) & there is a possibility of his taking typhoid fever perhaps he could come here. In great haste yours

Annie

Heard from Carlisle this evening. George not well. Still there. Cousin McVey(?) uneasy about the Genl. Mr. Anderson a Brigr. Genl. Tallin (talkin?) very cheerful.

jsc-0822.61

Camp Tenally
Washington City, D.C.
22 August 1861

My Dearest Annie,

I received yours of the 19th inst. on my return from picket duty. It seems to me that letters are a long time getting here & going to you. You say you had not heard from me since Monday evening. I have written since here three times every week. I presume you will receive the letters.

We had an exceedingly wet night the last night we were out; it rained at intervals the whole night & at times tremendously. I fortunately had a shade again but my feet were as wet as they could be all the time. It cleared off the next forenoon and became very pleasant. What seems very extraordinary is that although I have been out three wet nights I have taken no cold. The first night I was wet to the skin all night, and my clothes remained wet till dried the next day by the sun and my own animal heat. The other two nights my feet were wet in the same way. And yet I have not caught a particle of cold, and never was in better health than since I have been in camp, with the exception of the complaint I had when I saw you at Harrisburg, which stuck to me for a couple of weeks.

It was during that time we had the march from Camp Harvey to this camp. It appears someone reported that I was very much fatigued. I was tired it was true, and so was every one else I have no doubt. A number gave out & had to leave the ranks on the road. I am well persuaded that I could have march(ed) back to the place we had left the same afternoon without much inconvenience. The day was excessively warm & we took the middle of the day which made it pretty hard work.

We had a grand review yesterday by Genl. McClelland & the President and most of the cabinet. I presume you will see an account of it in the daily papers, if you see them. Genl. McClellan complimented us very highly. It is nearly breakfast time & may not have time to write more after breakfast. Give my love to all friends and believe that I remain your always devoted husband

James

P.S. Do you ever hear from your friends in Baltimore? The Baltimore secessionists it appears are quite elated at the success of the rebels at Bull Run. 7

You ask if there is anything I want. I will need five or six pairs of woolen stockings, two or three flannel shirts and as many pairs of drawers. It will be time enough to get them. You cannot get the flannel in Shippensburg. If you do not go to Carlisle soon perhaps you could go to Chambersburg & get it as sisters Jane & Nancy & Martha & Craig frequently go. I want heavier flannel than the shirts that were made in Carlisle, and all wool but not too rough. I think the drawers ought to be good strong flannel like mine (wire?). And I would prefer grey flannel

if you can get it or a dark colour. If you could get home made stockings they would be the best. I thought I could get these things in Washington, but a Captain informed me yesterday that he had hunted Washington all over & could not get a flannel shirt. Some opportunity may offer for sending them down - if not they can be sent by express.

I sent an order to Mr. McClure to get the money from Rheem & some other persons. If he gets it he will pay it over to you. But you can draw on the Carlisle Deposits Bank for what you want, and get the money in Shippensburg.

Take care of yourself & make yourself happy. Bring up our children as well as you can. Tell them for me it is their duty to obey you in everything, my own dear wife.

Your loving husband
James

jsc-0823.61

Camp Tenally Washington City
23 August 1861

My Dear Wife,

I received yours of the 20th inst last night. I see it is postmarked Middle Spring as some of your other letters. Perhaps it would be more convenient if I would direct my letters to you at Middle Spring; if so state it & I will send them there. It has been very quiet in camp since I last wrote but as I may not have time tomorrow morning before the mail man leaves, I write a few lines so that you may not miss a letter, although I think two letters are as many as I ought to write in one week when I have nothing of interest to communicate.

You inquire about stockings & flannel shirts. I wrote you in my last about some. If you could get some good home made yarn & get some woman in the country they would be best, but sometimes they can be got in stores first rate. the stockings the men draw from government I think are good, but officers cannot get them. Get good flannel all wool if you can for the shirts. Thick & warm but not coarse. Grey if they can be got. I cannot get any washing done here but what is miserably done. What white things I have been getting washed ar an awful colour. The drawers might be coarser than the shirts. Sometimes knit ones can be got good. If you can get that kind, get them wide so they will not stick too tight to the skin. You know I like stockings pretty long, about 6 pairs of stocking , & three each of shirts & drawers will be abundance.. It is probable you will have to go to Carlisle or Chambersburg. Put pockets in each side of the shirts, and don't make them too long in the sleeves. I suppose it would be better to wash the goods before making up.

You see I have been very particular in giving instructions as usual. I know or rather I believe you have no paterns at Shippensburg. If Mr. McClure does not get any money next week at Carlisle you can draw on Carlisle Deposits Bank. If you want the money immediately you need not wait till that time. I will write to Mr. McCleaf to pay you whatever money he gets for me. I don't know whether I wrote you that we have got paid for the time we were at Camp Wayne. I sent all I could spare of mine to Mr. McClure to pay a debt in Carlisle.

I have seen nothing of your brother George here. He was in Carlisle the 21st as I received a letter from Mr. McClure dated at Carlisle who saw him there. He expected to be in Washington the last of this week or next week

You talk of going swimming. Take care you do not go into the water too often or remain in too long as it is not considered very healthy at this season of the year - dog days you know. I don't know of any very suitable place for swimming about the premises. I suppose you go in about ankle deep and make a splash. John will have it all to take to Mr. Croft when he goes to Carlisle. I am glad you are pleased with the country. I presume you will soon be qualified & ready to be a farmer's wife - milk cows - make butter and various other interesting duties. How is

Aunt Eliza Duncan now, or is she at Mr. Hayes? You have never spoken a word of her. If she is there you ought to be with her a good deal as I judge she is lonesome & would like you to visit her & talk to her very much.

According to the newspapers a great many troops are arriving here now. I suppose it is true, but we see nothing of them. I have not been in Washington since the day I dined with Charley McClure except when we marched through on our way to this camp.

Wm. Watts is clerking now & has been all week at Genl. McCall's headquarters. Wm. Beatty is over there writing. I was offered the place Mr. Beatty has first, but declined to be clerk. I do not know how long it will continue, but probably not a great while, but may all winter.

The companies around are beating the drums for supper, and I suppose our supper will soon be ready.

Remember me to all the friends, and do not forget me yourself. Make the children obey you in everything and at all times. When they are young is the time, and believe me as ever your devoted husband

James

24 Aug. All quiet and this is a most beautiful morning. I wish you could stand on the hill opposite and take a view of our camp. And while you were there I would like a view of you.

Your James

jsc-0825.61

Camp Tenally Washington City
D.C. 25 August 1861

My Dear Annie,

I wrote you on Friday evening to be mailed yesterday, but as there is a suspicion that that mail may have been lost I write again, as well as to let you know that we are to leave this (camp) tomorrow morning to go the great falls of the Potomac, variously estimated from 10 to 19 miles distant. We expect to return here sometime on Monday or Monday night following. It may be that I cannot write till I return. If I can I will, but I understand it is a wild country where the mountains come into the river. I will expect you to write same as always. The letters will probably be forwarded to us. If not I will get them all on my return. And I will want the latest news from you. We will leave our baggage here. And I cannot well take paper etc. along.

I wrote pretty fully in my last about shirts drawers etc. desiring three, I think. Two of each will be an abundance, and as many as I will be able to carry. As there was much instructions - more than you will thank me for - I will add that I would like the collar to be open behind as well as before, & the corners rounded off a little, as it make it set better the flannel being rather clumsy. You know how they are made.

I hope you will receive my last which ought to have been mailed yesterday if it was not (lost?). And do not be uneasy if you do not hear from me for 8 or 10 days. If I do not write, be assured I shall think of you many, many times, and will sometimes look at the same moon & stars that are visible to you.

As no mail came out since Thursday of course I have not heard from you since my last. Our mail man yesterday got lost and has not been found yet. The mail was sent after today & we will know more about it this evening.

I must now tell you good bye, with much love to my dear wife & our little darlings, & kind remembrance to all friends

Your most devoted &
ever faithful husband
James

Since writing the within we have found that the mail was taken out of the post office yesterday but we have seen nothing of it here. But from that I infer that our mail home was put in the office.

James

Since writing we have had a sermon by Rev. Mr. Butler of Washington, Episcopal I was told. Our chaplain has not arrived. Mr Wing(?) sent a most excellent letter to be read to the company which was read today.

ahc-0826.61

Middle Spring
August 26th /61

My dear Husband,

Your letter of the 22nd just reached me on Saturday night. It takes your letters about three days to come here & I think I have received all of yours. I hope your disagreeable weather has all cleared away for you seem to have had a faithful(?) time of it & particularly fated to being out nights on picket duty, but I'm very thankful that you are proof against taking cold. You have certainly been very fortunate. In regard to your diarrhoea if you should have a return I saw a receipt which is very simple, vinegar, warm water & salt allowed to cool before taking.

It strikes me that my husband is a little sensitive on the subject of being tired the day you marched from Camp Harvey. I know very well that he is as strong & brave as a lion & the remark was not intended as a slur on his strength.

Mr. Hayes takes a daily paper so I noticed the account of the grand review of the Penna. Reserves. It must have been quite imposing. Have you become as intimate with the President as your friend Mr. C. Long? who says "he gives him a piece of his mind every little while," & his lordship in return calls him "an odd fish."

Some time ago I had a letter from Charley. The baby is pronounced to resemble George. They are now in Harford & will remain there some time. Ban is very southern without taking any active part. His deep regret is that Mother is buried in Penna. soil for he would like sometimes to visit her grave. Jamie says Heaven only knows whether she'll ever see me now. They are all opposed & taking^g active measures & it is a blessed thing. I wish more here like them in that respect. People can all think just as they please & it makes no difference so they don't do anything & involve other's happiness.

I'm glad to notice that Georgia is talking of seceding from the Confederacy. I do wish they would all secede from South Carolina. Then perhaps we would have a settlement. Mr. McClure spent yesterday evening with us. His coming on Sunday frightened some members of the family very much, but he apologized as he goes to Carlisle today & he had been busy all the week before. He says he has some notion of going to war for if they talk of drafting the men he will go before. I was heartily glad to hear that, for I can't get over the notion that he should have gone instead of you. Wilson Hayes & Judge Graham's son are talking of going. I hear that Todd is at home now. Can't you scrape up some business to bring you? I think our George is trying to get something under Genl. Cooper. I have not heard whether the Kansas project is abandoned or not. He told Mr. McClure he was coming up to see me this week so I suppose I will then hear all about it.

I will attend to your flannel shirts & drawers with a great deal of pleasure. Sister Nancy gave me some yarn to knit your

stockings _____. Sister Libby can't knit. I can buy at the weaver's(?).

I had all the children at church yesterday but James. Heard George Hays of Balt. He is very unpopular here. Considered a secessionist. All well.

Your affecat. wife Annie

Sister Nancy sends her love & says she will be glad to see you & Edgar coming home. They have all been so kind since we have been here doing everything to make us happy & comfortable. Whenever you think we had better go to town tell me. I try to give as little trouble as possible but of course we increase the size of the family. I have not been in town since we came up.

Mr. Casper's sister is staying with Miss Stuart. We were invited out the other day & because I only took one of the children with me the lady bundled up a chicken, some fruit, part of a pound-cake & some apples to send home with us. I am glad that you are so situated that you can buy delicacies when you want them to make up for your plain fare at Camp Harvey.

John says he will soon be able to send you a piece of his beard, for he told me today to feel how it had grown. He thinks he can plough & when he gets hoisted on a horse feels like a man indeed. All the children often talk about you. Mr. McClure thinks he will go to see you during next month. I'M glad you see so many familiar faces from Carlisle. It makes it more homelike.

Good bye again my dear Husband. Mr. Reese Haines(?) informed me that Mrs. Lincoln is supposed to be a secessionist.

Ever your wife

jsc-0828.61

Camp in the Wilderness
28 August 1861

My Dear Annie,

I do not write on such paper from choice, but because it is all the sort I can get in a letter shop or grocery store about a half mile from camp. Nevertheless I have no objection to the motto. I wrote you on Sunday which was to go to the post office on Monday. If it did I presume you have recd. it by this time (Wednesday evening) or soon will. I have never heard whether Saturday morning's mail was put in the post office. If it was you have my letter written on Friday. The mail that was taken out of the office on Saturday last for the 7th Regiment has never arrived in camp nor do we know what has become of it. A mail was brought out on Sunday evening & one yesterday evening, but I have received nothing from you since Thursday, written I think on Monday. So that I have heard nothing from you for more than a week. And feel somewhat anxious to hear from you.

We left our camp at Tenallytown on Monday morning between 7 & 8 o'clock, and had a not unpleasant march to this place, where we arrived between 12 & 1 o'clock P.M. I rode the colonel's horse about one half the distance & Capt Henderson the Lieut Colonel's so that we had rather an easy time as the day was not warm. The great falls of the Potomac is the place where the aqueduct commences which is to supply Washington City with water. There are no houses about that I have seen except a few houses put up by the U.S. government for boarding & lodging the workmen employed on the aqueduct & one built by the state of Maryland for the canal. The surrounding country is exceedingly wild & at the falls of the river grand. The river passes through a gorge which seems cut (from) the solid rock as far down as I went probably a half mile. The banks rise precipitately on both sides, rising crag upon crag perhaps twenty or thirty feet from the water.

Through this gorge the river rushes with tremendous velocity the fall being fifteen feet it is said in a distance of a few yards and the points of huge rocks projecting through the water so that one could almost step across from rock to rock.

We are camped about half a mile from the river in a small open space of a few acres surrounded by pine woods as thick as they can grow all small limbs the largest not over 8 or 10 inches across. One small house is about 30 yards from the tent where I write. This house I am informed by the occupier was built also by the government for the workmen. I have had no picket duty to perform since we came here. Most of the company have been out already. The capt has not been in camp since the evening we arrived. He has his quarters down at the river or rather at the canal a short distance this side of the river.

Yesterday for the first time I saw the enemy, but he was from 1/4 to 1/2 mile away. There pickets are on the other side of the river within 100 yards of ours some places. There was considerable firing between them today, and it is said one of our men shot one of theirs as he was distinctly seen to fall by

others and arose no more. No one was hurt on our side. I do not approve of firing on pickets for the mere fun of the thing. It seems like a barbarous mode of warfare & accomplishes nothing. A man may be killed occasionally, but it neither strengthens one side nor weakens the other, nor does it tend to hasten the conclusion of the war, which it is to be presumed is the object of both parties.

We have had cloudy weather since we have been here sometimes drizzling a little till this afternoon when it rained pretty fast for an hour or two. There are some slight symptoms of its clearing this evening. I hope it will as it is not very pleasant out here, with no baggage but what I have on and only part of a borrowed tent, as I left my trunk & tent behind. It is becoming so dark I must close for the present, to resume, tomorrow if the mail man does not hurry me too much.

29th. It is still raining. I had an unpleasant dream about you last night. I do not recollect the particulars, but I thought you were doing badly. I fell asleep again and dreamed I went home & found you living in an old wagon with one wheel off, at the mill. I do not expect any of them to be true.

A mail came last night as I learned, but was stopped by the captain before it reached here. Most of the company are with him. I look for a letter from you & expect it very soon now.

All was quiet last night. I may write another letter before we return to Camp Tenally, and may not. We will not get back till sometime Monday night I suppose.

Edgar Hayes is here with us. The sick we left behind.

Your affte.
husband
James

jsc-0813.61

Great Falls Md.
31st August 1861

My dearest Annie,

I wrote you on Wednesday & closed on Thursday morning expecting the mail man to call for it immediately. He neglected to do so and the letter did not leave till yesterday morning, so you cannot receive it before this evening. On Thursday evening I received two letters from you of the 26th & 22nd inst. The latter I presume was in the lost mail which should have been recd. last Saturday. As it was found & came into camp with the other mail that evening. I was delighted to receive them as I had not heard from you for more than a week and this is an unusually dull place.

I have had nothing to do since I came here scarcely, except on yesterday. The colonel & several captains & lieutenants including myself went reconnoitering up the river. We rode in a skiff on the canal drawn by a horse and had a delightful time. The canal runs beside the river on this side. We went up some five or six miles & returned but saw nothing worthy of note.

Yesday an old black man appeared on the other side of the river with a white flag & hallowed over that he wanted to sell corn etc. One of our men swam over. The darkie told him that the rebels have been up near the river but had moved back seven miles the day before. There are still a few pickets on the other side it is thought, as men are occasionally seen with guns. There has been no firing across from either side for two or three days and I hope there will be no more of it. A man may be killed occasionally on the one side and the other but nothing is accomplished by it. Neither party is appreciably weakened or strengthened by it. Nor does it tend in any the slightest degree to bring the war to a conclusion, which I take it is the primary object of everybody.

It rained all day on Thursday and cleared off in the evening. Yesterday & today have been delightful days. The sun a little warm in the middle of the day but in the shade charming. Since we left Camp Tenally our whole brigade ten thousand strong was ordered up to General Bank's column which was some 20 or 30 miles above this. That order I presume was based on information that the enemy were intending to cross the river. The intention was afterward changed or the information was false, as our order to move was countermanded. And the enemy have not crossed. My opinion remains unchanged that the time for them to cross has passed. Still they have to be watched at every point. If the way was left unguarded they would doubtless very soon occupy it.

The mail has just come in but nothing from you. I console myself that I will have better luck next time. One item of news that has just arrived from Carlisle is that "Lin" (?) Allen has just been married to a son of exgovernor Porter. Quite a raise for Linny (?) in the way of family connections. How it may be in the way of a husband I cannot say. One of the exgovernor's sons

is very intemperate I believe. Whether it is Linny's spouse I know not.

You must have grown immensely since I left you as you seem to think you would pass muster in an army of Amazons. Clay McClure's information about the 17000 men crossing the river & being captured by the rebels is not very reliable. No such event happened. It is only another version of the story that started in a Richmond paper that 1700 - a difference of one 0 - had crossed over about Leesburg and owing to the rise in the river could not get back and were captured. This story had no foundation in truth, except the fact that about 50 men had crossed one night and captured seven horses & returned. As to the apprehended battle that will doubtless happen some day, but where or when is very uncertain.

The adamantine guards are in Washington or were last Sunday. On that day I saw their captain & 1st Lieut. Woodbank & Baughman. They were in our camp.

If Mr. McClure does not get any money from Rheem & others. Just draw on the Carlisle Deposits Bank for what you want. You can call and ask for Mr McLeaf if he has any the first time you pass. It is time for him to have some to pay over. I am glad the children are all well. Are you not afraid to let them eat so much gran(?) corn? If you could get some ripe fruit to buy for them occasionally it would be good for them. I would not let John go too much into the water.

I suppose you will have a good time canning the tomatoes. I judge you will not find so many ripe ones as there might be. There were rather many weeds among them when I last saw them. I believe it is Libby & not you that is going. Where will she stay? So it appears that brother is not weaned yet & almost 13 months old.

I really do not know what it is you wish to be forgiven for writing. As to the shirts I do not know any particular pattern. I want them warm & not so coarse or rough as to scratch too much. Not at all sensitive in relation to the tired march from Camp Harvey. I thought you might be uneasy and I wished to impress it on you that there was not a shade of truth in it. Now you have gone into extremes on the other side. I am neither "as brave nor as strong as a lion." Do not make the drawers so tight around the ankles as the old ones. The flannel shirts with wristbands but the sleeves not so long as the white ones. The stuff ought to be washed before making up.

Edgar Hayes is well but not so strong as before he was sick. Penrose went home about a week before we left camp Tenally sick. I understand the people in Carlisle do not think there is much the matter. He keeps in the house & Doctor Penrose attending him. I cannot say there is much prospect of Edgar or me going home very soon. On the contrary I think it will be some considerable time before either of us get home. By next summer I think the war will be over and all of us at home. If we had been three months

men our time would have expired the last of next week, and we would then be at liberty to leave. We left home the 6th of June.

Take care of yourself and the children. I will not trouble you with any more. I presume you have considerable difficulty making out my illegible hand - especially when written with a pencil and rubbed dim by carrying in the mail.

I remain your very much attached husband.

James

Give love to all the friends.

jsc-0902.61

Great Falls Md. 2 Sept. 1861

My dear Annie,

When I last wrote I thought I would not write till my return to Camp Tenally, which we all expected would take place today. But while we were preparing to march we received orders by express messenger from Genl. McCall to remain here till further orders. When we are to go I cannot say of course, or whether we are to remain here or go on to Genl. Banks is all unknown to us. You will have heard of the great victory in North Carolina before you receive this. Genl. Butler took two forts about 750 men & 40 officers prisoners & more arms than we lost at Manassas. I presume there will be an advance on South Carolina before a great while, when Brig Genl. Anderson will find something to do perhaps.

I received yours of the 29th this morning. I think your idea of walking to town was rather ill advised & if you had undertaken the task you would have found it so. I shall direct this letter to Middle Spring as you suggest. I think you had better not undertake the knitting profession. You will have enough to do without, and it will take you considerable time to learn. I may say here that the ones Sister Libby footed wore very poorly owing I suppose to the poor quality of the yarn.

Your inference, from what I stated in some of my letters, "that it is a great trouble for you (me) to write to me (you) so often" is a very much mistaken one. No such thing my dearest and I have a strong mind to scold awhile for your entertaining such naughty thoughts. My intention was to prevent the very thing you say occurred before the receipt of my last. You will recollect that we have mail only three times a week, and if anything should occur to prevent a letter being written on Saturday morning, none could go till Tuesday. Then my little wife - now getting so fat and Amazonish - would become wretched and be getting up in the morning to walk six or seven miles before breakfast. Then she might pine away and grow thin again.

You know our orders sometimes come to go somewhere or do some duty without previous notice and if the duty were marching I might not have an opportunity of writing for several days, or the mail might miscarry. Then you would be fretting yourself continually. If you would not receive letters so often you would not expect them so frequently, & could bear to be disappointed occasionally without walking seven miles before breakfast. It may often happen that I cannot write just at the time. Then it is useless to write because the letter can't go. With you it is different. Now since I have consumed so much of your time in making explanations, I hope it is all satisfactory.

I shall be glad when the war is ended but I am opposed not only to your kissing "Jeff Davis' big toe" but also to your kissing his lips or any other part of the old traitor. I presume a number of our southern ladies would be rejoiced at an opportunity to kiss any part of the old sinner, I trust my wife is not one of them.

You can go to town whenever you would prefer it, but if I were you I would remain in the country a couple of months at least altogether if you like it & they are not tired of you. I suppose Jane can take you at any time if you let her have a few days notice. We will have to let Bentry(?) wait a little while till funds get more abundant. I don't know but it would be as well to give up the house to Mr. Spahr this fall - about the 1st of October if he will take it & also the pew in church if you think you would prefer to live in Shippensburg. I cannot tell when I will be home, but I still adhere to the opinion that it will be not over a year from the time I left and perhaps a great deal less. Nor do I think the recognition of the South as a government by England will change the final result. When I do return I do not know whether we will go back to Carlisle to live since you do not like to live there & I have no desire myself. This you can keep to yourself for the present as it may after all seem to be the best place for us.

I hardly think Genl. McClellan said the war would be ended in thirty days, although by that time a battle might be fought which would lead to its speedy termination. I am glad the children are behaving so well. It proves that you know how to manage them and that you were mistaken when you said you could not. I have no doubt that you will become an admirable wife & mother if you are not already, which I think you are. Only you do not know it yet.

Don't be uneasy if you do not hear from me for several days for I had difficulty to get a postage stamp and do not know whether I can get another here. You said you took tea with a lady & she made you carry home a chicken for the children. You did not say who it was. Was it Mrs. McCune? I shall hope you will write to me as often as you can find time. Remember me to Sisters Libby & Nancy Aunt Duncan & all the rest of the friends. I remain in the bonds of love.

Your affectionate husband
James

X
jsc-0905.61

Great Falls, Md. 5 Sept

My dear Annie,

We are still here & do not know how long we may remain. We have had some excitement since I last wrote. The night of the day I wrote or rather the next morning at 1 o'clock we were ordered to march up the river 25 men each out of 3 companies. We march up about three miles and laid there till about dawn when the men were scattered along the bank of the river but nothing was observed. After some time some 50 or sixty volunteered to cross over one branch of the river to an island. I did not go as I thought it a useless trip. Over they went into the water up to their necks some places. They returned all safe.

Yesterday morning we were surprised by the firing of cannon in the neighborhood. I was up in camp which I believe I informed you was about 1/4 of a mile or more from the river where there are several buildings there & the colonel and a number of officers of the reserve were quartered there. I was told by some of our men that the firing was by our own cannon who were practicing. I thought from the sound & direction that it was not, but as others said they knew it was, I gave it up. After some time the rush of men came into camp & the news flew like wild fire that the enemy were shelling the building down at headquarters from 3 batteries posted on the other side of the river. The call was to arms immediately and in a few minutes we were all under arms and then I heard what had happen.

Just after breakfast they unmasked their batteries & commenced a brisk fire with shell & solid shot some from rifled cannon, & the shell and balls flew thick & fast into & around the building, with no other damage than the partial destruction of the houses & injury of one man although there must have been from 100 to 150 persons in & around those buildings men women & children. W. Harper of Shippensburg was the only one struck. He was wounded on the arm with a piece of shell. It is nothing serious being only a flesh wound which will be well enough in a few days. We could do nothing. Our guns would not reach their batteries. We have no rifled cannon. The Col. sent for some & four rifled cannon arrived in the afternoon but too late. The enemy had left or at least moved out of sight.

Since about last Thursday we have had beautiful weather, till last night when it rained slightly and this morning it commenced right fast & has been raining incessantly ever since (about 2 PM) and looks as if it might rain a week. The news today are that the enemy on the other side have moved to other posts, which is probably true.

Cole Watts came here on Monday with several others to enlist. His father was at Camp Tenally yesterday after him and he was sent back. It seems that he had run off without permission. The news here is that Sallie Anderson has returned to Carlisle within a few days. Can it be true? If is it portends something eventful. The news here is that the Southern army cannot be held together much longer without another battle or victory.

jsc-0908.61

Great Falls, Md. 8 Sept /61

My dear Annie,

We are still here & do not know when we will leave. I have no paper but some envelopes taken off newspapers received from Mr. McClure. I have heard that the newspapers reported some killed & wounded here. It is not true. No one was hurt but Wm. Harper as I wrote in my last and he is nearly well.. I believe the enemy has left as nothing has been seen of him for three days. Do not be uneasy if you do not receive a letter for a few days. If I can get paper & an opportunity I will write soon. I am perfectly well.

Your _____ husband
James

ahc-0909.61

Middle Spring
Monday Sept. 9th /61

My own very kind Husband,

I wrote yesterday very hurriedly hoping to see someone at church so as to send it to town, & then it would go in this morning's train. I cannot account for not hearing & as no one in this neighborhood has had letters for the same length of time I conclude there must be some foundation for the report "Government interferes with soldiers correspondence." In that case I would be very miserable for if I don't hear from you it will kill me. Do please try by some means to write.

I believe this is a real secession country. Both Preacher Hayes & Mr. Hayes are very much excited about it. Mr. David Nevin's spree created quite a sensation here. Will they get a new mail carrier? I have heard of a number of persons going to Washington this month. I will try to have some of your things ready to send.

Yesterday afternoon Martha Hayes took Daisy over to Newbury to church. Whilst there Mr. Sam Wherry (who is not sound on the Union question) gave Daisy an apple. John remarked that was a rebel's apple. As soon as she got home she accosted me with "Mama a rebel gave me this apple."

Mrs. Elijah Wallace whom you knew out west died lately. This is the last scrap of paper I have in the house so I shall do better next time. Nan John Daisy & James are well & very good children. All the friends are well. This morning I heard that Mr. Harper had a letter on Saturday from his son. Why don't you write? I will promise to be always a good wife if you do. I hope to wean dear James very soon but it will be a trial for us both. He is so petted (spoiled?).

Last night I had another dream about you. You looked so stern at me. I think I shall go in town last of next week to stay a while before going home. Oh if you were only there I would look forward to returning with so much pleasure, but the future looks so black without you particularly the long winter evenings. Mr. McLeaf has just sent me \$10.00. Mr Hayes tells me you are still on picket duty. Good bye my dearest Husband. My whole heart goes to you in your little tent, & my spirit will sit by you while you read this & think of your ever affect. & devotedly attached wife

Annie

At last my own Husband I have received a letter from you dated on the 3rd inst so I open my letter to acknowledge it. I am very much comforted to know that you are still well & that an always wise Providence has preserved you in the midst of danger. May He always smile on your course in this world & prepare you for the next where honors are more enduring & where reverses are never known. Yesterday after Robert had started to the post office I was alternating between hope & fear in regard to a

letter so with Baby in my arms I walked half way to meet & you can't conceive how relieved I was to hear.

In regard to Sallie Anderson being in Carlisle I hardly credit it because I heard from there on Wednesday & there was nothing of it, so I think you must have been misinformed. It would be quite a strange move for her because she left Carlisle never expecting to return.

I think Cole Watt promises to be a trouble to his parents. 'Tis the second attempt he has made to get into the army. He came home from school sick with measles 3 wks ago. When he recovered his Mother gave him \$10.00 & started him back to school. That was the last of him till Will wrote he was there.

jsc-0911.61

Camp Tenally
Washington City D.C. 11 Sept /61

My dearest Annie,

I have heard nothing from you since your letter of the 29th till last night when I was rejoiced by the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. I assure you I was becoming very anxious about you & when a mail arrived at Great Falls on Sunday evening and no letter from you as it had been every evening during the week, you must admit I had cause for anxiety. I did not write so often from Great Falls as from here, but did write twice a week while there, only that last week's second was written on Sunday. And so scarce was paper that I was obliged to write on a scrap of a wrapper. If I had had time to search around perhaps I might have borrowed a sheet of paper but did not know a mail would leave that morning in time.

On Sunday evening we got notice that we would be relieved some time on Monday and march back to Tenally. We left the neighborhood of our camp at a quarter to two o'clock and arrived about dark at this camp where I found your letter of the 7th inst. You may be certain I felt greatly relieved at hearing that you were all well. For I was beginning to think that something was the matter.

I have been directing my letters to Middle Spring since I received yours requesting me to do so. I think one or more of your letters had miscarried as I received none between the dates of 29 July (August?) & 7 Sept 9 days. I think you would hardly forget me so long.

I hope you had a pleasant trip to Chambersburg. You did not inform me whether you had received any money. I take it you got some probably from Mr. McLeaf as I wrote him & he replied he would soon have some. The mail man is around & I must close. I am very well.

I remain as ever
Your devoted
husband
James

My own Dearest Wife,

I have just read your favor of the 9th, Nos 1, 2, 3 & 4. It grieves me to think you are so unhappy. I know it causes you trouble & anxiety of mind that we are separated, and that we would both be happier far & more comfortable if we could be together. But my dear wife that cannot be at present, but I hope & believe it will be so before many months. Many others are worse off, and are contented, and I do hope you will not fret & vex yourself about dreams & imaginary troubles. If Providence is on our side we shall prosper & need have nothing to fear. If he "is for us who shall be against us?" He certainly has favored us both exceedingly since we have been separated. Pray that he may continue his blessings & let us not pine at evils we know not.

I have been very busy this week & have some notion of trying to go to the city tomorrow and having received your letter, I thought better to write a few lines tonight, lest I might not have time in the morning if I go. It is between 9 & 10 o'clock and you know I do not like to sit up very late, and still less to write by candlelight, and I do not know that there is anything would induce me to write this night except to talk a little to my sweet wife. You can rest assured that I will always endeavor to write you twice or thrice a week at least, but that may often be impossible from various causes. They may keep us moving so that we can have no opportunity. We may be unable to get pen or ink or paper or pencil or postage stamps.

I wrote you a full account of our proceedings at Great Falls up to a certain day. If you have seen the papers you will perceive that the affair has been greatly magnified. It surprises me that Mr. Hayes should be a secessionist. He was so strong the other way last year and voted for Lincoln. I presume (pro-secession feelings?) are not so great, comparatively, about Middle Spring as you seem to think.

Mr. S.W. Haverstick was here the evening we returned from Great Falls. He informed me that George had received an appointment from Genl. Cooper. He did not know exactly what it was, but it was something about the commissary. While we were at Great Falls, someone brought word up that there was a Mr. William Hall at Camp Tenally. I suppose it had been George and a mistake was made in the first name.

While I write some of the men are having a jolly time outside. It is a beautiful moonlight night and some are mimicking the bawling of a calf, some the grunting of little pigs, some cats etc. and they can do it so well that one would suppose the animals were there if he did not know to the contrary. By turns they are singing songs, comical & serious, and there are some remarkably good singers in the regiment. One night while at Great Falls I was coming through the camp of the artillery and found a squad of men sitting on a caisson with music books singing as if

for life by note, the different parts & doing it well. I must now close. My paper is full & it is nearly 10 o'clock.

Your loving husband
James

Give my love all the friends. You need not be in a hurry about the shirts etc. I would rather not have them for two or three weeks. Mr. McClure may have some things to send in the box with shirts etc. although I do not know yet that he will. If he does he can pack the things. You could not guess what it is. Some old rye whiskey if he can get it.

ahc-0916.61

Middle Spring
Sept 16th 1861

My dear Husband,

Since I last wrote I have received yours of the 2nd which had miscarried so many days & the source of all my uneasiness. On Saturday night I received another dated 11th after your return to Tenally. Now you seem a little nearer home & I feel very much relieved by your leaving the Great Falls. I think I have them all now although they are irregular sometimes. I do hope you have had your full share of picket duty. I might as well be there too for I'm constantly encountering the enemy in my dreams. Every time the dogs bark during the night I always think it is you coming to surprise me. As you see I'm constantly on the alert for your return.

On Saturday night I had a sweet letter from my early friend Beck Henderson. She is one of the best young girls I ever knew. I will say amen to your having her for your next wife. She tells me that Dick is home sick. I was going to add that I wish some of the old married men would just get a very little bit sick (Mr. Penrose's kind) & come home for a while but I relent for it might prove something more serious & my greatest sense of thankfulness is that you enjoy such good health. My earnest prayer is that it may continue so. Col Penrose has returned to camp life again but not without the consent of his wife. They expect to have an addition to their family.

In regards to my giving up the house Mr. Spahr declines taking it off my hands this fall & as he has made some provision for winter there I think it better to return there. I know it is not convenient for Sister Nancy to keep us much longer. Sister Jane has been sick of typhoid fever & recovers slowly so I don't know whether it would be right to go there although she insists upon it. At all events I think we had better go home by the 15th of Oct., don't you? Sister Libby is going back with us. I will try & be very economical & intend keeping only Vienna who is ready to come back to me. The board & wages of Marcia would more than send Nan & John to a pay school of which I would be very glad for they have no associates where they are. The most of them have such low ideas. I will have very little new clothing to get for any of us this winter so I think in the end we would know no difference. What do you think about it?

Sister Libby very kindly went down last Thursday to can our tomatoes but when she got there she discovered that Minnie had had them all pulled off regularly after we had left & Cousin Margaretta had canned a great many for the vines had borne very well. However they were selling at 12 1/2 & 25 cts per bushel so she bought some. But I feel provoked at Minnie for I told her she & Cousin M. were welcome to them until I wanted to use them. They were far superior to any they bought. Sister Libby put up a few peaches too. They promise to be very cheap. She stayed at Cousin M's. Miss Martha invited her to stay there.

George was in Washington. Went out to Tenally whilst you were at Great Falls. Children are all well & enjoying themselves. At last I have got nice flannel for your drawers & will make them this week. The right kind of shirt flannel is difficult to get. I hope to hear of an opportunity this month to send some of the things. Write often as you can to your warmly attached wife

Annie

Yesterday had communion season here. We had three days of preaching. Mr. Hays was assisted by a Mr. Beattie of Greencastle, quite a handsome young man & a good preacher. Very sudden death of Miss Eliza Henderson of this neighborhood on Saturday night added much to the solemnity of the occasion. Possibly you knew her. Sallie Anderson has no idea of coming home & says she would rather go to the battlefield with her husband. Jane Mead is in Shippensburg. Lizzie S. has a situation in Harrisburg. John is there recruiting. One of the children has just brought a terrapin inside. James is very much pleased with it. Daisy says she does wish Papa would come home & every time we sit at dinner you are remembered by her. John & Nan are very much improved. I anticipate much pleasure with them.

This delightful moonlight weather. I think how much you must enjoy it in camp. McLeaf sent me \$10.00 more making \$20.00 which I have got. None from Mr. McClure.

jsc-0916.61

Camp Tenally, Near
Washington City D.C. 16 Sept 1861

My dearest Annie,

I have received no letter from you since I last wrote on Friday night. In fact no mail has been brought out to camp since. I was in Washington on Friday night. Saw Capt Gibson & Charley McClure. They are both well. Genl. Gibson is not well. I did not see him as I had so many things to attend to could not find time to visit him. It was the first visit I have made to Washington since we came to Camp Tenally. Wilson Frazer from Newbury was here yesterday. He says Rev. Mr. Hayes is not a secessionist but a strong union man. You speak of going to

she wrote Mrs. E. W.
I was sorry to hear of Elijah Wallace's death. When a boy at school I was more intimate with him than any other. We were always together almost, and if one was in any mischief the other was also. Since I have grown up I have seen very little of him. I went to grammar school & to college & he went west. I shall never see him again in this world. It is not true that Mrs. Anderson has returned to Carlisle. I enquired of George Gibson & he replied that when we would get sick in Fort Lafayette, she might return not before.

You speak of going soon to Shippensburg & spending a short time then return to Carlisle. I thought your intention was to spend the winter in Shippensburg if you liked it, as you thought it would be so lonely in that back Pitt street. I made arrangements with sister Jane to board you & she will be pleased to do if it is agreeable to you so that you need have no hesitation on that score. But I do not desire you to remain in Shippensburg unless you desire it. My desire is that you remain there or return to Carlisle as may be most agreeable to you and that you choose which ever place may be most pleasant & comfortable to you. In either place send Nan & John to school.

I was quite surprised when I received your last at seeing the black sealing wax and could not imagine what had happened, as you have not been in the habit of using it on any letters. It was a great relief to me to know that everything was right. I expect to send you some money before a great while. I presume you and the children will soon need winter clothing. I think Mr. McLeaf gave you a very small pittance. He should have given you at least \$100.

This letter will scarcely go to the post office before tomorrow but I write this morning lest I may have to go on picket duty this afternoon. One half of the regiment must go but whether our company will be among them I do not know yet. It will be for 24 hours only. The shirts & other things you need not forward till you hear from me as I have more baggage now than they will allow to be hauled. I intend to send some home the first opportunity.

Our end of the regiment did not go on picket & I finish this by candlelight. We march from this tonight or any day or we may

remain here some weeks. Nobody knows. The whole Penna. reserve has been constituted into 3 brigades. We are in the 2nd Brigade under Genl. Meade. Providence has still preserved my life & health. Edgar does not recover fast. The doctor says he will come right.

I hope I will receive a letter from you tomorrow. Continue to write me as often as possible. It delights me to hear from you when all is well. Let me hear under all circumstances. Letters sent to Washington will be forwarded wherever we may be stationed.

Very truly
I remain
your devoted husband
James

ahc-0918.61

Middle Spring
Sept 18th 1861

My dearest Husband,

Yours of the 18th I was delighted to receive last night. I'm sorry that I wrote you in such an unhappy strain & was not aware of it till I read yours last night. I will try to do better in future. This is truly a beautiful day after yesterday's rain & I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. I am glad my Husband that you are back in the civilized world again & hope you paid your anticipated visit to Washington. I gratefully acknowledge all our blessings & particularly that your life & health have been precious thus far in the sight of Heaven.

We are now in the midst of the weaning operation. Sister Nancy & her servant girl have taken James in hands. So far he is better than I expected. John is very busy superintending some workmen making a bridge below us. You would be surprised to see how much he has grown & as black as an Indian. Whilst I write Nan & Daisy are having choir meeting below. They are all very well, very good & very pretty.

Of course I'm so very glad to have you think so encouragingly regarding the end of the war. It inspires me with new life. I'm afraid you have mistaken the Mr. Hayes who is a secessionist. It is Rev George Hayes of Baltimore. Your letter was sent unsealed. We heard a few evenings ago that Mr. Wilson (Rib(?) McClure's) had lockjaw having stepped on a nail & was not expected to live. One of my letters I think you did not receive. Yours are sometimes not mailed at Washington till 2 days after being written. A letter from Edgar yesterday.

I'm at work on your drawers. I hope they & the shirts will add to your comfort not forgetting the "old rye" into the bargain. I'm hurried. 'Tis nearly mailing time. All well and as kind as possible. I shall always remember this visit with a great deal of pleasure. Write very soon.

Ever your devotedly attached wife

Annie

jsc-0922.61
(Probably should have
been dated 9/11)

Camp Tenally Washington
D.C. 22 Sept. 1861

My dear Annie,

As I wrote you in my last we marched out on picket on Friday afternoon, and although the clouds threatened during the day it cleared away and we had a most pleasant night. The moon was shining brightly, and a gentle breeze blowing during the fore part of the night which dried up the dew and rendered the night delightful. Often and often during the night as I stood or sat watching the moon & stars my thoughts naturally turned to you, trying to imagine what you were doing & how you were enjoying yourself. Till 9 or 12 o'clock I could imagine you sitting on the porch looking at the same moon & stars or in the parlour or perhaps upstairs putting little brother or Daisy to sleep. After that time I could only hope you were fast in the arms of Morpheus and dreaming sweet dreams - not those horrid things you wrote me about.

Towards morning it became cooler & the dew began to fall pretty heavily. The next day was pleasant but warm in the sun. And I supposed we would have one pleasant run for picketing; but alas: disappointment again came upon us. In the evening it commenced raining and rained pretty fast for some time, sufficiently so to render the roads muddy. The relief did not arrive till after dark, and when it did come it was raining & continued to rain on us all the way home, which rendered the march anything but pleasant. The road was very rough and many a tumble the men had in the dark. I got back all safe only wet & very muddy about the legs, and wet with perspiration all over, having my gum blanket about my shoulders which protected them from the rain. Today it is quite cool but I feel all right. It is after night & Edgar Hayes is sitting beside me.

I forgot to mention that our chaplain Thomas P Hunt preached for us last Sunday for the first time. His sermon I thought was an excellent one and, I believe, gave general satisfaction. He left on Monday & has not returned yet, although he promised to be here today & preach. He is quite an old man with a gray head & beard, & a little bit of a fellow with a hunch back.

I am truly glad to hear that the children are all so well & so good & so pretty. I hope they will all be as good & as pretty as their mother. I was sorry to hear of Mr. Wilson's mishap. I have heard that he is dead & buried since you wrote. It is true I know that sometimes my letters are not mailed for a day or two after they are written. Sometimes the mail man does not go to the city for some reason after he has received the letters.

When we left for Great Falls I wrote to you and to some other person. I left them with Lieut Beatty to send to the post office. When I returned he informed me that he sent them in & they were returned because they had the old postage-stamps. Afterwards because the department could not supply the demand for the new stamps they determined to receive the old ones for a few days longer, and my letters were sent in again. If you have any

of the old stamps you better get rid of them as I suppose they will quit receiving them every place before a great while.

Lieut Beatty has left us altogether I think. He took his baggage away a few days ago to stay at headquarters. He is acting as a sort of chief clerk there; and I suppose will continue so to act.

I am glad you are getting brother weaned without much trouble. I think you will now be able to enjoy yourself better. How I would like to look at you all if only for a few minutes. But I see no way of being gratified at any early period and I submit with resignation. I think I shall be able to send you some money shortly as soon as Uncle Sam pays us, which I think will be in a few days say a week or two. When I get it I may wait for a private opportunity to send it, if such is likely to offer without waiting too long. I think Mr. McLeaf ought to furnish you more very soon, but I suppose the people do not pay him very promptly.

I have some things here that I do not need & will probably send to you in a day or two.

Give my love (to) sisters, Aunt Eliza & all the friends & believe me still to remain your most loving husband

James

Captain Henderson will leave for home tomorrow morning & will take this to Carlisle and mail it there. When I wrote the letter I did not know certainly he was going so soon. He expects to return towards the end of this week. Yours ever

James

Camp Tenally 25 Sept /61

My Dearest Annie,

I received your favor of the 20th inst. night before last. I am sorry that you are so often disappointed at not receiving my letters. I believe I have written you three times every week except the two weeks we were at Great Falls. I wrote you on Sunday by Capt Henderson who left for Carlisle on Monday morning. I presume you have received that letter. It appears to me the letters are much more irregular if not lost since I direct them to Middle Spring. As you informed me some time ago that you intended soon to go to Shippensburg I have been looking for instructions to direct my letters to that place.

I wrote you some time ago that George had been out to Tenally to see me when we were at Great Falls. And also that Mr. Haverstick had told me that he had received his appointment. Charley McClure afterwards told me that was not correct - that he had not received it. Mr. Marshall has not been appointed a minister to Leeds(?) but only a consul.

I suppose you might send my clothing now as soon as you have an opportunity. If no opportunity offers within two or three weeks better send it by express.

Another regiment came in beside us this evening. We have been quite off by ourselves since our last removal. Edgar Hayes left yesterday afternoon to go home with two others of our company. Some papers had to be approved before they got off which contrary to expectation they did not get attended to yesterday. Whether it was attended to today I cannot say probably not, and may not for two or three days. It is possible they will not let them off, but not probable I think. I sent a small package of some things I have no use for, and for which I have not room in my trunk.

I rejoice that the children are so happy & so well behaved. Mr. Halbert the former grocer of Carlisle arrived here today and also four farmers in the neighborhood of Carlisle. I got two fine apples they brought from Cumberland County. They are the only apples I have seen in more than a month. I also received a bunch of grapes which came from Carlisle, all of which I enjoyed hugely. How I wish you & all the children had been with me to partake.

I heard the other day that Mr. Sharpe was hunting a boarding place in Tenallytown for his wife. That if true looks as if she is expected. I do not think she will have much pleasure. Tenallytown is a miserable place. It is now past 10 o'clock at night & I must close. Edgar Hayes if he gets off can give you all the news when he arrives.

most sincerely,
your devoted husband
James

ahc-0926.61

Middle Spring
Sept 26th 1861

My dearest husband,

This is the day of prayer for our country & I do wish you could have heard the sermon Mr. Hays preached this morning. I would give a great deal to send you a copy. I know it would just suit you & indeed it was elegant. In the first place the choir sang "America" & I must have felt in a very tender mood for the tears started in my eyes. Then Mr. H. rehearsed all the blessings we have derived from our constitutional liberty in the last 78 years, showed us the manoeuvres & aims of the opposing party in so glaring a light that I think few hearts could help responding to his benediction, & my conviction is, that there were many such prayers & sermons they will surely reach the ears of the most High God. I suppose your chaplain will give you a discourse.

You mentioned Mr. Beatty having left you. Who is 2nd Lieutenant? I have no letters from you to answer but hope to hear this evening. Yesterday we had two Miss Sterretts. They were very nice girls. A letter from Edgar last evening mentions his health as being still feeble & I think they may send him home. His father tells me to say to you that if he is so delicate & can't get a furlough to come home he wishes he would be discharged. Then if he recruits he could go back.

Everyone says you look so remarkably well. I think after the war is over you will be for taking children & me to live in a tent. That would be delightful. I could imagine I was a Gipsy & tell fortunes.

On Monday we are going into town. Sister Jane is better. It will be quite a trial for John to leave the country. He told Mr. Lynn the other day that he ploughs till he gets tired. Then he lays down in the corner of the field & takes a sleep which is the truth. You would be amused to see him riding Bonney(?) home. Last night he invited the young ladies to the front porch to see him go through his military evolution with a broom handle. Nan's teeth are growing quite nicely but I'll soon have two more to pull out. She is a splendid walker & thinks nothing of going to & coming from Middle Spring church. Daisy I think you would never recognize. She is so large & promises to be a second Mrs. Cooper. Little James was the best child to be weaned I ever saw thanks to our kind friends here who assisted me. I now think he will be very little trouble.

Mr. McClure & Mary Phillips have just driven out in a buggy so I must hurry & make my manners. Wilson Frazer tells that if Edgar don't come home he will die before three months. You had better advise him to come. Minnie writes that she is going to stay with Ditt Stevenson awhile. Sister Libby sends her love. I would like to send you the flannel drawers. There might be wet weather & you would need them, but you told me not. Write me regarding what I have finished. I often hear of persons going.

Now my dear Husband good bye. Write very soon. Think kindly of my good points. Forget my many bad ones & ever love your fondly attached wife

Annie

Mr. McClure has just read me your last letter to him.

jsc-0926.61

Camp Tenally 26 Sept. 1861

My dearest * wife,

I wrote you last night which was sent to the post office today. As we had heard nothing of the three sick men we had sent to Washington to go home, the Colonel & I concluded this morning that I had better go to the city & see after them. Accordingly I got a pass and went to the General's headquarters to get it approved. (We have to get a pass from the Col. & approved by the General, in order to get a mile away from ca,mp. When I returned to camp I found the paymaster here, and was obliged to delay a few hours to attend the company getting their pay. I was obliged also to attend to the 1st Lieut getting his pay or I suppose he would have got none. By that time one of the sick men had returned to camp & reported that all the departments were closed & no business doing (this being fast day). So I concluded to postpone going till tomorrow morning.

I enclose some money. I don't know how much till I make a calculation of how much it will take me till we are paid again. It will be from \$75 to \$100. When you go to Sister Jane's you will have to pay her every week as I suppose she has not much money.. Mr. Hayes can wait till another time. I do not know what Jane will charge. Pay her whatever she thinks she ought to have. I suppose it will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$8 to \$10. according to Shippensburg prices for all of you.

The mail has just come in. Nothing from you. There is considerable complaint here of letters being lost or miscarried in the mail. I will close for tonight. I may add a line in the morning.

They are examining the officers now to ascertain whether they are competent. The report is we are to be examined next week. If I do not pass you may look for me pretty soon afterwards. If I don't pass I don't think very many will.

Washington 27 Sept. I enclose \$100 and will try to get some (home?) _____ (something?) for you and the children.

Yours in haste
James

ahc-0930.61

Middle Spring
Monday Sept. 30th /61

My dear husband,

On Saturday evening I received your two letters one by Edgar & the other of two days earlier date, together with the \$100 for which I'm much obliged. Part of it I shall give to Sister Nancy & part to Sister Jane. I would much rather have seen you than a cent of it & when I found that Edgar was really coming home without you I went upstairs & took a good cry, but when I read your letter again & found that if you did not stand your examinations you would come home I retired hoping earnestly that you would not pass muster. In my dreams I thought Carlisle was the seat of war & down Lenthal(?) St near the Lutheran church I saw a secessionist shoot a Union man. Then I awoke & although James had not disturbed me during the whole night I felt unrefreshed my nerves were so strained Sunday morning.

Monday morning Edgar came home. When I extended my hand to him I began to cry & cried all morning. The children too seemed to have identified you with him for they looked disappointed. It was well there were some to give him a cheerful greeting for I tried hard to check my feelings but in vain. Oh I do wish you had never gone for I'm afraid I'll never be happy again. You will be so accustomed to a _____ life that you will never want to sit down quietly. If you don't come home between this & Christmas I would like to go to Baltimore to try & forget it. When I get home I shall feel so badly. I would always love Pitt St & think it an Eden if you were there. Edgar says you are trying hard to stand your examinations.

I did not know that Robt McClure wanted to send his box so soon but I will have your drawers, shirts & three pairs of stockings ready by Wednesday or Thursday. The others I can send again. I have sewn(?) the heels over(?) well so I think they will surely wear this time. Oh what made you want to go. I am so desolate.

Edgar thought of writing to you but as I intended doing so I offered to ~~be~~ his amanuensis He got safely to the Annapolis junction where they were detained over three quarters of an hour having their papers examined. At Harrisburg he slept at Kaneagy's, arrived in Shippensburg Saturday morning. He looks badly & seems very weak but with his mother's good nursing I hope he will soon be well. He hopes to be able to apply at Harrisburg for something after a while.

I am glad you see so many visitors from Carlisle. I was not surprised to hear of Kate Sharpe's going to Tenallytown. I always said he loved her very much. Mr. McClure was in Carlisle two days last week & tried to see Robt. Henderson but he was out home all the time. I suppose Dick will hardly go back.

Husband of friend Beck.
We were at Roxbury last week visiting at Mr. Pomeroy's. I enjoyed both the ride & the visit very much. They were so kind. Mrs. Heron knows Mary Breckinridge very well. I almost might be smitten by Mr. Stephen Pomeroy, who is very handsome & agreeable,

because you left me without talking about it. Old Swanzey was there & he had the impudence to ask me whether I was a widow. I replied "no only a grass one." He then enquired when I would receive proposals. I think Miss Jane Wilson must be had off for a bean (?) to encourage him. This afternoon we go into town so you will please direct hereafter there & be sure & do that very often too.

Childlike Nan is anxious for the change to town & school but John will be broken hearted to leave the boys & the topping (tossing?) corn. Daisy & James are both well. Write very soon. All well. Come soon to see your truly attached wife

Annie

jsc-0930.61

Camp Tenally 30 Sept 1861
Washington City, D.C.

My dear wife,

I received your kind letter night before last and was much gratified to hear that providence still blessed you all with good health. I had written the day before I received yours. But on Tuesday morning we received orders to strike our tents, and pack up ready to march. All was immediately bustle & preparation. After everything was ready I learned that we were moving our camp only to another situation. After dinner we took up the line of march for our present camp, about a mile further west of our former camp. We had but 3 wagons & it took till midnight when everything was here.

Just after we arrived & before our tents were pitched except a few it commenced to rain, & rained very heavily for about an hour, which made everything wet & disagreeable, Fortunately I was detailed as officer of the guard at Tenallytown that night, and after putting up my tent I left for 24 hours. It is true I had to remain up all night but that was preferable to sleeping in my dirty, muddy tent. The 12th P.V.R.C. was encamped here before we arrived here. And it was considered an undesirable camp. We have fixed it & cleaned it off & now it looks as well as the one we left. Yesterday I was busy cleaning out my tent, and ditching it round. And now it is very comfortable.

Tonight our end of the regiment is to go on picket duty for 24 hours. So you see we have at least one sometimes two or three nights in a week that we must be up all night. The privates are on oftener than the officers, but they are relieved every two hours each being on two hours out of six. They get on about every third day. When the officers go on they have no sleep till they come off. The reality is not as bad as you suppose nor as difficult as it seems on paper. If my health remains good I do not mind it. Hereafter when you dream of me let your dreams be sweet & dream of me as always being as comfortable as possible under the circumstance.

Since you have been so kind as to allow me to have Beth Henderson, I suppose I must return the compliment by allowing you to have Dick as you seem to admire those who get sick & go home. How much as I love my wife & glad as I would be to see her, I hope I will not be taken home sick for her to have the trouble of nursing.

Wm. Penrose's condition is not so happy as you imagine & I suspect his wife is more miserable than you are. He left Carlisle last week for his Regiment and got as far as Washington where he has been at a hotel sick ever since. Now would you not prefer that I should be on picket duty than languishing on a sick bed either at home or at a strange hotel. Perhaps you would prefer that I would do like Capt McCartney who has resigned, and gone home, and the people of Carlisle will scarcely speak to him, or his son who has deserted and gone home to his wife.

I do not think there is much danger of an attack by the South. There may be a battle or two & considerable guerilla warfare, but they are whipped now, unless the Lord fights their battles. There are now over 200,000 men around Washington besides Genl. Bank's division which is as far as I can learn between 40,000 & 100,000 men. Then there must be at least 150,000 in the West. And these numbers are increasing every day.

As to your returning to Carlisle I repeat as I did in my last just act as you think best. If you would like to remain in Shippensburg, do not hesitate to do so unless Sister Jane is sick. She will be glad to accommodate you. As to the expense it will be no greater in Shippensburg than in Carlisle even if we do have to pay the rent there. I still hope to be with you in one year from the time I left. I see the mail man coming and must close.

Your most devoted
husband
James

ahc-1003.61

Shippensburg Friday
Oct. 3rd 1861

My dearest Husband,

Last night we got your box packet. I hope it will reach you for from Edgar's account you must be almost in a state of destitution. The remainder of the stockings I will send again. The light blue pair Sister Molly knit & Sister Libby the other two. If you think the shirts not warm enough I could make of the drawers' flannel which I think you will find comfortable. The pillow case looks odd. I'm afraid your dreams will be rather sombre. The little bucket of butter I hope you will enjoy. Edgar tells me it is rather a rarity. Don't throw the bucket away as it will be useful; if not to yourself, you can return it to me by Mr. Long or someone & I can fill it for you again.

My only regret is that Mr. McClure did not get a larger box so as to put in more apples. The next time you shall have more. He looked so funny fixing the things. Everything had to be just so. You will perceive that your shirts have each three pockets, two on the left side so as to keep any system from creeping into your heart for now as you have her(?) located so near Camp Tenally you might grow too systematic.

I received yours of the 29th inst & as you gave me such a good scolding I shall be on the stool of repentance this week. I would have returned you the money by the letter box but was afraid it would miscarry. I only gave Sister Nancy \$20.00 promising to give her the rest again. She wishes you to say how much a week & told me to ask you. I have only given Sister Jane \$15. for I do not know when we will go home, but when Mr. McClure gives me some money I can send you as much or the whole amount if you wish. I forgot to mention in my last letter that Mr. McLeaf sent me \$10 more making \$30 which I have from him.

We were in the country 7 weeks & four days. I as well as the children enjoyed our sojourn there very much. They were all as kind as possible but I know we were some trouble for they had great difficulty getting servants. We are very comfortably fixed now at Sister Jane's. The children go to school every day with Mary. Nan was very willing & anxious to go, but John would have much preferred remaining in the country with the boys. Daisy is pronounced to be a "charming likeness of you" by Miss Jane Wilson. Little James continues to be a very good boy.

In regard to a gown, if you decide to have me make you one 7 feet long I think it will be very nice to sit in whilst you are writing me good long letters, but in bed I should think a comfort most suitable. Whichever you desire I will make with pleasure. If you have a gown, that together with your royal purple satin night cap & red slippers I can imagine your metamorphosed from a soldier into a monk.

We all think Edgar looks much better than we expected. Miss Molly Brotherton went out there when I came in. Our George has been sick. Mrs Broughman - wife of an officer of the Adamantine

Guard - left here to go to her husband last week & expected to be confined there but was so frightened at the prospect of a battle that she returned on Monday. Write soon. I learned to make butter & can churn now. I have looked in vain for you this week so I'm afraid you stood your examination. If Mr. McClure had only gone instead of you. When you next write tell me how much you love me once more. I almost hear you say "you baby." Do try & come home this fall. Always write 3 times a week.

Ever your most unsystematic but devotedly attached wife

Annie.

ahc-1005.61

Shippensburg Saturday
Oct. 5th 1861

My own dearest Husband,

I have no letters of yours to answer, but 'tis such a comfort to write to you that I shall do so in anticipation of a letter from you this evening. Last night I dreamed you had come home all shaven but just as I was going to kiss you I had great compunctions about it for I discovered you were strikingly like Bill Brown which blasted all sentiment. I hope you have received your box ere this. If the things are not right have no hesitating in telling me. I won't be "touchy."

From the newspapers your movements appear to be very uncertain. I hope you will not be sent to St. Louis as some are inclined to think. At all events always try to let me know what you are about.

Since you last wrote old Genl. Gibson has died & is buried. I was not surprised after your last account of him. Old Mr. Billy Blair died of paralysis last Sunday. Mr. Metzger says loneliness was part of his disease. Miss Martha expects Mrs. Reynolds to spend the winter with her. Molly Baird stays with her mother & they write that Mrs. Peddy Dwinn(?) went to Washington with Kate Sharpe. Since I have been in town I have had a number of visitors. Mrs. Harper has invited me to spend some time with her but I shall go home about 1st Nov. We are going to Mrs. McCune's to tea this evening.

Nan & John go with Mary every day to school. Although her scholars are larger as we are here for a short time 'tis no use fixing them elsewhere. Everyone says you must own all the children for they are so strikingly like you. Daisy & James are my every day companions. I have gained 9 pounds since our sojourn here.

I suppose you have heard of Mr. Eyster's return home. He will be regarded as a natural curiosity just hailing from Richmond. Ben Roberts started for Rio last week. I am hurried to mail these in time so I'll forget about your resembling Bill Brown & send you three fat kisses. Don't forget to write & always love under any circumstances your devotedly attached wife

Annie

ahc-1007.61

Shippensburg Monday(?)
Oct 7th(?) 1861

I have just finished our morning's house keeping in our own rooms so I shall devote a little while to that which is most agreeable to myself viz writing to you my own dear Husband. But oh what a lecture I received from you on Saturday. I don't object to them at all for I think they do me good occasionally but I was pained to know that you take everything I say in earnest. You know very well I love you better than everybody else in the world no matter what I either say or do. I was getting very anxious about you having failed to hear on Thursday. I read your letter over two times. I am suffering from an attack of influenza which makes me very stupid. I was glad that you had been able to get into Washington last week. Why can't you act as an executive?

On Saturday evening I met Frank Irvine for the first time at Mr. McCune's. He had a great deal to ask about you. His father had joined a company at Harrisburg. Mr. Thompson & McPherson (I think) of this place are commissioned to raise a Co. Mr. Tom Himes(?) is here with his bride which creates quite a commotion among the young people. I think Miss Nannie Collis such a sweet girl. Your old flame Miss Mary Catherine Reynolds paid me a long visit other day. She is very entertaining.

Nan & John are off to school this morning. The latter likes to spend his spare time at Edmond's store to help unpack goods. Daisy is busy making pies & biscuit. James is taking his morning's nap.

Yesterday morning I heard Mr. Harper preach. I am glad you like your chaplain. It was fortunate that you met Mr. Earnshaw so as to be able to show him the hospitalities of your tent. He is expected back here this week. I note your remarks about the wadded bag instead of a wrapper. Don't you think you had better have both if you expect to live in camp all winter? Edgar is of the impression that Genl. McCall will send the soldiers home for winter quarters. I look every time in vain for you to corroborate it. However I am ready, willing & anxious to make either or both for you. In moving you know they could be strapped on the top of your trunk & in that way not take any room. In regard to the money I can send it the first good opportunity. The Rev. Mr. Hays goes home this month. Would it be safe to send it by mail?

In regard to our remaining here this winter I do not think it would be very convenient for your sister. Whilst we were in the country Sister Libby, Martha & Libby had to sleep in the attic which is not available for them in cold weather & here it is the same way so I guess we had better go home. Trini(?) is living at Mr. Clair's till our return. Mrs. Wm. Miller stopped her on the street & wanted her to go there telling her what an easy place it was although she knew I was going back. You will find the receipt of the washing mixture enclosed. It will not do to soak woollen goods in cold water but washed quickly in the suds. Write soon

Your ever affecate. wife

Annie

jsc-1013.61

Camp Pierpont, Va
Near Washington City, D.C.
13 Oct 1861

My dear wife,

I mailed you a letter yesterday morning or rather I sent it to Washington to be mailed. Mr. Haverstick is in camp & will return to Washington this afternoon, affording me an opportunity of sending a line.

I received the box last night. All safe. It had been left in the rain & the clothes were somewhat wet, & covered with sawdust. Today I dried them out. Have tried on only the drawers. They are just right. I wish the shirts were as warm. But I have enough now to wear two pairs if it gets too cool.

Have you determined to go to Carlisle to remain this winter. I would recommend Shippensburg as a place of residence after the term of rent expires next April, with Mr. Spahr, on the score of pleasantness to you as well as of economy.

I am in the protection of providence. May he forever bless & protect you & the children. All is quiet here to day. Many, many times my thoughts turn to you. I Hope & trust I shall be able to see you at home sometime this fall or winter.

Write as often as you have leisure. Our mails now are very irregular but they will come sometime. We have had no mail since we arrived here last Wednesday till last night. I received nothing from you.

I remain your devotedly attached husband

James

P.S. Give my love to all the friends.

P.S.S. I slept on the new pillow cover last night although it was a little wet. It answers admirably. Had no dreams.

X
ahc-1015.61

Shippensburg
Tuesday Oct 15th /61

My dearest Husband,

I have just received yours of the 13th brought by Mr. Earnshaw with whom I am very much pleased. He was so gratifying in every particular about you & gave me a many sided picture of camp life. All the time he was talking Daisy was whispering in my ear "Mama is this Papa?" & when he was leaving she ran to the door & called to him "I'm going to write a letter to my Papa" & has been scribbling a long time with that intention. He says he has a furlough till the 1st Nov so you can't get your stockings till then.

So the box had reached you at last. I'm so sorry that I did not make the shirts off the same piece as the drawers but after a deliberate consultation with the sisters we concluded it would be too heavy. You have said nothing lately about the bag & gown. So I have concluded to make both as they will always be useful. The beige lining of your "Hamel(?) cloak" will make a nice lining for the bag & then you know the association will be so pleasant excepting that putting your feet into it will be rather unsentimental.

When I heard of your movement into Virginia I was in a very bad humor for I thought you would not get home soon but your letters of yesterday & today have cheered me up & when I read of your probably being home this fall I was elevated almost to the seventh heaven. I am making you a night cap. Indeed I do think you are so good to try to come home. You(?) we all want to see. I think John must have been dreaming of camp life last night. His first remark in wakening this morning was "Oh Mama Camp Wayne is just like a fair excepting there were no ladies in carriages."

Last Thursday evening we were at a little party at Miss Jane Wilson's. I see a good deal of Miss M.C. Reynolds. I like all the people here very much excepting Miss Alice Coleswell. The judge is elected again. They will all be judges now for a long while. The young men who are raising the military Co here are succeeding very well. Mr. Earnshaw thinks he will take a good many back with him. The new Co. is called the "McClure Light Guards" in honor of our unpatriotic friend but indeed he is very clever(?) in offering to do anything he can for me. He told me he had some money for me. Mr McCleaf has just been here & gave me \$75.00 for which I gave him a receipt on his rent, also for the \$30.00 received some time ago. I will take good care of it. These _____ times he has been very sick. His throat was lanced(?). He can hardly speak.

James has been sick with diarrhoea for some days. I have a great deal of solicitude regarding him whenever he is not perfectly well. Nan & John are at school. Sister Jane received your letter yesterday. This is a lovely day. I hope you are enjoying one equally as fine. Write very often. Your letters make me feel young. Now & ever your fondly attached wife

Annie

Monday Oct 21st /61

I have* risen before it is clear daylight to write a few lines to my dearest Husband. Edmund has given me very short notice of his intended visit to you or I would have been better prepared.

Since I last wrote I have received nothing from you, but whenever I get dispirited I would go away by myself & read over & over again that little sentence in your last letter viz "I hope I will get home to visit you this fall." Do try & come before you move again lest you will be so far away that it will be impossible. That one idea keeps me up. At night before closing my eyes I always turn on my back hoping to induce dreams about you.

This day week 28th I expect to go home & clean house & fix stores before taking the children down. Sister Libby will be ready by Thursday to bring them. I have got several pretty house plants to put up until you come. Sister Jane thinks this house unhealthy & has determined on moving next spring. Mr. Joseph Mahon returned home last week. He has taken quite a fancy to John, laughs immoderately at his odd speeches about "John Wells & his fine mare." He will bring Mrs. Grier home this week. He is trying to secure a chaplaincy in the Army. I think the gown which I have just finished you pleased him very much. He immediately bought one same size & pattern & set his servant to make it. He tells me he will go shortly to Washington.

I finished your wrapper as the clock struck 12 on Saturday night. I might have been more systematic & had it done it good time but I had made an engagement to go to Chambersburg in the morning & did not get back until night. I hope you will like it, will keep you so warm & in moving you can strap on top of your trunk.. Your night cap I hope will fit. You will perceive that I am still not patriotic enough to make it tri-colored but introduced brown instead of the white. However to make amends Bella has knit one of the standard colors as a present for you. The one I knit you must wear at night being dark silk not show dirt & Bella's you can wear when you entertain preachers again. I like Mr. Earnshaw so much. I had not time to have your stockings ready but will get them off soon.

John & Nan will print you a letter this week. Daisy is very well. James has recovered. I am always well. I hope you have gotten rid of your cold. Edgar was able to ride in last week - still better. I always forget to acknowledge the reception of the candy by him. The children are all up so I must dress them. Charley McC. is still in Carlisle. I hope you will be able to read this scrawl. Ever your affecate. wife

Annie

Edgar says catsup is acceptable with soldiers so I have procured a little which I hope won't break.

jsc-1021.61

Camp Pierpont
21st Oct 1861

My very Dear Wife,

I have not written you I believe since last Wednesday evening & now it is 2 o'clock on Monday night. This is the longest period I have omitted to write you since I left. It was not neglect, for you were never more in my thoughts. The mail did not get away from camp until Friday morning, although I gave the letter to the mailman on Wednesday night lest he might slip off as he sometimes does without my knowledge. On Friday night about bed time yours of the 15th arrived. I was really glad to hear from you again as I had heard nothing from you since yours of the 7th. I doubt not some of your letters must have miscarried.

I intended to reply to yours on Saturday, but after I retired an order came to be under arms ready to march the next morning at 7 o'clock with our coats & blankets & two days rations. So I was kept busy from the time I rose to the appointed making preparation, getting breakfast etc. We marched off up the turnpike, none of us knowing where we were going except that we were marching in the direction of Leesburg where Genl. Johnson was supposed to be with a large army.

(The surgeon Dr. Green has just brought me a bowl of most excellent Java coffee. The best I have drunk since I left home. I hear by the bustle outside another mail has arrived in camp. I shall know before I close whether there is a letter from my wife.)

We marched very slowly often stopping as we were in the enemies country, and had to send out scouts to feel the way. About 1 o'clock, I think, we bivouacked on the banks of difficult creek. There we laid till this morning. Saturday night I slept out with my overcoat, not having brought a blanket, but I had an opportunity of sending for it yesterday, & slept more comfortable than I would otherwise as last night was considerable colder. This morning they marched us back to camp where we arrived about dinner time.

We got our dinner and I was just thinking of writing to you when another order came to get ready to march immediately with two days rations, and we have been waiting all afternoon for the call to start. I suppose it will hardly come now till morning. The report is that Genl. Johnson made his escape from Leesburg when he heard we were coming, and went down to Manassas. The secessionists had fled from their houses along the road. Where we are to go next I have no idea, more than conjecture.

The mail is distributed and no letter for me. Is my wife forgetting me, - no letter from the 7th to the 15th & then none on the 21st. Formerly I received one every two or three days. You know I always warned you that the time would come when I could not write you regularly. The time has come now. I write this now although I may not have an opportunity to send it to the post office for two or three days, but I may not be where I can have

an opportunity to write, when the mail does go in. I think you ought to continue to write three times a week as formerly. It will be out of the question for me to do so I presume.

Send me no more things unless it be one pair of stockings. I can carry no gown or bag. Whenever we move our baggage I will have to throw a number of things away and besides we may be separated a considerable distance from Mr. Earnshaw's regiment before he gets back. I wonder how Mr. Earnshaw got my letter. I did not send any by him. Ike Parker is in same regiment with him. I would like exceedingly to see you all but I see no prospect now as they grant no leave of absence at present. Give my love to all the friends.

Your truly attached husband

James

ahc-1022.61

Tuesday Oct. 22nd 61

My dearest Husband,

Yesterday I received yours of the 16th inst. I am glad you have recovered from the effects of your cold. Hope you will have no returns. Ere this you have no doubt seen Edmund. I have been wondering all morning what time he will reach your encampment thinking what a surprise & gratification it will be for you. I think he must have some contract in view.

I am really surprised my dear Husband that both you & our friend Mr. Miller should arrive at the conclusion as, "that I am not as much pleased in Shippensburg as I expected." On the contrary that is a very erroneous impression for I am very much more pleased than I expected & all of my words & deeds indicate that. I think having remained here three months is a very strong proof of my affection for the place & people - almost equal to the "Newshour(?) proof." I think Mr. & Mrs. Miller were disappointed in not securing Vienna for I hear that Mrs. M. had stopped Vienna on the st & begged her to go to live with her telling how easy a place her's was even after she knew I was going home. Perhaps Mr. Miller thought you would make me stay here.

Now my Husband I am perfectly willing to stay here & no doubt would feel better contented sometimes, but I know it is not convenient for Sister Jane to keep us. She considers this house unhealthy & in the winter will abandon her basement kitchen if alone because it is very damp, but if we were here she would have to use it & another thing. We are occupying the best part of the house & she the attic. I would gladly have gone there but she would not hear of it. I don't think it is right to impose on her & I'm sure you will agree with me so we will go home as I wrote you yesterday next week. When you come home this fall we will talk over our spring arrangements & if you think it best to have us rent a small house here I am perfectly willing to return in the spring provided you think you will return home before a great while & remain.

Mr. Earnshaw talks most encouraging & thinks about the 1st of May all will be over. Oh! I do so earnestly hope & pray that he prophesys truly. If I only had my Mother here I would not think so much about it but at times I feel so all alone.

By this mail I send you the "Inquirer" containing a lecture by Mr. Forster on "our civil war." It struck me just such a one as you would deliver. Mr. McClure gave me \$48.00 yesterday & I gave him a receipt. I still have a big roll of notes for you when you return so that you won't be kept so busy making a living for us. I have given Sister Jane \$25.00 & will pay her the rest before we leave.

This evening we are invited out to Mrs. Nevins to tea. I think Mrs. Middlecoff such a pleasant person. Everyone is very kind. Our little darlings are all well & happy,. Write often & soon to your devotedly attached wife.

jsc-1022.61

22 Oct. I had no opportunity to send the enclosed letter to the post office today. I expect to be able to send tomorrow by young Hemmerich who promised to take it sometime tomorrow. It has been raining off and on all day, and tonight a steady rain since dark. I amused myself by writing a couple of letters - one to Mr. McClure, - greasing my boots, splitting wood & making a little fire in my tent to dry it out, and smoking my eyes nearly out sitting on it to watch it.

All has been quiet today. I think it likely we will not be here very long, but which way we will go it is impossible to say. Very probably to Manassas. I judge that is where the great battle is to be again.

Do not forget to write often. I cannot write when out in the woods without paper, envelopes, or stamps & could not mail a letter if I did write it. I shall look confidently for a letter from you next mail which may not be for two or three days.

With the greatest sincerity
Your affectionate husband
James

jsc-1024.61
(probably Oct. 24, 1861)

Camp Pierpont, Va
Thursday noon

My dearest Wife,

I was very glad to receive your letter by Edmond, as I have received but one letter from you since we came to Virginia I believe. And I think a number of my letters have not been received by you. I have written several times lately to send me nothing more as I cannot carry them. And now I am fearing that Mr. Earnshaw will bring some more things. I was perplexed to know what to do with the gown, but finally concluded to keep it till I am compelled to throw it away. I send some white shirts home by Edmond, and my old cap, keeping the one you knit and returning Bella's as I have too many things. Please send me no more till I send for them. One pair of stockings I might have use for. The cap you made does not come down to the ears. If you had not lined it, it would stretch. I suppose that would have been the way to use it.

We have had no mail for nearly a week. Our mail man took a mail in yesterday morning & I was counting on at least two from you last night. But the man returned without any mail, having gone in without an order from the Col. to get it. The going home seems to be at an end at present. No furloughs are granted to anybody except in cases of sickness.

We have been waiting since six o'clock this morning with our knapsacks ready packed & haversacks filled for orders to march. The order may come before I finish this sentence, or may not come today & come in the night. I shall therefore make this letter brief. I do not know when I can write again, or if I could write do not know when I could get the letter to the post office. If we march away, we may not get back before several days. But you can write every other day at least.

I suppose from what you say I may direct my next letter to Carlisle. You were so unhappy there last summer I am afraid you will be again. Could you not induce Sister Libby to remain with you? I think it would be better if you could get a house in Shippensburg, at any rate from next spring. I am persuaded it is a better place for you to live. Tell Bella I am much obliged for the cap but had to return it. I am glad that you & the children are well.

Perhaps I was wrong to leave you & them. If so I hope you will forgive me. It cannot be helped now. Give my love to all the friends. And believe me your loving husband to the end.

Most sincerely
Your devoted husband
James

ahc-1031.61

Carlisle October 31st 1861

My own dearest Husband,

Your letter of the 27th reached me today & I feel so happy in knowing that you anticipated me in thinking I would write in better spirits next time. Ere this I hope you have received my last assuring you of that fact. I came home on Wednesday last & have been very busy cleaning house with Vienna's assistance. Today I cleaned two rooms entirely myself. Our little darlings Sister Libby will bring down on Saturday.

I found the house all safe & sound just as I left it. Two letters were awaiting me one from my dear Husband & one from Charley who with his wife & child returned to Baltimore this week. He thinks the latter partially resembles me. He expects to go to Chicago & resume his business this winter, & will probably pay me a visit on his way out. Ban was made a Papa on last Saturday. He feels very important. He & Linie(?) call the youngster little General Beauregard. George is now in Balt, will return here later this week. Is thinking of going to California next month. Cousin Galbraith arrived here unexpectedly today. He denounces Genl. Lane in strong terms, thinks him a very bad man. No one can tell what Cousin G's position is, but he talks of going to New Mexico. The last news from Brig. Genl Anderson is that he received a wound in the arm at the engagement at Santa Rosa. It proves to be slight however. The Ege girls have gone to Richmond, their house & property all destroyed near Alexandria. Julia Gallagher is here now with her baby whom she calls Hugh Vincent.

By the by so you have forgotten our quiet baby's name. James you know I called him & you put the Hall to it instead of Smith. So his name is James Hall by mutual consent. He will be just like you too. Don't you think you can come before next summer to see him & me & the other three frats(?)? Remember that is such a very long while. But I don't dwell on that subject or I'll grow doleful. The people here think that Wm. Penrose has become intemperate & they say he keeps the most filthy tent in the army. Carlisle has improved somewhat since I left. A store has been built nearly opposite us which is very convenient & Mr. Wm. Blair has put up quite a handsome house near the tan yard.

I intended counting my money before writing to you but have not had time. I want to pay Bentz a part or whole of his bill. I won't squander it. As renting time draws near I hardly know what to do. I just don't know of a small house in Shippensburg. Sister Jane has not rented yet. Would you prefer my living there? I hope Sister Nancy will pay me a visit on her return from Baltimore. I am glad you have such fine weather for your reviews. I did not get your stockings off by Dr. Rankin. I hope to have an opportunity soon. I am staying with Cousin Margaretta till the house is cleaned. Tomorrow I hope to get through. I have seen all my friends & Miss Martha into the bargain as the amount of my news indicates. Mr. McClure wrote you regarding your office. Some young man goes into it whom Miss Martha proposes taking into her

*Gen Lane
of Kansas?*

house at night as a life preserver as she had quite a fright last night.

Now my own Husband I'm sure you want to hear something about our little darlings Nan, John Daisy & James Hall. They are all good & affectionate dear little children & I have a great deal of pleasure with them, & hope they will prove a blessing to us in our old age when the War will all be over & we can talk of it as the great event of our early years. One _____ about my _____ self & I am done. Everyone says I look fat & I say I love you so very much & wish you a very good night & pleasant dreams. Let me hear from you soon.

Ever your devoted wife
Annie

X jsc-1029.61

Camp Pierpont, Va
Near Washington D.C. 29 Oct

My dear wife,

Your letter of the 25th inst was received in good time, & Oh what a sad, sad sad letter it was. I hope you will be in better spirits when you write your next or rather that you were in better spirits when you wrote your last. For I trust you have written since & that letter is now in Washington or at least on the road. I do not know, as is usually the case, when the mail will go in, but as we go on picket tomorrow morning to be out 24 hours I thought a mail might go before we return or if we had returned before I would have time to write especially as it is reported we are to have a grand review of two divisions Genls. McCall & Smith including 25,000 men.

There was a review of Genl. McCall's division today. We went out at 8 o'clock A.M. & were on our feet till one P.M. at which time we go home. It was a grand spectacle, 10,000 or 12,000 men in one body with bayonets gleaming in the sun. The day was most propitious. It could not have been finer for the purpose. There were very few ladies present, those being articles which are very rare in this part of the country. There were however a few ladies, Mrs. Meade the wife of our General and Mrs. McCall it was said and Mrs. Green wife of our surgeon & a lady friend of hers a Miss Sykes of Georgetown. I was introduced to Mrs. Green & Miss Sykes. These ladies it is said came on for the propose of seeing the grand review which was to have been of 3 divisions some 30,000 men, but for some reason the two divisions could not come.

I was wishing you had been here to see the grand sight and also that I might get a sight of your bright eyes. But wify you must restrain your tears and crying or your eyes will become dim & lose their light. I don't know whether I ever informed you that McCall's division is divided into three brigades, 1st Genl. Reynolds, 2nd Genl. Meade, & 3rd without a general as yet commanded by Col. McCalmot.

And so you hardly suppress envy of Martha Craig's husband. The nice dear little soul, I am glad you got out to see them. I suppose they are very proud of their baby. By the way I have often tried to think what the name of our youngest is. I know the first name is James, but the 2nd I have never been able to make out satisfactorily. Please tell me if you think of it.

The fight at Edward's ferry was a terrible slaughter, and entirely without any object. There was no intention to cross. Genl. McClellan had not ordered it & did not wish it. And Genl. Banks had not ordered it. Where the fault lies does not appear to be very well settled yet, at least not by the public. Great as our loss in killed & wounded was, it is ascertained that the rebel loss was much greater.

Write soon my dear wife & believe me ever your loving husband

James

jsc-1101.61

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. 1 Nov

My dear Annie,

I wrote you on Friday evening, sent to the post office yesterday morning. As Jess Thompson, who has been our servant ever since we went to Camp Wayne, leaves tomorrow for home, and we are to go on picket tomorrow morning, I write a few lines by him. He is not well & says he is _____ he is going to be sick & wants to go home a while. We have to be out of camp at 4 or 6 o'clock tomorrow morning which will require us to be up by 4 o'clock. We will not get back before 7 or 8 the following morning. We will now be without a servant for a while at any rate.

I met with a slight accident tonight. I went to the sutlers, after we received the order that we were to go on picket to get some provisions and on my return, it being cloudy & very dark, I slipped on a stump & fell, coming down on my mouth, and cut my lip & hurt my mouth. My lip is swollen considerably, but does not pain me and will soon be well.

John McCleaf is now here visiting his son who is in our company. I mean my miller(?). He says he gave Mr. McClure \$50 for you the day before he started from home. I presume Mr. McClure will hand it to you the first time he is in Carlisle or perhaps send it. He (that is McClure) sent me two more of those little bottles of old rye, such as you sent before. I thought he had given what was left on hand to you and that you had it in your possession. But it seems that he still has it. What you sent before was used up long ago. I gave five bottles of it away & the balance I & some of my friends had.

Mr. Beatty got over to see us yesterday & delivered your letter. He was also here today & dined with us. We had roast turkey for dinner, brought to me as a present by McCleaf. He also brought me five apples from Mr. McClure. He says there was six but as he found another in his carpet bag which he ate.

Wm. Beatty says he feels less comfortable now than if he had not gone home. And that I have no doubt is true. And I suppose his wife does also. Perhaps you are very sorry I did not go with him. However it would have been over now. As for my getting a leave from the 15th till the 2nd. That is out of the question. I would not ask for more than ten or perhaps seven days, lest I might get none. It is very likely Col. Penrose may get in some trouble. I understand he went to Philadelphia to get some physician to examine his case. I presume to see if he is able to stand the service.

Very truly your husband
James

ahc-1102.61

Here I am again seated in our little nursery finishing the week by writing to my own dear Husband. Our little darling children came down this afternoon after a separation of three days from me. I am so happy in having them again, only your presence to make me supremely happy. Sister Libby brought them on one train & Sister Nancy arrived a few minutes before on her way home from Baltimore so we are having a house warming tonight. Vienna & I cleaned it all over.

I suppose you wonder why I am so joyous. I will tell you. Cousin Margaretta had a letter from Charley last night & he thinks the Federal troops will be wintered near Washington. In that case you can easily obtain a furlough of a week about Thanksgiving time to visit your bad wife & four hopefuls. I have been building air castles all day on this foundation. Under ordinary circumstances I would be in one of my doleful moods tonight because I got no Saturday's letter from you but I am buoyed up with the prospect of seeing you which will be my constant sunshine.

I forgot to mention in my last that I gave Sister Jane \$10.00 before leaving making \$35.00 in all. Sister Nancy is very much pleased with her trip to Baltimore. Cousin Galbraith goes to Washington tomorrow to apply for a Brig. Genlship, expects to go to New Mexico on the 9th this month. He is a rolling stone. He wants George to go along but George wants an appointment in the Maryland forces. Genl. Cooper has given him a position in the Commissary department but Genl. Curtin won't sanction it. Why no one knows. It was the general impression that you had passed through to Shippensburg whilst we were there. One man declared that he had shaken hands with you.

Some improvements have been made in the town this fall. Bertim's opposite here moved & someone has built a nice little store adjoining the house. As good as a gas light at night. Wm. Blair has built quite a handsome house. My neighbor Mr. Croft has been very kind in offering to attend to anything for me. Harry Duffield took charge of a pair of stockings for you on Saturday morning last. I did not send any by Dr. Rankin. The other two pairs are all ready for you when you come up on the 28th.

The children are all well & quite newfangled about getting home. James had forgotten Vienna. I will dismiss Marcia tomorrow. Daisy says she is my sister, & is making great calculations about your return. Nan & John grow rapidly. We have had terribly blowing weather. I hope you are well shielded from the storm. Help me to pray for your speedy restoration to us. Commit all our cares to Him who over-rules all for the best. I had George, Minnie Sisters Nancy & Libby for tea this evening. The two former still live down street.

An old-fashioned good-bye to my dearest, best Husband & I subscribe myself always your devotedly attached wife.

Never forget about writing very often.

jsc-1103.61

3 November. No mail left camp yesterday & consequently my letter did not go. It commenced raining before I finished writing on Friday night & rained all night & all day yesterday with slight intervals, till after dark last night when it cleared up, and is pretty cold this morning. I do not know whether a mail goes this morning or not. I will have this ready if it does.

You never wrote me what you thought Lincoln had done that was so bad that you put him in the same category as Jeff Davis. Nor did you ever tell me how much you weighed. I suppose you will hear brother Ealls preach today for the first time in three months. I was officer of the guard last night & today & cannot write much.

Your truly attached
husband
James

X
jsc-61111.04

Camp Pierpont Va.
Near Washington D.C.
4 Nov 1861

My dear wife,

My last letter was sent yesterday, but no mail was brought out owing to the fact that our carrier did not get into the city till after the office was closed - it being Sunday. It was sent after today however & this evening I had the gratification of receiving yours of the 31st ult. It was truly in a different spirit from your previous letter & I must say I felt more comfortable. I do not know whether any mail will go in tomorrow, but I thought I would write a few lines to you at any rate. If it does not go tomorrow it probably will next day.

This afternoon I took quite a stroll through some of the camps. I went to Genl. McCall's headquarters which is about 3/4 of a mile from our camp. Saw Mr. Beatty there. We went from that to the Bucktails' camp & near a couple of Vermont Regiments & a Maine regiment and made our way to the 4th Penna. I saw Mr. Earnshaw who returned last Saturday to camp. I also saw "Ike Parker" who is a lieutenant in this regiment, Doct. Brisbane also who is Lieut. Colonel. The latter treated us to a bottle of wine. I returned to camp in time to read your very acceptable letter by the light of day. It is all quiet still but there are rumors of an advance to be made soon but when or where does not seem to be fixed by madame rumor. I judge we are waiting for intelligence from the naval expedition before moving & movements here will probably be controlled by events there.

You requested me in one of your letters to have my photograph taken the first opportunity - but not in uniform. But you did not say in what costume I should be. I presume in the flannel shirt & drawers you made. I have no clothes but uniform except an old vest. I can put that over my shirt. I did intend once when I went to Washington to have my ugly self taken and fixed up & get my hair cut & beard trimmed & moustache shaved for that purpose, and when I went to Brady's his instrument was out of order & I had to return without it. I will say however it would have been in uniform. If you desire a picture not in uniform, you have a better one now than I can get taken again. I think you will have some trouble getting all the children on one plate. You would get better likenesses by having them separate. I would like exceedingly to get a glimpse of them as well as of you.

It is well enough you did not send the stockings by Dr. Rankin. It is doubtful I would have got them. You had better not send them, I think. I have sufficient to do me all winter. It is difficult as well as expensive for anyone to get out here. I suppose Edmond told you that they asked him \$25 for a horse to come out. He got one for \$4 by telling the man he was going to a New York Regt. on the other side of the river from here.

I am still my dear Annie your affectionate husband

James

Carlisle Nov. 7th /61

A letter from my dearest husband yesterday cheered me up considerably as he no longer speaks of his cold & I hope it has entirely disappeared. We are all getting along as well as could be expected considering your absence. I am glad that you can occasionally see some old familiar faces in the adjoining camps. I sincerely hope that our powerful fleet will do great execution & in that way keep the Army either near or at home.

You ask me why "I class Lincoln with Jeff Davis"? Simply because you exchanged him for me & although I consider him "honest Abe" I don't think him competent to fill his present position. Now dearest Hubbins don't frown & call me a goose just because we differ about our President for if you only come home all safe & love me as much as ever I will talk very complacently about Abraham & the War of /61.

About your photograph I did not remember about your being missing citizens dress, so you can have it taken any way so that your dear face looks just as it used to - & don't think about the war whilst you are sitting.

An item of Western news lately. Your contrary cousin Robert Colwell of whom I have often heard you speak was married recently. Old Mr Mell is talking of going to War as teamster. His amiable wife says 'tis a good riddance. Gibson Hunts brought Fanny up today. In addition to Mr. Ransom leaving the northern Army he retained the soldiers money entrusted in his care also the Band money & is in debt to Bentz between \$300 & \$400.

By the by I have got Bentz's bill \$87.02. I want to pay it off & then pay as I go hereafter. I have got still \$140.00 in notes & some little gold & silver. I can't spare him the whole amount out of that but I can get some from Bank if you wish me to. It seems as though I had spent a good deal but I have paid your Sisters \$55.00 besides other small bills & some clothing for the children. Do you think I have been extravagant? Today I bought 1 & 1/2 cord of nice hickory wood. I would like to get all our bills paid off & when you come home you will be surprised to find me such an economical wife.

Sister Libby is very well. She has just retired. The children are all well. I find the keeping-in-the-yard system acts very well. I hope we will be blessed in our children. There is a rumor that some of your Co have been lawless & are confined in irons. I suppose you have heard that Bill Biddle was beaten in Washington by two regular soldiers.

What do you think about coming home. It would be such a gratification for us on Thanksgiving day. Don't forget about your likeness, one that will hang up & don't forget about writing. I would rather have a letter from you than enough to eat.

A hearty good night & many kisses from the children & your devotedly attached wife

Annie

jsc-6111.11

Camp Pierpont Va.
Near Washington D.C. 11 Nov 1861

My dear Annie,

I was delighted this evening at the receipt of two letters from you dated the 7th & 8th inst. respectively. I presume you have been somewhat disappointed by this time at not receiving one from me today but it is no fault of mine & I trust you will receive one tomorrow morning. I wrote last Friday night & gave it to the mail-man on Saturday who informed me it would go to the post office that morning. I learned in the evening it had not gone. As we were promised a mail daily I thought of course it would go on Sunday morning, and I therefore did not write by Mr. Conlyn who left yesterday morning for home and I suppose reached Carlisle this morning. The mail did go this morning, but my letter is dated back on last Friday the night it was written.

I have no news later for you except that the paymaster was here today & paid us off. The good news from the fleet you will have in the newspapers.

I am glad to have at last your reason for hating Lincoln vs. Davis. I am not going to quarrel with you about it but wife don't you think there are some preconceived notions still lurking in your "precious bosom." I am not going to say where you got them but I think I know. You do me wrong when you charge that I exchanged Lincoln for you. Why I had you as my sweet wife long before I knew there was such a man as Lincoln. And I am sure I would not exchange my wife for all the Lincolns that could stand in a row. But you don't think him competent. It would not make any difference to me if he was not competent. For as I have often told you I care nothing about Lincoln individually, more than any other honest man, but it is the government that I hold must be maintained.

Now I advise you to read what old general Scott says on retiring from the command of the army. He says he is not a party man & did not vote for Lincoln but he considers him a man of genius, a very able man, and says that he has agreeably disappointed him, "He is a man of great ability, fidelity and patriotism," and untiring zeal & conscientiousness. In fact he could say no more praise. And that is the judgment of every man of ability, almost, democrats as well as republicans, except those democrats who have or had secessionist proclivities, in other words Breckinridge democrats, and many of the ablest of them say the same.

I doubt whether we ever had a president against whom his enemies could find so little fault as the present one, notwithstanding there was never a time that required so great ability & sagacity to carry on the government as the present. And if he finishes as he has begun history will pronounce him one of the ablest and best presidents we have ever had. Now if you will observe the next person who says the president is not fit, you will find his or her sympathies are with the south, if you

scrutinize closely, notwithstanding he may say he is a union man. That is enough for the present on the Lincoln subject.

I am glad you are in such fine spirits & are so happy. I do contemplate a visit home, but as I wrote you I have no idea when it will be. Captain Henderson is on a court martial now & is absent every day. He says the event may or probably will last three or four weeks. As one commissioned officer must always be with the company I need not try to get off while the court sits. Mr. Beatty you know is always away.

I will send you about \$30 by "Porke" Henderson. I would send more but I want to send Mr. McClure about \$130 to pay Mrs. Irvine what I owe her. You can pay Bentz his whole bill. You need not pay for the coal for a couple of months. After paying Bentz you will have about fifty dollars left. If I sent you thirty you will have eighty. By the time that is done I think you will have more. If not you can get some out of Bank. Do (you?) want to get a hog & quarter of beef.

It is very probable that the reason Cameron refused to confirm George was that somebody charged him with being a secessionist. I have been told that he was considered in Baltimore as inclining that way at the commencement of the trouble & you know how strong Minnie's feelings were that way when she first came on.

I am always
your devoted husband that loves you
"as much as ever"
James

I forgot to say that if any letters come for me open them. If they relate to law business send them to Mr. McClure any others forward to me. The Prothonotary Benjn. Duke Esq. goes to Shippensburg every Saturday and will take anything to Mr. McClure.

jsc-6111.13

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. 13th Nov 1861

My Dear Annie,

I enclose thirty-five dollars and forward by Mr. Parker Henderson. I am sorry I can send you no more, but I send \$135 to Mr. McClure to pay off Mrs. Irwin whom I owe about \$130, and who ought to have it. Also to pay off the "American" newspaper which I suppose you never get & which is worth nothing and which I suppose you do not want, & have it discontinued. There will be a small balance of probably between \$3, \$4 or thereabouts. I have directed him to pay it to you.

I suppose Mr. McClure will be at court next week, and if Mr. Henderson does not see him I will direct him to leave the letter with you, and you can let him know immediately that you have it. Mr. Croft will tell him for you. If Mr. McClure should not be at court you can keep the letter safely till he comes to Carlisle and Mr. Croft will most probably see him, and can tell him that you have a letter for him, or if you have a private opportunity you can send it up to him. Esquire Duke probably goes up every Friday or Saturday & would take it up. Whoever takes it let him know that there is money in it. Of course I would not give it to any but a safe person. I think you will have sufficient to pay Bentz & take a receipt on his bill & have enough left to keep you till we get some more.

17th Nov. I thought when I wrote the foregoing that Mr. Parker Henderson was going to leave for home the next day or the following day at farthest. But he is still here. He talks now of going tomorrow but does not appear to be fully determined yet. As we may leave tomorrow as explained in my letter by mail tonight, I conclude to enclose the money & give it to him.

I am my dear wife

your truly loving
husband
James

P.S. The wind is beginning to blow again.

jsc-6111.13

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington 13th Nov /61

My dear Annie,

You perceive how fanciful I am becoming with my picture & scarlet & blue ornamented note paper. The fact is I could get no other kind of paper in camp except such as was much more flashy than this.

I expected to get a letter from you this evening but the mail came without the looked for epistle, yet here I am in my lonely tent writing to my love of a little wife the same as if I had received a letter. She must have bewitched me else I would scarcely do it. And that is not all for this is the second letter I have written to that same
tonight, - Perhaps (The top right part of
to say little since this page is torn off.)
ting so fat -
to enclose some
first (it is very little & I am sorry it is not more) and send it by Mr. Parker Henderson and as he may not leave for a day or two I conclude to write this & forward it by mail lest somebody might be waiting for a letter too long. Mr. P. Henderson did intend to leave for home tomorrow morning, but has concluded now not to start so soon.

This was an exceedingly mild and beautiful day for the season - very much like indian summer, and tonight is the same. All remains quiet in camp with rumors that we are to march soon for some place, but no one knows where. The truth is I think that no one - unless Genl. McClellan knows whether we are to march soon or not.

The news from the fleet is glorious today, better than could have been expected. You will see it all in tomorrow's Philadelphia papers which I presume you get. Therefore I need not say anything about it.

Mr. Beatty I understand has applied for leave of absence to go home. As he is at headquarters, I have no doubt he will succeed, if any leaves are granted. So Mrs. B. may look for him in a day or two.

There dont seem to be much chance of getting that photograph. I have not been in Washington since I went in to see about getting Edgar Hays discharged. And if I were to get in I would scarcely have time to have my likeness taken. I will endeavor to have it taken if I get into Washington. But I think you have a better one now than I can get again, and besides it is taken in citizens dress which you so much prefer.

Remember me to all friends and believe me

Your truly attached
husband
James

ahc-6111.15

Carlisle Nov. 15th /61

X My dear Husband,

I did not write in the beginning of the week thinking that from the tenor of a previous letter & from what Mrs. Penrose said that every train might bring you & even after I had retired I would start up at the sound of carriage wheels thinking you might come that way. On Wednesday I received your two letters so I concluded & comfort myself till the court-martial would be over although Mr. Penrose told George that there was only a little "pushing" necessary for you to obtain leave which has proven itself in his case for he has visited home four or five times in three months. But today's letter has extinguished almost the last ray of hope & I will try not to set my heart on it any more & I will remember this among the many disappointments which make up my wretched life.

Mrs. Beatty was visiting me some days ago & I told her I was expecting you home so she no doubt has written to her husband to come.

I don't think the papers indicate an advance movement excepting some New Jersey Regiments. The news from the fleet is very encouraging but I should think an additional force would be required down there to maintain our position but if the 7th Reserve is wanted I would much rather not maintain it. Sister Libby has been sitting beside me listening to my remarks on the war, the Government & infatuated officers without saying anything. She is a good deal better than I but then you know she has no dear husband who left her without saying beans whenever President Lincoln asked for 75,000 men. (There is a splotch on the page.) There are three big tears which I enclose as a memento from an aching heart.

Charley spent Monday with me on his way to Chicago. He expects to have Lizzie & the baby out there in three months. He is very much opposed to George accepting an office under Government. Adam Holliday & his wife are going to live in Chicago. Business is quite brisk there. I don't know whether Cousin Galbraith has received the Brig. Genlship. but he has received another young daughter in his family.

Our baby is sick tonight. I think he is constitutionally more delicate than any of the others. He is cutting 4 back teeth. Nan has two eye teeth to be drawn. I have taken her twice to the dentist's but she refuses to have them touched. Neidrich would like to give her ether but I'm afraid of making her nervous. John requires constant watching. With your permission I would like to board some clergyman for a year who would manage & teach John. Daisy is still a little darling. I have school every evening directly after tea.

I have a bad headache tonight. I don't care about getting a hog & quarter beef. I am glad to pay Bentz. I don't want to contract any more bills & since my return here have been paying

as I go. Good night. I will try & be more cheerful next time. Our pets are well excepting James.

Ever your attached wife
Annie

Sally Biddle told me of her visit to camp & also if she had known you were there would have sent for you. Write very often. Don't forget. Please don't be provoked at me but always remember my many weaknesses & forgive them.

jsc-6111.15

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. 15 Nov 1861

My dear Annie,

I have not received any letter from you since I last wrote. I suppose that is because you did not receive any from me for a longer time than usual. But remember that was no fault of mine. The letter was written ready to go but no mail left camp.

I write now to let you know that I have not forgotten you for I have nothing of interest to communicate. Everything is quiet here. We had another heavy rain last night. It rained nearly the whole night. As I was officer of the day I had to stay up most of the night and although in my tent it was not very agreeable. Still not so bad as being Officer of the Guard when I had to be out all the time. I have had no fire yet in my tent. If you were to sit out on the balcony till bed-time, than make your bed & sleep there all night you might get some idea of what it is like. Yet I have experienced but slight inconvenience from it as yet.

The news of the operations of the fleet are more favorable than could have been anticipated and if success continues with us the war cannot be very long.

Notwithstanding the cheerlessness of my tent I had a very pleasant dream night before last. I thought I was at home not the old "our house at home" but the real present home of you & me. I had just arrived and saw your sparkling eyes and Nan with her little dancing eyes as glad as she could be and John standing off showing his two front teeth pretending not to care much but evidently as glad as any body. And poor little sedate Daisy taking it as calmly as a May morning but apparently as happy and self contented as a philosopher. James Hall I thought was very shy of me & did not seem to comprehend what it all ment. And last of all there was myself I thought happier than any of you and exceedingly glad to see you all. But I awoke and it was all a dream.

Mr. Parker Henderson has not left yet and I don't know when he will as he don't seem to know himself. I presume however he will go some day when I will send the letter which has been written for two days already. I have not heard whether Mr. Beatty has succeeded in getting his furlough. His quarters are about a mile from us. I saw Mr. Earnshaw about a week or ten days ago. His regiment is about 1/2 mile from our camp. "Ike" Parker is in the same regiment and "Bill" Brisbane is lieutenant colonel of the same. I shall hope to receive a letter from you tomorrow evening & another very soon thereafter.

I remain most sincerely
your most faithful
husband
James

X
ahc-6111.19

Carlisle Nov 19th 1861

You are a dear precious husband for writing me so regularly even when I was so irregular, but when I'm dispirited I can't write & my epistle would be by no means agreeable. But I'm very much disappointed in not seeing one word in your last three letters about "coming home" for that is the burden of my song. I heard nothing of the sweeping assertion which you mentioned in connexion with Mr. Penrose, & I don't believe it at all. His wife told me on Saturday what a warm feeling her husband has for you. But whether he said it or not 'tis no more nor less than many others think & he has proven very clearly that his attachment must be strong for his family by coming so often.

As you mentioned Mr. Sharpe I think with him it is different. He left only a wife & labored under a temporary abberation of mind in consequence & left only because others did. But we are discussing a subject of which you have always known my opinion so we will forget the past & build air-castles for the future, but I hope they will not all prove airy.

Mr. Beatty visited me this evening & handed me your letter enclosing \$35.00 for which accept my thanks. In anticipation of it I paid Bentz the full amount of his bill \$87.00 today. Mr. Beatty speaks encouragingly about the ending of the war or first the return of the Volunteers. He was also very gratifying in particular regarding your precious self even to the toasting of your feet at the "California furnace." He thinks you will get home. I hope by Thanksgiving. I think he looks very well. I was very glad to see him. Tomorrow will be your grand review.

What lovely nights we have. Last night in my dreams the town was being blown up & I was fleeing with our four babies out of the reach of Secession. The Kentucky body guard who are encamped here are creating quite a sensation among the young girls. Julie Watts gave a dance last week. Annie Hepburn another last night & Mrs. Biddle's in anticipation. I am sorry to tell you that Betsy Parks is going to die. She has a large tumor in her stomach & is very ill. Old Mrs. Ross is unaccountably all bruised up & Aunt Ege sick so poor Cousin Henrietta has her hands full. The Episcopal ch is almost finished quite monumental. George talks of sailing to California shortly.

Nan, John Daisy & James are in perfect health. Young Mr. Goodyear is fully installed in your office. Mr. McClure was here tonight. Goes up tomorrow. I'm so glad to think that the War will soon end. But will you ever be happy & live quietly in a house & just have four youngsters & one Annie Colwell to review?

I was glad to hear Mr. Beatty say that you had not moved onward. Is the Court Martial over?

My dearest Husband good bye. I will always be your sincerely attached wife

Annie

161
My Dear Annie,

I received yours of the 19th inst last night, and was glad to learn that you were all well and that you were in such a fine humor, and also that you had received my letter by Mr. Beatty with the enclosure. I sat down last night after receiving it to write you but seeing the mailman he informed me no mail would go into the city today. I therefore deferred writing till today.

And now about 7 o'clock P.M. I set down to write you, beside the fireplace Mr. Beatty saw me making.. Outside it is snowing, quite fast mingled with rain. But I am as snug and dry as can be. One corner of my tent, just one quarter of it, I have dug down about 18 inches & in the corner of that hole I have dug in the clay a small franklin stove with a flat stone across at the top and the flue to the outside covered with flat stones covered over with clay mortar to fill up the cracks and outside 5 or 6 feet from the tent a chimney built of sods and clay taken from my hole piled round to keep it firm. The chimney is about 4 feet high and on the top an empty barrel with both ends knocked out. In my basement about four persons can set very nicely. Or you & myself and our four babies. You can have some idea of how I am fixed.

Joseph Mahon was here two nights and Mr. Harper one. Joseph slept with me, but I think he did not admire the accommodations & the second night he slept with father Hunt, the chaplain. Mr. Harper slept with Mr. Earnshaw in the 49th. They both left yesterday. Ormsby Mahon was also here with Joseph, but staid with a friend of his, the surgeon of the 10th Regt.

I suppose we had better drop the Penrose subject. You most certainly get your opinions from a very few who are mostly sympathizers with secession - for there are some in Carlisle - and it is very well known who they are. But you have not the opinion of the public generally. I always had a high regard for W. Penrose as you know. And I am not going to do him a wrong now.

I presume you received my letter by Corporal Zimmerman on Friday night or Saturday morning, and also the old sabre that I brought with me from home. Park Henderson was here more than two weeks, and seemed to like camp life very well. It is very singular that Mrs. Motley Baird Biddle did not know that I was here. I hope you did not swallow that on faith. Wonder if she knew that there was a company from Carlisle and that it was in the 7th Regiment. I suppose she never heard that I was in it.

As to coming home, which you say is the burden of your song, I wrote you in my last, and await your reply. I presume you will say the 1st next month. Well I can't come that soon. The event is not over & I don't know when it will be. And if it was I need not apply till Mr. Beatty returns as they would not let two officers go from the same company. After the application is made it may be

a week or more from the time I apply till I get the leave. And besides I will choose such time as I think will be successful if that suits you, and can find such time.

Ever sincerely yours
James

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. Nov 26 /61

My dear Wife,

I have just received yours of the 23rd inst wherein you enjoin me not to forget to write on Tuesday again. And as this is Tuesday I must comply or I suppose incur your displeasure. I promise not to forget to write on Tuesday, but I cannot promise to write every Tuesday because sometimes that would be difficult if not impossible to perform.

As you desire particularly that I should write something about going home, I can only say that the court is not over yet. Mr. Todd left for home this morning. He goes on sick

leave for 20 days

sick for sometim (The right hand side of
you do not wish I the page is cut off.)

sick & go home th

You & Nan & John

ers. I judge the latter were dreaming with their eyes open, or if their eyes are closed their senses are awake.

Talking of dreams reminds me of a dream I had two or three weeks ago. I thought I would tell you of it but I believe I forgot when I was writing. I thought you wrote to me that some lieutenant in the army, I forget now who had addressed you, and that for some reason you had - which I also forget - you were obliged to marry him. You were very sorry & expressed great lamentations on account of it. But there was some inevitable necessity about it and you wanted some money to make preparations for the nuptials. I knew the reasons which the fellow had given you were not true, and moreover I knew in my dreams that it was impossible for you to marry him while I was living and as I intended to be home before the day fixed for the wedding, I determined to send you the money. I sent some hundreds of dollars. I did not dream where I got it. Two or three days before the day appointed, I arrived at home and found you buried in silks & satins with several sewing girls around you as busy as could be. And I thought I could see your lovely little black eyes fairly dancing. So busy were you that you had not much time to talk to me. I let you work away a while before telling you that the fellow was trying to make a fool of you & that you would never see him again. And you seemed perfectly satisfied to drop the whole thing and stick to your old, if not your first, love. I was hoping the chap would come to see you while I was there, but the day appointed passed, and he did not show his face. And we lived together just "as happy as ever." Pardon me for making such a long story out of "such stuff as dreams are made of." But I did dream all that and considerable more at the same time.

Mr. Shape has been appointed an aide to Genl. Ord, the brigadier of the 3rd Brigade, Penrose's. That is probably one reason Penrose does not return as I think he and Shape (are not?) very loving friends.

(The left hand side of
the page is cut off.)

little brother talk yet?
notwithstanding your con-
related second marriage
your most devoted
 husband
 James

27th November 1861. After all I did not get my last nights letter in the mail. Having received orders this morning to make out papers for the discharge of Mrs. Phillips' son and the mail carrier having started earlier than usual, I was disappointed and what concerns me more I fear you will be disappointed also - for 24 hours.

We had a rainy afternoon & nothing to do. Our cavalry had a skirmish with the rebels this morning towards Drainsvills. They captured 13 prisoners and had one man mortally wounded. You will get the particulars in tomorrow's paper.

I presume Lieut. Beatty will have to leave tonight or tomorrow morning on his return. The court martial is not over. Don't know when it will be. But before very long now. I hope you will all have a happy time tomorrow. I should be exceedingly glad to be with you at Thanksgiving dinner. That is not possible now. Hope I shall be able Christmas or New Years Day. Whether or not I am still

Your most devoted
 Husband
 James

Carlisle Nov 29th /61

My dearest Husband,

Yours of the 26th & 27th lies open before me. Feeling disappointed in not receiving it as a very small substitute for you yesterday, I sent John to the office this afternoon confidently expecting one or two & to my dismay returned without any so I put on my bonnet & went myself & had the happiness of being rewarded by my own dear Husband's handwriting.

By this time you have seen Mr. Beatty who will give you all the Carlisle news. Will Watts got home rather unexpectedly for a day. I did not see him. I hope your turn will be next. Is the court not over yet? I hope you will apply soon or else Robt. Henderson will get a leave before you know it. Vienna tells me she knows you are coming for her nose is so itchy. By the by Vienna has a beau, servant for some officer near Washington to whom she constantly writes so I have the pleasure of directing a good many letters to camps.

I laughed heartily at your dream about me. What a little soft wife your dream pictured me. Another Thanksgiving has come & gone & although we are in the midst of such turbulent times it seemed to be as heartily welcomed as its predecessors & although our country seems almost shaken to pieces we all have national as well as individual blessings for which to thank kind Providence. May we pray that next year's thanks will include our peace & prosperity.

I was glad to notice in the papers that the military enjoyed it as a holy day. I observed in our church a great many who are not accustomed to go on such days such as Mr. Miller & a great many other Mr. Millers.

A thought crossed my mind on reading the account of your grand review that how many millions of human beings have all their earthly happiness wrapt up in those 70,000 men & how many will return just as they went? Some never - others will contract diseases from which they will not entirely recover, & others again still worse camp vices which will always estrange them from their friends at home. I drove the thought away by asking Heaven's over-shadowing wing to be always over you to protect you from all those evils. Do I make gloomy pictures Hubbins & then cry over them? You will have to paint the bright ones at home so that we can rejoice together.

You ask if our little James can talk? Not quite - but he tries very hard. You know boys are not so progressive with their tongues as girls. Cousin Matilda Ege has such a tiny baby not as large as Nan's doll. They call it after Mother. George left on Thursday morning, perhaps for California. Charly wants him to go to Chicago. Nan John & Daisy & James are all well.

Write very soon & talk about coming home. We all anticipate so much pleasure. It has been raining very fast tonight. Genl.

Anderson was expected today at Mr. Watts. They look for him tonight. He will review(?) the Kentucky body-guard.

Good night dear Husband. Truly your devoted wife

Annie.

jsc-6112.04

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. 4 Dec /61

My dear Annie,

*Jess? (should be Jess?)
Dec 1
Pierpont.*

I presume you have received my letter by Lesse ere this. He left here some time on Monday and expected to leave Washington on Tuesday & arrive home the same day. Lesse was sick and I think he was considerably frightened. His leaving changes our mode of living. While he was here the Captain and I had him as a servant together & boarded and messed together. Now we have no servant & each takes care of himself. I do not know whether we will soon get another servant. Lesse wants to come back he says when he gets well.

On Monday morning we went out on picket. During the day two deserters came in from the rebels at Centreville. The one was a scotchman the other an Englishman. They said they had come in a vessel to New Orleans just before the blockade & could not get out and having no money were compelled to enlist. They did not give a very unfavorable account of the secessionists but said they did not like the company they were in & could not get transferred, and besides they wanted to go home. They stated there were sixty thousand troops at Centreville, that they have plenty of beef and flour, which they bake themselves but have no coffee and use rice & cornmeal which they brown and make into drink for coffee. Some have rye. Their clothing was pretty good being made of heavy coarse goods part wool. The overcoats were short sacks made of cotton cloth.

At night one of the cavalry who were stationed about a mile & a half in advance of the regular line of pickets came in and reported that three rebel cavalry had been seen by one of them & shot at. Part of our company had to go out to assist the cavalry in case of an attack. I was out about four hours. All was quiet, and nothing seen or heard of any rebels.

Yesterday morning two brigades went out with wagons for forage. With them was our regiment. Our company being out the night before was excused from going. They went some six or eight miles and got some wheat, oats, corn etc. and returned in the evening without having seen any enemy. The pickets were under the direction of a Captain Johnson, a cousin or nephew of Rev Mervin Johnson decd. He is from western virginia near Wheeling. He is a very pleasant gentleman.

The court martial we used to talk about or rather write about is over but another has been called and Captain Henderson is on it. It meets tomorrow morning. So I am just where I was. But I hope to get home some time before a great while. But I cannot say how soon. I have no idea how long this court will last. The other sat three weeks.

I would be rejoiced to see you all.

Your ever affte. husband
James

I wrote the former sheet just after preaching & before dinner. It is now near 9 o'clock P.M. We had another sermon from Father Hunt tonight, from the text somewhere in Luke. They have Moses & the prophets. If they believe not them neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead. It was an excellent discourse although the preacher did not stick very closely to his text

I intended to write you (for) a sleeping cap but as the box has started I will say nothing about it. The one you got from Mrs. Woodward was not intended for a night cap. It does not stay very well on my head. It has been quite warm today, but tonight is delightful. I hope you are enjoying it. I think it very probable that you were out at church & heard a good sermon from Mr. Harper. He will give you no disunion sermons.

There is a rumor in camp this evening that New Orleans has been taken by our fleet. It may be true or it may not. Then the war has begun to come to an end and I think will be finished before many months. I hope it may be true and that I may soon be with the one I love. I believe I will not tell you who that is because you think it is time to be "smitten" by a young gentleman "very handsome & agreeable." You were speaking in your last letter of going to Baltimore that you might forget me. I forgot to tell you that Charley McClure informed me that your brother Charles & his wife were in the country somewhere. He could not remember where. I suggested Harford. That he believed was the place. The only ones you could see would be Ban and his wife, and they are such violent "secesh" that I do not think it would be pleasant for you. The report now is that Baltimore is turning for the Union. It would be pleasanter for you after it gets around.

Genl. Gibson did not leave the Hunts as well off as they expected I should judge from what I heard in Washington. He left Mrs Ransom & Miss Fanny each \$400 & Gip \$500. The balance of his estate he left to Judge & Francis Gibson's families to be divided between them. He was worth about \$19,000 counting his stocks - in which his whole estate consisted - at par, but none of them are at par now & most of them very much depreciated, so that at the present market value of his stocks he would scarcely be worth one half that sum.

Dick Henderson brought a large jar of apple butter & jar of grape jelly & one of pickles, & I have just been eating rather much of them for my own comfort. As therefore my paper is nearly full and it is near uncle Irvine's time for all honest people to be in bed I will close, bidding you good night.

Your most devoted an unchanging husband

James

ahc-6112.07
(probably Dec. 7, 1861)

Saturday night

I had such a pleasant dream last night that I cannot retire to rest without thanking my dearest Husband for furnishing the material for it. But I'm afraid I shall grow superstitious if the Court Martial don't soon come to an end & think that all my dreams will prove contrary. Yesterday your letter of the 4th inst reached me. I hope you will have no more picket duty to perform soon & still more do I hope you will be put on no reconnoitering expeditions. I trust the Court Martial will not be so tedious as the other for we are growing very impatient to have that long promised visit. John says "I won't know you" but he will. Children all enjoy good health.

Sister Libby has had an attack of sick headache since she came but is quite well now. She & I were out visiting day before yesterday. The Episcopal ladies are in a great excitement about their church which is to be consecrated tomorrow week. They have been busy this week carpeting & cushioning it all over. Mazarine blue is the prevailing color to correspond with the gas fixtures which are blue & gold - Brown Parker's taste. An organist from Phila. is to be here so it will not be desecrated by any but a finished performance. Mr. Metzger is quite jealous of their grandness & says our ch ought to be fixed up & if it is undertaken he will put his name down for a handsome sum.

Mr. Morss is obliged to move to Norfolk as his property there will be confiscated if he don't reside there. Report says he has no money at all now not even enough to buy a newspaper but he will be a nabob if he goes there. George has settled down at last in New York with an income of \$1500 a year. He expects to take Minnie there during the winter. She is still at Cousin Margaretta's. A letter from Ban yesterday reports Louise just able to get downstairs & young "Beauregard's" growing finely. We have had unseasonably fine weather this week but today & night portend a storm. Annie Smead is now boarding at Martin's. Her husband is in or near Washington & writes that he will soon send for her.

I hope that I shall get a letter from you on Monday saying the Court is over & you can come the week following. I was going to send you a speech of Mr. Train's (Travis'?) delivered in England on our troubles but I forebear fearing that you might agree with him. I object to his sentiment for he says "he loves his wife, his children & his God but his country more than all." I think his wife & children & his God constitute his home or country & without them he would have no home. I can't think that you would sacrifice your Maker & us entirely for the country.

Our little darlings are all sleeping sweetly around me looking so rosy & happy. I wish I had the talent of drawing so I might sketch you an interesting group - prettier than any you could find in Camp Pierpont. I hope Father Hunt will give you a good sermon tomorrow. Write soon to your truly attached wife

Annie

ahc-6112.11

Carlisle Dec. 11th 1861

My dearest Husband,

The children were in ecstasies this evening over your letter which John brought from the office & being so much impressed with his importance in being directed to him that his pocket reluctantly resigned it. Both Nan & he were particularly pleased with the printing as they had no difficulty in making it out but I was reminded of the parable of the "distribution of talents" in the New Testament. As soon as Nan got her's in her own possession she hid it so carefully in her drawer that she could not find it while John was plodding over his first backwards then forwards till he had learned it by heart. They will print soon to you but I take great pleasure in being the first to acknowledge it.

We are experiencing quite a sudden change in the weather, tonight being very clear & cold while last night blankets were insufferably warm. The winter won't appear so long with so much warm weather & how providential for the tented part of the population.

I was at market this morning & purchased a very nice shin bone so we have a promise of soup tomorrow. I then went to Bank to have Mr. McCleef's check cashed, as I had paid the coal man early in the morning. Prompt payment was my bargain when he offered it so reasonably low. The bill was \$24.75. I required the check. I forgot to mention some time ago that I laid up a cord & 1/4 of nice dry hickory wood & Mr Barnitz(?) has chopped some of it. We still had a good deal from last year & we have not yet made fire in the dining room as the kitchen stove heats it sufficiently with the door open. Vienna learned to be more economical whilst I was away.

My dear Husband I am quite exercised on the subject of Mr. Shapley's house again. Val Ellitt (?) goes to Mrs. Seymours, she paid him \$150. I can get it for \$125 & perhaps less. It is a very cheerful & pleasant house & Mrs. Biddle offers me any additional furniture which I might need, but I now have a good deal more than is now in it & do not care for more. There is a deep lot attached to it. We could raise many vegetables & also two fine pigs which would be quite an item in our family. I could move with very little expense & need nothing but an entry oil-cloth which is always salable. Some persons urged me to take it as Mrs. Todd is on the eve of renting it. But I will not do it without your approval of it. I recollect you spoke of our renting in Ship. & the possibility of our not returning to Carlisle of which I would be well satisfied, but I inquired of rents up there & \$150 & \$120 were asked for inferior looking houses. I did not go through them, & the expense & abuse of taking our furniture there. Sister Libby thinks the rents there are proportionately higher there than here. Please let me know your views on the subject at your earliest convenience & I will abide by them.

Capt. Beckwith thinks the war will be tedious & there is no certainty of your being home in the spring. The children & I were disappointed at your not mentioning the coming home subject. I

have been in bed today with sick headache. With much love to you
I remain

Your truly attached wife

Annie

Court Martial over yet? Christmas will soon be here.

ahc-6112.14

Carlisle Dec 14th /61

(This letter appears to have been scorched in a number of places.)

My dearest Husband,

The date of this letter reminds me that yesterday was the anniversary*of our marriage eight years ago. How time flies! Yet how many changes we have seen! Some of the sweetest & happiest of my life & some very sad ones. But such is life eventful with everyone & each has a history peculiar to himself. But I'm beginning to realize & will not inflict a prosy letter on you.

Yesterday I was again gladdened by a letter from you but I felt terribly disappointed when I read that I would probably not see you this month for I had my heart so set on it. I was tempted for a moment to sit down very fast & write you as gloomily as ever _____ but I remembered that you _____ me not to be so impulsive & refrained, so by following your advice I find myself finishing the week in a more cheerful strain. Yet I am trying to banish the "coming home" thought from my mind for the present because for the last two months I have been alternating between hope & fear. Every letter made me either elated or depressed just as you encouraged me in regard to your anticipated visit. I infer from your letters that you have not yet applied for a leave, so I will cease urging you & only hope that we shall see you when you can come. _____ now my husband although I feel a _____ worse than you do. Remember this so not a scolding. I hate that word / but only a conclusion.

Mr. Miller was asking me on Wednesday when you are coming _ & everybody else too. I think you could not have received a letter on Tuesday written on the 7th. Mr. McClure still _____ whiskey in his possession as he never spoke of it. _____ I felt a delicacy in asking him for it. Maybe he thought I(?) might learn to imbibe.

Do you think I was jealous of the _____ glances between you & our fair cousin Ann, & again between her & Robt. No indeed don't get jealous of husbands who go to Lincoln's wars, neither of bachelors who don't go.

Today I bought you in _____ 4 lbs of nice butter at only _____ some sausages & pudding & a mammoth chicken as a reward for your remembrance of the 8th Commandment in not partaking of the chickens of the foraging party. I would like to have gotten you a nice turkey.

The Episcopal Ch is(?) to be consecrated on next Wednesday. Our town will have _____ an assembly of gowns. _____ Henrith will have two bishops. Cousin Margaretta _____ & I suppose everyone else. Mrs. Beck _____ left town yesterday to join her husband who is now quartered at Frederick. Col & Mrs Gardner (Miss Annie Hays afterwards Mrs West) are going to Maine. He has been put on the retiring board but _____.

Jane Henderson was here this morning.. Your second wife Beck is as good & sweet as ever. Our children's holidays begin today. Next week I will make them write to you. Daisy & James grow very fast. I must inform you _____ never go asleep in the lounge at _____ as in days of yore, I can't lie _____ I am happy to state, your wife _____ a very little dignity. I'm _____ bonnet which I made myself. Black & steel colored silk & a bunch of _____ flowers inside which Cousin Margaretta _____ is getting _____ setting.

Ever your affect. _____

I suppose I shall get your views on the moving subject on Monday. I am sure if you would apply you would get a leave. Mr. Beatty would have some influence at headquarters. Six months is too long for you to be away at once. Try & come. We are so anxious to see you. Let me hear soon from you. Shall I rent Spahr's house for next year? I must contradict you in regard to being a Lieut.'s wife. I am a lawyer's wife. 'Tis almost dark(?). I can't see the lines.

Ever yours etc.

Annie

(Fragment from inside back flap of envelope:) _____ clock. It sounds like "our house at home" don't it?

ahc-6112.16a

(This letter is undated. It refers to receipt of his letter of the 13th. The following Monday was the 16th. Perhaps the next letter, dated the 16th, was mis-dated and should have been dated the 17th.)

Monday afternoon

Probably 12/16/62

My dearest Husband,

I have just finished packing up your little box. I had many things to put in it. I did not like to trouble Mr. Zimmerman with more as he has so much to take. I think I shall knit him a pair of wristlets & send them when I have yours finished. You will find them so comfortable. All who wear them say they are invaluable. Yours are army blue & chinchilli.

The children think they have done wonders in writing the letters. We are all well. Sister Libby is tacking the cards on the box whilst I scribble these few lines.

This moment I have received your anniversary letter of the 13th. I had hoped you would change your mind about Shapley's house. He assured me that he would neither raise the rent nor sell as long as I chose to live in it. But I must justify Mrs Biddle. Her motives were very pure & not ostentatious. She thought I would have neighbors who would always take an interest in me. - A word for myself. I never desired a big house but only the cheerful situation. - Ever since I can remember I had a fancy for Conlyn's house which you know is smaller than ours. If I was certain of your return in the spring I should not care to move. - But I will let the subject drop if you are opposed to it.

(The letter ends here. One or more additional pages are missing.)

X
ahc- 6112.16b

Carlisle Dec. 16th /61

My dear Husband,

This afternoon I relinquished the idea of Shepley's house & told him so. He assured me that the rent would not be raised during three years, & the house not sold except in case of death or some unforeseen extraordinary cause. I was very sorry that you did not approve of the movement because it was a rare chance of getting a pleasantly situated house at so cheap a rate. Just think Mrs. Blaney's is \$150.00 & not so desirable & you have misunderstood Mrs. Biddle's motives. She would prove an excellent neighbor, & then most important of all the children would have different associates. I would not rent it without your approval because husbands & wives should always try to please each other in taking any important steps in life.

Your reminiscences of our married life in yesterday's letter were sweet, sad & touching. I read them over & over again when alone & blotted out the unhappy days with my tears. My dearest husband if you had not gone to this hateful war I could have blessed you till my last hour, but it has cost me so many bitter tears & nights that indeed believe me I would have almost given my life to have prevented your going. Then I would only have remembered you as so good & domestic. Now I shall be afraid at the slightest pretext you will be off.

I wish I could induce you to resign as Mr. Penrose has done. He wrote telling his wife last evening & she is happy. He has remembered that in marrying he ought to consult his wife's happiness as well as his own. She says that neither of them care what the people say for he has done what she desired. He & Kate Sharpe had a fight before he left the last time. He told her that "he made more in his office than by soldiering." My husband don't call this a scolding. It is not. As this is the last of the year I will try to bury all my misery in oblivion if you would only manage to get home & then I would begin the New Year with many good resolutions & try to keep the "angel over my right shoulder" in view all the time.

I have been reading Mr. Chase's views on the conclusion of the war by midsummer /62. They seem plausible, though I meet & talk with a great many doubting spirits. When you come home I will try to make you so happy that you will never go again. Don't you think you can spend Christmas with us?

This morning Beck Henderson & Willie & Webbie were here. She is such a dear sweet girl & so good too. I hope your butter wont be spoiled (in) this warm weather. I suppose you will have received your little box before this reaches you. I have nearly one of your wristlets finished. Oh I hope you can get a furlough soon for I'm sure we can make you happy. Won't you forgive whatever you don't like in this letter?

It is very late. I must say good night. Ever your devoted wife

Annie

All the children are well. John is contemplating writing another letter. Sister Libby is well. This weather is perfect. Providence seems to smile on the Volunteers. Again good night. Hoping that you are enjoying a good sleep at this time I remain your attached wife who wants you to write as often as possible.

jsc-6112.16

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. 16 Dec. 1861

My dear Wife,

I have received nothing since I wrote to you last Saturday night. I expected a letter from you this evening but was disappointed. Nothing has transpired since my last. Our company went out on picket yesterday morning, starting at 4 1/2 o'clock A.M. and returning between 7 & 8 o'clock this morning. Everything was quiet along our line. The day was pleasant & the night equally so for the season. It was frosty & froze considerably at night but it was calm and we had a good fire and were exceedingly comfortable, only we were not allowed to sleep. Sunday is not strictly kept in camp but no day has appeared less like Sunday to me than yesterday.

I hardly know whether to apply for leave of absence to go home now or not. Dr. Green our Surgeon who is intimate with Genl. Meade, consulted the Genl. today about applying for leave for himself. The Genl. advised him to wait till after new year's and his chance (he thought) would be much better for succeeding although he left the Doctor to exercise his own discretion as to when he would apply. He has concluded not to apply till January.

As i rose yesterday morning at 3 o'clock A.M. and slept none since I feel drowsy & must prepare for some sleep. Give my love to all the friends, & kiss the children,.

Believe ever your
faithful husband
James

jsc-6112.19

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington 19 Dec 1861

My dear Wife,

I received your letter of Monday afternoon by Corporal Zimmerman yesterday accompanied by Nan's & John's. They both did remarkably well for the first attempt. But I am inclined to think they had some assistance in spelling as well as in phraseology. I mean John especially. As instance neighborhood & dutiful son. But he has to learn. I was really gratified at the reception of their little missives. I will endeavor to reply to them before a great while.

I received yours of the 14th yesterday evening & another dated the 16th & postmarked the 18th this evening. So you see I have been comforted by the receipt of five letters from home within a space of 28 hours. The butter & other articles you sent have not arrived yet. Zimmerman says the box will arrive on Saturday, brought by a man who is coming here with a wagon from Carlisle.

I am sorry that you set your heart so strongly on matters of really not much importance some times - so much so that disappointment or failure grieves you excessively. I always cautioned you about the uncertainty of my getting leave of absence at any specified time. Still you fix a time yourself & make yourself miserable if I cannot comply with your desire. I have made the application. But when I will learn the result I can't say. Mr. Beatty was 10 days or two weeks before he heard of his application and had given up the idea of getting leave and had written so to Mrs. B. the day he received it. A sick man in our regiment applied for a furlough & it came for him three weeks after he was dead & buried. Thomas Sharp applied for a discharge which was sent in the 16th of November. He received his discharge the 16th of December just one month afterwards. Poor Tom. He is effectually played out as the boys here say. He left for home on Monday. He has been very much depressed in spirits for two or three months and totally unfit for duty. The doctor calls it "melancholia." But do not tell it about.

Another thing you have set your heart on is Shepley's house. As to your renting it you will just have to exercise your own judgment & rent it if you choose. But take care of Rufe Shepley. He is what they call a sharpie. One thing I did not advert to in my letter. That is how much more it will cost you for schooling the children (for you will think they cannot go to the public school from there) and how much more for clothes for them to be like their neighbor. The lady with the good motives, and who never talks any nor boasts about what she does. If you do take the house I hope you will borrow no furniture from any body.

What induced Mrs. Val Ellitt to give up the home if it was such a pleasant situation and move to another which we know is not such a very pleasant situation, although the house & grounds may be very pleasant. Now wife you must just do as you please about renting. But if you conclude you must have Shapley's you

had better let me write the agreement after you let me know what it is. There are a number of little things to be looked after that you might not think of. Is there a well of water in the yard or is there water brought in pipes. If the latter there will be the ice bill which if the present weather continues will be considerable if the ice has to be brought from Boston. There may be other privileges to be looked after. Is there a cistern etc.

And so you are not a Lieutenant's wife. If I were a colonel or a general perhaps you would like it better. Well I am sorry on your account that I am not. But never mind. Perhaps there are happy days in store for us.

You speak of the anniversary of our marriage. This reminds me that every Sunday the band plays two or three times as a church call to collect the soldiers for preaching. And one of the tunes they play is Do they miss me at home. Do you recollect when & where we heard that soon after our union. And whose lovely little eyes were suffused in tears. Sometimes when I listen to the tune I find myself wiping a tear from my own eye produced by the power of association.

You need have no fears that after the war is over I will be off again on the lightest pretext. No. If the lord preserves me to get home safe & the war ended I will leave you no more again forever. If I go I will take you with me as soon as I can get a place fixed for you, to remain with you till death do us separate.

I remain your loving husband

James

Your model man Penrose must care about what somebody says for here he tells, as I am informed, that if he had a good colonel for his regiment he would not have resigned.

So you have buckwheat cakes now? Good. I had some the other day.

jsc-6112.31

Camp Pierpont Va
Near Washington D.C. 31st Dec 1861

My dear wife,

After I left you yesterday, & went to the depot, I found Mr. Todd there expecting to leave for camp in the same train. I went to Harrisburg sorrowful enough carting back many an anxious thought to those I left behind me. At Harrisburg I found Galbraith Ege so much altered in appearance that I would not have known him had not Mr. Todd spoken to him. To while away the heavy hours we went to hear Sanford's troupe of serenaders. They made some excellent music mixed with a great deal of silly stuff. I did not enjoy it much.

The cars were to leave Harrisburg at 20 minutes after 3 A.M. I retired about 12 1/2 o'clock but could not sleep & arose at 2 A.M. and loafed around the hotel office till time for the cars to leave. For some cause our train did not leave till 20 minutes after 4 A.M. an hour behind time. We got to the Washington depot at Baltimore just in time for the train at 9 A.M. but no time to eat anything. We reached Washington after eleven and having some things to look after first I got breakfast about 1/4 before 1 o'clock P.M. At 2 I started for camp in a Georgetown omnibus. At Georgetown got a horse & buggy to take me to the chainbridge and from there walked to camp about 4 miles, where I arrived a little before sundown. I had for supper dry bread & coffee.

And here I sit very well but sad & heavy hearted. It is worse for me now than if I had not gone home. Yet I am rejoiced that I saw you all, and know that you are well. I have no wood that will burn, so I have not much fire but it is not very cold tonight, and I have the foot bag you know. I intend to get a stove as soon as I can as wood is getting very scarce & these fireplaces take a great deal.

Everything is quiet here & has been ever since I left. There is no truth in the newspaper reports that the pickets were driven in or that the rebels have a large force at Drainsville.

Give my love to Libby & all friends. Write soon & believe me ever

Your affectionate husband
James

You can look out for 6 or 7 lbs of butter, & 8 or 10 of sausage & pudding about 2/3 or more sausage, and a little bologna sausage if you can get it & a little dry beef. I will write again before you need send it. Put the butter in a little bucket with a lid as I can use the bucket. It will put you to considerable time to get a box, & pack it & mail it, but I do not know how else to get the things. Don't forward till you hear from me again.