

My next neighbor was P. [unclear] who
they drive one boy and a girl. Olive
lives two miles from them & the road
was so bad we did not go there,
she has three boys and three girls.
Pensons is as shy as ever, —
I was at Grand Chubb's out a great
while ago, they were usually well.
Grandma was quite smart, I said
Boule showed me a letter, Barbara
Dott had written last summer she
had just got it, she said he was going
to study medicine, this spring, the
past winter he was intending to
teach higher English, starting back
at Grand Rapids, he wanted to
make them think he is home! I
think he will have to try again;
Nelson Warren is talking of going
to Ypsawille if he goes I think
Jimmy will go, if they can raise
the means to send him, Mr. Lee
folks write as though they are quite
anxious to have him live with them
George Bennett and Samil Cheson
have taken Sam Dyer's sheep farm, they
will pay him \$600 per year. Chin-
ey Hapgood folks have a daughter
if overaged 4 or 5 — James will go
not I suppose another with the means
to visit us this summer. I think you might
go all you might



March 31/61

Brother James

After a long delay I sent myself to reply to yours of Dec. 14. we are all in good health. I have been lumbering some the past winter we have had some good sking the past winter. It some very cold weather the fair between Bennett & Martin has not been tried yet. My winter wheat did not turn out much last season about 10 ^{bushels} per acre. Spring ^{wheat} was first rate what little I had sown I cleared 10 acres of new land last season sowed a part of it to winter wheat shall sow the balance to Spring wheat & oats Nelson Warren talks of starting for

Uncle Sam in a few days going
to Providence with his brother-in-law
says he will get him a situation
if he will come. you tell
Mr. Metcalf that my colts are
both alive and doing well they
look fine this spring
Our girl grows finer people in
general say she looks very much
like her father and is very good
looking especially the women
Lilly says tell Uncle Jim to come
& see her and Grand Ma along
I must close for Mary wants
to write some & what I have
wrote dont amount to much
write soon & dont delay as
I have done & I will try and
be more punctual for time to
come

Yours Truly
J. D. Smith

Uncle Sam
Dear Friends
I hope you are
all well
I am well
I am well
I am well

March 31st 1881

Dear Friends
Having a few
leisure moments, I will improve
them in writing to you. — We were
over to Woodhall last week and
visited Mr. Wills relatives, and went
to Uncle John's, his health is poor
he looks very much as Grandma
used to, he is not so, as he goes out
door much, I don't believe looks quite
old, said I must remember her
to you when I write, Robert & I
were across the road from them, he
has been peddling jamming miles
for a Mr. Brown, gets \$40 per month
& and does well at it I guess, he
said Addison had never said
that note he got of you, I don't
live a few rods from his father

Madison June 24th 1861

Friend James

We have waited somtime to know what we was a going to doe before we wrote to any one. We have finally come to the conclusion to join the Jamesville Light Guards. we got Disapointed in getting into the Zouaves in Milwaukee & from there we came here. Frank was out to see his relatives last wenesday they wanted him to stay & work threwh harvest but it was no go he said he was bound to join a military company Glover is of the same opinion that Frank & I am and Mitchell will come over after he gets his supper he agreed to go to his uncles in Illinois if he did not get in to the Zouaves so we dont expect he will join if it was not for that he would join in a minute this Jamesville Company has the name of being the best company in camp and more than that they are men of good habits since the Company has been organized there has not been a fight nor a man drunk nice officers & a first rate Captain all the fanet I have with him he is not quite prompted enough that is as much as we could say of any company in the state Lawyer Park was here last week we was in his coppany good deal of thime while he was here he advised us not to be in a hurry in joining any company on account of the hot wether south I think we can stand heat as well as any one or any set of boys if we know that Raymonds company was a going to be called in to service we would wait and go with them but as the prospects are poor for good crops and we are about a hundred & twenty miles from home and not nore then \$45 in money a peace The most of our time has been spent in studing Military tactics so as to learn the drill in style we came here last Wednesday at one o clock got our dinner and started for Camp Randall the camp is about a mile and half from our hotel we went down three or four times we seen the second Regiment off they nade a very good aperance Gov Randall made a short but very appropriate speech on the occasion Glover feels like a bird let out of a cage changes his mind 40 times a day he has disposed of his land warrent at a shave in Millwaukee at the first brokers office he came to Docter N.S. Secoy accompane us to Berlin he was calculating to go in the 5 Regiment as assistant seorgon he is very Patriotic and deserves a goodeal of credit.

I cant think of any more news at the present after get in camp we will keep you all posted and that will be tomorrow morning at nine O clock I will wind up by sending Our Best Respects to all inquiring Friends
Respecturly yours Henry Curran

P.S.

if you see any good looking girls inquiring any of our company
Give then our Best Regards

note: from Frank

Camp Randall June 27 (1861)

Dear Mother

Drill being over supper taken and as I have a few spare moments before it is dark I will take the present opportunity to write and let you know where I am and what I have been doing since I started from home -then to begin- when we got to Milwaukee we found the Zouaves company full. the captain told us if there were any thrown out when they came into camp that he would take us in, we conclude to go to Madison. but as we were so near Janesville I concluded to go there and see Lees and Griswolds folks. ela went with me and saw Lee and Griswold in town. went home with Lee and took supper found sarah well and childless. Lee is very kind to her. we saw the Janesville Light guards we like the company. Lee introduced us to the officers they wanted us to join their company and as Stewart and Hank were in Madison the captain gave us a letter to colonel Cobb and requested him to swear us in if the other boys would concent to join we came here and stoped at a hotel untill day before yesterday we went to the camp expecting to join. During the time we had been in Madison the company had come into camp and they had been called away to help quell a riot in Milwaukee. The Lieutenant was left here we went with him to the colonel and were examined and sworn in. we are drilled in the morning in Squads in the A.M. and P.M. we have a regimental drill. We have just got our tents up and moved in. Our company

no (#) 104. including officers there is 11 companies in camp. they are coming in daily. 8 belong to the 5th and 3 to the 6th regiment. I dont know as it makes much difference what company I belong to in every company we will find good bad and indifferent men. we 4 have a tent together. We have been usually well since we left. There are some in the company that we dont propose to mix with. we calculate to do our duty as soldiers and men. we wxpect to leave here in about two weeks for Washington. we have our arms and will receive our uniforms before the 4th. The first day we were here I found Nelson Warren. Spoke to him and after a moment he recognized me. he has been to uncle Joes for the three weeks we went out there in the afternoon found them all well and staid over night uncle Joe is ___king this summer he has 40 acres of grain. The ground is verry dry and if we dont get rain the crops will be light. Lee is farming and canvasing for the U.S. map Jimmy lives with him Griswold is working at his trade his folks are all well----- today there was 7 men fell senseless from the ranks and were carried to the hospital. I dont know exactly what was the matter with them---I came near forgetting to tell you that I have attended Church twice since I left - at berlin I heard a presbyterian at madison a universalist. I suppose we will have preaching here Sundays. I suppose I have written enough for once so I will close some of you please write soon. direct to Madison Camp Randall in care of Capt. Wheeler 5th Regiment. Give my respects to my friends.

FR.Walker

note: from Frank to brothers

(Camp Randall, July 23, 1861)

Mother Brothers and Sisters

I take my pencil and paper (for I have no pen and ink) to write a line to you. for perhaps I am not have another opportunity before we leave here. I might tell you how much I would like to see you and many others in Plover. why I did not come home. how I like a soldiers life. what priviledges we have. what we live on. what my daily duty is. how I have spent my lesuire time and amusing incidents that have occurred here in camp. but these things are not fore most in my mind this forenoon while drilling the Colonel received orders to come on th washington with his regitment. at the same time especial dispatch stating that the long expected great battle was being fought and that northern army were driving the enemy inch by inch since that we have received two dispatches the last of which is most disheartening . disheartening no that is not the word. nothing that the infernel rebels can do shall intimidate or dishearten the union army. but it makes my blood boil onley think of 3,000 noble patroitics men being killed in one day by the develish rebels and then the shameful conduct of the remainder of the army. yes they run like a flock of frightened sheep leaving their armies and everything which would impeed their flight. but this shall be an unluckier day for the rebels than they have seen yet. from this out let no man that can carry a gun ask for anything but a sight at the enemy and a gun and amunition, the dispatch states that our of the 1200 Zouaves

but 200 remain they fought like tigers. they stripped themselves of every thing but their pants and went in----- tell Jim Raymond to make one more effort to fill out his company. I am afraid that Hank and Ela will not get here before we leave. however there is no use of sending any word to them as they will start back before the news would reach them. Leeman, Carpenter James Young and John Englan came here last Thursday Jim and John joined the Zouavas. Lee went on to Beloit where he will leave his team and then return and join the same - I expect him back tonight - the boys say they think no^{one} suspected their intentions except Decon Brands - As it is growing dark and I am so excited that I cant think of anything that I want to and will close. You will hear from me again as soon as I get time to write.

Give my respects to all my inquiring friends

FR.Walker

(P.S.) I think Jeff Davis and his followers better say their prayers then get enough Prussaic acid to kill half a millions of fools and then swallow it for distinction will come to them sooner or later

Madison, 23rd

5th

Base - 1 - NAME

Washington Aug 30th

1861

Brother James

I now seat myself to write a few lines to you / I am well / the rest of the Plover boys are well except Ela he had been vary sick but is a little better today. I think he will go home as soon as he is able to travel / ther is not a great amount sickness here in camp. I wonder there is not more for the wether is vary fluctuating / One day it will be hot enough to scorch the devil perhps the next morning it will be cold enough to wear over coats and mittens / and it has rained one half of the time since we came here // there was a skirmish at chain bridge the 27 / the rebbels were forced to retreat / we were all anxious to go down and help the boys but were not allowed to do so / we could hear the report of their guns distinctly. We are with in 3 miles of the bridge / four of our troops were surrounded by some cavelry and were shot after surrendering up their arms But I think the day of retribution is close at hand and we are ordered to have every thing in readiness to march at any moment / there are a great many troops stationed about there the wis 2, 5, 6th are all encamped with in a stomes throw of were I am writing / a regiment from Pennsylvania one from Indiana one from New York and Andersons Zouaves. It appears the rebbels are getting anxious for a fight / according to the best information I can get they are in a better condition to fight now than they ever can be again / I think there will be a desperate fight before a great while and if the federal troops are victorious which they nodoubt will be then we can think of peace / Our northern army lack good officers / the battle at Bull Run was a disgraceful affair / Colonel Coon of the Wis 2nd left the field without firing a shot or giving a command and has not been seen since by his regiment / I think by the story the boys tell they saw rather tough times

What our Col will do time alone can tell / we are in General Keings Brigade / he is a resolute fellow I should judge from his looks

Jim if you fellows will take care of Missouri we will ~~station~~ things in Virginia / but I must close give my love to Mother Ada an my other sisters

STRAITEN

I have received but one letter from Plover since I left / they can do
as they pleas about writing / tell all of my sister to write to me and
~~do so~~ yourself for a soldiers life is not of the pleasant sort and it
is a great pleasure to hear from you / we expect to be ~~paid~~ PAID
of the last of next week and then I will write you again / answer with out
delay Kiss Levzzy for me I remain Yours

RWWalker

W. B. 1-2
JWalker

2

When your Col. Fairlie do this
alone can't take we are in
General Stairs Brigade
he is a resolute fellow and
should judge from his looks

Jan. If you fellows will take
care of Morrison we will
straighten ~~the~~ things in
Virginia but I must close
give my love to Mother Adela
in my other sisters

I have received but one letter
from Plover since I left
they do as they please about

nothing. Tell all of my sisters to
write to me address your self
for a soldiers life is not of
the pleasant sort and I
is a great pleasure to hear
from you we expect to be paid
by the last of next week and
then I will write you again
answer with out delay. Rps
Say for me I remain your so
D. Walker

Dear Sir or should I
say Mr. Fairlie
Washington City 30th
Brother Saml

I now seat myself
to write a few lines to you
I received the rest of the Board
days are well except Ed
he has been very sick but
is a little better today. I think
he will go home as soon as he
is able to travel. There is not
a great amount sickness here
in camp. I wonder there is
not more for the weather is
very fluctuating. One day
it will be hot and one day
cold to the soul. Perhaps the
next morning it will be
cold enough to wear over
coats and mittens and it
has rained one half of the time
since we came here

There was a skirmish at Lonsino. It appears the ~~several~~
~~the~~ chain bridge the 21 are getting anxious for
the rebels were forced to retreat a fight according to the report
we were all anxious to go down in for more arranged
and help the boys but she not they are in a better condition
allowed to do so. We could fight now than they
hear the report of their gun and can be again. I think
distinctly. we are within 3 miles they will disperate fight
of the bridge four of our troops before a great while and
were surrounded by some of the federal troops are
cavalry and were shot after victorious which they now are
surrounding in their arms will be then we can think
But I think the day of retribution of peace. Our northern
is also at hand we are ordered Army had good officers
to have every thing in readiness the battle of Bull Run
to march at any moment was a dis graceful affair
there are a great many troops Colonel Cooper of the 1st ~~reg~~ ^{2nd}
stationed about here. The ^(Harpur) left without firing a shot
was 2, 5 & 6th we all encamped or giving a command and
with in a hours thousands of acres & more has not been seen since by
am visiting a regiment from his regiment. I think of the
Pennsylvania one from Indiana one story the boys tell they saw
from Colerburg and A Indiana rather tough times

5
Reese

Washington Aug. 10th

1861

Brother James

Here I am in the city of Washington all well and hearty the boys ~~xxxx~~ all well except Hank and Ely the latter we left at Harrisburgh with the measles we had ordes to march from baltimore the 8th at 9 oclock ~~PM~~ the officers expected to stay there a month or more but they know no more when or what their orders will be than you. in marching through Baltimore there was a pistol fired from the side walk wounding one of our men slightly in the mouth he was NABED by the police Jessy an my self have been up to see the Capitol house it is a magnificent affair I can find no words to portray or describe the the grandur and beauty of the buildings The park is ORNAMENTED with statutes and monuments ~~we were~~ we were shown through the senate chamber and also the house of Representatives tell Mr. manchett that I sat in his seat and saw some scratch^{es} he had made on his desk. we expect to march to arlington heights in the course of a few hours we are now occupying a five story building on 4th street there is condiderable in our company every thing is so that I and handly think of anything ~~ZZZZZZ~~ to write report says that the armies of the north and south are within 2 miles of each other I wish we were within 20 rods. I feel anxious to try my hand at fighting. the city is filled with soldiers. the streets are througed with moving artillery and bagage trains the union men here feel confident of a speedy settlement of affairs. there are great many se~~cessionists~~ sessionists here but they have to keep dry. report says there were a- of rebbels crossed from Maryland line and there has a company gone to meet them and drive them back the stars and stripes shall wave in triumph. but I must close there is such a noise and crowding here that I cannot write any more you know where to direct as we the letters will be forwarded to us the boys send their regards my love to Ad~~am~~ and Mother and all the rest of my sisters

from your Brother

Reese W Walker

JWWalker

Pd Dunette

Headquarters 2 Reg Wis

Volunteers Co E

I will send you
some money as soon
as I can

11 - 10-21-61

(4) Birmingham. But I must have
 there is such a noise and
 crowding here that I cannot
 write any more. Good-bye
 where to direct as well as all
 the letters will be forwarded
 to us. The boys send
 their regards my love
 to Golda and Mother and all
 the rest of my sisters.

From your Brother -
 Reuben J. Walker

I will send you some
 money as soon as I
 can. I will
 send you
 5 Reg U.S.
 Volunteers Co E
 Write soon and don't forget to
 write soon and don't forget to

Aug. 10
 1861

①

Brother Sam. Has Sam seen
 the other 3 surgeons at
 Ball and Newark? He says
 all are except J. T. Ward and
 C. the latter we left at
 Harrisburg sick with the
 measles. We had orders to
 march from Baltimore the
 8th at 9 o'clock P.M. the
 officers expected to stay
 there a month or more but
 they know no more when
 we left than orders will
 be than you. (in) marching
 through Baltimore there
 was a great deal of
 the whole milk evening
 and of our men slightly in
 the month he was ordered by
 the police.

easy. on my left banner - think of anything is - a 200
up to see the Capitol house report says that the names
it is a magnificent affair of the north and south
I can find no words to
portray or describe the the
vigilant and reality of the
buildings still part in
confronted with statues
and monuments. we were
shown through the senate
chamber and also the
house of Representatives the
Mr Hancock that I sat on
his seat and saw some
seats he had made on
his desk. we expect to
march to Arlington heights
in the course of a few hours
we are now occupying a fine
big building on 14 1/2 street
there is a handsome organ
in our company. every thing
is so new that I can hardly

3
think of anything is - a 200
report says that the names
of the north and south
within 8 miles of each
other I wish we were.
within 2 rods. I feel
anxious to try my hand
at fighting. The city is
filled with soldiers. The
streets are thronged with
grooving artillery and baggage
trains the Union men
were full confident of a speedy
victory. I appear. whereas
I sent many occasions
here but they have to keep in
report says there were a
company of soldiers crossed
from Kansas last time and
there was a company I gave
to meet them and drive
them back the Stars and
Stripes shall wave in

④
trumpet. But I must close
there is such a noise and
crowding here that I cannot
write any more. Good-bye
where to direct as well as all
the letters will be forwarded
to us the boys send
them regards my love
to Golda and Mother and all
the rest of my sisters

from your Best

Reese J. Walker

I will send you some
money as soon as I
am able

Pd. Direct to
Headquarters 5 Reg
Volunteers Co. C

Write soon and don't forget

COPY

①

Washington Heights

Dearest I miss
the folks of Washington Heights
and all the family. We
are now except Hank and
Cyr the latter we left at
Washington sick with the
measles. We had to do
much from Baltimore the
8th at 9 o'clock PM the
of cars expected to stay
there a month or more but
they know no more when
we expect them and will
be there you (Lyn) missing
through Baltimore there
was a post office from
the side walk something
you of our are slightly in
the month he was made by
the police

"Capt. we my self have seen & R of anything to write
 up to see the Capt. I know report says that the armies
 it is a magnificent affair of the north and south are
 I can find no words to within 8 miles speak
 portray or describe the after I wish we were
 freedom and beauty of the within 20 rods. I feel
 feelings that I park in - curious to try. My heart
 is concentrated with statistics at fighting. The City is
 and monuments. We were filled with soldiers, the
 harbor through the streets streets are thronged with
 banners and also the moving artillery and baggage
 house of Representatives. The Union men
 Mr Hancock that I sat in here feel confident of a speedy
 his seat and saw some little merit of affairs. There are
 separate he has both made on a great many occasions
 the dock. we expect to here but they have to keep up
 march to Arlington heights report says there were a
 in the course of a few hours a company of soldiers crossed
 we are now occupying a fine from Harry and Lane and
 they building on the street there was a company of gone
 there is considerable fighting to meet them and drive
 in our company many big them back the Stars and
 is no news that I can think of. I hope shall hear in

Case 1-NAME.

Washington Aug 30th 1861

Brother James

I now seat myself to write a few lines to you / I am well / the rest of the Plover boys are well except Ela he had been vary sick but is a little better today. I think he will go home as soon as he is able to travel / ther is not a great amount sickness here in camp. I wonder there is not more for the wether is vary fluctuating / One day it will be hot enough to scorch the devil perhps the next morning it will be cold enough to wear over coats and mittens / and it has rained one half of the time since we came here // there was a skirmish at chain bridge the 27 / the rebbels were forced to retreat / we were all anxious to go down and help the boys but were not allowed to do so / we could hear the report of their guns distinctly. We are with in 3 miles of the bridge / four of our troops were surrounded by some cavelry and were shot after surrendering up their arms But I think the day of retribution is close at hand and we are ordered to have every thing in readiness to march at any moment / there are a great many troops stationed about here the wis 2,5,6th are all encamped with in a stomes throw of were I am writing / a regiment from Pennsylvania one from Indiana one from New York and Andersons Zouaves. It appears the rebbels are getting anxious for a fight / according to the best information I can get they are in a better condition to fight now than they ever can be again / I think there will be a desperate fight before a great while and if the federal troops are victorious which they nodoubt will be then we can think of peace / Our northern army lack good officers / the battle at Bull Run was a disgraceful affair / Colonel Coon of the Wis 2nd left the field without firing a shot or giving a command and has not been seen since by his regiment / I think by the story the boys tell they saw rather tough times

What our Col will do time alone can tell / we are in General Keings Brigade / he is a resilute fellow I should judge from his looks

Jim if you fellows will take care of Missouri we will ~~station~~ things in Virginia / but I must close give my love to Mother Ada an my other sisters

STRAITEN

I have received but one letter from Plover since I left/ they can do
as they pleas about writing/ tell all of my sister to write to me and
~~do so~~ yourself for a soldiers life is not of the pleasant sort and it
is a great pleasure to hear from you/ we expect to be ~~paid~~ PAID
of the last of next week and then I will write you again/ answer with out
delay Kiss Levzzy for me I remain Yours

RWWalker

W-34 2,
JWalker

2
1

What our Col will do time
alone cannot be we are in
General Kings Brigade
It is a resolute decision I
should judge from his looks

W. If you fellows will take
care of Missouri we will
straighten ~~things~~ things in
Virginia but I must close
give my love to Mother & Ada
in my other sisters

I have received but one letter
from Flosser since I left
They say they please about

nothing, till all of my sisters
write to me address your self
for a soldiers life is not of
the pleasant sort and it
is a great pleasure to hear
from you we expect to be paid
at the last of next week and
then I will write you again
answer with out delay Reps
ever for me I remain your
R. W. Walker

Have you seen Frank Buchanan
a while he is in England

Washington Aug 30th 1861
Brother Sambo

I now seat myself
to write a few lines to you
I am well the rest of the Penna
boys are well except E. E. A
he has been very sick but
is a little better to day. I think
he will go home as soon as he
is able to travel this is not
a great amount sickness here
in camp I wonder there is
not more for the weather is
very fluctuating • one day
it will be hot & one day
cold the cool perhaps the
next morning it will be
cold enough to wear our
coats and mittens and it
has rained orchards & the
since we came here

There was a skirmish at Tonsaw. It appears the rebels ~~the~~ chain bridge the 27 are getting anxious for the rebels were forced to retreat. We were all anxious to go down and help the boys but she not allowed to do so. We could hear the report of their gun distinctly. We are within 3 miles there will be desperate fighting of the bridge. Four of our troops were surrounded by some cavalry and were shot after surrounding up their arms. But I think the day of retribution is close at hand. We are ordered to have every thing in readiness the battle at Bull Run to march at any movement. There are a great many troops stationed about there. The 2nd Wisconsin are all encamped & giving a corn meal and with in a few hours of our march has not been seen in any army. I am awaiting a regiment from his regiment. I think of the Pennsylvania one from Indiana one from the boys tell they saw from Col. York and Col. Anderson rather tough fellows.

Camp Advance No 2
Oct 2nd 1861
Brother James

I embrace the first opportunity to write since I received your letter. We are now encamped about 8 miles in Virginia last Saturday we were ordered to go to chopping we worked until 4 oclock when we started for camp which was $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant when we came in sight of our camp we found our tents struck and the rest of our regiment coming to meet us when we all started for the enemies lines which were about four miles distant we approached the enemys lines with a great deal of caution keeping our scouts in advance of the main body for nearly a half mile the enemies pickets were driven in and we now occupy the same position they did then, I am most despair of having a fight or even seeing a party of rebbels there is frequently a prisoner brought in to camp but then I only have a chance to scowl at him which is little satisfaction. we stayed there until 2 an when we started for camp to get something to eat.. as we had eaten nothing since the morning previous you may judge how the perovisions suffered we got our breakfast and started back and are pitching our tents to day our Lieutenant Colonel said this morning that he thought we would advance again in a few days that is what we want to do we are bound to find the rebbels if they stop this side of Richmond but I think from present appearence they will make but little resistance this side of that place. There was a ^{alabama} ~~damentable~~ ^{loss} affair occurred the first night we were here when we started for our camp another regament ordered to take the position we occupied. a california regament ^{took} ~~tollk~~ our place supported by Capt Motts — when they were fired in to by Owens Parish Regiment when it was returned by the callifornia boys supposing that the enemy were upon us the cavalry came up cutting right and left discharging their carbines in every direction causing great confusion lieutenant B ^{CASONS 2nd BTR} order his chevrans to be double shotted but thanks to Captain Mott he discovered they were amongst friends after a short time order was again restoured. 17 men were killed 27 wounded. Awful is it not whiskey was the sole cause without doubt as Owens regiment have been drunk all day whiskey should be expelled from the army above all other places it is bad enough any where

Mitchell is not much better I think he had better try and get discharged
the health of the rest of the boys is usuly good I have had a number
of ag ue chills but this old constitution of mine is a good one and I
shall be all right in a few days but I must close Pleas write as often
as you can afford to for it does me a great deal of good to hear from
home tell Mother I will answer her letter soon also Addes. My
love to all inquiring friends Your Brother

RWWalker

JWWalker

Camp McCall Sunday Oct 13th 1861

Brother James

I now take my pen to reply to your letter in which you acknowledge receipt of the script sent you. today is sunday & thanks to Gen McClellan we can now get the rest we so much need. you will see by the heading that we have advanced since I last wrote the position we now occupy is one mile distant & in sight of Lewinsville. The country about here is quite level compared with that where we have camped before. the house occupied by the gen. as his Headquarters stands on a eminence of from 75 to 100 feet it is or rather was the property a secesh who has left on suspicion. We are quartered among the shade trees surrounding the house & the Eastern Joskins occupy the flats in the rear General Hancock (the man whom we are now under) is about 35 years of age 6 feet high & well proportioned he reminds me of S Hanchett he has 17 years experience in Military affairs & was a west point cadet & if appearances are not deceiving will lead wherever his brigade will follow. Yesterday was the day on which Beauragard was going to shell us out of this, but strange to say he failed to connect & didnt even make the attempt. we were drawn up in line of battle however & other necessary preparations made so as to give them a warm reception providing they did come. I think it was generally believed that an attack would be made from the facts that a dispatch was received stating that the rebels were advancing with 6,000 cavalry & at proportionate number of artillery & infantry & Gen. McClellan was himself on the ground.

It is reported that the 8th Wis had arrived in Washington. the 8th is now at ft. Corcoran on this side of the river The 2nd 6th & 7th Wis regiments are now in Kings Brigade & if reports are true we too shall be in his brigade as soon as convenient. I was told yesterday that King offered Hancock two Regim in exchange for us. I have not much choice other than that I would like to be in a brigade of Wis men for I believe they average as well if not better than the Vol. from any other state, But I must quit blowing & make this a short letters for this writing long letter is about played out with me for lately I am thankful if I can get time to write one sheet over. We have had real fall weather for the last 4 days(cool & rain) & as we had just

advanced & our tents left behind we have not had an overly nice time last night & night before we laid in line of battle it rained all night & I slept nary a wink. It had cleared off our tents have arriv(ed) & are pitched & we are all right again. I heard to day that Jim Young is on the gain. Courtright is still in the hospital but will soon be able to return to quarters. Gen Hale was taken sick the night we left camp. Vanderwerkens he has a fever. Ela is down again but it cant be helped. I dont think he will ever become tough & hearty unles he gets a discharge & goes home where he can have better care. Cold weather is comeing on & we shall probably change our position often & it is about as bad a situation as can be imagined for a sick discouraged private. The rest of the boys are as well as usual. Curran says tell Jim that he is higher in Rank than any of the plover boys for he has a body guard & says they rally under his arms & various other parts of his body. Reese says that he will write to you & Adda the first oportunity. I received a letter from Adda this morning & one from Judge Alban yesterday. You will see by my letter to mother that what Curran wrote in relation to clothing is correct. Tell Adda that we have so many traps that we cannot carry them all & our napsacks are left behind with our tents whenever we move & therefore I am just as thankfull for the articles that she proposed to send as though I had needed them & she had sent them I will answer her letter soon.

Write whenever convenient & I will do the same. I have not receive a letter from mary yet. Give my respects to all friends. FRW

Camp McCall Oct 19th (1861)

Dear Brother

I seat myself to reply to your kind letter which I received this morning and was vary glad to hear that you were well for it has been a long time since I had heard from you my health is better than it has been for the last 4 weeks Mitchel is no better George Hale is vary low with typhoid fever and Bezel Courtright is not expected to live from one hour to another his disease is typhoid fever I was over to the hospital this morning to see the boys Courtright wished me to write to his sister in New York and tell his condition which I accordingly done As regards our location we are encamped 12 miles from Washington and one mile from Leewinsville there has been a great deal of scouting and skirmishing going on for the last ten days some of our regiment have shot a number of the Rebbels we are expecting to advance on Fairfax C House soon and perhaps we may have some fun there was a contra-band came in to camp in the shape of a negro yesterday he says there are but few rebbels this side of Monasses. When we shall get a chance to fight no one can tell perhapes we shall not have a chance to kill any of the pesky secuh and if you know when the war is a going to close or commence pleas communicate for I can see no head or tail. but let it come as it may uncle sam had got any quantity of men and means to proccute the war to a vigorous extent but I have written more then you will care about reading and will soon close Brother Jim I should like to be home and help dig your potatoes and husk your corn but it is impossible as uncle Sam is boss and not Reese I will be around next Harvest I guess I think you were wise in disposeing of your poorest oxen instead of the others you ask if we get all of your letters I think not for it is nearly three weeks since I had heard from you. Frank reed a letter from Adie about a week since you say that Lancy had not been to our house for nearly a week insely she doeth not right but let her went you know that I was always vary fickle minded. no woman but my dear Mother and sisters have any charm for me I have come to the conclusion to follow your footsteps lead a life celibacy and single blessedness if you sanction my resolve pleas state in your next letter. but good by for this time pleas write soon and as often as you can afford to for it is a great pleasure to hear from dear old home

Your affectionate Brother

RWWalker

JWalker

Dear Mother my sheet is not quite full and I will say that I thank you very much for your kind offer to send pillow and blankets they would be very comfortable indeed but a soldier must not look to comfort but the necessary we have as many clothes as we can carry conveniently we have frequently to carry rations for 48 hours besides our given cartridge box and canteen of water which makes all a man can comfortable pack Franks health is good and he makes a very good soldier though he occasionally slips of front drill good night I will write as soon as convenient please write My love to all

GK Walker

RW Walker

Bees
Camp Griffin Nov 4

(1861)

pretty sure

Dear Brother

PERUSED
Your letter was duly received and ~~pleased~~ with a great degree of pleasure. We are encamped 9 miles from Washington but are expecting to make an advance within a vary few days. We may go to Fairfax but I do earnestly hope we will go ^{on} to Manassas but as Scotto has resigned it is hard to tell what course McClellan will pursue. Time will tell. May the time soon come when we can say that we have gained one victory in Virginia.

The health of our Regiment is improving since cool wether has come on. There has been quite a number of the Plover boys sick. Packard and John Russel are now in the hospital. Hale came from there this morning but is quite feeble and is going to apply for a discharge. All such men had better stay at home as soon as the novelty of the thing wears off they begin to long for home.

Courtright died the 23 of last month of typhoid fever he was burried at Leewinsville with due military honors. Hank Russel and R Beech have been on the sick list for the past 2 weeks but I guess if they would drill a little more and be more temperate in their eating they would soon be well. I have done duty every day but three since I enlisted and I am now enjoying the best of health. I was over to Arlington Heights two weeks since found the boys from Plover & Grand Rapids well and feeling first rate. Fred Warner is orderly Seargent and ~~WXXX~~ makes a first rate one. Horner was feeling well. I dined with Cap. Aevens. Drake and Kromer had a good time and got home in time to answer to Role call.

Jim your letter make me feel pretty rich knowing that Lake Brands is a man of good judgment. We had achance to go ~~with~~ into an Artillery company to day. The Plover boys would all have gone in if I would but I am satisfied to remain where I am. Our Regiment has a good reputation and I have learned the infantry drill pretty well.

I do not perpose to go through another course of tacktix. Curran and F.R argued quite hard but I ruled and they say to night they are glad they did not go.

2
Jim I believe you are getting to be quite a trading character I expect you will be a rich man by the time I get through with the war. But I guess when that fleet gets down about Charleston we will hear of something that will cheer us up a little. We have now been in the service for three months doing nothing and a man has got to have some grit or he will be all most discouraged.

But I must close. excuse this miserable letter for it had been written in a hurry and the tent is full of ~~XXXXX~~ GATB/ING soldiers. Give my love to Mother and Ada and all inquiring friends.

PS Frank is on picket to night I do not have to ^{an} stand picket only once in 16 days. the rest of the boys one per week give my best regards to Luts

Camp Griffin, Mond Eve Nov 18th 1861

Brother James

Since I last wrote home our regiment has been paid off & according to agreement I sent \$15 to you by express. Reese sent \$10. Mary wrote to me that she had received a letter from Adda in which she stated the Mother wished to visit Bath & Mary is verry anxious to have her do so. I rather think that we shall not see the time when circumstances will better admit of her doing so than they will this winter

Reese has just come in with a letter from Adda. I think that the Walker's have had the Grover school about long enough but I have no doubt but what she will give general satisfaction- she must remember that moderation is one of the greatest elements of power- she must also remember the fable of the Man the Boy & the Ass. But I guess she will think me rather assuming so I will not give any more advice.

It is worse than useless for me to write any war news or to express my opinion as to what will be or should be done for you get the same facts & information & your conclusions & deductions will be as logical as mine. You must content yourself if I onely write a line occasionally to let you know that I am in the land of the living & I calculate to stay untill the Stars & stripes wave from the Canadas to the Gulf untill the friends who have been poisoning the southern mind for the last 30 years shall learn to their sorrow that they cannot trample on the laws of God & Man with impunity & that ambition is indeed a glorious Cheat untill they learn that the northern men have as good nerve- as much back bone as well as muscle as themselves until the despots, the aristocrats of the old world know that they have missed the figure when they aided the trator in distroying his country & that the hope they have cherished that man is not capable of self government that a republican form of government cannot long exist is Vain

The present seems to indicate that this war will not close untill slavery shall cease to be on this continent- God grant that this may be the result for if this is not the result there will be no peace that is lasting. The course that has been taken by the rebels will warrant any that we can take. do what we may it will onely be returning an equivalent for what they have done. The last news from the S. Carolinas is that they have hoisted the black flag. They ask no

quarters - they give none. There it is victory or death Well here goes I fear not the consequences. We, that is, our regiment will probably start for there or Kentucky next week.

James Young much to my surprise (for I supposed that he had gone home) returned to this regiment from Annapolis where he had been in the hospital. The rheumatism has not entirely left him. I am in hopes it will soon for he is a capitol soldier. I suppose that Ela Mitchell has reached home before now. I am glad that he got his discharge - for whatever he suffered I considered myself the cause of it, if I had not done as I did he would not have enlisted. G. Packard & Jeruary Russell came over to our quaters to day. I think they will be fit for duty inside of 2 weeks. they are two of the best soldiers from Plover. I believe the rest of us are all right. The drum beats for roll call & I must now close.

Give my love to all our folks - my respects to all friends
Write as often as convenient.

FRW

JWW

Camp Griffin Nov 28th 18(61)

Dear Brother

James yours of the 17th came to hand night before last. I am glad to hear that you are all well & doing as well as could be expected in times like these. I am rather disposed to sympathize with you on accounts of your being obliged to convey Ada to her school. Now the enquiry arises, who is to blame. I hesitate not in deciding that it was Elah ----- If it is true as some theorists say that there is but two principals or influences in nature (JE) an alternative & a repulsive have we not had a striking illustration of the former in Addies & Elies case. What a wonderful & powerful influence it must be to have brought them to gather so soon. You were wrong in calling him a soldier for he has never done a days duty in actual service. I agree with you exactly when you say that he will be all right in a few days providing he does not eat too much corn beef. This was his great theme, that occupied his mind most was corn beef. The height of his ambition was to get some Corn Beef. I will only add that his disease was more mental than physical.

The other Plover boys are all right. Young Russell has returned to quarters. Charley F walks from the hospital here & back every day or two which is about one mile. I am glad to learn that Wm Bremmer is succeeding in getting up a company. I wish that he had done so in the spring & got into this Regiment. If Ben H. is to be ----- of the 18th. he will have a better paying thing than his saloon ever was.

I see by the letters from home that (although Reese has left) our place still has some charms for Lute. Strange is it not Jim it would be a good joke on Reese, it would be a god send to you, your relatives would rejoice, the community would congratulate you if you succeed in drawing so rare a prize in the Marriage Lottery as Lute U.

I will tell you in as few words as possible why I do not like our captain----He is a Narrow minded, Self conceited, Ambitious, Cowardly, pettish arbitrary unprincipled man. This has been Currans & my opinion ever since we left Camp Randall & now the commissioned & non Commissioned officers of the Regt. & the privates in his own company say the same. But I can get along well enough. Although when the war is over I shall not like to own that I served

under cap Wheeler You speak of taking my place you could not stand it. Although there is but little very hard work there is nothing like it for breaking mens constitutions

I still wish that Fremont has not been removed. The investigating committee had not as yet discovered any frauds. Although the expense of his dpt. were great I think this is no just grounds for his removal for I ask if it is possible to organize & equip such an army & make other preparations so vast in so short a time without incurring an enormous expense

You enquire as to my merits as a soldier. I will leave this for others to answer

The capture of Mason & Slidell was indeed a lucky affair. This is causing considerable talk & will perhaps make the British Lion growl but I propose to let old England know that the men of 61 fear them as little as did those of 76

You say send on the money. I sent \$15 & Reese sent \$10 by Express. I expect you have received it ere this It was all that I could spare. Hark, the taps, out must go the lights, Goos Night

From FRWalker

JWWalker

Frank
Camp Griffin, Dec 25th, 1861

Dear Brother

James I received your letter & mothers at the same time
Your last brings ^{me} ~~one~~ indebt to you _____
to you but a few days since I will not this time trouble you with a long
epistle.

The boys are well. The weather is fine for this time of the year
& we are in as good a condishion ^{as} _____ soldiers well am be
The news is vary good, 750 of the men in western Va. done some gallant
fighting a few days since & showed the rebels that they do not fear there
three to one. The latest news is that Mason's Slidell ~~soldiers~~ are to be
given over to the English. This will create great supprise. perhapse
every where & a portion of the press will howl dreadfully. but the storm
which it will (create) shortly blow over & there will still be unity
at the north. It will show to the world that what Jim Madison & this
government held ~~eighty~~ years ago they hold now by this affair we see that
England ~~claims what she could not~~ ^{claims what she could not} give. That this people & government
look with contmpt upon the course of the English & the poor logic
& vile abuse of the english press.

Yes secretary Seward lays aside passion & a vetaliatory spirit & acts
the part of a sagacious statesman as he is.

But I am forgetting the promise I made in the beginning.

S Hanchett was here friday last

We received several copies of the 25th times last night
Then S C has turned soldier at the tune of \$104 a month has he
& Carpenter cant see any danger of being shot when she look through
gold

From your brother Frank
James Walker

Wamp & Co. Inc, 20-1-1964

Dear Brother

I have received your
letter & mother's at the same time
Your last brings me indeed to
you & I am glad to hear of you but
a few days more will not this
time trouble you with a long
letter.

The boys are well. The weather is fine. I have been to the fair & I have seen a good deal of the country. The rebels are doing well. The rebels are doing good, 750 of the men in the western Va. have been gallant fighting a few days since I showed the rebels that they do not fear them three to one. The latest news is that General Sigel are to be given over to the English. This will create

month,
It will show to ~~me~~ old that what
James Madison & this government held
eighty years ago they hold now
by this affair we see that England
Claims what she would not give
That this people & government ~~look~~
look with contempt upon the course
of the English & the poor logic & take
abuse of the English press.

Yes secretary Denard lays aside
passion & a retaliatory spirit & acts
the part of ~~the~~ a sagacious
statesman as he is.

But I am forgetting the promise
I made in the beginning.

So Manchester was here Friday
last.

We received several copies of the
Standard Times last night.
Then L. G. has turned soldier at the
time of \$104 a month has met Mr
Carpenter, can't see any danger of being shot
when she looks through gold

Give
friends I
her I will

Love
From your brother
James Walker

Camp Griffin Dec. 31 1861

Dear Mother

I have delayed answering your kind letter some days, hoping that I would soon have sufficient time to write you as lengthy a letter at least as I received from you & one that would be worth your reading. but it is uncertain when that time will come & therefore I will employ the time between now & taps in writing you. I read a letter to night from Adda to Reese & as he is on picket I took the liberty to ope & read the same. She says Christmas was a sad day to her & tells who she spent the day with I am sure I should not be verry miserable in such society. I will tell where & in whose society I spent Christmas I was on picket guard Jesse A. being the onely one of the Plover men with me the others from our company were about my age & more Ignorant & foolish if possible the the writer these are not verry congenial associates I assure you My Breakfast was composed of Bread & butter cold boiled beef cheese & coffee dinner & supper ditto the time between meals was spent in keeping up fire talking slang & expressing our opinions in relation to the future condition of our country of course the general opinion eas that its future would be bright & prosperous. I cannot say that my opinion was changed on that I gained much information from what was said. Each one had to tell where he was one year ago & compare his condish. now with then &c. &c. In the evening cheer after cheer rose from the thousands of camps in the distance & it was some time after midnight when quite ensued. We were of the opinion that the news of some great victory had been read or that the army of the patomac were on a drunk but on returning to camp we found that we were in error

I was on picket again last night & when I came in this morning I found that our Regt. had been engaged yesterday in decorating our camp with every _____ the men are in the best of spirits & anticipate a happy New Year. As for myself I expect the same although I do not expect to experience any unusual pleasure. I can truly say that I think I possess as much contentment as usually falls to the lot of mortals & if I live till the close of the war I think some of going into the regular Army Perhaps you will say this is calculating a good ways ahead. But I must draw this to a close for taps are near at

hand & then the lights must be put out. I have not received any news of importance of late. The prophets of the press are predicting an engagement soon on the Patomac as they have been for the last four months. The weather here now is nearly like October in Wis. the inhabitants here say that Jan is much the coldest of the winter months but we shall be comfortable enough if we remain here. I have not had a letter from Gratia Sue or Mary in some time. Ask Gratia & Sue if they feel above writing to a private in the U.S. service mother after this winter you must not be left alone you must make that big 17 year old do the work & you boss for if reports are true She is going into partnership with ECM & then of course she will not help you any more. It appears that she don't swallow what I wrote about noble youth sorry but it can't be helped

Ela Mitchell wrote to Reese that G. Brittain made war on us that WE would scoop her out nicely. I wonder if he would not like to have me along. If what he says is true is it not lucky for England that the matter has been adjusted. I suppose he knew of course for he is a sagacious youth. Mother please write soon. Give my respects to friends my love to yourself

FRWalker

As for myself expect the same
although I do not expect to experience
any unusual pleasure. I am finally
saying that I think of you as much
contentment as usually falls to
the lot of mortals & I give all
the cheer of the year to think some
of going into the regular Army
perhaps you will say they so well
concluding a good sized garrison
I put I must draw this to a close
for I am near at hand & then
the light must be put out
I have not received any news of
your face of late & the prospect
of the next and predicting an angry
I will draw on the Patagonia as they
have been for the last year
immorality. The weather there is
meanly like October in mid. The in-
habitant here say that I am as
much as the cold of the winter
months, but we shall be comfortable
enough of us here - here
I expect had had a better farm
to keep some of my in some time
back a last due to the fact above
writing to a private in the U.S. Army
must of my this winter you would
not say I left about you should make
that by 1 year you the worst of you
and into partnership with the U.S.
I am

Clara Mitchell wrote to Reese that L. Brittain made war on us
that we would stop her out nicely. I wonder
if he would not like to have me along. I wonder
if it is true if it was likely to England. I wonder
if he is a sagacious
youth.
Mother please
write soon.
Give my respects to
friend & my love
to your all.
Ed Walker
I have delayed
publishing your kind letter
some days, hoping that of
course I should have sufficient
time to write you although
I better at least as I received
from you one that would
be worth your reading but
it is uncertain when that
time will come. Therefore I
will explain the time be-
tween now & before writing to
you. I rec'd a letter tonight
from Abida to Reese & as he
is on picket took the liberty
to open & read the same. She
says Christmas was a bad
day to send her who she
was not sure you any more & it appears that
I can't be helped
I have not received any news of
your face of late & the prospect
of the next and predicting an angry
I will draw on the Patagonia as they
have been for the last year
immorality. The weather there is
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habitant here say that I am as
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I expect had had a better farm
to keep some of my in some time
back a last due to the fact above
writing to a private in the U.S. Army
must of my this winter you would
not say I left about you should make
that by 1 year you the worst of you
and into partnership with the U.S.
I am

Spent the day with Sam & wife
I should not be sorry to meet
the in such society. I will
tell what in whose society I
spent - Christmas was in pocket
guard, just it, being the only
one of the three men with me
the others from our company were
about my age & more generous
forth of provide than the
others. These are not very com-
-parial associates of mine - you
see. My breakfast was composed of
bread & butter & cold boiled beef
& meat & coffee, dinner & supper
dinner, the three between meals
was spent in keeping up fire
talking & singing & expressing my
opinions in relation future con-
-dition of our country of course
the general opinion was that
its future would be bright &
prosperous. I cannot say

that my opinion was changed
-or that I gained much informa-
-tion from what was said.
Each one had to tell where
he was one year ago & compare
his condition now with then
• We, for the evening thereafter
dinner rose from the thousands
of camps in the distance & it
was some time after midnight
when we arrived, we were of the
opinion that the news of some great
victory had been read, or that the
army of the Palmaria were on a storm
But on returning to camp we
found that we were in error
It was on pocket again that
night & when I came in this
morning I found that our Regt.
had been engaged yesterday in de-
-stroying our camp with every
the men are in the best spirits
& anticipate a happy New Year