

Note: from Reese w/ Frank

Camp Griffin Va. Jan. 3rd, 1862

Dear Mother

Happy New Year to you with all the rest of our folks
heare I am in old Virgin at the commencement of the new year
enjoying good health and many other blessings for which I am
very thankful. Though perhaps I do not merit so many blessings
still I am endeavoring to do my duty to my country. The
Plover boys are all well at present. New Years day passed
with us slowly and wearisomely away it was the loneliest
day I have seen in camp. we had no drilling to do in fact
no duty at all to perform. There was a prize of \$5.00
for the best runner the same for jumping and wrestling
and climbing a greased pole and \$10.00 for catching a
greased and shaved pig. our regt gained all of the prizes
except for climbing the pole. But I felt but very little
interested as my thoughts were far away but dear mother do
not think that I am unhappy or that I do not like soldiering.
for there is nothing in this or any other world that would
tempt me to leave the service untill this damnable rebellion
is crushed and our once honored flag shall again float over the
capital of each and every seceding state of our once proud
republic. but when that time will be time alone can tell
god hasten the day. for to tell you the truth about it this
soldier life is the most disagreeable of all things. to be
subject to the rule of a petty old fool is some thing that

this child does not admire for I was better brought up.
But our Capt. has a great responsibility resting upon his
shoulders there fore I feel it a duty to over look many of
his faults and try and do my best to pleas As for myself I have
never had any trouble with any of our officers but many of
the boys do not like him and there fore do not try to pleas him
as much as they should but we do not have very serious times and
there fore kneed give yourself no uneasuness about our
welfare. There had been some prospect of old Johhy Bulls
interferring but I do no think they will as our government have
released Mason and Slidell and they have no benefit that ever
for interferring but her sympathy is wholely with the south
and it is impossible to tell what she may do. let her come
she will not find us wholely unprepared I for one will like
to help give her a dubbing which she so justly deserves.
There is some prospect of our having a battle here before many
days as the rebbels are not satisfied with the result of the
battle of Dranesville We are in good condition and ready
for them at any moment they see fit to pitch in but I have
written more than you will wish to read and I will close for
this time. I am glad to hear that Mr. Smith and lady are liveing
at our house for they will be a great deal of company for you.
I wish that it was practicable for you to go to Bath this winter
but brother (Jan. 4th) James seems to think it is best for you to
wait a while. I had a letter from Cousin Dwight Warren a few
days since he says the relatives in Bath are all well and that
Uncle Hiram and son have gone to Albany to join a calvery
company He says that the Bath boys are in the 23 regt they
are at Munson hill which is about 5 miles from here I shall

go and see them in a few days. Frank came off picket guard
this morning and is mending his pants today. We miss our
mother very much for we have no one to mend our clothing
but we will do our best to crush this rebellion so that
we may some home once more to enjoy the society of our
friends.

good by for this time your affectionate son

R W.Walker

to his mother Gretia K. Walker

Pleas write soon as convenient give my love to all of our
inquiring friends

R

Camp Griffin Va Jan 3^d 1862

Dear Mother

Happy New year to
you. with all the rest of your folks. here
I am on old Virgin at the commence-
ment of the new year enjoying good
health and many other blessings for which
I am very thankful. though perhaps I
do not merit so many blessings still
I am endeavoring to do my duty to my
country. The floor boys are all well
at present. New years day passed with
us slowly and wearisomely away it was
the loneliest day I have seen in camp
we had no drilling to do in fact no duty
at all to perform. There was a prize of
\$5.00 for the best runner the same for the
jumping & wrestling and climbing
a greased pole and \$10.00 for catching
a greased and shanked pig our regt
gained all of the prizes except for
climbing the pole. But I felt but
very little interested. as my thoughts were far

far away but dear Mother do not
think that I am unhappy or that I
~~would~~ do not like soldiering. for there is
nothing in this or in any other world
that would tempt me to leave the service
until this damnable rebellion is crushed
and our once honored flag shall again
float ^(the capital) over each and every seceding state
of our once proud republic. But when that
time will be time alone can tell god hasten
the day. for to tell you the truth about it
this soldier life is the most disagreeable of
all things. to be subject to the rule of a
petty old fool is something that this child
does not admire for I was better brought up.
But our Capt has a great responsibility
resting upon his shoulders therefore I
feel it a duty to overlook many of his faults
and try and do my best to please him. As for
myself I have never had any trouble with
any of our officers but many of the boys
do not like him and therefore do not try
to please him as much as they should
but we do not have very serious times
and therefore you ~~do not~~ need give yourself

no uneasiness about our safety
There has been some prospect of old
Johnny Bull's interfering but I do not think
they will as our government have released
Mass & Schiele and they have no pretext
whatever for interfering but her sympathy
is wholly with the South and it is
impossible to tell what she may do
let her come she will not find us
wholly unprepared I for one will
like to help give her a good drubbing
which she so justly deserves. There
is some prospect of our having a battle
here before many days as the rebels
are not satisfied with the result of the
battle of Dranesville. We are in good
condition and ready for them at any
moment they see fit to pick it
but I have written more than you will
wish to read and I will close for this
time. I am glad to hear that Mr Smith and
lady are living at our house ~~as~~ for they
will be a great deal of company for you
I wish that it was practicable for you
to go to Bath this winter but Brother

Jan 20th
James seems to think it is best for you
to wait a while. I had a letter from Edwin
Dought Warren a few days since he says the
relatives in Bath are all well and that
Uncle Hiram and son have gone to Albany
to join a cavalry company he says that the
Bath boys are in the 23 regt. They are at
Munson hill which is about 5 miles from
here. I shall go and see them in a few days.
Frank comes sick guard this morning
and is mending his pants today.
We miss our mother very much for we
have not mended our clothes but we will
do our best ~~to~~ to crush this rebellion
so that we may come home once more
to enjoy the society of our friends
good by for this time. Your affection son

R. W. Walker

To his Mother Gretna H. Walker

Please write soon so convenient give my love
to all of our folks Mrs Smith and all
inquiring friends

Camp Griffin Jan5th 1861 (1862)

Brother James

Your letter of Dec 8th was duly received and perused with pleasure. As it is sunday and I have a little leisure I will write a few lines though I have but little news to write you. We are all well at present the wether is quite cool which makes it rather disagreeable standing picket - Packard, Beech and tucker were on guard last night. Curran, Russell and Densmore to day. it seems to be the oppinion of many that there will be lots of fighting before many days. I do hope that preperations are nearly complete for a general advance. Mason & Slidell have been released and old England I think will not pitch in - it seems that the rebbels are greatly disappointed for that was their only hope of success - that hope is now crushed and they will have to look to some other source for help. We will from this time on know what the laws are in regard to neutral posts powers etc it has settled a great question and Mr. Seward had made his name immortal as a statesman. I have a paper containing his letter to Lord Lyons which I will send you. Sam and Harvy Alban have been transfered to the 18th regt and will start for home in a few days. I think such papriotism as they posess amounts to but little in times like these - their transfer has been obtained wholly to the view of holding an office in that regt. Harry said to me this morning that he would hold no office unless it was a commishioned office and he nor Sam are fit for a private if old Colonel ___ will aid them to an office. I hope he will go to hell Hanchett was here a few days since - he looked as hale and hearty as ever. I think it has been through his influence that the boys have been transfered the P;over boys say if it is so they will never give him their vote again that is my fix

The boys have not been transfered neither will they. I think our Capt has done better for some time past then usual if he will only prove himself to be a brave man it is all right but a coward and a tyrant is not the man to govern soldiers at this enlightened age of the world I am sorry to hear that the Grand Rapids boys do not like their Capt. a drunken man has no business commanding or infact in the army at all. Whiskey would caus more trouble and falality in the army than all other evils combined. Clarence will make a gallas soldier without doubt

it seems that ___ Lee has given up his profession and is agoing to farming Bully for the sciyn of Blackstone I guess that Backelder had better do the same. I will sent you some more money in a few days as we are to b paid off this week. Tell Mother that if she wants a beaux not to take up with any such stock as Mitchell but wait and take a galian soldier who has had the fortitude to stand for their country there are many enjoyments and priveledges which a soldier has to dispense with but who would not relinquish all enjoyments. yea every pleasure and devote every energy of his being for the attainment of the objective which is parimount to all others the supression of this damnable rebellion and the reunion of this great republic But I will close for this time write as often as convenient from your Brother

RWWalker

JWWalker

Brother Jim

Reese just came in & read above to me also requests me to fill the remainder of the sheet. I sont know as I know anything that will interest you. I will say that I adopt most of the above however a part kneeds to be modified mate viallys I am sure I do not enjoy Sammy nor Harvey in the least. In their new situation their talents will have a chance to be placed in a more conspicuous light & no doubt they will be better apreciated there tham here The Messrs Alban have that firm confidence in selfs which is a fore runner of success. pecuniarily perhaps Sammy will not be benefitted for of late he has been doing quite a paying business selling franked envelopes which he received from Hanchett In this transferr & promotion we see how patriots politicians & others benifit themselves & friends on their countrys calamity & to the eneficiency of the army I am gladto see man go for their imbecility & self blinding confidency coupled totally unfit them for ever a privates place in this Regt. Putty men & bass wood gumms at a respectable distance I would much more fear. but enough of this I find I cannot express my admiration in English is it spprising that I cannot. To say is the coolest of the winter the mercury stands at 10 degs above zero. Why did not Clarence go as a soldier Instead of putting himself on a level with the negro. but the drum for dress parade sounds & I will close I will send 8 or 10 dollars home as soon as paid Jim how is that has Ada any reason for being jealous of Mother

FRWalker

Saml Griffin Jan 5th 1861
Brother James

Your letter of Dec 30th was duly received and perused with pleasure, as it is Sunday and I have a little leisure I will write a few lines though I have but little news to write you. We are all well at present the weather is quite cool which makes it rather disagreeable standing picket. Packard Beech and Tucker were on guard last night. Cassa Russell and Dens more to day. it seems to be the opinion of many that there will be lots of fighting before many days. I do hope that preparations are nearly complete for a general advance. Mason & Shidell have been released and old England I think will not pitch in it seems that the rebels are greatly disappointed for that was their only hope of success that hope is now crushed and they will have to look to some other source for

help. We will from this time on know
what the laws are in regard to neutral ports
powers etc. It has settled a great question
and Mr Edward has made his name
immortal as a statesman. I have a paper
containing his letter to Lord Lyons which I
will send to you. Sam and Harry Allen
have been transferred to the 18th Regt and
will start for home in a few days. I
think such patriotism as they possess
amounts to but little in times like these
their transfer has been obtained wholly
to the view of holding an office in that Regt.
Harry said to me this morning that
he would hold no office unless it was
a commissioned office and he and Sam
are set for a private if old Colonel
will aid them to an office. P. P. Proctor will
go to the 18th. Hancock was here a few
days since he looked as pale and poorly
as ever. I think it has been through his
influence that the boys have been transferred.
The Flower boys say if it is so they will
never give him their vote again and that
is all I say.

The boys have not been transferred neither
will they. I think our Capt has done
better for some time past than usual
if he will only give himself to be a brave
man it is all right but a coward
and a tyrant is not the man to govern
soldiers at this enlightened age of the
world I am sorry to hear that the Grand
Rapids boys do not like their Capt a
drunken man has no business commanding
or in fact in the army at all. Whiskey
would cause more trouble and fatality
in the army than all other evils combined
Dereuse will make a gallant soldier
with out doubt it seems that Lee
has given up his profession and is going
to farming. Bully for the sinner of
Black Robe. I guess that Backeder is
had better do the same. I will send you
some more money in a few days as we
are to be paid off this week. Tell Mother
that if she wants a beau not to take
up with any such stock as Bitcher
but wait and take a gallant Soldier
~~that~~ has had the fortitude to stand

for their country there are many
 enjoyments and pleasures which a
 Soldier has to dispense with, but who can
 would not relinquish all enjoyments
 for every pleasure and devote every energy of
 his being for the attainment of the object which
 is paramount to all others the suppression of this
 damnable rebellion and the reunion of this
 great republic. But I will close for this
 time. Write as often as convenient from your
 Brother P. R. Walker

P. R. Walker

Reese just came in & read the above to
 me also requests me to fill the remainder of the
 sheet. I don't know as I know any thing that will
 interest you. I will say that I adopt most of the
 above however a part needs to be modified, materi-
 ally. I am sure I do not mean damning nor har-
 in the last. On their own situation their talents
 will have a chance to be placed in a more con-
 spicuous light & no doubt they will be better
 appreciated there than here. The Messrs. Albans
 have that firm confidence in self which is
 often a forerunner of success. Financially he has
 been doing quite a paying business selling
 franked envelopes which he received from Wash. & Co.
 In this transaction promotion we see non-patriotic
 politicians & others benefit themselves & friends in their
 country's calamity & to the inefficiency of the army.
 I am glad to see them go for their own self blinding
 fidelity coupled with misfit them for ever in private place
 in this Regt. Putly men & boys & guinea's at a respectable
 distance I would much more fear, but enough of this I
 find I cannot express my admiration in English
 it is surprising that I cannot. The day is the best of
 the winter. The mercury stands at 11 degrees above zero.
 Why did not Clarence go as a Soldier instead of putting
 him out a level with the negro. But the dream for

of no harvest. I will send 8 or 10 dollars here as soon
 as I have paid of my share. I have a good deal of money
 as I have for being jealous of my brother's money.

Reese

(4)

(1862)

Camp Giffin Jan²¹
8th

Broth James

I received your letter night before last and was glad to hear that you were all well / The Plover boys are all well / we are having easy times now days / nothing to do but stand our turn at guard which comes about once in four days for the privates / my turn about once in 10 days / as regards the transfer / I do not care a cents worth neither do many of the other boys. still on some accounts it would be desirable / we should be able to visit our friends and as Col A is a man of some SHADE his style would suit the boys better than Cobbs does / But for the going home part that is played out / it is true that a soldiers life is not the pleasantist but it suits me well enough for the present. government has called for 75,000 Vol. for the regular army / those who are in the Vol service can go if they choose / I have some thoughts of pitching in my self / am not decided yet what is your mind in regards to it / Col Friedmans Cavalry were but on a scout Friday and our regt were out to support them / they captured 30 Rebels equipments and baggage / their guns were of a superior quality / colts Revolving rifles worth \$75.00 a piece the war is surely but slowly drawing to a close / what will become of us poor soldiers when this war terminates / you say you have not received any money since last pay day / the mail was robbed of 11 letters between our post office and general Hancocks Headquarters / Col Eneries hostler had been detailed (as mail carrier) and in the morning he started with the mail / it was vary foggy an impossible to see a man at any distance / the boy had been seen to have quite a quantity of money prevous to this time and ~~there~~ therefore the letters were counted when delivered / he was arested and is now in the guard house waiting his trial / I heard the yesterday that he had acknowledged that he had taken letters before / the remainder of his term with ball and chain to his leg will do him / we received Addies likeness it is good one tell her it is an INESTIMABLE treasure give my love to mother and all inquiring friends

I suppose you have heard when this war is to close / I guess when our government gets out of money then will peace

I am very respectfully yours Brother
R W Walker

JWWalker write as soon as convenient

PS I hope Old Col Alben will not put himself out of his way for our

SAKES.
for we can all paddle our own canoes

This is the first pleasant day we have had for six weeks and about 18

likewise it is agreed one
tell her it is an everlasting
blessure give my love to mother
and all my young friends
I suppose you have heard when
this war is to close I guess
when our govern ment gets out
of money then will peace

I am very respectfully
yours
Brother

Wm Walker
write as soon
as convenient

As I hope old Col Allen
will not put himself out of
way for our sakes for we
can all paddle our own
canoes.

This is the first pleasant
day we have had for six weeks
and about 18 inches deep but
for the sacred soil of old
the boys are all fat as foles all weigh
above a ton

Wm Walker

Brother James
P. Walker

letter right before last and
was glad to hear that you were
all well the 1000 boys are
all well we are having easy
times now days nothing to do but
stand our gun at guard who
comes about once in four days
for the privates my turn about
once in 10 days as regards the
trans for I do not care a cent
for the weather do many of the
other boys still on horse
accounts it would be desirable
we should be able to sit on
friends and as Col of it
a man of some high pri
style would suit the boys
better than 20 lbs does

But for the going home
first that is played out
it is true that a soldier's
life is not the pleasant one
it suits me well enough for the
present. government has called
for 10,000 bol for the regular army
those who are in the bol service
run go if they choose I have
some thoughts of pitching in any
day am not decided yet what
is your mind in regard to it
Col Friedmanns Cavalry men
put on a second Friday and
our regt were out to support
them they captured 30 Rebels
equal numbers and baggage their
guns were of a superior quality
recoils revolving rifles worth
75.00 a piece ~~though~~ the war
is surely but slowly drawing
to a close what will become
of our poor soldiers when this

War terminates you say
you have not received
any money since last pay day
the mail was robbed of 17 letters
between our post office and
general Hancock's Headquarters
Col Emmerichs ^{as well as the} ~~hostler was in the~~
had been detailed and in the
morning he started with the mail
it was very foggy and impossible
to see a man at any distance
the boy had been sent to have
paid a quantity of money previous
to this trip and therefore he
letters were counted when
delivered he was arrested and
is now in the guard house
awaiting his trial I heard that
yesterday that he had acknowledged
that he had taken letters before
the remainder of his term with
fall and return to his leg will
do him we received orders

Camp Griffin

J 25th

(1862)

Brother James

Your favor came to hand last night and was read with interest and listened to by the boys with pleasure especially that portion which re_____ the transfer the boys all seem to be very muchelated with the idea. I have talked with all of the boys about it and they say tell Col A that they are with him heart and hand. and if such a transfer can be brought about it will gratify them very much to have him do his utmost to bring it about and that as soon as practicable for my part I am not vary paticular on some accounts I would rather remain where I am. but as our Capt is a dmed old _____ fool I am willing to take a transfer please inform Col A ~~XXXXXX~~ of the mind of the boys as soon as possible and if it is necessary for us to take any step in the matter write immediately

Our regt is now under marching orders and will move as soon as the wether will permit it has rained nearly all of the time for two weeks past and the roads are allmost impossible we do not know where we are going but I think it will be towards Monassas

Jim if we could ^{ONLY} have one good fight and scoop them at Monassas and wipe out the stain of the Bull run disaster I would be willing to be transfered transported or any thing else and from all appearances we are to have a general advance and secesh ^{ok} had better look wild Jim this rebellion cannot last more than five or six months longer I donnot believe but time alone can tell. Jim I sent you \$10.00 but as the mail was robed the next morning it is doubtful whether you get it Frank lost 15.00 of his money and I had to divide with him But I must close for this time please write immediately your o

JWWalker

RWWalker

Those

For a transfer are

H C Russell

J B do

p. R W Walker

F R W

C. M Dinsmore

Henry Curran

Jesse

Roswell Beach

Wm S. Lucker

Geo W Hale

S C Glover

John England

Jas. E. Young

Co. E

Co. B

should be straight

But I must close -
for this will please most
immediately Yours &c

Pratt & Pratt

Dear

For a transfer all

of L. Brewster

John W. Walker

Dr. J. B. ...

To Mr. Dinsmore

Henry, Dorman

Head
Throat

I have just heard

Edward R.

Dr. J. C. Smith

Wm. H. H. H. H.

John H. Dake

Dr. J. C. Kew

1010 (England)

Wm. C. Cushing

Brother James
Boswell & Co

Yours &c &c

cannot be hard laid right
 and wags head with contempt
 and tolerance to the boys
 with pleasure especially
 that portion which exclude
 the bander the boys all
 seem to be very much elated
 with the deed. I have talked
 with all of the boys about it
 and they say tell her that
 that they are with him heart
 and hand, and if ever
 a bander can be brought
 about it will greatly improve
 every man's chance him to
 his interest to bring it about
 and that as soon as possible

For my part I am not
very particular on some
accounts I would rather remain
where I am. put as Mr.
Coft is a damned old brand
fool I am willing to take a
transfer fees. Inform Col of
the mind of that says as
soon as possible and if
it is necessary for us to
take any step in the matter
write immediately
Our regt is now under
marching orders and will
move as soon as the weather
will permit it has rained
nearly all of the time for two
weeks past and the roads
are almost impassable
we do not know where we
are going but I think it
will be towards Monassau

3
Jim if we could ~~not~~
have one good fight and
scop them at Monassau
and wipe out the stain
of the Bull am, disaster
I would be willing to be
transferred transported or
any thing else and from
old appearances we are to
have a general advance
and a dash had better look
wild Jim this rebellion
cannot last more than
five or six months the longer
I don't believe but time
alone can tell. Jim I don't
you \$10,000 but as the mail
was noted the next morning
it is doubtful whether you
got it. I think lost \$15,000
of his money and I have
to divide with him

24
Rever
Camp Griffin Feb 23 1862

Brother James

Being in the humor I will write a few lines to you though I have nothing very interesting to write. We are all well as usual and getting along as well as usual and that is well enough. We have plenty of fodder such as it is, plenty of ~~guard~~ guard duty to do and plenty of cheering news from the out of late Secession stock is on the decline and treason is going down. you are in receipt of the glorious news of the surrender of forts Donaldson Henry and Roanoke Island Clarksville and it is currently reported that Savannah has been given hurrah old Johnson proposes to surrender Nashville on conditions that prevent shall be respected but I guess that old General Grant knows his gait and I think he will dictate the terms of surrender. surely our cause is brightening. Floyd the ^{current} current old thief stole away from fort D. Jim he is an old one but we will get next time. Jim you seemed to feel rather blue when you last wrote me. I hope the glorious news from the south will cheer you a little. for my part I am feeling quite well. you spoke of my not occupying a more lucrative position. it is true that it would be more desirable were I getting a lieutenant's pay but I aspire to no position above my ability and perhaps I am better fixed for a private than any other position. at least I consider it a great privilege to be able to serve my country in the capacity of a private. but it is indeed provoking to see some of those snotty occupying positions which they are totally unfitted for. there is some prospect of our moving but it is uncertain when or where we shall go. Jim I guess the patriots of the 18th regt will have but little chance to distinguish themselves in the service of their country. such engagements as that one you propose of is about the sort they best adapted to. I hear that the flag that they swore to preserve and protect was lost before they got to Trilwabe rather a rich joke. I would like to see the crowd that could get our flag. good knight
pleas write as often as convenient write RWalker

next time I'm you seem to feel rather fine when
you last wrote me. I hope the glorious news from the
South will cheer you a little for my part I am
feeling quite well. I am afraid of my not occupying
a more lucrative position it is true that I should
be more desirable were I getting a Lieutenant's pay but
I aspire to no position above my ability and perhaps
I cannot see the future for a private than for any other
position at least I consider it a great privilege
to be able to serve my country in the capacity of
a private. But it is indeed promising to see
some of these other Bimbo occupying positions
which they are totally unqualified for. There is some
prospect of our moving but it is uncertain when
it will be. I shall go, I am I guess the probability of
the 18th regt. will have but little chance to dish out
them as far as the services of the country such
regiments as that one year's service of is about the
and they best adapted to I hear that the flag that they
are sworn to preserve and protect was lost before they
got to Vicksburg rather a rich joke I wonder like
to see this crowd that could get our flag good knights
pleasants as of the command get our flag good knights
write C. Walker

Camp Near Alexandria

March 20th 1862

Brother Jim

I am at present about three miles from Alexandria. When we were at flint hill I began a letter to you but we were ordered to leave before I had time to complete it. Now that I have a little spare time I will make good use of it for it is verry probable for the next few months that my chances for writing will be few This Regt received the large Sibley tent yes & as yesterday there is but 5 to a company there is about 20 in each tent. We are all verry well considering the marching & drilling & little eating & sleeping that we have done during the last two weeks

The long talked of advance from which so much was expected looks like a great farce & every body is disapointed Troops are embarking daily at Alexandria. We sahll probably do so in three or four days.

Reese is at Alexandria he has charge of the brigade sick. he left us at flint hill & conveyed the sick by RailRode from Vienna to where they now are he will probably stay untill we embark.

I should not wonder if you did complain of my not answering your letters I will try and not give you reason to in futur but I see no reason for Sue's doing so for I have been more punctual in answering her letters than she has mine

I see that it it impossible to write anything passable in the midst of so noisy & disorderly a crowd as this Sue spoke of the rally on the sutler & asks if it was the plover boys No the majority of the Regt. were engaged in it, the reverse of what Sue said that Mrs. Baker said that Mr. Baker said that hank Curran wrote is true. That is, all were sober except Curran

We have not been paid off yet perhaps it will be a monthe before we shall be

I recd. a letter from Mary a few days since also one from Frank Warren & Aunt Mary Ann & Sue I have not answered them yet so you must excuse me this time on account of writing to them
The Plover boys send their best respects

PS

FRWalker

*Tell mother that very likely we will be home about
three months after the war closes.
This is as definite an answer as I can give.*

left her that Ryezy has not
had one eighth of the duty to
do that I have during the winter
hence he has had plenty
of spare time to write

J.R.M.

(4)

①
Camp near Alexandria
March 20th 1862

Brother John

I am at present about
three miles from Alexandria. When
we were at Flint hill I began a letter
to you but ^{before} we were ordered to leave before
I had time to complete it. Now that
I have a little spare time I will make
good use of it for it is very probable
for the next few ^{mont} months that my chances
-is for writing will be few. I his Regt.
received the large Sibley tent & as there
is but 5 to accompany there is about 20 in
each tent. We are all very well consid-
-ering the marching & drilling & little eating
& sleeping that we have done during the
last two weeks.
The long talked of advance from which
so much was expected looks like a great
failure & every body is disappointed

troops are embarking daily at Alexandria. We shall probably do so in three or four days.

Ruse is at Alexandria he has charge of the brigade sick, he left us at Flint Hill & covered the sick by Rail Road from Vienna to where they now are. He will probably stay until we embark.

I should not wonder if you did complain of my not answering your letters, I will try and not give you reason to in future. but I see no reason for Sue's doing so for I have been more punctilious in answering her letters than she has mine.

I see that it is impossible to write anything passable in the midst of so noisy & disorderly a crowd as this.

I've spoke of the rally on the 1st but ask's if it was the flower boys

(3) And the majority of the Regt. were engaged in it, ~~at~~ the reverse of what Sue said that Mr Baker said that Mr Baker said that Frank Curran wrote is true. That is all were sober ex-

-cept Curran. We have not been paid off yet perhaps it will be a month before we shall be

I rec'd a letter from Mary a few days since also one from Frank's Mary & Aunt Mary. Aunt Sue I have not received them yet so you must excuse me this time on account of writing to them.

The flower boys send their best respects

J R, Walker
(p. 1) Tell mother that very likely we will be home about three months after the war closes

This is as definite an answer as I can give.

Case

April 12th

(1862)

Camp near Yorktown

Dear Brother Your letter was received last night and read with deep interest for it has been a long time since we had received one from home. We are all well at present and are expecting fun every day. We are now nearer the enemy than at any previous time. We had a slight skirmish with them last Sunday but one man in our Regt was wounded and but slight at that. We were reconnoitering their works. Our engineers were with us and got a fine view of their works which are very formidable. Some of our best officers think they are stronger than at Manassas but they will be taken. I understand that we are to have a hundred mortars of the largest calibre. McClellan is here in person. We are situated on a strip of land or peninsula between the York and James Rivers. The enemies fortifications extend entirely from one river to the other. We have taken a few prisoners. They report that the fort Donaldson and Manassas troops are here. The more the better. I hope that they will concentrate all their forces here then we will clean them out and this cursed and cruel rebellion will cease to exist. I long for the time we have had rather tough times since we came here. It has rained nearly all of the time until yesterday and the roads are in an awful condition. It was all most impossible to transport provision but the weather and roads are improving and we have plenty to eat now and our Brigade has been ordered to the rear to rest for a few days. We had been in the advance ever since we came here and had all of the scouting and picketing to do. We have been highly complimented by our Generals for our coolness and fortitude while under the fire of the enemy. If they do not shoot closer than they did that day I guess that we shall come out all right. It did not disturb any equilibrium in the least. I have at last been gratified in my longing desire to shoot at the cursed

I made him jump whether I killed him or not I do not know as the briars and brush were quite thick and we were ordered to cease ~~firings~~ ^{FIRING AS} we did not wish to bring on a general engagement. ^{WE} We hear cheering news from all quarters and you may expect to hear something from here before long. We are all confident of success and hope ere many weeks to plant the stars and stripes in the confederate capitol. But I must close. Please write as often as possible. Stamps are very scarce here. My love to Mother and Addie and all of my sisters. I remain your affectionate Brother

JWWalker

RWWalker

PS I saw Jared Smith and George Monele and had a long talk with them yesterday. They send their best wishes to you. They are in our division. We are in Smith's division. Keges corps Hancock's Brig.

as the birds and brush were quite thick and we were afraid to cease firing as we did not wish to bring on a general engagement the cheering news from all parts and you may expect to hear some thing from here before long we are all confident of success and hope are many welcome to plant the Star and stripes in the confederal capitol but I must close please write as often as possible I am sure you are very scarce here my love to Mother and Addie and all of my sisters I remain your affectionate brother

J. W. Walker

P.S. I saw Jared Smith and George Monell and had along talk with them yesterday they send their best wishes to you they are in our division we are in Smith's division Reges Corp Hancock & By

①

April 12th

Pompey Sea Forkton

Dear Brother your letter was received last night and read with deep interest for it has been a long time since we have received one from home. We are all well at present and are expecting fun every day we are now preparing for enemy than at any previous time. We had a slight skirmish with them last Sunday but no man on our Regt was wounded and but slight at that we were reconnoitering their works our engineers were with us and got a fine view of their works which are very formidable. Some of our best officers think they are stronger than at Manassas but they will be

② I understand that we are to have a hundred mortars of the largest calibre. McCallan is here and person we are situated on a strip of land or peninsula between the water & James River. The immense fortifications extend entirely from one river to the other. We have taken a few prisoners they report that the Fort-Donaldson and Branson camps are here, the more the better I hope that they will concentrate all their forces here then we will lean them out on this. Cursed and cruel rebellion will cease to exist. I long for the time we have had a better tough times since we came here. It has rained nearly all of the time since yesterday and the roads are in an awful condition. It was

③ all most impossible to transport provisions but the weather is so and roads are improving and we have plenty to eat now and our Brigade has been ordered to the rear to rest for a few days we had been in the advance ever since we came here and had all of the scouting and picketing to do. We have been highly complimented by our Generals for our coolness and fortitude while under the fire of the enemy. If they do not shoot closer than they did that day I guess that we shall come out all right. It did not disturb my equilibrium in the least. I have at last been gratified in my longing desire to shoot at the cavalry corps. I made him jump whether I killed him or not. I don't know

note: from Frank

Camp near Yorktown
April 12th, 1862

Dear Mother, Brother and Sisters

Reese had been writing and as it is next to impossible to get stamps here, I will write a few lines and enclose them with his. I address you all for the reason that I have not time to write you seperately. Since we began to move I have become so deeply indebted in the letter line that I am afraid that I shall never become solvent if we continue to move which no doubt we shall I shall not be able to write often but you must not feel uneasy about us or discontinue writing on the account for it will always be a pleasure to hear from you. The place in front of us is said to be another Gibatalters which always prevents this army from advancing on Richmond but at the time we came here there is no doubt what ever that two or three thousand men could not have taken it. but you can rest assured that McClellan will give the enemy ample time to either remove every man gun and pound of rations or fortify and reenforce as they see fit Oh but Mc is a (WINFIELD) napoleon. Scott is no where with him and we must not critasize or question the wisdom of his plans, but we must continue to laude and praise him we must cling to as we always have with a blind adoration but to tell the truth if all had done as McClellan had done the government would have

been recognized. I still believe we will come out of this struggle all right for in my opinion any man of common sense if he had never seen an army could with the army that we have beat the enemy every time.

But as I have no time to spare I must draw this to a close

The Plover boys are all well. G. Packard has quit carrying a gun and gone to work in the Hospital. Wm. Lucker is teamster, his mules run away with him about a week since and hurt his back but not seriously.

H. Russell says tell his folks that he is well and in good spirits. he read a letter from Mary last night but says she will have to wait some time for an answer as he has no stamps and can not get any.

I close by sending much love to you all and hope you will live as easy and enjoy yourselves as well as possible in times like these

F R. Walker

not quite carrying a paper
to go to work in the
hospital. Mr. Jackson is
be assisted in mending in
way with me about a week
since & has his back out
not seriously.

Mr. Russell ~~says~~ says tell
his father that he is well
of air and spirits. His Red
a good forsy, Mary, but says
she will have to wait
some time for an answer
as she has no stamps &
cannot get any
at close by sending in-
love to you all & hope you
will live as easy & happy as
does as well as possible
in times like these.

F. R. V.

Samuel Near Yorktown
April 2nd 1862

Dear Mother, Brothers & Sisters
Reese, has been coming
as it is next to impossible
to get stamps here I will write
a few lines & enclose them with
this, I address you all for the
reason that I have not time
to write you separately. Since we began
to move I have become so deeply
indebted in the letter line
that I am afraid that I shall never
become solvent, if we continue
to move which not doubt we shall
I shall not be able to write
often but you must not feel
uneasy about us or discontinue
writing on the account for it will
always be a pleasure to hear

(2)

from you in place in
front of us is said to be another
of those Gibaralters which
ways prevents this army from
advancing on Richmond
but at the time we came
here there is no doubt what
ever that two or three thou-
sand could not have taken
it, but you can rest assured
that McClellan will give the
enemy ample time to either
remove every man, gun,
quantity of rations or for that
very force as they see fit.
Oh, but McC. is a chaplain
Scott is nowhere with him
& we must not criticize or
question the wisdom of his
plans, but we must continue
to laud & praise him we must

(3)

cling to as we always have
with a blind adoration
but to tell the truth if the
all had done as McClellan
has done the Government
could have been bankrupt
& the confederates would
have been reorganized
I still believe but we will
finally come out of this strong
gle all right for in my opinion
any man of common sense
if he had never seen an army
could with the army that we
have beat the enemy every
time
but as I have no time to
share I must draw this
to a close
I hope your boys prosper
well. W. Jackson has

AK
Camp near Yorktown

May 1st

(1862)
certain

XXXXX

Dear Brother

Having a little leisure I improve it in writing. We are well at present. Frank has been sick with cold but is getting better there has been no fighting to speak of since we have been here. We are looseing some of our pickets nearly every day by the enemies sharp shooters. ^{BURT} ~~But~~ Millard was shot yesterday through the body and died last night. I see that the 18th regt has suffered severly the death of Col ^{3C} is a sad loss to the community in which he lives. Plovers has lost many of the noble sons I fear but such are ^{CASUALTIES} ~~casualties~~ of war. And we must not murmer. Neworloans is now in ^{our} ~~our~~ possession / our troops in the South West have been vary successful. how our department will come out time alone can tell / we now occupy the position that Washington army did in 1781 / the enemy are strongly entrenched and we ^{SHALL} ~~shall~~ probably have a warm time of ^{MAY} ~~before~~ days. I have not herd from home in along time / Pleas write / We received two months pay yesterday and were mustered for pay again / there is two months more due now / I will send 20 dollars to you by express as the mails are uncertain. give my love to all of our folks an write as soon and often as possible one of our company died last night with fever write write

Yours truly

R W Walker

J W Walker

AS Report just came in to camp that Richmond is taken I hope ~~it~~ ^{it may} be so

Dear Brother
Camp near Fort Union N.M.

Having a little leisure
I'm proving it in writing. We are well
at present. Frank has been sick with
cold but is getting better. There has been
no fighting to speak of since we have
been here. We are losing some of our
pickets nearly every day by the enemy's
sharpshooters. But Willard was
shot yesterday through the body and
died last night. I see that the 13th regt
has suffered severely the death of Col V
is a sad loss to the community in which he
lives. Placers has lost many of her noble
sons I fear but such are casualties
of war. and we must not murmur.
New Orleans is now in our possession
our troops in the South west have
been very successful. how our department
will come out time alone can tell we
now occupy the position that Washington
army did in 1781 the enemy are strongly
entrenched and we shall probably have a
hard time of it before our days I have not
heard from home in along time. Please write

We received two months pay yesterday
and were mustered for pay again. There is
two months more due now. I will send
20 dollars to you by express as the mails are
uncertain. I give my love to all of our folks
and write as soon and often as possible.
One of our company died last night with
fever. Write pretty
Yours truly
P. H. Walker

P. H. Walker

P. H.

Rebert just came in to camp
that Richmond is taken
I hope it may be so

note: from Cousin John D. Walker to J W Walker

No. Carolina

Roanoke, Island

Camp Dickinson

May 2nd/62

Dear Cousin

I now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you. I am well I hope this may find you the same. I am a soldier in the New York 89th Regt I enlisted in Nov. I staid in Elmira 3 weeks. We then went to Washington. I staid there 4 weeks and then joined the burnside Expedition landed on Hatteras Island was there 5 weeks I then came here. I have seen a good deal. I have no small share of hardship to encounter but when I think that it is duty that called so many to leave friends and home assotiations I feel no inclination to murmer but stand bodly in defence of the Union for if you could be here I see what villiany is in the Rebbels your blood would boil. A week ago Saturday we 4,000 strong made an attack on 3,000 Rebels they were behing breastworks and we had to charg bayonet and drive them out the engagement lasted about one hour and a man who had been in 9 battles said it was the hottest act... hed been in. Our loss 20 killed and 70 woulded. Rebel loss 60 killed and 150 wounded. It started me some the first round but when I began to run ofver the dead and wounded I could have went up and planted the flag on their breastworks for all fear banished but the balls flew like rain gnd the Rebels to for we are bound to go through. Leonard is at York Town in the N.Y. 13th Regt. I think when that place and Norfolk is taken this war will

close. Our folks were all well the last I herd from home.
If Reese is in the war I would like to have you send me
adress Regt & Company for I like to hear from friends and
maybe he is near hear but I must close for the Drum begins
to beat give my respects to all and excuse poor writing and
spelling. Write soon as you get this and let me know how
war matters are looked upon in your parts

from Your Cousin

John D. Walker

to J.W.Walker

***-----

Fortress Monroe
Burnside Expedition
89th Regt. N.Y.V.
Co. C

P.S. ther is no postage stamps here to be had

Dear Friend,
Give my respects to all
and excuse poor matters
expecting mine are as you
get. That I let you know
how war matters are looking
upon in your part
from your cousin
Edw. J. W. Walker

[illegible]

N. Carolina
 Roanoke Island
 Camp Dickerson, on May 24th 1864
 Dear Garrison
 I now take my pen
 in hand to write a few lines
 to you. I am well & hope
 this my first gives the same
 I now reside in the
 N. York St. Regt. I enlisted
 in New York in Blair
 Banded & then went to
 Washington where there
 was a lot of fine
 in the Peninsula Expedition
 landed on Battery Island
 was there 5 weeks then
 I came here, I have seen
 a good deal & have had
 a great deal of hard work

to encounter ~~her~~ but
when I think that
it is ~~only~~ that called
so many to leave friends
& home associations I feel
no inclination to murder
but stare boldly in
defiance of the Union
for if you could be here &
see what allying is in the
Rebels your blood would
boil ~~down~~ & go. Naturally we
were ~~the~~ strong side can
act on I was. Rebels they
will be but best to wait &
wait to charge. Say you
& drive them ~~down~~ ^{out} its again
lasted about one hour & a man
who had been in 3 or 4 battles
said it was the hottest at
least ~~that~~ been in our loss
was 20 killed & 40 wounded

[illegible]

Camp near Lees Mills Va. May 3rd 1862

Dear Mother, Brother & Sisters

I take my pen once more to let you know that I am still in the land of the living although it is some time since I have written to any of you. Also to let you know that I receive & am thankful for the letters & papers sent me. We have received most of the numerous or rather the many different accounts of the battle of Shilo & the troops engaged their conduct & suffering &c&c and this time has suffered severely but great as is the loss, terrible as the suffering is it is selfish to wish it otherwise & if we did under the circumstances we could not expect it to be gratified.

Plover of course is in mourning & well she may be. Many will now know what real trouble & suffering is. But comments may be made by thousands & still the half will not be told, no explanations will satisfy, no consoling words will be sufficient. I will not particularize. There has been too many incidents of interest. Some painful & shocking sights that have come under my notice since I have been on this peninsula, if I had time & better descriptive powers I would give some of them. From what I see & hear preparations are being made for an attack on the enemy here & but I shall not be surprised if this is not made in a month or six weeks. About two weeks ago we had talk with the rebel pickets every time we were on picket some (one or more of us) would talk reasonable & when they agreed not to fire at one other for a certain length of time or while talking they would not break their words. Others would talk nothing but abuse & backgammon & now & try & sell or catch some of us & would invariably fire at any of our boys whenever opportunity offered, their word to the contrary. This conversation is now strictly prohibited. Burt Millard was shot while on picket a few days since, he lived but a few hours, the bullet entered a few inches above the heart he bore his suffering as a man of iron nerve & will only could, while he was suffering all the human can suffer he talked to his friends & those that came near. He said he was satisfied & feared not to die.

But I must close for I am on guard & it is nearly time for me to go on post. Day before yesterday we first received the news of the fall of New Orleans from rebel sources.

With Much Love to all

I remain yours &c

FRW

①
Camp, Near Lees Mills, 3rd May 3rd 1862
Dear Mother, Brother, & Sisters,

I take my pen once more to let you know that I am still in the land of the living although it is some time since I have written to any of you, also to let you know that I receive & am thankful for the letters & papers sent me. We have since most of the numerous, or rather the many different accounts of the battle of Shiloh & the troops engaged their conduct & suffering &c &c. And Mrs. this time has suffered severely, but great as is the loss, ~~trouble~~ as the suffering is it is ^{rich} to wish it otherwise, & if we did under the circumstances we could not expect it to be gratified. However, of course it is in the morning & we all may be. Many will now know what real trouble & suffering is. But ^{our} comforts may be made by

now and still the half will not
be told, no explanations will satisfy
no consoling words will be sufficient
We will not particularize
There has been so many incidents
of interest some painful & shocking
lights that have come under my
notice since I have been on this
peninsula, if I had time & better
descriptive powers I would give
some of them, I am what I see & hear
reflections are being made for and
attraction on the enemy here & I shall
not be surprised if there is not made in
a month or six weeks. I boat two weeks
we had talk with the rebel pick-
ets every time we were on picket
some would talk reasonably when
they agreed not to fire at one other for
a certain length of time or while talk-
ing they would not break their
words. Others would talk nothing
but abuse & backsliding & now &

(3) I sell or catch some of us
would invariably fire at any of our boys
whenever opportunity offered & their word
to the contrary!
This conversation is now strictly
prohibited, But Millard was shot
while on picket a few days since, he
lived but a few hours, the bullet en-
tered a few inches above the heart
he bore his suffering as a man of iron
nerve & will only could, while he ~~was~~
was suffering all the human can suf-
fer he talked to his friends & those that
were near, He said he was satisfied
that he would not die
But I must close for I am on
guard & it is nearly time for me
to go on post
Day before yesterday we first received
the news of the fall of New Orleans
from rebel sources
With much love to all
I remain yours &c F B W

note: from Frank

June 21st, 1862

Dear Mother

Reese had been writing and I will put in a line with his. I am thankfull for your kind letter, also for those James writes. Tell Sue Adda and Gratia to write and I will try some day to make up to you for all my negligence. I have been unwell for about a week but it will be onely for a short time.

We were paid off some time ago and I have little money that I can spare. but I deem it prudent to wait untill I get a chance to send by express rather than risk it by mail.

Reese saw one of the 13th N.Y. he said that S. Walker was taken sick last fall I believe and sent to Phillidelphis.

As I am rather weak I will write no more this time.

Give my love to all friends reserving a portion to yourselves.

F R.Walker

June 2nd, 1862

Dear Mother

Reese has been writing
I will give in a line with him
I am thankful for your kind let-
ter, also for those James writes
Tell Sue Adela & Gratia to write
I will try some day to make
up to you all for my negligence
I have been unwell for about a
week but it will be only for a
short time.

Things were held off some time
ago & I have a little money
that I can spare but I deem it
prudent to wait until I get an
ance to send by express rather
than risk it by mail.

Reese saw one of the 13th reg. he
said that S. Walker was ta-
ken sick last fall & he
& sent to Philadelphia.

As I am rather weak I will

write no more this time

Give My love to all friends
reserving a portion to yours-
elves

F B, Walker

Camp near Harrisons Landing
July 17th 1862

Dear Brother

Your letter was read this morning and I set myself to reply. I have no news of importance to write. My health is good and the Plover boys are all usually well. You seem to be feeling rather blue on account of my being wounded. I think I should have written the particulars. I received a slight wound in the neck the night previous to our leaving Chickahomany. Our brigade was on the picket line to support the pickets in case they were attacked. There was hard fighting going on to our right and it was feared they would try and break through our lines but we were too well prepared for them. They commenced shelling us about 2pm and kept it up about 4 hours doing but little damage. About 1 O'clock a large force of infantry was brought forward and commenced firing at a distance of 30 rods. but we replied promptly and with telling effect for they soon skedaddled in this engagement we lost but few men. A man by the name of Ripley and myself were the only ones wounded in our company. I was hit by a musket ball the force of which was spent otherwise it would have completely cut my throat. It caused but a slight wound. It was quite sore for a few days but is well now. Our loss that night was not over 20 killed and 30 wounded. We captured the next (day) some of the rebels that were engaged that night. They state their loss at several hundred. It was old Toombs' division. Nearly all Georgia troops. McClellan has got his army into a position which is impregnable and the health of his troops is greatly improving. If government is prompt in furnishing more men I think Richmond can be taken this fall. I hope (for) a more vigorous and decisive policy. We have now got rid of Grant McDowell and got a true and brave man in his stead. We may look for something in that direction. Hunter in the South _____ has done but little. He will have to be ousted. The appointment of Gen Halleck commander in chief I think gives general satisfaction. I think it a good appointment. At all events we should have a military head or chief. I think that Baton Rouge is in our possession and the capture of Murfreesboro was of little importance.

Jim you must not get the blues for that would be useless. This Union is surely to be restored as far as the Rebels are concerned.

they cannot raise 100,000 more troops and if we needs we can Raise
1000,000 there are plenty of loafers in our northern citties
that can come As well as not and if they will not volunteer there is a
way to fetch such coots to time and I think the soomer such means are
adopted the better show them no mercy but send them to the rescue
if we could have had 75,000 more men four weeks ago we could have had
Richmond

but by the gods it shall be ours at all costs I wish I could be there
at home I mean to help you cut your ^{Rye}~~Rye~~ but it is impossible. I
received a letter from Gratia a few days since and one from Addie
Write soon good by for this time

RWWalker

JWWalker

* Toombs, Robert A

2 PM and kept it up about 4 hours doing but little damage. About 8 o'clock a large force of infantry was brought forward and commenced firing at a distance of 30 rods, but we replied promptly and with telling effect for they soon retreated in this engagement we lost but few men & man by the name of Ripley and myself were the only ones wounded in our company. It was ^{about} 12 o'clock that the force which was spent this morn-
ing would have completely cut my front if it was not for a few days fire as well now. Our loss this night was not over 20 killed and 30 wounded. We captured the next morn-
ing those engaged that night they state their loss at several hundred it was all done by division nearly all Georgia troops. Roane as in our possession and

3) W. A. Allen was just two days into a practical success in Maryland and the result of his efforts is greatly improving the general prospects in furnishing more men. I think that Richmond can be taken and held. I hope a more vigorous and decisive policy. We have now a good of grading (McClellan) and got a trade and some man in his stead. We may wait for something in that direction. I am in the John L. ... has done but little. He will leave to be ordered the appointment of Gen. Frellick, commander in chief. I think you general satisfaction I think it a good appointment at all events we should have a military head or chief. I think that ... the capture of ...

was of little importance.

I am afraid must not get - the dead
for that would be as useless as the
armor is sure to be destroyed
as far as the Rebels are concerned
this cannot raise 100,000 more
troops and if we need it we can
raise 100,000.

There are plenty
of men in our numbers certainly.
And can come as well as get
it. They will not volunteer
there is a way to catch such coots
to time and I think the sooner
such means are adopted the
better. Show them no mercy but
send them to the rear. If we
could have had 75,000 of more
men four weeks ago we could
have had Richmond.

But by the gods it shall
be ours at all costs. I wish
I could be there at home. I mean
to keep you out - our Regt
is too - impossible. I believe
we are getting a few days more
before we can get down. I believe
I'll be back by or this time
I'll be back.

Camp near Harrisonburg

July 21st 1862
(Dear Brother)

Your letter was
read this morning and I am sorry
to reply I have no news of importance
to write. My health is good and
the black boys are all usually
well. I've seen to the feeling of
the Confederate army.
I'm sorry. I think I should have
written the particulars I received
I sent it around in the week the
most of persons in our army.

Chas. Ketchum's 9th Regt. was on
the picket line to support the picket
line as they were attacked. Men are
hard fighting & sing on to our right
and it was feared they would try
and break through our lines but
we were well prepared for them
they commenced shelling us about

Pls and kept it up about 4 hours
doing but little damage. About 9 o'clock, a large force of infantry was brought
forward and commenced firing at a
distance of 30 rods, but we replied
promptly and with telling effect for
they soon withdrew. In this engage-
ment we lost but few men & men
by the name of Ripley and myself
were the only ones wounded in our
company. I was ^{shot} ~~speared~~ a musket-ball
in the force of which was spent ^{the} ~~your~~ mine.
It would have completely cut my thumb if it
it caused but a slight wound. It was
quite sore for a few days but is
well now. Our loss that night was
not over 20 killed and 30 wounded.
We captured the next ^(day) some of the
rebels. We were engaged last night
they were their loss at-
tained it was our loss.
division near all Georgia troops. We

3)
Wallace has got no
is a position which is
impracticable and the result of the
policy is greatly improving the
is prompt in furnishing more men
I think that Pickens can take
his gall. I hope a more decisive
and decisive policy. The
was got rid of yesterday (McDowell)
And got a trade and some more
in his stead. We may wait for
something in that direction
is the John L. S.
has done but little. We will have
to be ousted the a prominent
Gen. Pollock, commander in
chief. I think I was general
satisfaction. I think it a good
appointment at all events we
should have a military head
or chief. I think that Polk
is in our possession and
the capture of Murfreesboro.

Camp Near Harrisons Landing
July 28th 1862

Dear Brother

_____ rather we read a letter from you a few days ago I will now
reply I believe Reese did immediately The health & spirits of the
soldiers are improving & we are having comparatively an easy time
Chas. Packard I suppose is taken prisoner he had not been with the
Regt for some time before we first crossed the Chickahommy but was left
in the rear to see to a few sick & afterwards when the enemy turned our
right & got on our flank he was taken. The condish. of the other
plover boys is not bad. Now to the wound which had given you all so
much uneasiness. we did not consider it worth mentioning & some of the
company did not know he had the scratch until days afterwards. The
skin of his neck was seared by a spent ball. We wrote the first oport-
unity after we changed our position & several times since.
The P Boys sent a package By Express to McDill & Bro. containing \$130.00
I sent \$40.00 & Reese \$30.00 I mentioned it in a previous letter
but not knowing whether you read it or not I thought proper to mention
it again. Let us know if the Package has been Recd. I don't know as
I have any news of importance to communicate I will there fore close.
Give my love to our folks Mother in particular. hoping soon to hear
from you. I remain your affectionate Brother

FRWalker

Keep Cooll on the present difficulties. The manner of running the
Machine is Materrally changed. public opinion will at this late day
sanction the change. It will tell from this out. Remember that in two
years at the rate thing have been done the year past. The male whites
of the south will be all children cripples & old broken down men

Fear Not

Copy #1

Room 306

Camp ~~Washington~~ ^{Kennedy Landing}
July 28th 1962

Dear Brother

Good rather we rec'd
a letter from you a few days
ago & will have felt a little better.

These did immediately. The
health & spirits of the soldiers are
improving & we are having
appreciatively an easy time.
Chris, Richard & I suppose is the
prisoner. When we too he had
not been with the Regt. for some
time before we crossed the
border. ~~He was~~ but was left

in the war zone to a few sick
& afterwards when the enemy
turned our right & got our plane
he was taken. The condition of
the other prisoner boys is not
bad. Now to that wound
which has given you all
so much uneasiness, we did

not consider it worth mentioning.
& some of the company did not
know he had the scarlet until days
afterwards. The skin of his neck
was seared by a spear ball.

We would the first opportunity
after we changed our position
& several kinds since.

The P Boys sent a package
by Express to Mr. Lee & Bros con-
-taining \$130.00 I sent \$40.00
& Reese \$30.00. I mentioned it

in a previous letter but not know-
ing whether you need it or
not I thought proper to mention
it again. Let us know if

that package has been received.
I don't know as I have any
news of importance to com-
-municate to will therefore

close. Give my love to our
folks. Mother in particular.
I hope soon to hear from you. I hope you are
affectionate to Brother F. R. Holt.

Keep well on the present
difficulties. The manner of
operating the machine is materially
changed. Public opinion will be
this late day sanction the change. It
will tell for us this next summer.
that in two years at the rate things
have been done the year past. The
male whites of the south will be
all children, cripples & old broken down
men

Dear W. H.

Copy #2

Camp near Harris Landing
July 28th 1862

Dear Mother

Good rather we recd
a letter from you a few days
ago. I will now reply to them.
These did immediately. The
health & spirits of the soldiers are
improving & we are having
relatively an easy time.
Gen. Packard & his horse is taken
prisoner. When we took he had
not been with the Regt. for some
time before we crossed the
Chickahominy but was left
in the rear. He see to a few sick
& afterwards when the enemy
turned our right & got ^{on} our flank
he was taken. The condition of
the other flower boys is not
bad. Now to that wound
which has given you all
so much uneasiness, we did

not consider it worth mentioning
& some of the company did not
know he had the scratch until days
afterwards. The skin of his neck
was seared by a spent ball.
We wrote the first opportunity
after we changed our position
& several friends since.

The 2 Boys sent a package
By Express to McTear & Bro com-
-mencing \$130.00 I sent \$40.00
& Reese \$30.00. I mentioned it
in a previous letter but not know-
-ing whether you need it or
not I thought proper to mention
it again. Let us know if
that package has been received
I don't know as I have any
news of importance to com-
-municate & will therefore
close. Give my love to our
folks. Mother in particular.
hoping soon to hear from you I suppose you
affectionate Brother (E.B.) H.B.

Keep cool on the present
difficulties. The manner of
running the Machine is materially
changed. Public opinion will in
this late day sanction the change. It
will tell for this out. Remember
that in two years at the rate things
have been done the year past. The
male whites of the south will be
all children, cripples & old broken down
men

- - - - - fear not

Note: Reese & Frank to James

Camp near Harrisons landing Aug. 13th, 1862

Dear Brother

We read yours of the 3rd night before last and as I have a little leisure this afternoon I will employ it in writing to you. To begin the Plover boys are enjoying tolerable good health although H. Russell and C.M. Dunsmore are complaining a little. I think they will soon be all right again.

I am glad to learn that the money sent went through all right.

I have allotted twenty dollars to you which you will receive from the state treasurer next pay-day. But to explain

According to an act of congress an act was passed by which any one in the army wishing to send a part or the whole of their wages home*** can do so through the government place of deposit instead of having it paid to them and then sending it themselves.

We expect to leave here every hour our nap sacks and the most of our camp equipage was taken to the landing and put on board boats day before yesterday. The general opinion is that we go to join Pope this opinion is strengthened by the news in todays paper it is that a battle is and has been going on for two days between Pope and Jackson. One of our soldiers just returned from Richmond says that the rebbels have been sending reenforcements to Jackson night and day for the last week and they swear that they will enter Washington in ten days. No doubt they will make a desperate effort before we get our new troops into the field.

As to the Capt. he sinks lower and lower in the estimation of his men every day his evil doings are to numerous and damnable to mention. his meanness is notorious through out our Co. our Regt. and in fact the Brigade he is mentioned only to be rediculed and cursed. I will now close as Reese said he will write some Give my love to all Mother in particular

Frank R Walker

Brother James

As Frank has been writing and has left space I will write a few lines though Frank has written all of the news. My health is first rate though this hot wether makes a man wilt. I hear the Banks and Jackson are fighting. our troops hold their ground if we can reenforce them in time we can save the Capitol if the rebbels should succeed it will be but temporary for I think that our government is getting terribly in ernist. When I received the information that had called for 300,000 more troops and if they were not forth comeing they should be compelled to I felt like shouting to god or Abe Lincoln. For after one years of toil and hard fighting and we had done so little compared to what there is to do and I know that we are to have ample reenforcements - it is cheering news indeed McClellans little band of heros have been nearly over powered (~~reduced by~~ ^{crossed out} great) and forced to retreat. it was a sad specticle indeed to look upon the haggared and care worn faces after the 7

day fight. they had fought the enemy against fearful odds
yea and conquered them but to be left here to die from
disease and know that the cowardly pups in the north were
finding fault with our galant leader but not willing to come
to the rescue. it was discouraging business but since
we are to be reenforced and that speedily the men are all
cheerfull and anxious to be led to the fray and to reap
new laurels and glory even at the cannons mouth. We will
do the fighting if the new recruits will come and gabrison
our forts and guard the towns that we captured. I think
we shall soon be able to capture Richmond and then that
rebellion will be played out. Jim send all of the men you
can spare from Plover. as you are a cripple you can stay
and attend to mothers at home Jim if you want any material
for officers first send me a commission and I will come and
except. I will close for this time for I am in a hurry
good by my love to all write with the rest - write soon

RW Walker

Jim Walker

landings & put on board boats day before yesterday. The general opinion is that we got top of the Rebels. This opinion is strengthened by the news in the daily paper. It is that a battle is & has been going on for two days between Pope & the Rebels.

One of our soldiers just returned from Bushy pond says that the Rebels have been sending reinforcements to Jackson night & day for the last week & they swear that they will enter Washington tomorrow. No doubt they will make a desperate effort before we get our troops into the field.

As to the Capt. He speaks low & humble in the estimation of his men every day. His ^{own} doings are so numerous & damnable to mention his meanness is notorious throughout our own Regt. In fact the Brigade he is mentioned only to be ridiculed & cursed. I will give you as close as I can say he would not save some of our boys to all the other in particular. I think it is

Frank B. Hall

Aug. 13, 1862 continued

(3)

Friend James

As Grant has been fighting
and has left space I will write a few lines
though I have been written all of the news
but health is first rate though this hot
weather makes a man write. I think that the
land for whom are fighting our troops to be
their ground the if we have reinforcements
in time we can force the Confederates
if the rebels should succeed it will be
but temporary for I think that our position
is getting steadily to exist. When I received
the information that government had
called for 10,000 more troops and if they are
not forth coming they should be disappointed
to I felt like shouting a long & loud
of Hallelujah. For after one year of
hot and hard fighting and we had done
so little compared to what there is to do
and to know that we are to have ample
reinforcements it is cheering news indeed
The Rebels little band of forces have
been nearly overpowered and reduced to
forced retreat at every advantage
indeed to look upon the baggage and care
worn faces of the weary soldiers

[illegible][illegible]

1870

Brother James will you
please to write us a short line
often and tell us the news
My love to all white people
Come to warren

P.S. I saw Dan Knight
a few days since he is in the
worthy Regt. 4th Mass.

Chas. D. White writes you

Alexandria 10 Sept-5th
Dear Brother and Sister

As I have a little
leisure I will in private sit in
writing. you have heard of
wholesale blood that we have
spilt the Peninsula and
now occupy the old line
of fortifications in front of
Washington. We have been
here for the past week we
marched out to Centerville
and did not arrive in time
to render any assistance on the
battlefield. It was a bloody
fight and our forces were
forced to retreat. The army of
Virginia had suffered a heavy
loss. They did not have any
McClellan, but they had Mc Dowell
and his men say he is a true
traitor and I have thought so for

(18)

ing time. I think he should
involved at all events for his
have no confidence in his
ity or ability. Another thing,
rather being, but perhaps
man come out clear. I think
ice McClellan had assumed
demand of the forces for the defense of
Washington all seem to feel
identical - that all will get the
thought the Peninsula campaign
a failure while he had
cooperation of the Swell and
indeed doubtless had Richmond
this. As regards Butler James
soldier, one especially who
under his country a real assurance
one half of our army is useless
some have no doubt from either
others have no consultation
for my part - I think he had to
stay at home and work for
and take care of
and of it. But I must close
for we are under branching
orders. Come that we will
go to Harper's ferry others to
Baltimore. I think we may see
more at present. I think say
James exists, he will do

Brother James will you
please to write us as soon as
you and all in the news
my love to all with people
and all in the news

Believe me Dear Knight
I am glad since we are in the
worldly Right with you

Chas & Willie Smith give
you

①

Alexandria 10 Sept 5th
Dear Mother and Brother
As I have ad-
vised you I will in forward in
writing you have heard
without words that we have
left the Peninsula and
now occupy the old line
of fortifications in front of
Washington. We have been
here for the past week we
marched and to Centerville
and did not arrive at time
to render aid assistance on the
falling back. It was a hard
fight and our forces were
forced to retreat. The army of
Virginia had suffered a heavy
loss. They did not have any
McClellan, but they had McClellan
and his men say he is a fine
leader and I have thought so for

④

3
to my mind. I think he should consider one especially who can be depended at all events for his men have no confidence in his loyalty or ability. Another thing, some have no disloyalty after look rather strong, but perhaps others have no consideration light may come out clear, for my part I think he has been since McClellan has examined stay at home and work his command, of the forces for the defense of the fort and take care of you of Washington all seem to feel and of the. But I must close confident that we will get the for we are under marching well though the Pennsylvania campaign orders. Come think we will was a failure after he had go to Harpers Ferry others to the cooperation of Mr. Sweeney. I believe still we may not should definitely had Richmond more at present. Grant says we two. He says as Butler James of James expects he will desert. I think it would neither be just. H. Curran says he should have one case for him to vent. 60 lashes as you have our opinion two out of three is enough. now I guess he will be by at home as I think he could stand the they could not draft him any way. I suppose for he is subject to the and I understand that John. Rheumatism, and it is dangerous. has sent her quota good by man of even consideration to make your application at Wash. D.C. Mr. Walker

note: from Reese

Alexandria Va. Sept 5th, (1862)

Dear Mother and Brother

As I have a little leisure I will improve it in writing you have heard with out doubt that we have left the Peninsula and now occupy the old line of fortifications in front of Washington we have been here for the past week we marched out to Centreville but did not arrive in time to render any assistance on the battle field. it was a bloody fight and our forces were forced to retreat. The army of Virginia has suffered a heavy loss. they did not have any McClellan but they had McDowell and his men say he is a base traitor and I have thought so for a long time. I think he should be removed at all events for his men have no confidence in his loyalty or ability Mother things look rather blue but perhaps light may come our (of) darkness. Since McClellan has resumed command of the forces for the defense of Washington all seem to feel confident that all will yet be well though the peninsula campaign was a failure still had he had the cooperation of McDowell we should doubtless had Richmond era this. As regards Brother James I think it would neither be just or wise for him enlist. two out of three is enough. nor do I think he could stand the exposure for his is subject to the Rheumatism and it requires a man of iron constitution to make a soldier one especially who can render his country a real service one half of our army is useless

some have no disposition while others have no constitution
for my part I think he had better stay at home and work his
farm and take care of you and Ada. But I must close for we
are under marching orders. Colonel think we will go to
Harpers ferry others to Baltimore still we may not move at
present. Frank says if James enlists he will desert.
H. Curran says he should have 60 lashes. so you have our
opinion now I guess he will stay at home they could not
draft him anyway and I understand that Plover has sent her
quota good by your affectionate son

R W Walker

to Gratia K. Walker

Brother James will you pleas to write us a short letter and
tell us the news My love to all write soon

Reese W. Walker

P.S. I saw Oscar Knight a few days since he is in the 107th
N.Y. Write write

Ada I will write you soon

note: from Reese and Frank

Fort Advace Sunday Sept. 8th (1862)

Brother Jim

I find myself seated at the roots of an old oak tree in the old Dominion state am on one side and Fuller on the other picking the rib of an ox I am well and the boys from Plover are well we left our camp on meridian Hill last Tuesday night at 10 o clock P.M. and arrived here at day break expecting every monent to face the enemy and try our muscle but they failed to make the connection and instead of fighting we were set at work building a fort and felling timber which might interfere with the range of our cannon. But I must tell you sone thing about our location We are situated on a high piece of ground about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Chain Bridge and $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Washington We were ordered last night to cook rations for 2 days and expected to march for the enemies lines but did not start for reasons unknown to me Our pickets are in advance of the main body of the army from 2 to 3 miles and there are frequent shots exchanged between our pickets and those of the enemy I think the boys those from Stanton at least had rather fight than shovel sand they all express a great desire to fight and I think they will all do their duty. There are about 20 thousand troops stationed at Fort Corcoran which is 4 miles distant from here it is impossible to state the number of troops stationed here but there are enough to prevent the rebels crossing at this point which is a very important one to us but I must give way for Frank give my love to mother and Adda I remain your brother

JWW (write soon)

RW Walker

P.S. We have not received our pay yet but will send it to you as soon as I get it RWW

Brother James

Much against my will I take the pen to fill the sheet for there is no chance that suits me besides when I begin I want to write enough to fill such a sheet as this at least and this I have not time to do at present. we are all feeling as well and enjoying as much as it is possible for people haveing as weak intellects and debased natures as we have can Johnny E had just come over here to gass and exchange lies with us. the boys are entertaining him while I attempt to write. they are sprawled about in every concievable position which makes it impossible for them all to get under our bow house I hardley know what to compare the moise made by their conversation to I should not call it conversation. the majority of them ^{talk} incessantly if not more. such a war of words I never saw before. volley follows volley I get a shot ocassionally I stop and return it to the best of my ability they have picked up quite a collection of jokes and slang phrases and all appear to be anxious to appear as witty as possible.

They are doeing it to agravate me and they succeed verry well. I suppose it is superflous to tell you this for it is evident from what I have written that I am not in the best of humor imaginable. Perhaps you will be surprised at our feeling so contented and indifferent aparently to what may happen to us

when I tell you that our pickets have been driven in $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and an enemy of unknown numbers is but 3 miles distant and advancing night before last the report was that the enemy was within 5 miles 50 thousand strong crying //Buraguard (P.G.T. Beauregard) is our leader we have nothing to fear. It is generally believed that Jeff is dead.

(DAVIS)

I will write you a letter as soon as possible

I dont call this one

FW

work interests & devoted nature. As we have cars, Jimmy & I have gone over here to guess & exchange views with us. The boys are entertaining him when I attempt to write. They are 'persecuted' about in every conceivable position which makes it impossible for them all to get under our two horses. I hardly know what to compare the noise made by their conversation to. I should not call it conversation. The majority of their talk in earnest is not more. Such a war of words I never saw before. When I slow down I get shot occasionally by some & pretend it to be the best of me. I am not in the best of my health. They have picked up quite a collection of phobias. I am not to appear as with you as possible. They are doing it to agitate me. They succeed very well. I suppose it is superfluous to tell you this for it is evident from what I have written that I am not in the best humor imaginable. Perhaps you will be surprised at our feeling so contented when I find myself apparently to what may happen to us when I tell you that our tickets have been given in 12 inches. I am weary of unknown members. I eat 3 smalls of food and am very happy. I have lost the report was that the boys were within 6 miles of Howard. Every day Buraguard is our leader we have nothing to fear. It is general. I would that Jeff is dead. I will write you a letter as soon as possible. I will call it a letter as soon as possible.

Port Hope Fri. day Sep 9th
Brother Jim Lind myself
went at the roots of an
old oak tree in the old
Tombstone, ^{land} Carra-
canne side of the
other picking the seed of a
of Yam well and the
yagassoon flower.
Well we left our camp
on mission Hill last
Tuesday night at 10 o'clock
P.M. and arrived here at
day break expecting every
hour to see face to face
and try our muscles but
they failed & making the
connection and instead
of fighting we were set at
work building a fort
and filling timber which

②

right interfere with the
 range of our Cars or our
 But I must tell you
 some thing about our location troops
 we are situated on a high
 piece of ground about 1 1/2 miles
 from Chain bridge and
 7 1/2 miles from Washington
 we were ordered to cook
 rations for 2 days ~~last night~~
 and expected to march for
 the enemy's lines but did
 not start for reasons unknown
 to me Our pickets are in
 advance of the main body
 of the army from 2 to 3 miles
 and there are frequent
 shots exchanged between our
 pickets and those of the enemy
 I think the dogs have been
 shot at least had rather
 fight than shoot and
 they all appear as green

③

desire to fight and I think
 they will use to their advantage
 we are about 20000 horses
 and location troops stationed at Fort Brown
 which is 4 miles distant from
 here it is impossible to state
 the number of troops stationed
 here but there are enough
 to prevent the rebels crossing
 at this point which is a easy
 important one to us but I must
 say for Frank ^{give my love}
 I love you Brother ^{to mother and}
 R. W. M. ^{write soon}
 Brother James
 I much again I will
 I take pen too ill but I will
 I am sure that it must be a
 I know I want to write enough to tell
 you a what as this I told you
 not were to do it present we are
 feeling as well as enjoying as much as
 it is possible for people having as

work. I collect & deposed natives. I
as we have care, Jimmy O has just
come over here to gas & exchange his
with us. The boys are entertaining him
while I attempt to write. They are
prowled about in every conceivable
position which makes it impossible
for them all to get under our bow house
I hardly know what to compare the
noise made by their conversation to
I should not call it conversation.
The majority of them talk incessantly
I don't know, such a war of words & noise
as before. Every fellow over Paeta
that occasionally stops & returns it to
the best of his ability. They have picked
up quite a collection of proper
slang phrases. You are to be anxious
to appear as witty as possible.
If they are doing it to agitate me
I they succeed very well. I suppose
it is superfluous to tell you this
for it is evident from what I have
written that I have not in the best
humor imaginable. Perhaps you will
be surprised at our feeling so contented
when so different a paper is to what may
happen to us when I tell you that our
fellows have been driven in 12 miles
from our camp. I suppose some one
of the 13 miles distant but advising
it to us before last the report was that the
company was within 5 miles of the road
we held. My my Buramard is our leader
we hold everything by ear. It is generally
perceived that Jeff is dead
I will give you a letter as soon as I can.
I don't call this one

①
Copy
Port Moresby Sunday Sep. 9th
Brother Jim

Grand Mandy
seated at the foot of an
old oak tree in the old
Lominione style. Can a
man be so comfortable
other people the aid of
of Dava built a wall the
ago soon however
Well we left our camp
on Monday Hill last
Tuesday night at 10 o'clock
P.M. and arrived here at
day break expecting every
moment to face the enemy
and try our muscle but
they failed to make the
connection and instead
of fighting we merely sat
there building a fort
and feeling tender which

(2)

(3)

(4)

might interfere with the
safety of our Cavalry
But I must tell you
some thing about our location
We are situated on a high
piece of ground about 1 1/2 miles
from Chain bridge and
4 1/2 miles from Washington
We were ordered to cook
rations for 2 days ~~last night~~
and expected to march for
the enemy's lines but did
not start for ~~occasional~~
to me Our pickets were in
advance of the main body
of the army from 2 to 3 miles
and there are frequent
shots exchanged between
pickets and those of the enemy
I think the day has been
spent at least had rather
fight than shoot and
they are expecting a general

descent by the 1st and 2nd
regiments of Cavalry but there
are about seven thousand
men stationed at Fort Corcoran
which is 4 miles distant from
it is impossible to state
the number of troops stationed
here but there are enough
to prevent the rebels crossing
this point which is a very
important one to us but I must
give way for I cannot give any more
of my Brother's
idea
R. W. Walker
Brother James
I think against my will
I think too old to act further
in this matter but I will write when
I begin I want to write enough to fill
such a sheet as this I tried to have
not time to do it present we were
feeling as well as enjoying as much as
it is possible for people having as

XXXXXX

Camp near Fredericksburgh Va Dec 17th 1862

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 7th came to hand this morning. I was very sorry to hear of the illness of Mother but hope she may be well when this shall reach you. There has been fighting along our lines for the past 5 days of the results perhaps you are posted by the papers/ our loss is variously estimated from 6 to 12,000 killed and wounded. our grand division which is commanded by Gen Franklin composed the left wing of Burnside's army last Friday we were ordered to move forward/ our pontoons were laid under enemy fire and we crossed without opposition/ the enemy occupied the hills about one mile from the river/ their position is a strong one where they are screened by heavy timber/ we have to cross a plain with ^{out} protection/ we advanced about halfway to the woods when our skirmishers came in contact with those of the enemy. Artillery firing had been going on in the mean time/ shot and shell flew thick and fast but none of our regt were killed/ about 10 or 15 were wounded we were partially screened from the enemies sharp shooters by a dirt fence which was parallel with our lines/ picket firing was kept up all day/ we lay in line of battle that night and in fact for all the time since until last night Hookers division was ordered from the right and crossed the next day and went into the fight in good still but they were driven back on the main line with great slaughter/ Sumner had been pressing the right hard but failed to gain a foot hold/ many attempts were made to storm the heights but they were as many times repulsed/ it is reported that Hancocks division which is in Sumners corps (the famous Dick Richardson division) made 3 successive charges and were often driven back/ he had 4,500 men and had 3,000 killed and wounded.

At 7 oclock last night we were ordered to sling knapsacks and fall in to line with all possible silence XXXXXXXXXX we supposed we were to abandon the attack in the center and enforce the right wing but we crossed the Rapahamock and the rebels hold our old line. we can see them as they come out of the woods and rumage our old camp/ pick up what may have been lost or left behind

this is the first day of idleness we have had in camp for nearly a week
so much for Burnside/ he may do well/ Frank and I have some great
arguments/ he is for Burnside and I am a strong McClellan man/ for my
part I did not feel at all confident when we first crossed the river
nor while we were there but the soldiers are to well disciplined
to falter no matter who leads/ if we can succeed in turning one of
their flanks then they are gone ____ Burnside had great energy and is
a good officer with out doubt but none can excell McClellan/ good by
for this time/ you may write soon/ we have not been paid yet mail is
so uncertain that you need not send any money
RWWalker

around the side

some stamps would be vary welcome I shall use my last
one on this letter

I saw Capt Drake and shook hands with him this morning

Their brigade was not engaged in the fight

I saw Fred Wesmor and many of the Rapids boys

give my love to all and write soon and often as you can afford to

Below heading

Camp near Frederice, Eschwege Va Dec 17/1

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 7th came to hand this morning. I was very sorry to hear of the illness of Mother but hope she may be well when time shall reach you. There has been fighting along our line for the past 5 days & the results perhaps you are posted by the papers our loss is variously estimated from 6 to 12,000 killed and wounded. Our grand division which is commanded by Gen Franklin composed the left wing of Burnside's army. Last Friday we were ordered to move forward our positions were laid under the enemy's fire and we crossed without opposition. The enemy occupied the hills about one mile from the river their position is a strong one. The hills are screened by heavy timber & because of a crop of wheat with no protection we advanced about half way to the woods when our skirmishers came in contact with those of the enemy. Artillery firing had been going on in the meantime shot and shell & shot took and lost but none of our regts were killed about 11 or 12 were wounded. We were partially screened

from the enemies sharpshooters by a dirt fence which
runs parallel with our lines. Sniper firing was kept
up all day we lay in line of battle that night and in fact for all
the time since until last night. Hooker's division
was ordered from the right and crossed the next day
and went into the fight in good style but they were
driven back on the main line with great slaughter.
Sommer had been preparing the right hard but failed
to gain a foot hold many attempts were made to storm
the heights but they were as many times repulsed.
It is reported that Hancock's division which is in
Summers Corps (the famous Dick Richardson division) made 3
successive charges and were as often driven back he had
4,500 men and had 3,000 killed and wounded.

At 10 o'clock last night we were ordered
to bring knapsacks and fall in line with all possible
silence we supposed we were to abandon the attack.
In the center and reinforce the right wing.
but we crossed the Rappahannock and the Rebels held
our old line. we can see them as they come out
of the woods and ransack our old camp. I pick up
what may have been lost or left behind this is the
first day of our life we have had in camp for nearly
a week. So much for Burnside he may do well
Frank and I have some great arguments he is for
Burnside and I am a John McClellan man for my
part I did not feel at all confident when we first
proposed the river nor while we were there the first
soldiers are to well disappointed that the first
leads of the campaign were there but the
thunder they are gone up Burnside has great plans for
and is a good officer with great energy
can execute McClellan's plan with out doubt but none
look at it but work on.

We have not been paid yet - R. W. Walker
should be so much better than you
and understand money

Some things would be very welcome

copy

when our soldiers are so near the enemy's lines
and are so much exposed to their fire
and are so much exposed to their fire
and are so much exposed to their fire

Camp near Fredericksburg Va Dec 17/4

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 7th came to hand this morn
I was very sorry to hear of the illness of Mother but hope she
may be well when this shall reach you. There has been
fighting along our lines for the past 5 days & the results
perhaps you are posted by the papers our loss is seriously
estimated from 6 to 12,000 killed and wounded. our
grand division which is commanded by gen Franklin
composed the left wing of Burnside's army last Friday we
were ordered to move forward our positions were not
under the enemy's fire and we crossed without opposition
the enemy occupied the hills about one mile from the
river their position is a strong one and they are
screened by heavy timber we have to cross a plain with
no protection we advanced about half way to the
woods when our skirmishers came in contact
with those of the enemy. artillery firing had been
going on in the meantime shot and shell flew thick
and fast but none of our regts were killed about
12 or 14 were wounded we were partially screened

from the extreme exhaustion of a day's journey, which
was marked with peculiarly deep-frozen snow kept
the road very dry in the middle of the night and in the great
floods of water from the snow and covered the road
and swept up the night in great and sudden waves
which were in the main time with great and sudden
downer had been freezing the snow had been but little
to gain a foot here many attempts were made to cross
the high road they were so many times refused
it is reported that an expert American which is in
Chambers' camp (the same Dick Richardson) made a
successful charge and was as good as back he had
4:30 down on the 8:00 miles and down at
at 7:00 miles Easting 11 - 12 miles East