

**CIVIL WAR LETTERS
of
TIMOTHY B. MESSER**

Tenth Vermont Volunteers



Edward C. Phelps, Ed.

E.A. Hall & Co. Inc., Greenfield, Ma.

1986

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FORWARD

It has been twenty-five years since my nephew, Edward C. Phelps, completed his project to decipher and print the *Civil War Letters of Timothy B. Messer*, our ancestor from the 1800s.

Now, with permission from Edward and his wife Beverly, I have electronically scanned the book and entered the document into a computer-word program.

This edition is a word-for-word copy of the book, preserving to the best of my ability the spellings and punctuation of the original. I should add that proof-reading a text including words considered misspelled in today's world is not an easy task. For technical reasons it is not a line-for-line copy, and the page formatting has been changed for easier reading.

George A. Phelps
Sparks, Nevada
[May 1, 2011]

Tyson Turnace Sept ~~7~~²⁹ 1861

Dear Susan;

I do not know as I have much to write, it is rather loomsome here today and rather cold to and I presume it is cold in Saratoga but I hope you will not suffer with the cold for the sake of saving a few cents but contrive some way to keep warm either with cloathes or fire. Sullivan Webster is dead and was hurried yesterday. Our liberty pole has blown down but did not do any damage. I received the Dr letter the day you left he says he will take ^{you} at seven dollars a week each and wanted you to carry a blanket and comfortable, if you want them you find out when Mr Martin is coming out their again and let me know what ones to send and I will try and send them some way, he also writes that if you both go he will take 500 lbs of butter at fifteen cts a pound delivered their and if you go a lone he will take 300 lbs so I conclude he thinks you will have to stay six or seven weeks any way. The talk is that butter is doing a little better and I am affraid I cannot buy it low enough to afford to deliver it their for fifteen cents, as

INTRODUCTION

Timothy Messer's granddaughter, Florence Messer Phelps, made me aware of the letters. She showed me one of her packets of four or five and said that yes, there were more, that her brothers and sisters each had some, and that they had been parceled out to her children by their mother, Helen Jones Messer, who had in turn received them from her husband Elwin, Timothy's only child. I began, in 1974, to track down the ones I hadn't seen. Fortunately the Messer family, though large, is close and gregarious, and gathers once a year for family reunions. That made the task easier. What appears here is a transcription of the photocopies of those letters which were furnished to me by Timothy's descendents.

As the collection grew and the blank spots filled, the letters began to assume a genuinely literary form, beginning with the pre-enlistment letters to his wife at Saratoga, building in tension with his movements as part of the Army of the Potomac with its succession of indecisive leaders McClellan, Pope, Burnside, Hooker and Meade, climaxing with the numbing shock of the death of Simon Lesage, and resolving with the accession of Grant and the grim days of the Siege of Petersburg and the final assault on the Confederate lines.

It also became apparent as the collection grew that the Timothy and Susan of 1861 were not the same persons as those of 1865. The sickly Susan of 1861, by the war's end, had resolutely assumed the management of the household and the business. When she writes to Timothy for advice on a home matter, probably at this point in their separation more from habit than necessity, he answers that her judgment is better than his and she should make her own choice. I suspect she already had. I found a shift in the tone of Timothy's letters also, from the tempered braggadocio of the 1862 letters from Maryland to the somber letters from Petersburg in which we see a matured veteran facing the possibility of death in battle with equanimity. What does not change is the sense of the fundamental decency of this Yankee farmer/lumberman who, caught by forces beyond his control, faces what he must with the courage and the understated dry wit of his Vermont people.

A few characters emerged as the collection grew. Simon Lesage, the longtime companion and fellow enlistee of Timothy's, is the strongest. His letters were difficult for me to transcribe until I began to hear the accents of French Canada in his writing. I particularly enjoyed Swallow and Colbern,

the roistering neighbors of Susan's letters and Nathaniel Haseltine, that "great fool" who married a girl but sixteen years old. Some others who appear need a brief word of explanation. Mr. Baker is Susan's father, and Jeremiah, Uncle Jeremiah to my grandmother Florence, is a relative of theirs.

Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical usage are left as they were found and should prove little problem in reading the letters. A few individual words might be puzzles to someone not grounded in the idiosyncrasies of English as it is rendered in the small towns of Northern New England. A comfortable proved to be the quilted blanket called a comforter in other regions; a liberty pole is today's flagpole; kip boots are boots made from the leather of kids; lotting for sugar means drawing lots for the limited amount available; cecesh is slang for secessionist or Confederate sympathizer. The only one that stuck me completely was the word oaster. Colbern was to furnish some for one of the drunken dances mentioned in Susan's letters, but it would not register with me. It did not register, in fact, until I heard someone ordering some in our village's accent at the general store in town. The word is oysters.

The picture of everyday military life reflected in these pages is vivid. At that period in history each state, indeed each local bank, issued its own currency, which must have made for a bewildering array of paper notes. It is not surprising to hear Timothy ask if Susan could find a greenback, the Federal note of the day. The tent-covered log structures Timothy described so faithfully have been reproduced and are on display at the park commemorating the Battle of Petersburg, outside Fort Lee, Va. The twin realities of hospital life and the certainty of ill health are sharply drawn for us. Medical technology has made us forget the paucity of supplies and the crudeness of the treatments which were available. Dysentery was a fact of life; soldiers lived with it. Over the years it became debilitating, as in Timothy's case, but in the end it was something Grant chose to overlook in his search for men for the final push.

The Siege of Petersburg is worth recalling before reading the letters. Petersburg then, as now, is a pleasant Virginia city whose place in history was secured because it lay in the path of the Union Army of the Potomac on its ponderous march from Washington to Richmond. It was Grant, newly brought to Washington, fresh from his victories in the West, who attacked the city, and, once the initial attack was repulsed, laid siege to it. The siege was long and costly to both sides, and, unlike earlier battles of the Civil War, fought by artillery and by entrenched infantrymen. This was at the time a new approach to warfare against rapid fire weapons and it "became the prototype for the trench warfare of World War I. Grant, tenacious here as he had been in the West, refused to budge, declaring that he would "fight it out along this line if it took all summer," and brought in even more troops, many of them, like Timothy, recruited from the Army hospitals. Old Dr. Phelps back in Brattleboro, who grumbled about sending sick men forward, was merely responding to Grant's orders when he sent Timothy to Fort Distribution. Grant's eventual victory at Petersburg came when he exploited his advantage in manpower by extending his lines further and further to the south, around the city. Timothy speaks of movements to his left, and it is this to which he

refers. The Confederate lines, undermanned to begin with, eventually grew too thin to hold and on April 1. General Phil Sheridan captured an unguarded railroad south of Petersburg at the Battle of Five Forks. Timothy speaks of this in his letter of that date. The railroad was the supply link to Petersburg and Grant knew it. He ordered an all out frontal attack along the entire line of Confederate fortifications at 4:45 the next morning, just at daylight. The rest is better described by Captain Perham in his letter. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House on April 10, 1865.

No introduction is complete without a mention of those who made the work possible. I owe a debt to the following: John Phelps, who sent photocopies and encouragement up the Connecticut River from Springfield, Martha Phelps, who proofread the transcriptions of the photocopies with me, longtime colleague Jim Fotopulos of the Social Studies Department of Greenfield High School for his advice and his company, but most of all to my wife Beverly for making this possible at all.

None of this makes mention of those who so unselfishly shared the letters with me, the Messer descendents. I can make only an incomplete acknowledgement, but I am particularly indebted to John and Florence Phelps, Helen Carr, Mae Moore and Lawrence Messer.

Edward C. Phelps
Bernardston, Mass.

[First Letter of Record]

Tyson furnace July 7th 1861

Dear Wife

Another week has past a way since I wrote you before I hardly knew whether to write so soon or not; thinking perhaps I should not have an other convenient opportunity for a while concluded to embrace the present. I got through work at fathers thursday night and he brought me as far as the Furnace so as to hear from you I red your letter and then let father read it (as he asked the privalege) do you care? I suppose Mrs. Cook told you that Elwin was well and the rest of us also. Oh Susan I am glad to hear that you are so smart and so well contented as you are and hope that you will gain fast. Tell the Doctor if Mrs. Cook says any thing about what you was to pay that when I told mother that I did not think to caution her as I was so far from you and she told Mrs. C. I do not want the Doctor to think that I ment to injure him. You must pardon me for being so negligent that I did not send you any papers yesterday I will send you some when I do this. Emerson had the measles but came back here last monday.

Louvina gets along first rate with the work only she says tel you that she made a mistake on Simons shorts and had them open behind in stead of in front I believe she has got them fixed. Fanny is comeing home next tuesday and Louvina is going to work for them. Mrs Sparhawk thinks that some of her patients have not used her well as she has doctored them until they have got over the worst of it and then gone to doctor Hamilton so that he gets all the praise for cureing them. Jeremiah says that Fanny has just come around again after five or six months stopage you ask the doctor if that is right even in her case when they have so much as she did. Dear Susan I have not ben homesick nor so loansome as I expected but still it would be very gratifying to me if I could see you and chat with you as often as I dream of it. I think you have a pretty good days work to do without any kniting or sowing to do. I have commenced frameing the adition to the barn in hopes to raise it this week. I presume you will not hear from me again so soon unless their is something of importance takes place or you wish me to send some thing to you If you can get time without tireing you to much write often whether you hear from me or not; is this asking to much of a dear sick companion; if so then I must not be gratified in my request how do you get along with Sam Martin and how does his mother do.

I have written all of importance that I can think of and some that is not of importance to you I presume I shal not ask you to excuse the mistakes as I am sure you will overlook them in me.

Inclosed you will find five three cent stamps.

Accept a kiss from your

Timothy

* * * * *

Tyson Furnace July 25 -61

Dear Susan,

I received a line from you yesterday and went down to fathers last night to see what they said. I found them both better then they was Saturday for mother was almost sick then) Elwin has ben sick since then is cuting more teeth but was better this morning. Mother says she can get along with Elwin a while longer she does not want to have you come home to loose what you have gained so I guess you had better stay a while longer if you can contrive to make the doctor wate for his pay I am going to Cavendish to morrow and Intend to get a draft of fifty dollars and send it to you in this letter and you can let the doctor have it and ask him what you shal doe when that is all taken up whether you shal be obliged to come home then or whether he will trust you and run the risk of get ing his pay for I do not know when or where I can get any more money ask him all about it and let me know soon as convenient and also whether you received the postage stamps and money that I sent in the last letter. Dear Susan dont be discontented nor think hard of me for I assure you that I will do all I can to get money to pay for your staying their as long as you need to.

I am tired and it is bed time please excuse me if I do not write any more now. Keep up good courage and gain fast as possible accept a kiss

yours in haste

Timothy

* * * * *

Tyson Furnace Sept 29 1861

Dear Susan;

I do not know as I have much to write, it is rather loansome here today and rather cold to and I presume it is cold in Saratoga but I hope you will not suffer with the cold for the sake of saveing a few cents but will contrive some way to keep warm either with cloathes or fire. Sullivan Webster is dead and was burried yesterday. Our liberty pole has blown down but did not do any damage. I received the Dr letter the day you left he says he will take you at seven dollars a week each and wanted you to carry a blanket and comfortable, if you want them you find out when Mr Martin is comeing out their again and let me know what ones to send and I will try and send them some way, he also writes that if you both go he will take 500 lbs of butter at fifteen cts a pound delivered their and if you go a lone he will take 300 lbs so I conclude he thinks you will have to stay six or seven weeks any way. The talk is that butter is doing a little better and I am affraid I cannot buy it low enough to afford to deliver it their for fifteen cents, as I shall have to pay cash for it; but perhaps you can make him agree to pay 16 or 17 cents. After we find out whether Fanny stays or not then we will conclude what to do. I hope you are writing today for I am very anxious to hear from you. I guess I will not write any more now. It is loansome today I do not mean to stay at home another Sunday. Monday evening I have received your letter and am glad that you are no worse. The Dr did not say how long he thought it would take to cure you. I have just bin up to Mr Birtheums and they ask 15 cts for the butter, but I expect it is very nice. You tel the Dr that I am afraid he is geting on his high healed shoes (in regard to his price for board) and I am afraid that I shall

have to come out their and talk to him a little; (but I guess I will let you talk a while first). Try hard to make him say that he will pay more for butter if he does not come down on his price for board. If he is in any hurry to know whether he has the butter or not please write and we will find out and let you know soon as we can.

You may keep the other quarter of Louvina's for I have just paid it to her, She has concluded to have us get her a skirt at cavendish. I have not herd from Elwin since you left. It is bed time and I am tired so good night.

From your loving husband

Timothy

I guess Simon will go to Canady the last of the week, do not know whether he will stay their or not. Lovina says she has lost her ring.

* * * * *

Camp on the Potomac
In the wood near Seneca
Landing October 3d 1862

Dear friend,

Will you please let my cousin Joseph Lecour have my french bible which is in my trunk with my other books any time when you get up to Pinerich or send the keys up so that Fanny can get it for him; he wrote to me for it and I just answered him and I thought that I would put this few lines for you, that he might send or hand them to you that you might get it for him; If you go up there yourself get them two pair of new woollen stocking in my trunk and the rest of my writting paper which is in that little tin trunk inside of the big one, and what envelopes ther is with it: if there be any except those that have cards or papers in them, and send it when you send the other stuff, and I should like if you could get a next year's daily pocket diary, my health is good as usual at present although I have been rather unwell fore few days back but I am much better today. Timothy is well as usual, and I think he is injoing soldiering well; he send his respects and want you should keep up good spirits.

Last tuesday evening our company and one other march down the river four or five miles, to Seneca landing, then camp that night on the tow pafs, by the canal side; and next morning we went to camp on to a hill near by in to a grove of hard wood. I like our camping ground here well, but do not know how long we shall stay here. I guess I will stop writing fore I think you will have hard work enough to read what there is.

From your friend

Simon Lesage

Dear Susan

As Simon was writing I thought I would write a few words. I have, received one letter from you and that is all I have received from anyone yet I have sent one to father Messer one to Jeremiah one to Kimball and two to you if you havent received the last one let me know immediately if you havent knit our caps please knit the hind half longer then the front to cover our neck and leave our faces out.

From your husband, Timothy

* * * * *

Camp Grover at arspers's
cross road November 24th 1862

Friend Susan,

I take my pen a little while this evening to write you a few words to tank you fore your kindness to me in sending so many goods things.

I am very glad of my night cap specially of the white one which remind me of old times when I lived up to Ninevah and the folks that lived there than I should be happy to see them all toghater once more and have another good time. I do not know how I am going to pay you fore them. I have been shopping yestoday and today some stuff to build our winter quarters and today we found a lot of wild percirnmons.

I eat what I wanded of them and picked up my coffee cup full and brot up to camp; and Timothy and I had some sugar that we bought toghater we thought that we could fix few of them in it and send them to you for a tast of it. so I got a little bottle and took my percimmons sealt them and than put them in to the bottle and melted the sugar than turn it in to the bottle just as haut as I dare to; I do not expect that they will taste natural when they are green they are the most bitter and puckery thing you ever saw but when wripe they taste much better: they have a rather sweetish and little puckery taste. I should like to have more time to write: but I must close fore it is most roll-call and Dr. Chapin is going early in the morning. So good night.

Yours respectfully

Simon Lesage

Please excuse all mistake for I did not look it over.

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The camp of the Tenth was near the river, on a strip of sloping ground bordering a swamp. Owing to the unhealthful location and the inevitable process of acclimation, the health of the regiment began at once to suffer. The first death in the regiment occurred here on the 26th of September, and the malady soon became serious. Five men died in a single day. The surgeons were capable and attentive; but the hospital accommodations were insufficient and sick men remained in quarters for want of room in the regimental hospital.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict p. 281

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No. 1

Rockville Md Dec 10th 1862

Dear Susan

I have neglected writing on account of cold weather we have had about 3 inches of snow and four or five days of pretty cold weather but is a little warmer today and the snow is disappearing. There are three companies of us stationed here (5 miles from camp grover) for a short time to guard the town records and keep the census still while they are still drafting in this place. I am going to number my letters here after so that you may know whether you get all that I send or not and would like you to do the same. I received the five dollars and stamp with it but the letter was unsealed when I got it it probably worked open in the mailbag as it never stuck but very little. I have received an other one since and am sorry to hear that you are so unwell, I don't want you should write so often if it makes you worse to write. I went to a bakery and bought some cookies, apples and very nice doughnuts for my thanksgiving we had no drill that day and thought of you a great many times. Lesage found a pair of boots that fitted him and he bought them. My stockings are wearing out faster than I expected they would and I would like to have you get a couple pair ready and I presume Lesage and I shall send for a small box of butter in the course of a few weeks (if you don't think I am to extravagant spending so much) I received a paper from you and am very thankful for now and then a paper a Ludlow paper would be acceptable You wanted to know what the sick could buy they can buy figs lemons sugar and butter the butter costs from 30 to 50 cts a pound. I am sorry to say my health is not so good as it was when I first came out. Since I had the shakes I have more unwell spells I am having one now I am so that I am up around all day but feel very weak.

I remain your affectionate Husband

Timothy

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On the 13th of November, Colonel Davis assembled the regiments of his brigade at Qffut's Cross Roads, fifteen miles from Washington, on the road between Great Falls and Rockville, Md. Here the Tenth camped on high ground in the open field. The weather was cold and wet; snow fell on the 7th of November and again on the 15th; and the sick list continued large. Twenty-five men died of typhoid fever in five weeks, and nearly half of the officers were sick.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict p.282

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No 12

Camp at Whites ford, Md.
April 2nd, 1363

Dear Susan:

It is some time since I wrote to you, but I haven't forgotten you in the least by no means for I have dreamed of being at home the last three nights (and that is all the good or hurt it does to dream).

My health continues very good yet, and I hope you are still on the gain. I received your no. 12 letter in due season and also a pair of stockings by Lieut. Perham; I am sorry that you were homesick while at Cavendish. I hope you are not homesick at fathers, now if you see you will tell me wont you? It is very warm today, but yesterday it was cold and very windy, day before yesterday we had quite a snow storm some 3 or 4 inches of snow which lasted until today. It froze considerably last night and night before to, so you see we have changable weather down here as well as in Vt.

I have forgotten whether I wrote to you in my last how much I weighed or not; I guess you will think the contence of the last box (or something else) fatted me very fast. I weighed 169 lbs, if the scails are right. That is more than I ever weighed before. You ask if I ever get very homesick and wish that I had not enlisted. In answer I would say like this I dont get very homesick and I cannot say that I wish I never had enlisted but somtimes when I feel unwell I wish that I was at home but then after all I should want the war closed, if I had not enlisted at all I should keep thinking that I ought to so I guess it is all for the best any way, let us call it so untill it proves different.

I have a little dried apple and a little butter and a little sugar left yet. The sweet cakes lasted four weeks and were first rate to. I should like some new sugar but it costs so much I guess that I must go without it for fear that I shall spend more then I can earn and get to fat.

April 5th

I have been waiting to get a letter from you before I finished this for I have sent two that I havent had any answer from, but it did not come last night so I guess it is best to send this without waiting longer for fear you will be waiting to as I presume you have written unless you are sick. I must write a little more about the weather for it snows like fury today and the wind blows like the oald harry and it seems like an ould Vt. storm. I guess we shall live through it.

Now you guess how I look while I am writing this; I will tell you as near as I can how I have been sitting on our bed (I suppose you know what that is, the ground covered with straw) with a part of my box for a table. I have set here until! my _____ legs ache so that I shall have to move. Now Susan I have not written this feeling to complain, for I think we are as well used as could be expected under the existing circumstances; I am writing now to interest you knowing that all such writing from you interests or pacifies me.

A little about my breakfast; I might had boiled fresh beef, or salt pork, but I prefered to cook my own breakfast so I made some griddle cakes and had some butter and maple sugar to eat on them they were light and nice, if I did make them way out here without milk or anything of the kind. I thought I would write with pen and ink this time for fear I should forget how. I guess I have written about as much of my nonsense as you will care to read for once.

I am going to send you a 50 cent note, that I have earned, and want you to get yours and Elwins pictures taken on something that you can send to me in a letter; if it is bad going to the village you must wait until it is better before you have them taken. There is one of this company going home on a furlow and I am going to send this by him so you will get it sooner then by mail.

Lesage is tough and smart as usual.

I received a Ludlow paper from you since I commenced this.

With much love to all inquiring friends I remain true as ever to you.

Timothy B. Messer

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Drills, details, parades and the incidents of camp life, took up the time; the rations were abundant, and fresh produce easily obtained from the farmers; and the health of the regiment gradually improved.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict p.283

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No15

Camp Heintzelman Md

May 10th 1863

Dear Susan:

I seat myself this afternoon to communicate with you through the slow medium of my scratching pen, it is pleasant and very warm today, but we have had a great deal of mud: The fruit trees and wheat crop look very promising. I received your no 18 letter in due season I am glad that you were a little better and hope that you wont work hard enough to make you worse again, wool is so high I guess you had better not sell any of my cloaths for less then what they are worth. I think my coat is worth more then half price, but you do what you think best. All that I was acquainted with Mrs. Hubbard was what I saw of her when I drew their lumber to them and the day we left Ludlow for Brattleboro I saw her at the depot and had a very pleasant chat with her and her husband. I liked her appearance very much what little I saw of her.

You say you would like to see me do my washing we take our vinegar barrells and saw them in two for wash tubs, make strong soap suds, put the cloaths in take a stick with a square end and pound most all the dirt out in that way and then rub the collar and ristbands we get them very clean in that way we have good bar soap to use. If I were in your place, I would go up the hill and make a good long visit for they would be glad to have you do so. I thank you again for wishing me a happy May day and in return would wish you a good many happy days. I thank you very kindly for the sugar drops and Elwins plumbs; I bought a little new sugar so I have had a taste. The sutlar sells raisons for 40 cents per lb.

If Jimmy works for father much I guess I shall have to get someone to look after you shant I.

Wm Chapin has gone home on a short furlough dont know whether you will get this before he starts back or not, but I guess you will for he wont start back until about the 17th or 18th I presume he will be as loaded that you cant send any thing.

Their is a farmer lives close to our camp (in the inside of our guard) he is a slave holder of course their was one of his slaves died yesterday that was about a hundred years oald and had served faithfully 45 years and now he would not let the negroes have any preaching or singing in his house for he said the niggars hadent been anything but a bill of expence to him for the last two or three years and he wanted him out of the way as soon as possible so they the negroes put him in a cart and carried him off to burry him as they were a mind to. Isent he a smart specimen of humanity? I guess our camping in one of his best lots and drilling in the other is not any benefit to him, but I dont care for he is an oald cecech, he says McClelland was a good general and that the war will never end until he is president what do you think of that? I have been having the mumps this week I guess I have got about over them now I havent been sick enough to call anything, my face has been some sore but has not swelled very bad. I am glad it does not hurt yours and Elwins pictures to look at them for fear I should spoil them if I did, they are a great deal of cornfort to me. I presume I shall not write very often this hot weather unless their is something in particular to write. We have got yesterdays paper in camp and their is a good deal of good war news in it

I am in hopes that Hooker is going to do something now so that we can find out whether we can whip, or whether Jeff is going to dominere over us.

Monday morning it is quite pleasent this morning and promises to be a hot day again;

The mail is going out in a little while and I must close; Please write often as you can afford to;

from your affectionate husband
Timothy

* * * * *

On the 19th of April the brigade was again for the most part concentrated at Poolesville ... The camp was a little outside the village and was named "Camp Heintzelman" in honor of the Commanding General of the Twenty second Corps.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict p. 284

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No 16

Camp Heintzelman, Md. May 24th, 1863

Dear Susan,

Here I be Sunday morning with my knapsack packed for Sunday morning inspection my brasses & buttons scoured & boots blacked. If I dont look nice no matter. I received your no 19 letter after it had been on the road eleven days & no 20 night before last. Chapin handed the letter to me & said nothing about a bundle I red it & asked him if he brought any bundle; he said no he could not fetch it, now I presume you think I was awfully disappointed but I want, for I did not expect he could fetch it. I dare say you felt worse then I do (but still I would been glad to had it come.) Never mind Susan their is a good time coming. If you think best I would try that Dr. & see whether he will do you any good or not; I

want you to do all you think best about such things. I received a letter from Kimball's folks, they are all well. I received a letter from Marilla (I havent received no 13 yet) last night. I hope she has had better news before this time. Yesterday our men took 3 reb prisoners that deserted from the rebbel army. One of them had on a hat worth about 2 dollars he said it cost 30 dollars, in speaking of boots he said they were worth 60 dollars where he came from, a slight difference between 6 & 60. Lesage dont have many letters from Betsey. I dont know why. I guess Lesage will write some to go with this if he gets time; I guess you must let Elwin have this envelope & tell him that father sent it to him. My health is first rate now. We have had two very warm days & are going to have another today; the nights are rather chilly & very heavy dews. We boys cant do what we want with the cecesh nor as we could if we were in Va; if we cut up any capers we shall get in the guard house. I havent been in their yet & dont want to if I can help it but I had just as lives chaw him as not if it was not for nastying my mouth. With much love I remain

your affectionate
Timothy

* * * * *

No 18

Camp Heintzelman Md

June 21st 1863

Dear Susan,

Since I last wrote to you I have received your no's 23 & 24 letters, my side is much better then it was the last time I wrote. I presume you are aware that Hooker is on the other side of the river near here I expect he will make his head quarters at Leesburg, their is a telegraph line from Washington to here & yesterday they commenced puting up the wires from here to Leesburg. I dont know but you can find out more by the papers then I can write but I will write a little about the movements, a short time ago some of the rebbel cavalry ____ the Potomac at mudy branch two miles below Seneca (where we picketed last fall) and had a _____ fight with company I of the Michigan cavalry (who were stationed _____ Seneca doing patroll duty) loss small on both sides, the rebels outnumbering our men two to one drove them back within a short distance of here and then left and recrossed the river again, as soon as they new it in Washington they sent up a lot of cavalry to cross at whites ford and went after the rebs, we did not know that they were a coming & were on a sharp lookout for rebs & when we saw them coming just day light in the morning we supposed them to be rebs, we were called up & put in position in the blockhouse (that we built last winter for that purpose) our guns all loaded the muzzles at the loop holes just ready to give them some but fortunately we found out they were our men. Last monday they expected the rebs would cross above here & make a dash on this place so we were called up at midnight & marched up here; we havent drilled any since we came here for we are under marching orders to start at a moments warning; We were called out at midnight & formed a line of battle the other night stayed an hour or so and then came back & laid down again. Last Wednesday night the rebs crossed at the point of rocks about a dozen miles from here they took nine of our cavalry and burnt a train of cars, since then our men

have drove them a way from their. Today their is considerable canon aiding some where I expect it is at Snickers gap, any way it is where we can hear it quite plane. The bugle is blowing to let us know it is time to go to church Since the head quarters has been here the Chaplain has preached one discourse every Sabbath. I have been to church I do not like our chaplain very well but perhaps the falt is in me. It is most dress perade time and I must black my boots that is a thing we soldiers have to do I have been on dress peraid and been out to see the 23rd Me [Maine] have their dress peraid (they came in here yesterday.) we have a dress peraid every night just before sundown unless it rains. We have been having a little rain lately which is very acceptable to the crops at least for it was geting rather dry and terrible dusty; The other day when I was eating my dinner the wind blew so it made a perfect cloud of dust looking like snow it filled my cup of water so much that it want fit to drink and my plate of boiled meat and vinegar looked as though the peper box had left all its contens on it and it was so warm that my face & hands were all covered with perspiration, now you guess how I looked. If the oald saying is true that dirt is healthy I should think we might be tough as bears. They have got the wires up clear to Leesburg that is 15 miles from Snickers gap where Hooker is fighting oald Lee, the report is that the 6th army corps (the Vermont boys are in that) are their & fighting like fury & cuting the rebs up badly they think their will be general engagement yet, their was a 100 pieces of artillery come from Washington today, (And I hope they will give them some.) The bugle blows for roll call good night. 22nd I dont hear any more news. If you want to take a paper I would advise you to take one & the one you want. Has Parker paid that five dollars yet. I have got my washing done. I am glad that your health is improving, be carefull and not work to hard & get down again.

From your
Timothy

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In the night of the 11th of June, the regiment turned out to meet a party of Stuart's cavalry which crossed the river and drove in a cavalry picket, but did not care to face infantry. Stuart's presence was explained when a day or two later the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac made their appearance in force, on their way to Pennsylvania bringing the exciting news that Lee was again north of the Potomac.

Vermont in the Civil War. Benedict p.284

This, we know from hindsight, was the high point of the Confederate effort. Lee was on his way to defeat at Gettysburg.

ECP

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Camp at Frederick, Md. July 2nd 1865 [1863 GAP]

Dear Wife,

Since I last wrote we have moved some. We left Poolville the 24th 6PM we took our blankets & fly tent leaving our knapsacks & the rest of our things & started for Harpers Ferry we reached there the morning of the 26th and went on to Md. heights I stood that march first rate. Harpers Ferry is a very pretty place the village lying on a part of a peninsula between the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers; the Md. Heights are opposite the village a steep rough mountain to climb we went about half way up. Monday we had orders to be ready to evacuate the heights the next morning we were, but did not start until three in the afternoon; We had a great deal of rain while there which was rather uncomfortable. I was quite unwell while up there but am well now.

We haven't seen any of the rebel army yet but came within half an hour's march of the rebel pickets & found we were on the wrong road then we turned and went on the right one.

I don't know why we were marched up there & then had to evacuate the place but I suppose it is military & presume you will learn what it is for before I do. We haven't received any mail since the 24th I received your no 25 then I expect we leave here at 4 this P. M. If we stop long enough in one place to get rested I will write more particular.

This is all the paper that I have got & this I picked up on the ground. There is quite a large force here from your affectionate husband

Timothy

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General Halleck was anxious for the safety of Harper's Ferry, and the Tenth was sent thither, with other troops to reinforce the garrison. The regiment broke camp at Poolesville in the evening of June 24th and reached Harper's Ferry on the morning of the 26th. Here it camped for four days of continuous rain, on Maryland Heights, where the ground was so steep that the men had to cling to the bushes to keep from rolling down the mountain.

Had General Hooker's request for the 10,000 men at Harper's Ferry been granted, the Tenth would have now joined the Army of the Potomac, and Hooker (and the Tenth) instead of Meade would have fought the Battle of Gettysburg. But that was not to be ... the Tenth was ordered, with 6,000 or 7,000 troops, ... to Frederick, Md. As the regiment stood waiting for the order to march, the magazine of one of the forts on Maryland Heights, which was being dismantled, exploded, showering pieces of stone, wood and iron in the ranks, and enveloping the regiment in a cloud of smoke and cinders. No man of the Tenth, however, was seriously injured, though a score of men of a Maryland regiment, not far away, were hurled from the cliffs and a number fatally injured.

On the fifteenth the Tenth marched to Sharpsburg. The division marched fifteen miles in four hours. The heat was terrible. Nine men were sun struck and stragglers were numerous. ... The Tenth crossed the Potomac and the Shenandoah with the army in the night of the 17th; passed into Loudon Valley and marched by way of Snickersville, Lovettsville, and Salem to the beautiful old town of Warrenton.

Vermont in the Civil War. Benedict pp. 284-286

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No 27

You may think by the commencement that we have moved but we havent

Camp near White Sulpher Springs Va Sept 6th 1863.

Dear Susan;

It has been just one year this present hour since we left Brattleboro; I can truly say that the year has passed quicker to me then I could expect, but how soon the coming two years will pass I know not.

I received your no 34 containing the sad news of Marina's bereavment last night, I hope to soon hear that May is better, but am afraid the news will be the opasite as their are so many dieing with the Diphera. At the present time I think there are more deaths at home then there is in the army. Dr Chapin is here & Willie is some better. I suppose by your letter that F- is a visiting with you now and I hope you will have a good visit and go arround with him all you can & then write to me all about what kind of a time you had; You speak of going to Wallingsford our second Lieut. D. G. Hill's father lives their, in the vilage I believe, he is young and at first the boys did not like him very well but now they like him first rate. Did you see the letter that I wrote mother? if you did do you suppose she thinks now that I am homesick? I received the times that you sent & am much obliged, I think that recipe & those verses are very appropriate for the times.

I presume you have seen the Presidents letter to the Springfield mass meeting, how do you like it; it is just the kind to suit me and would to God that all the officers in the army thought as he does, and all the citizens of the north to, and then rebellion would be put down in short metre, or at least that is my idea & honest opinion. Be sure & have Frank write some to put in your next letter, I want he should write what he thinks about the war and matters and things in jeneral, and I will try and answer it. I see by your letter that you had not got my no 26 but presume you have now. We have just had another general inspection this morning at 9 0 clock. We have got a brass band in this regiment now the players were selected out of this regiment, they have twelve brass pieces, they play on dress-peraid &c &c. I bought a few raisons the other day like those that you sent & had to pay 40 cts. a pound, what are they worth at home? I want to have a pair of boots made to come to me with my shirts when I get ready for them, I would like to have father or someone see mr Lane, & if he has got my measure I would like to have him make a pair the size of those he made last fall only have the toes a little wider; tell him I want a pair of kip boots without lining single soles in the hollow, heavy taps low heals with heal irons, long legs and as flat bottoms as he can make. If he can make such a pair have him make them soon as he can, if he hasent got kip take something as near like it as he can. It looks like a shower & begins to sprinkle good by from your husband

Timothy

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Oct 4th 1863

Camp near Culpepper Va.

Dear Companion,

It is Sunday afternoon & you have probably finished your letter to me but I presume you did not have to rig up for inspection this morning as we did It is a very pleasant & much warmer then it was three weeks ago. I received your no 38 letter last thursday & we received our box last night; their was some of the paper stained a little on one end like this sheet I believe this sheet is as bad as any the butter wasent hurt at all, we had some soft bread for dinner today to try the butter on & you can guess whether we had a good dinner or not. The shugar melted & leaked through the box some but not very bad. we sold two cakes of the shugar 3 quires of the paper & a part of the butter for enough to pay what the box cost us. We are very much obliged for dried apple & cookies that you sent, the apple comes just the right time for we havent drawn any lately. We have lent some of the butter & some of the Sugar to those that are going to have a box come. I sold my half of the cheese for 30 cts a lb Lesage kept the most of his part for his own use if mother has any more cheese of the same kind have her keep a couple for I presume we shal want them when we send for the other things Roys is going to have some things come with mine. I wish that I had written to have you collar my shirts blue if you could. If you can I would like to have you make those mittens that I sent home into gloves by raveling out the end & knitting on some fingers. They used to make my hands ache when I was drilling worse then gloves would. I would be glad to pay you for the extreys that you do for me but I dont know as I ever shall but I will try if I live long enough. I charge five cents a piece for washing shirts & drawers & two pair of socks for five cts. I havent made a great deal washing but puting what little I have earned with what I have saved by not spending so much as I did I am in hopes to send home enough to pay for what things I have sent to me if my health continues good as it now is. If frank sends you some envlops I would like to have you send me 3 packs I guess it will be as well to send them by mail If he doesent send them to you without I guess you had better send to him for them for they will come in handy. I think you done well geting so much for my pants. Willie Chapin went home on a furlough. I am sure that Lesage is not homsick. I think that Wilcoxes price for mortar is as high as our Sutlars prices are here. Inclosed you will find five dollars if their hasent any one stolen it I sent five in my no 30

I remain your affectionate husband

Timothy

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Camp near Culpepper Va

Dear Susan

It is geting to be quite cool weather & we have concluded to have our boots &c come as soon as you can conveniently get them ready I have most forgotten what I have told you that I want so I will name them over, boots, shirts 1 pair stockins, suspenders, gloves or mittens one small towel not very heavy.

We are troubled considerably with sore mouths I expect the salt petre in the meat causes it, if fathers folks havent any honey for me I would like to have you buy me a small can full if you can; any thing of the kind must be soddered up tight. Lesage talks of writing to father to have a pair of boots come & then he & I togather want ten or fifteen lbs of shugar eight or ten lbs of butter & another chease Lesage says he would like some honey if it aint to high I guess if you can you may get a can that will hold six or eight lbs, if fathers folks let me have any I will have that extra he & I will pay for these things togather & the expence of geting the box & expressage then Roys will pay us his part of the cost here for what he has come in it, if J makes the box he will want to find out how much Mrs Roys is going to send Please send a bill of the cost of everything the same as before. Please put a paper around the chease. If the sugar is caked I hope it will be harder then this was or it will make bad work with the cloathes. We shouldnt care if could find a few apples in our boots or in the box some where as they are worth only five cts a piece here & small & scarce at that. Enclosed you will find an order on Mr Gassett for five dollars I have let one of his boys have the money this will help pay for some of the things.

I should like to know whether it worry's you very much or not geting my box ready please write just how it is whether it tires you very bad or not.

Another thing we would like a paper of round headed nails to drive into the bottom of our boots I remain

Your affectionate husband
Timothy B. Messer

Direct the box to me the same as you do my letters
Timothy

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No 35

Camp near Warrenton junction Va Nov 4th 1863

Dear Susan;

I received your no 42 in due season & it being a warm pleasant day I will try to converse with you through the slow medium of the pen altho it would bee more gratifying to me (as well as all others conserved) to do it personaly but that privilege is denied us at present so we must make the best of the one we have always remembering that it is not so bad as it might bee. My health is good & has been ever since we left sulphur Springs but I have just had another big boil on the inside of my knee pan within an inch of where I had the other one, it has been very painfull for four or five days causing my leg to swell from my foot to my hip, but it is better now.

Our oald knapsacks have come at last but what a sight, the stuff was all taken out & what cothing their was come was covered with mud, Lesage & I got our dress & overcoats & that is better then they will average so I dont know but I shall have a good excuse to send for an other box by & by, for I want an other thing to carry my pins, kneedles, thread, thimble & scissors in for they are all lost that I left in my knapsack & I mis them very much, if you make an other one I would like to have it as light as you can & nearer flat when done up then the other one was; you need not send any towel till I send after it. I received my suspenders & the papers that you sent in due season but we havent got our box yet but I presume we shall as soon as they think it will do to send it.

I am sorry that J has so bad luck with his hired men but I dont know as I can help it now for Uncle Sam has a strong clame to me for 22 months yet unless sooner killed I believe now that McLeland has come out in his true color & what a difference in the feeling of this part of the army towards him now and last summer you can immagine better then I can write.

I conclude by what I see in the papers that Joe Hooker is prooveing himself a true patriot altho he is not the chief commander of the army of the Potomac that is the kind of Generals I like, work where they are if they aint the biggest toad in the puddle.

I havent received a letter from Edson for a long time I am sorry for Marilla but dont know as I can do any thing to comfort her I shall write to her as soon as I can get a chance.

I intended to write some to J & send with this but havent got time now so he must put up with what he can hear of this till next time I still remain your affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

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On Thanksgiving day, the 26th of November, the whole corps advanced once more, on the Mine Run campaign. The Tenth Vermont started with Morris's brigade at seven o'clock and it crossed the Rapidan at sun-down, near Jacob's Ford, and bivouacked on the bank of the river. In the fighting of the next afternoon, with Johnson's division, near the Widow Morris's at Orange Grove, the Tenth made its first charge in battle. ... At three o'clock in the afternoon, Morris was ordered to charge the enemy, strongly posted in front behind some fences at the crest of the hill. In the charge, the Tenth pushed rapidly up the hill; received a heavy volley from the enemy's line, and dashing squarely at them, drove them from behind the fence and advanced some distance beyond; when, finding it was alone, the other two regiments having halted at the fence, it fell back through a cross-fire, by which it suffered a large part of its loss in this engagement. It was under fire from the enemy's artillery and infantry, posted behind breastworks, till after sundown.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict pp. 289-29

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Ludlow Jan. 9, 1844

Dear Timothy

I have got your box so far down to fathers. I meant to have got it started on the railroad this week but could not for I had to go to Rutland and it has been cold and stormy half of the time.

Elwin and I came down alone with Oald tom do you know what that is. I dont know as it is best to tell you all that is in the box. Mother gave me the fowl so you and Simon can have them as cheap. The ball of sassage meat Mother M. sent to you the other is some I bought of mother, I bought about 18 lbs of sassage meat how do you like it mother fixted it. I have tried to remember every thing the pies I made all but the crust.

I got Fanny's hired girl to make that and rool it out because it hurts my back to rool out pie crust. I made all the rest of the duds and will not charge you anything forth em nor Simon either. All I want for pay is to write tell me how you like the duds wont you. Mother thinks she cant let you have only 22 lbs of butter. I hope Simon will have good time studying. I dont know how good the cake will be. I have not tride it. I thought I would not make only one cake with all the rest. Fanny has sent something to Simon. I have seen Nathaniel he thinks you look rather pickd but Simon is fat as a pig no news about him. Mrs. Knight and man eat supper with me the other night had warm buiscket shugar had a good visit but wish you had been there I have good times with her.

Elwin has nibbled two cakes of shugar you will see his teeth marks. West India shugar is 14 cts 15 cts per pound you can sell this for what you are a mind to. Elwin Tenney has enlisted I believe Plymouth has found enough men. The Colberns have lots of dances they get drunk have good time in general. Mr. Gibson wants to sell his farm go out west. I should be glad if they would. Swallow does use his wife real mean this winter if you were here you would not like him so well as you used to. Joe and Ellen are done up at Headles guess they have torned them of Ellen is going home to stay a while by and by she complains about her dresses being tight I tell her just what I think. Good night. Morning It is very pleasant this morning. Mother has concluded to let you have 23 lbs butter and she gave me another fowl and I am going to send it to you. You can do what you are a mind to with it. I will not ask Simon anything for the fowl nor for fixing it ask him if that is cheap enough. Emerson is to work for Mr. Wilcox with his horse. Mary Ellen Cook is quite sick.

Charley Sawyer is going into your reg. I dont know but they have gone from Brattleboro. Marilla has gone up to Eliases. Nathaniel brought up your last letter last Sunday carried it to Mr. Swallows. I didn't get it until monday in the afternoon, that made the box later. The berries I didn't buy those blackberries are all sweetened ready to stew. I dont know as they will be good. You may ask me to take tea with you. I will put in 3 stamps. I am going back home today. Stillman is coming to drive the horse for me. There is some tobacco in the box for Royce we could not get it in the other one.

Susan E. M.

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Dear Wife

I received your no 52 the 8th containing 3 stamps & I presume their is an other one on the road by this time or at least I hope so. It is a very pleasant day to day & will probably thaw enough to make it muddy & nasty & that is all it has thawed for some time, it has been the longest cold spell that we have had since we came out. I am sorry to say that my health is rather poor yet my back troubles me considerable, the Dr says it is caused by inflammation of the kidneys; I am so that I am around all day but dont do much work, I have got to have two blisters on my back today what do you think of that? my apetite is better then it was so I think I am gaining. Afternoon, I have got the blisters on, so I have to sit about so so.

Now Susan dont worry about me & think that I am worse then I am for I have written just as it is, if I am any worse I shall let you know it. We have got good comfortable quarters, our tent is built up with logs about four feet high 11 feet long by 6 1/2 wide our bunks are acrost one end one above the other just large enough to hold two a piece & their is four of us in the tent the other end of our tent is the door & fire place the door is made of the box that you sent me the chimney & fire place is build of brick that we lugged on our backs about 3/4 of a mile, but they make a good fire place, we used mud for mortar to lay our brick & plaster up the cracks between the logs, it is so clayey & stickey that it makes good mortar; we used our fly tent for covering the top, the floor is made of oak that we split out with an ax & hatchet & it is much better then no floor at all; we have got a table large enough to write on, & stools to sit on that we manufactured I wish it was so that you could come in & see how we look. Has Charley Sawyer been accepted of & if so what regiment is he corning into; Has father B ever got the pen that I sent him; The talk is now that we shant be paid off for two months to come but I dont know how true it is. I am sorry that J has such bad luck breaking mill cranks; tell him that I would write to him if I had any news to write more then what I write to you but I am glad to get a letter from him at any time & hope I shall get one soon stating how we stand in regard to debts & how he gets along lumbering this winter &c &c I remain your faithful husband.

Timothy B. Messer

I send you picture with this

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I will try and keep smart now
perhaps you will want me to wait on you
sometime. From your affectionate wife,
Susan E. Messer The pictures came all
straight.

No 53

Tyson Furnace Jan 17th 1864

Dear Timothy,

Rhoda has buried her husb. I received your no. 49 last Sunday night when I came home we stopped at the office I am very sorry to hear that your health is so poor wish I could send you something to help you. does the Dr. try to do much for you. what does he give you. Eleazer Lawrence sent down some snake root to put in your box. he said it would keep you from taking disease and it would be good for you to eat the root. I thought he was very good to send it. He always speaks in high terms of you. Fannys hired girl has gone home to see her brother George Clay he has got home on furlow and I am going to try and board Stillman while she is gone. I think I am the best now that I have been at all. Joes Ellen is sick now will not sit up any nor take her medicine unless she takes a notion. They dont keep house anywhere stay down to Mr. Sawyers. Mrs. S. feels terribly to think Joe has got such a scolding wife but I dont see how she could much else have Joe do as he has done. I dont know but he was obliged to be married and guess it aint his fault that he was not obliged to marry the schoolmarm that was here last summer, she would make the best woman.

Len Wilder and Charley S. are going into a battery off to New Orleans so you will not see them. They had a dance up to Bens the other night. Swallow was going to find oasters Colbern the rum. Ben the S_____g. Such times as they have among them. Joe and Ellen are ashamed to go with them.

Nathaniel Heseltine has not been up here yet he goes around with the tribe. I got the first Windsor papers yesterday. I will send it to you I gets it read. He has gone today to carry his hired girl home. J. has commenced drawing in logs, he does not drive the team himself. Duane Knights drives it. J. is not near so well as he used to be. I have not heard anything from Edson since Marilla went away. We have not got the crank here yet. but hope we shall before long. George Morse has gone visiting. He expected to have been married by this time but Cynthia give him the slip. Good for him.

Evening. I have just received your no. 83 one of Mr. Gibsons boys have just brought it up. Mr. G. has been after the Dr. for Joe. Ellen has not sat up any Today she got spunky a little wanted some camphor so she came up here and got some just one of her tricks but I presume she has been able to do as much before. J. has got home brought Lorena with him and Bell. They are all well up to fathers. I am real sorry about your health and about blistering it. I am real glad you write just how it is. It seems to me you must have rather a rough looking cabin but I should like to see it. I hope you will have your box before I write you. Father has received that pen some time ago. The round house at Rutland is burnt. I dont know but I have written it. J. had a letter from Kimball little while ago. They are all well dont know how long they will be. I hope you will be better before you get this. I have written to T. and braided a hair watch chain out of my hair, sent it to him I dont believe I shall try to board Stillman now.

Jan 18th 1864

My letter is not gone yet so I thought I would write some more. Lorena has been telling about Edson, what he wrote to Elias she heard straight about it what Elias said. Edson wrote that the Dr. said he had a slight touch of the dropsy, his back troubled him some was so to do duty in hospital now you can see how Marilla or Edson has stretched it sometime. She talked here as though he could not do anything at all was in hospital and we all supposed sick. I shall not pity her so much again at this pill. Elias says Edson is out there just as he is here you know how that was. I have got my washing done now. I will do yours if you will send it now. I hope you will write home every time how you are for I shall not worry so much about you, if I know all about it. The new crank has got to Healdsville. I will go after it sometime they are drawing logs today. Dolly has had the horse distemper is just getting it. I dont think she has felt very well last fall or this winter so far. Duane Knights says he never saw so gentle a horse as she. Is worth \$200.00 anytime. That vest I sent is one Frank sent home how do you like it is it warm enough. I will put 3 stamps into this. Write just as soon as you get the box. Good by with much love

Susan

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No 54

Tyson Furnace

Jan 25th 1864

Dear husband

I am going to have a little chat with you this evening. I wonder if you have got your box. hope so. I am cracking smart. I have boarded Stillman ever since tuesday. got along nicely but I am sorry think that you are not well. I have not heard from the office today. I want to. I have got a bunged up nose when I went to open the end stove door with my patent tong you know what that is it slipped of and hit my nose. Fanny wanted to know if it didnt ache but enough of bunged up noses. Yesterday I had viseters 3 women 2 men all eat supper here the too Knights and wives Mrs. Martin.

Jane came over here yesterday brought Francis with her. Today Lurena went up to see Mrs. Moses Colbern but they were gone down to Mr. Woods funeral he is dead. She went foot did not like the appearance of things. She thought the house that Colbern lived in was a hog so went into the best looking house that was Sady Harvys she did not like the looks of things.

What is Simon up to tonight so he's mending stockings, you are lying in your bunk. I am sitting at the end of the table where the draw is the table sits to the front side of the room behind the front door. Stillman has a hot fire. Elwin has gone to bed now you can think how we look. Timothy I believe I must have me a new dress the one you bought me the winter after Elwin was born is the best calico dress I have got Jan 49 I have been down to the post office this morn with old tom had a good ride all three the children went with me didnt get no letter for myself nor Lurena. called to see Mrs. Royce she has the neuraligy now in her face and head. It is not very cold nor very warm either the wind blows some. Lurena is sick today guess she has a touch of diphthera. Fanny says she must expect to have it if she dont dose more, but I guess she doses enough. I cut

Stillmans hair this morning it looked horrid. I have sold him your under shirts. I have not told him for how much yet. Father was up here last tuesday. settled up with J. J. gave me a note of \$39. that he owed me then I had \$19 on hand he wanted I should lend it to the company so like a great fool I did then he borrowed some money for company to use of father now if I had kept \$14 to use for my share of company money it would save your paying out interest money on that note I am going to talk with J. about it. I have got \$17 by me now. I hope you will not blame me for being so dull, there was so much talk going on at the time I was puseled about settling. I dont understand all the fixings. I didnt know about paying half for keeping his cow & we asked him half as much as other folks pay him \$7 in winter was that bad. They have had a great dance over to Swallows and Heseltines. I dont think we have got a great lot of snow for this time of year. I believe I have got Lurenas lame neck. She was telling about when she worked for us. she is real miserable tonight talks of going home tomorrow. Mrs. Forrest has been in here today she has not been here for a good while. I will put in 3 stamps. Good night wish you a good night's rest

Susan E.

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No 85

Tyson Furnace Feb 1st '64

Dear Timothy

I am afraid you will not get this letter any sooner as than you did last week but I trust you will forgive me when I write the reason. Last monday week ago to day I went and carried Lurena home forgot to take my letter with me so it did not get started untill thursday. I came back thursday. When I was coming home the horse fell down flat didnt break the sleigh. There was a team ahead so I called on the man to help. Saturday Stillman went to the depot after Matthew Williamson married your cousin. I suppose you know him. Yesterday he wanted to go up to fathers and I should go with him and so of course I went came back this morning. in the snow storm but came along very comfortable for he was so attentive to the buffalow kept me very warm and I will tell you the rest some time if I ever see you nothing bad. Had a first rate visit with him. Marilla had a letter from Edson he is appointed head cook in hospital, has to get up at 2 o'clock has to see that there is 70 pints of coffee made every morning has 70 in his family has 3 to wait on him. He had taken cold and rheumatism troubled him some. Simon Gould's brother has got his discharge. Henry Carpenter is at home from Burlington hospital on furlow has been very sick dont know how he is now. he has been sick ever since Joe got his discharge. Nathaniel H. has married Malinda Green about 16 years old aint he great fool. Henry Cleveland has married Emily Read.

I dont know as I shall write all the news. Jos. Morse is here fixing my clock. Elizabeth Clark has got back and here _____ Stillman is in here and all jabbering. I have got lamp can and oil so I can burn kerosene for lard oil is \$1.34 a gallon we cannot get any lamp oil so I thought I would try and burn kerosene. I suppose you will not like it when you get home but we will burn your kind of oil then.

I received a letter from you last Friday saying you had got the box. I am so

glad the things suit so well I hope you will be better to. In all my frolicks I dont forget you. I am very glad your Dr. dont believe in giving much medicine enjoy yourself as well as you can laugh and talk all the time is the best medicine I take.

Tell Simon I am so drove with work I cannot write this time to him. I am glad if he is suited with his things, Joe and Ellen are roveing around among the Colberns yet. Mrs. Ben Wilder works for Swallow now so they are close together. We ought to ride them out on a rail. I have sold Stillman your woolen under shirts for \$2.50 is that right. I didnt think of selling them but he wanted them so I let him have them. We are having a real, snow storm now. last week it was quite warm and snow went of some but now we have enough. Mr. Williamson and Jane went of today on the cars. It is after 9 o'clock will you let me go to bed enclosed you will find 3 stamps.

I am boarding S_____-. get good nights
Susan E. M.

Kimball has got a little boy
his wife most week old S.

* * * * *

No 46

Lincoln Hospital
Washington, D. C. Feb 3d 64
Ward 3 No 17

Dear Susan,

I came here yesterday I dont know as I am any better then I was when I last wrote or any worse only I am rather tired today I thought I would write a few lines so to let you know where to direct your letters

I received your no 54 Sunday night and am glad to hear I dont know how well I shall like here when I find out I will write a longer letter. It is very cold & windy today; pardon me if I send a short letter this time With much love I remain

Your affectionate husband
Timothy B. Messer

(In directing to me dont put the region where I am here direct it to
Lincoln Hospital
Ward 3 Washington D. C.

* * * * *

U.S.A. General Hospital
Brattleboro, Vt. Feb. 16, 1864

Dear Susan;

I received your no 55 (written the 1st day of Feb.) last Friday night it had been down to the regiment & here & also a letter that S. Fullum wrote; if I had been the regiment I think that would helped me to a furlough & I am in hopes to get one from here some time but dont know certain whether I can get one or not nor when if I do get one;

I think it better for me to be here if I dont get a furlough then it would be to stayed with the reg. or in Washington either, I like the living better then I did in Washington & I have a chance to buy apples and milk which agree with my disease the best of anything that I can eat so I am fating up, but my back is lame as ever; The Dr. at Washington gave me some medacine & a lineament to rub on my back but I dont know as they done any good; the Dr. here says he don 't think I need any medacine but has ordered me to bathe my back in cold water every morning & I have commenced it.

I am geting short of money for I havent been paid off for most 4 months & their is several in the company that are owing me but they could not pay me when I came away for they were short. If I had a few more dollars to last me untill I get some from the company it would bee very acceptable.

I am sorry to send home for money for fear you are short or more in need of it then I bee, if so dont send any I can get along some way I guess for I always have I believe. I received a letter from Kimball the same time that I did yours, he told me what stock he was wintering & among the rest was a little baby five days old; well; they had better bee doing that then nuthing for their country.

I hope I shall get a letter from you tonight. I shall not send this untill tomorrow 17th no mail for me last night so must hurry and send this off before the mail goes out with much love I remain your affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

(Please answer as soon as convenient. T.)

* * * * *

Camp near Culpeper Va.
February 17th 1864

Friends Messer,

I take my pen this cold day to answer you well-come letter of the 12 ins. which came in had last night, I was glad to hear from you. We are all well as usual here. It is as cold as Greenland here to-day, the wind blows like hurllly. I have not many news to write: exept on the next Saturday after you left we went out on that reconnaissance you speak off: we left camp just night in the rain and came back Sunday night - our Brigade went to about 3 miles of the river: we had an awful dark and muddy marche of it, as the most or our marching was done in the night. I though I had seen mud before, but I never saw it so deep and sticky as it was than; some lost their boots in it coming back and had to get in stocking feet: we reached our old quarters at about 11 o clock Sunday night: our Corps did not do any fighting; but part of the second Corps done some sharp fighting. I have been on picket once since that pleasant trip. A detail of 5 men and Lieut

Perham went out of the Company this morning for 7 days, they are gone to Warrenton Junction - shopping wood; Bucklin is one of them.

I have sent you 4 letters I believe and I think that some of them was mailed at Ludlow some at Tyson Furnace and Plymouth: but I do not know just where each one was mailed for the mail mark was rather deem on some,

We have not been paid yet and do not expect to till in March, so I have not received any money for you yet. I received the bill you sent me & all the letters I believe. The Captain cannot send your descriptive lists till the Sergean who has charge of you send for them: the Capt has been notified that you are there; they proberbly will send for them soon: If you go home on a furlough write to me when you get home and write all the news you come a cross. I do not know of much more to write just now so I will draw to a close. Please write again when convenient and accept this few lines from your friend,

Corp Simon Lesage.
Co H, 10th Regt, Vt vols
Washington, D. C.

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No 6

U.S.A. General Hospital
Brattleboro Vt April 29th 1864

Dear Susan

I leave this afternoon for Washington, if you start to come before you get this, you will get disappointed. I have done up two overcoats, one blouse, one pair drawers & one pair of gloves with a watchchain in the finger. I paid 25 cents for it. I can pay you. I lent a fellow some money to go home with, took the coat for security and now he haint got the money. You will probably find the bundle at the depot.

I am going to get a check to send with this of 50 dollars I guess. If it had been a pleasent day, I should some expected you today.

I think I am some better then I was, but I am not well by a considerable, but dont feel bad Susan for I dont. I am sorry to have you get disappointed if you doe come.

I havent time to write any more now, good by
Timothy B. Messer

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No 7

Bedloe Island N.Y. Harbor
April 29th 1864

Dear Susan;

I wonder if you are on your way to Brattleboro this afternoon: If so I am sorry to have you get disappointed but dont see as I can help it now. I left yesterday on the three o'clock train, I kept watch when the train came in to see if you got off but did not see you. I went to New Haven on the cars & the rest of the way on steamboat (Continental) we reached here this morning about 8 o'clock. I expect we shall go from here to Alexandria on an old transport, they say it takes from 3 to 5 days to go arround that way. It is uncertain how long we stop here we may stay a few days & possibly a few weeks.

I would like to have you write soon as you get this direct here puting on the Co. & regiment Bedloe Island N.Y. Harbor then if I am gone they will send it to me. I got a supply of stamps so you need not send any more at present.

I sent a 50 dollar check to you yesterday please write whether you receive it or not & whether you have herd any thing from the coats that I sent; I guess the best overcoat is worth the five dollars it cost me for when I left the regiment the government price was \$7.50 & in Oct 9,50 & they were not so good as that either. This Island is a small one but their is quite a fort on it the walls are built of Granate it is called Fort Wood & their is good barracks enough to accomodate several hundred soldiers, but after all it is not a very desireable place to stay. I am some what tired today but stand it as well as I expected to when I started. I have been out on the shore picking up some shells & am going to put it some in this letter dont know but they will get smashed they are so awful big; if they dont, let Marilla & Fanny see them; I wish I could send you some larger ones to make (or ornament) picture frames with. I am not in so good a writing mood today as I bee some times so I guess it is not best to write any more now. It may bee some time before I write again good by for the present. Keep up good courage 16 months will not last always.

Your affectionate husband
Timothy B. Messer

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No 8

Bedloe Island N.Y. May 6th 1864

Dear Susan;

I have just received your no 6 it was mailed at Ludlow yesterday. I am sorry that you got so disappointed in not finding me at B. I know how to sympathize with you, I do not think hard of you or blame you in the least; it is of no use to wish we had done different but let it pass & hope it is all for the best. I am sory you are not so well I hope it is not caused by your worrying about me. I do not blame Dr. Phelps for sending me away when he did for it was an order from Gen. Grant to forward all convalessents that were able to do any thing. I expect we shall be examined again when we get to Alexandria & those that are not able to go front I expect will be kept to do work around the Hospitals untill they are able; their was 21 left B at the time that I did. We have been here just

one week it is rather a loansom place their is only 8 acres in this island & the fort covers about one third of that I should guess by the looks; the rest of it is mostly covered with barracks excepting one three story brick house that the Colonel in command ocupies; it is very pleasant & warm enough without any fire & has been most of the week Their is a Chaplain here he has a meeting a most every evening at the commencement they have singing & then he reads all the important war news & sometimes a private letter from some of his friends in the army & after making some comments they have a prayer & conference meeting. Tarble had a letter from the regiment they say the Colonel has resigned on the account of ill health I am sorry but it cant be helped.

You ask what you shall pay father and Edson I guess you had better tell them if they want anything they must tell how much; I cant think of any better way for you to do.

I am some what surprized to hear that Frank is married but that is the fation nowdays.

You need not send any envelopes unless I send for them for it is uncertain where I shall bee & I have enough to last me awhile.

Is father B's horse any better yet & what does he say about it; has he got a hired man & who (if so).

I do not know as I have anything in particular to write but I must fill out this page with something for you to read to take up your attention if it is of no importance. By the way I suppose you will want to know how I do; I am not feeling quite so well as I did when I left B. I have a great deal of pain the south east corner of my chest I believe I spoke to you about feeling it by spells when at home. I sometimes wish that I could compose a letter in as good shape as I can build an air castle & then the thought comes into my mind that I must do the best that I can & that is all that is required perhaps my air castles if they were visible would not be very nice after all. Tell Elwin that father thanks him for the candy; you may direct your next here if you dont hear anything more from me before you send it

Yours etc

Timothy B. Messer

I guess it is best to write a few lines to Fanny after I eat my dinner or she will think hard of me I am afraid. We have breakfast at 7 dinner at 12:30 supper at 5 Our living is very possible.

TBM

I had no trouble in reading your letter but I guess you will have to study some to pick out this. The drum beats for dinner so I must go I have been & eat some bean soup cold bread & meat.

The police sergent is after men to sweep the street I dont want to go & wont if I can help it I havent done much since I came here with much love many good wishes I remain

Your affectionate husband

Timothy

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No 10

I have just seen Gassett he looks quite smart he is a nurse in the hospital. There was 15 or 20 cases of the small pox on bedloe island when I was there but I did not see any of them; good by for the present, Timothy

Camp Distribution
Alexandria Va May 17th 1864

Dear Susan;

I believe I promised in my last to write as soon as we were landed; we reached here last night; we did not land at Fortress Monroe but stopped about fourteen hours in sight of the fort & landed about two hundred the rest about three hundred came here about a hundred of them were prisoners taken for desertion & bounty jumping &c they were a rough set I assure you they commenced their pocket picking some of them & fortunate for us (& them to I guess) they were detected before they done much at it & two were handcuffed & tied up.

We left N Y harbor about five o'clock P M the 13th on a transport it was some windy & rather rough when we got out to sea; there was a lot of us sea-sick & I presume that I vomited more than twenty five times that night & the next forenoon but I lived through it & guess I could stand another like it. I guess it has cleansed my stomach out so that I shall feel better now when I get rested but when that will be I cant tell for they are sending off every thing to the front that are able to do any thing & I would not wonder if I left tomorrow.

The mail has gone this morning so I cant send this until tomorrow so I will give you a little idea of how we were tossed on the boat it being a propeller it has only one wheel & will tip sideways like a wheelbarrow it has sails to so when the wind is right we could travel fast; if you want to know how much we tipped just imagine your kitchen floor one side a little higher than the table & the other where it now & the next half minute have it tip as far the other way; it was splendid & I like to ride in that way but my internal apparatus did not like it so well so I had to spew every little while. It is quite warm & the trees & fields are as green as they are at home the middle of June quite a change from what it was when we left B.

I expect all that belong to the sixth corps will leave tomorrow but dont know certain; Now Susan dont feel bad & worry about me for I shall get along some way I guess for I always have so far & I am in hopes that I can stand it if we dont have to hard marches at first, my back is a great deal better than it was & my other difficulties dont bother me so much as they did but I cant say that I am well.

All the examination that I have had since I left B was this morn the Surgeon asked me what the trouble was, I told him, says he that will do; but never mind that Susan army surgeons cant always have their say unless they alter their tune from what it is now there is a good time coming. I guess you had better direct your next to the regiment I shall write as soon as convenient after I get there if there is any chance to send it but dont worry if it is a long time before you hear again

Timothy B. Messer

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No 14

Camp near Cold Harbor Va June 12th 64

Dear Susan;

When I wrote to M- I was in hopes to had a letter from you by this time but I guess there has not been quite time enough for one to get around since I last wrote to you & knowing that you would be glad to have me write often I have commenced another to you I have not received your no 7 but found your no 8 with Lesage that is the last I have had from you. You wanted to know what it was that I was feeling bad about when I last wrote from B island I was not feeling bad about anything but I wrote in great haste for time was scarce that I had then before we got ready to start. As to my hand trembling when I packed those shells it was on the account of the position that I was in that was all; I held them on my knee & had no place to rest my arm. I have seen the letter that you wrote to Simon he says he had written one to you that you had not got when you wrote that; I am sorry that you are worrying so much about me, I hope you have seen the letter that I wrote to M- or will before long; has J- got those spouts fixed yet please write all about it, dont be afraid that it will worry me to know about it for I will assure you that it will not. I saw Marvin Pinney he was well, believe Erwin is sick at the hospital; I also saw Barney Cannon & Porter they were both well, Lesage and Roys were not very well yesterday dont know how they are today for I am on picket & they are not; if you say any thing about it to Mrs R dont make her think that he is worse then he is for he is so to be arround with the company if he is worse I shall let her know it. Our regiment hasent moved but a short distance since I joined them Their has not been any general engagement near here since I came but the sharp shooters are popping away a most all the day time & occasionally they exchange a few sollid shot & shell just enough to let each other know that they are alive. I dont know what Gen Grants plan is to do next but one thing look's certain both army's are so strongly fortyfied here that probably neither one can drive any other way then by shelling, but we cant tell beforehand what Grants plan may be time will only tell.

Since I commenced this letter my mind has been led to run back upon the changes that have taken place in the last six years what a change their has been in that short period of time; how different our circumstances & position from then perhaps in the next six years their will be a greater change no one can tell beforehand, time will only tell, let us be prepared for the worst & wait patiently the result, hope ing & praying that it may prove for the best. Please send a few papers their is no chance to buy any at present. My health is much better then it was when I left B, warm weather aggries with me better then cold did last winter; my back and calf well for I can carry my knapsack as easy as ever I could.

I remain true as ever
Timothy B. Messer

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No 19

Camp near Tenlytown, D. C.

July 26th, 1864

Dear Susan:

Here we are about six miles from Washington; the day I last wrote we left here went up into Md. the same road that we went on the first time we went into Md. passing by our old campground at Offords cross roads and Seneca then we forded the Potomac a little below Edwards Ferry and on through Snickers Gap and forded the Shenandoah river and went about 3 miles beyond the river, stoped a few hours then turned around again and marched back on the _____ as far as Chainbridge then crossed over to this place reaching here last Saturday in the afternoon making eight days we had been gone. We laid still one day in the time and marched about 120 to a 130 miles (rather hard for hot weather) but it is not so hot here as it was down to Petersburge; we have had no picket duty to do since we got here and this is the longest rest from all duty that our regiment have had since I got to them.

We were paid off yesterday morning for four months. I received 18 dollars and am going to send five in this letter to you for I dont care to keep quite so much at a time. I may send for it again before we are paid next time for I spend a lot of money when we have such hard duty to do and everything is so extrememly high.

I received your nos. 15 & 16 Sunday containing the half dollar; I am thankful that I have got a wife that is so willing to grant a favor and will try repay it in the same way when I can have a chance.

I should wrote yesterday but it was a cold rainy day for the time of year. Lesage says that cud of gum was nice and he thanks you for it and says he shall write soon if he can get time.

I dont know how long we shall stay here or where we shall go to. We are liable to start at any hour.

We came very near geting into a fight the day we went through Snickers gap. We got near enough to the rebs to see them fighting with Hunters men and expected every minute we should be called upon but they threw a few shells close to us and let it go at that but two of our batteries silenced them very quick. Our march was very hard having to travel so much with wet feet we were all very foot sore but we are getting over it fast.

I havent received any letter from Marilla for a long time.

Timothy

Co H are neither all killed nor taken prisoners but there is only about 25 left in the company for duty and there is but two or three companies in the regiment that are any larger and some of them are considerably smaller.

I received two papers from you yesterday. My health is good as usual. I should like to see my boy wheeling wood into the shed he is so small that he must look very cunning I think.

You must pardon me if I dont write very often when we are having so hard marching to do in the hot weather but I will try and do the best I can with much love and many good wishes I remain your affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

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No 21

Camp in the field near Middleton Va
Aug 16th 1864

Dear Susan;

Here I be sitting on the ground under my fly tent commencing to write a letter to you I have just finished one to M-; it is a very hot day today but it is getting so far into Aug now that it wont be a great while before it will be cooler. Since I last wrote we have crossed the river at Harpers ferry and now we are about 35 miles from their up the Shenandoah valley have been here three days close to Gen'l Earleys Army;

I have recived your no 18 & two papers; you are mistaken in regards to the where abouts of the 8th Vt they are here in this valley they belong in the 19th corps a part of which is here, Henry Pollard was over to our regiment the other day so I think he cannot be very badly wounded, I did not see him.

I presume I shall want a couple of pair of stockings sometime between now & winter; as to honey you may do just as you can afford to you know best how dear it is & how well you are getting along I dont want you to use me any better then you do yourself, I had a meal of honey yesterday but it was not so good as our northern honey.

I thought you knew our pay was raised three dollars a month from the first of June that would just make 18 dollars for me to receive 3 dollars a month extra on two months you will draw 40 dollars the same as usual; Royses allotment was broken up probably by some mistake of those that filled out the pay rolls; but Lesages & mine are not broken. I saw Porter yesterday he said he had a letter from Mrs Wilcox the other day & said that I was a prisoner I hope you have not got such an idea in your head. My health is some better then it was when I lastwrote I am back in the company again but I am not so well as I wish I was hope I shall be better soon but dont worry about me if I am any worse I will let you know. I dont know as the mail will go out for three or four days I expect one in before one goes out & am in hopes to get one from you; so I am going to leave a little space to fill out after I find out when the mail is going out so good by for the present if I dont have any time to fill out the rest

Timothy

Camp near Charlestown Va Aug 20

Dear Susan;

We have come back to here since I commenced this letter & I am just about tired out besides being about sick; I have received the two papers & two letters from you one containing 50 cts I am much obliged for that; you must forgive me for not filling this out.

Timothy

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No 22

McHines Gen Hospital
Baltimore Md Aug 23 1864

Dear Susan;

I reached here this morning & take the first opportunity to let you know where to direct your letters; direct the same as I have headed this & I think there is no doubt but what I shall get them; I received your no 21 containing 50 cts. I came from Harpers Ferry last night in the cars 82 miles and I am most tired out but I think after a few days rest I shall be better at least I hope so. They had a little fighting just beyond the Ferry our reg had not been in when I come away. Marvin Pinney is here wounded in the ankle. I havent got strength to write much this time.

From your affectionate husband
T. B. Messer

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No 23

McHines Hospital, Md.
Aug. 29, 1864

Dear Susan,

I suppose you are feeling anxious about me and wondering whether I am any worse or better but dont worry, it wont make it any better. I have got some rested and think myself some better but I am very weak yet. I sent a line to you when I first got here a week ago tomorrow morning and presume you have answered it by this time but I haven't received one from any body since I came here.

I have had a diarrhea besides my other difficulty but I am in hopes that I have got it checked so that it wont run me any lower then I be now for it is hard work for me to walk around what little I want to, to be comfortable. I am not so thin of flesh as I have been some times but rather poorer then I was last winter.

I dont like so well here as I did at Brattleboro the liveing is not so good as it was there nor the accommodations either but I am not concerned but what I shall get enough to eat and by using a little money I can make it palitable, but the money part I should have to do without if it want for you for all that I have had since I lost my wallet was 75 cts. that I had owing to me and what you have sent. Lesage offered to lend me some but I did not think best to take it but should if I had known I was coming here. You ask what I think about your picking hops this fall. I am afraid if you do you will work to hard and get down again.

I hope I shall get a letter from you soon either direct from home or from the regiment, for I presume you have sent one or two to the reg. that I havent got but I expect they will send them here.

It is most time for us to be paid off again but I dont expect to get any pay this time for my descriptive list is not here and I dont expect it will be soon enough for this time.

I dont feel like writing a very long letter so please accept a short one from your affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

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(no.24) I guess it will be as well not to put on the company and regiment for I see by the out side it went to the rong place and hindered it a little while but I have it now so it is all right. I don't know as you can pick this all out but I guess you can T

McHines Hospital Baltimore Md Sept 5th -64

Dear Wife;

I am going to keep writing whether I get an answer or not; it will be two weeks tomorrow since I came here & this is the third letter that I have written to you & have received only the one that you wrote the 22 of Aug & sent to the reg; it contained half a dollar for which I am very thankful!; I think that I have received all up to that date & hope to receive another soon. I see by your letter that you thought it a long time that you had not herd from me; the reason was their was a number of days that I could not get time to write & when I did get time their was no chance to send it for a number of days. I guess I have got a mate to your tooth & I should had it out before now if the surgeons had had any insturments, it kept me awake untill one o'clock last night & today it dont trouble me much.

If the constable calls for a bounty tax make him wait untill after an other town meeting & see if the town wont do something in our favor.

You need not buy any cloth for me this fall for I think that I had better get along with the government shirts they are better then they used to be, as for socks I dont care what the collar is.

We had a heavy shower last night & it is some cloudy today but we havent had but a little rain where we have been this summer.

I saw a letter the other day that Simon wrote a few days ago he said they were laying still then having a nice time generaly & living on fresh pork, mutton & green corn besides their regular rations, but I see by this mornings paper that they are on the move again, I aint there to drag around with or after them as I did the last part of the time that I was with them. I believe the surgeon calls it the chronic dirrhea that I have had it does not trouble me much now only I have a great deal of pain in my bowels but I think that I am gaining slowly. I have been on the low diate list a most ever since I came here & have had bread & milk to live on with occasionally a small piece of mutton & a bit of butter, I am satisfied with such living as that but soon as I get better my living will be poorer. I hope you are not working so hard as to get down again, I remain your ever affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

Five minutes later; I have just rec. your no 23 I hope you went to the caravan & had a good time. It is uncertain about my staying long enough to get a box if I think it best to have one come here I will let you know. I am afraid you are worrying more about me then you ought to for I am not down spirited at all I have been a soldier to long for that; I have received 2 dollars from you you must not send enough make your self short I ought to get along with out any I was so careless as to loose what I had.

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No 26

Chestnut Hill Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa. Sept 13th 1864

Dear Susan;

I reached here yesterday, this is a large hospital about 10 miles from Phila, city: there is 47 wards 62 beds in a ward. I don't know how well I shall like here but a few things are certain the buildings are better than they were at Baltimore, the beds and conveniences around the hospital are much better also; as for the eating part I can tell better after I have tried it awhile. I am troubled with diarrhoea by spells now, I believe they call it chronic diarrhoea anyway I have a great deal of pain in my bowels & just now I am not feeling quite so well as I was the last time I wrote but hope I shall be better in a few days when I can get some rested.

I don't know whether I shall be transferred to any other hospital or not, but I don't expect to. I have just wrote a letter back to McHines Hospital to have my letters sent here so I hope that I shan't lose any. Please send word to Marilla where I be if you have a chance.

I believe I shall send you a short letter this time from your affectionate husband

Please direct to Timothy B. Messer
Chestnut Hill U.S. Gen. Hospital
Philadelphia Pa. (Ward 3)

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In the battle of the Opequon on the 19th of September, the regiment was commanded by Major Dillingham, who took about 350 into the fight. In the first deployment of the Sixth Corps on that field Rickett's division was formed in two lines on the right of the Berryville pike, facing Ramseur's division, the Nineteenth Corps being on its right. About noon, in the advance of the brigade and division to the assault, under the severe fire of Braxton's artillery, Major Dillingham was struck in the left thigh by a solid shot which almost tore off the leg. He was borne bleeding to the rear and died in three hours. About the same time Lieutenant Hill of company H had his thigh-bone splintered by a grape shot inflicting a wound from which he died. After the fall of Major Dillingham, the command of the Tenth devolved upon Captain Lucius T. Hunt of company H who handled the regiment efficiently, assisted by Adjutant Lyman. The regiment advanced through a piece of woods and across an open field, when it came under musketry fire from the enemy's line, a short distance beyond. The first line halted and began firing; the second line closed upon it and lines and commands became considerably mixed for a time. Under the charge of Battles's brigade, of Rodes's division, which beat back the left of the Nineteenth Corps and the right of Rickett's division, the Tenth fell back with the brigade; was reformed and advanced again and lay down till ordered forward in the last grand charge and rout of the enemy, in which the regiment participated with spirit.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict p. 320

This is the historian's view of Sheridan's victory at Cedar Creek, the battle in which Simon Lesage was killed.

[E.C. Phelps]

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No 30

Carver Hospital Washington D C
Oct 12th 1864

Dear Susan;

I have just received your no 28 containing five dollars just 48 hours from the time it left the Furnace;

I am glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that M- is so unwell & that business is going as you say it is but Susan dont worry about it for I believe it will all come out right some time, You wont worry about that or the bounty tax either will you? for as sure as their is a God in Heaven I believe it will all come out aright in the end, & I hope & pray that you may think so to.

Now Susan I must tell the truth about geting a furlough I cannot give you any encouragemnt at all for I do not like the hang of the ward doctor in regard to furloughs, but Susan, I have tried & shall continue to try as long as I think it will do any good. You want to know what I think about your trading I am perfectly satisfied to let you trade as you think best I think you have done well so far, it is not so dangerous to trust you as it is me

As to getting any one to write I dont know as it would be of any use perhaps it would make the matter worse.

I had not herd of the death of Simon it dont seem as though it could be possible that he is dead. I think it is no more then right that you should have good pay for taking care of his clothes & I guess father will say so to; have you or father found out what became of his watch or money & memorandum I hope they are saved so they can be sent to his folks. I suppose you would like to know how we live here for dinner we have a good meal boiled meat & potatoes bread & soup, in the morning twice a week we have bread & butter & a bowl of coffy, no milk at all three mornings a little hash bread & coffy, two mornings a little rice sweetened a little half boiled bread & coffy; at night we have bread & tea & two nights we have a piece of meat 1 1/2 inches square the rest of the nights a little molases or stewed apples I presume you remember I dont use any tea at all; their are a good many to complain but I cannot say but what I have enough, but do you blame me for wanting a little butter or milk & an apple or two to eat occasionally. I dont know as I feel any better then I did the last time I wrote.

Please write soon as you get this I think I shall be here long enough to get an answer to it unless they start me for my regiment if they do perhaps they will come out as they did before certainly if I am no better then I be at present

Your affectionate husband
Timothy B. Messer

Since I have written this letter the Dr has been in & says their is to be a transfer of the Vermont soldiers to their own state but dont know when it will be.

They may think that I am to smart to be sent their. If you dont hear from me within a day or two you may direct another here

Timothy

I thank you very kindly for the money & hope you do not have to suffer for the want of money T

If I had plenty of money with me all the time I could bought shirts drawers blankets or any thing that I wanted for less then half the cost.

The money that you sent being state money I should had to lost a considerable on it. if the Sutlars here had not been from Vt so they have taken it at just the discount the banks make two cents on a dollar 10 cents I suppose you could not get a green back.

* * * * *

No 32

U. S. Gen'l Hospital Brattleboro
Vermont Nov 3d 64

Dear Susan,

I have been down town this afternoon and got my boots fix & thought I would just go into the Express office & some to my surprize I found a box for me almost the first thing I saw I was fortunate in finding a team that was going up by Mr Pelletts so I had a chance to ride box & all without paying either, when I got their I opened the box found my vest and mothers letter in pocket so I red that the first thing in the program the next I tried on my vest (it sets first rate) the next was tumbling over the box to see what their was & you don't kneed to wonder whether I tasted of any thing or not.

I have just received your letter containing the five dollars I hope that will make money enough so that I shant have to ask you for any more money at present certain; I am well satisfied with what I have found in the box yet, tell fanny I am very much obliged for those pickles for I wished after you had gone home that I had asked you if you had a few pickles for me. but it is all right now, I am sorry that you hurried so in geting the box ready, I am afraid it will make you sick if you are not sick already, please write in your next whether you are or not.

Where did you put the box a board; did you pay the Express if so get a receipt where you paid it & send it to me for I had to pay the Express here, 75 cts the Express man said if it was put aboard at Ludlow it ought not to be but ,50 cts but he said they had to pay ,50 cts at the falls & ,25 cts from their to B. I have found out what the price of the white shirts is 1,60 a piece but I found a chance to buy a pair for 1,00 they are new; you can see where some of my money is going.

Their has quite a number of men gone on furloughs since you went home but I dont see any more signs of my geting one. Mrs. Madison has not gone yet. Mrs P has taken an other one to board today.

Their was 150 men came in to the hospital last night and some night before last

I dont know how many three more from my company that are wounded.

I am about the same that I was when you left, last knight I did not have to get up only once, the bugle is blowing for roll call I must close and go to bed so good night from your

Timothy B. Messer

* * * * *

No 35

Bedloe Island N. Y. Harbor

Nov. 26th 1864

Dear Wife;

I am here on this Island yet & do not expect to leave this week as today is the last day of the week, I was in hopes to get a letter from you today, but there has not any come so I content myself by, thinking there will one come by & by. I feel more anxious to hear from you for I sent twenty dollars in my no 34 & I want to know whether it is lost or not. I wonder where you spent thanksgiving day & I suppose you wonder if I had a good supper or not. I did in comparison to what we have here the rest of the time; we had a stented allowance of baked stuffed fowls which were very good altho they were cold without any gravy & we had two boiled potatoes (small) & a small slice of bread, a little piece of butter, an apple & a half pint of strong beer; I believe there was some cakes & pies sent here but the cooks etc eat them; I could eat more if I had had it but it done very well

I have no fait to find. There is a meeting here every evening & night before last there was about a hundred & fifty of us in & we were from seventeen different states quite a representation for so small a place as this.

Old Dr. Phelps examined the squad that left Brattleboro when I did & he said they were complaining because he kept the men there so long & he was going to let them see what kind of men they would have if he sent them off sooner, so I thought it not best to call for a separate examination & by the way I have felt since I left home I am in hopes to be smart enough to do duty in the regm by the time I get there if they do not have much marching to do: when I get over my cold that I had when at home found that I had gained a good deal while at home; but my back is not so well as I wish it was but I think the sea breeze that I get here is the best thing for me that I can have.

I hope I shall stay here long enough to get as much as one letter from you for I want to know whether you worked so hard when I was at home as to make you sick or any worse either.

I intended to start this letter today but I had a little work to do that hindered me from writing.

It is growing dark & I must close so to have this go out in the mail tomorrow morning, good night from your affectionate husband

Timothy

* * * * *

Dear Susan;

I wrote a line to you yesterday saying that I did not know when we should leave here but now (afternoon) there is strong indications of a lot leaving here tomorrow so I concluded to write a line to put into the office after I find out certain that I am going; Soon as you get this please write a line & direct it to Camp Distribution Near Alexandria Va. Possibly I may get one before I leave here but I think it very doubtful if we leave tomorrow;

If you direct to camp distribution I think I shall be apt to get it, for it is likely that we shall stop there a few days,

I very well remember one year ago today the day we had the first fight that our regiment was ever in; it is a pleasant day the same as it was then but a great deal warmer; there is quite a contrast between the duties of today & that day, then I was engaged in trying to drive the enemy of our country, to day I have been to Church & seen four soldiers sprinkled.

I have been to Church every evening but the first since I have been on this Island the same Chaplain is here that was last May, I like him as well as any Chaplain that I have ever herd since I have been in the army.

I wonder where you & Elwin are today, whether you are at home, down to fathers or at Church, but I do not wonder what (or who) you are thinking about today for I think that I can tell that without wondering or guessing; judging you by my self.

I am not going to seal this up now untill I see whether I go or not.

Good by for the present remembering that I remain your affectionate husband
Timothy

(PS) Please write in your answer to this whether you have received the \$20. that I sent in my no 34 & whether you have got the traveling bag or not T

Nov 28 I have just received your no 31 , I am glad to hear that you did not work so hard when I was at home as to make you sick & that you got the money all right for I felt rather uneasy about it. I got a blanket for Kimball for 2,50 & sent it by express & sent ,50 cts in a letter. Now that I have left Brattleboro I am glad I did not draw a blouse for this dress coat is warmer for winter then a blouse. I brought my butter with me & have got my quart tin pail full now & some sugar the rest is all gone I eat the last of my dried berries yesterday. I guess it has a worse affect on you my going home then it did on me for I do not see but my vituals taste just as good to me as it did before I went home but I miss my potatoes some. Madison is here with me; there was about sixty of us in the squad. It is noon & we havent gone & I guess we shant untill tomorrow so I shant seal this up now for I may think of something more before we go. If you feel worse about my going front then I do for I do not dread it at all & I am sorry that you feel so bad about it. I hope that George & Eliza will make a good match & I should not wonder if they did; I guess that Bill Archer & wife are of that kind that cannot live together nor apart. I guess it will bother you some to read this page after it gets cold.

I expect to go today now so good by your ever true husband
Timothy

* * * * *
No 37

Camp Distribution Va
Dec 4th 1864

Dear Susan;

I have got here after so long a time, reached here this for-noon; we got aboard the transport at Bedloe Monday just dark & stayed in the Harbor over night; we had a very smooth sea crossing the Bay to what we did last May I was not seasick at all, we reached Fortress Monroe Wednesday 8 P. M. & stayed in the Harbor over night, Thursday we went to City Point reaching there 2 P.M. we stayed there untill yesterday in the forenoon & then took the boat coming back by Fortress Monroe & reached Alexandria this morning & marched up here.

Dec 5th I seat myself this evening to a table to finish this letter I must tell you in the first place what I am going to do for a while, I am detailed to work at carpenter & joiner work. The way I came to get the chance there is a fellow by the name of Bowen of my company at work here he told me yesterday that the Quarter Master was in want of more carpenters so I applied to him this morning & he sent rue to the Colonel to see if he would approve of it he told me he could not unless the Surgeon pronounced me unfit for field duty accordingly I went to the Surgeon for examination & he pronounced me unfit for field service so after all of that trouble the boss carpenter set me to work & where do you guess he sent me for the first job? right into the Col's office to see what he wanted done; so I went & found that he wanted two doors & a writing table to a small secretary I took the dimentions & went back to the shop & went at it but have not finished them yet; I shall have to work about eight hours a day & a comfortable building to stay in nights I do not know how well I shall stand it but I feel full as well as I expected to after so hard a journey as I have had since I left Bedloe but my back pains me a great deal & the inflamation troubles me some; It is alltogether uncertain how long I shall stay here, but untill I write to the contrary, you may direct letters to Camp Distribution Near Alexandria Va Carpenters department & not put on the Co nor regiment for they tell me here if that is put on it will go there for all of coming here, there has none come here yet for me if you sent one here & put the Co & Reg on I presume it has gene there. I am rather tired tonight so I will close without filling the rest of the page so good night & a kiss from your true

Timothy

* * * * *

Dec. 11th 1844

It would be a little more pleasant and a great deal more agreeable to me to sit down and converse with you this afternoon personally then it is to do so through the slow medium of this pen, but I am thankful even for this slow mode and I do it with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction for I am sure it is a source of joy and comfort to you to receive a communication from me but it can be no more so to you then it is to me to receive one from you. It is 2 o'clock I wonder if you are writing to me or what you are doing.

I went to church this forenoon and herd an excellent discourse by one of the ministers sent out by the Christian Commission; there is a meeting here every evening in the week so there is no excuse for me to spend my evenings foolishly but I have not been to many of them for I had some letters to write and I took two evenings to make a chair that I am sitting in to write this letter now I presume you will say you would like to see it and see what kind of a looking animal it is. I cannot give much of a description of it but it has a back to fit mine and there are arms to it besides the other necessary parts to make a chair out of boards.

There is twelve of us that have a room about 20 feet by 30 and a large stove in it; the detailed men all go to one table to eat there is about 200 of us eat in one room; now I suppose you will want to know what I live on it has been one week since I have commenced eating with the detailed men; we have good coffee with milk in it three times a day, for breakfast three times we have had baked beans twice fried beef with a thickened gravy two mornings boiled potatoes and turnip and boiled salt beef, and for dinner twice bake beef with gravy, twice soup, twice boiled meat and potatoes and other three times some kind of meat, for supper stewed dried apples and a plenty of bread at each meal that I believe is a list of everything we have had. The potatoes are poor and not but a few of them; that is a great deal better than we had a Bedloe or should have here if I was not detailed. My butter is not all gone I have enough for one more day; my sugar is all gone.

I received your no 32 letter and I was so afraid it would not come. I got it the 8th. I am glad you did not get sick working so hard when I was at home for I had a good time and I should hate to know that it was the cause of making you sick. You ask what I think about your going to school I should say go if you want to. I am perfectly willing you should have a new cloak if I had any objections to it, it would be very unbecoming a husband to say so if they had spent as much money as I have for the last four or five months but I do not feel like finding fault with you in regards to your clothes for I consider you capable of deciding about your own clothing and I want you to have what you want if you can get the money to get it with. Night before last there was about three inches of snow fell, since then it has rained some frooze some and now it is thawing and all slosh. I have stood it very well the week past commencing my work but I cant do but little work in a day. It is supper time so I leave.

I have been to supper and now I will finish this before it is time to go to church for the mail goes out early in the morning. It is a little cooler this evening and begins to snow some again.

I do not know what makes me dream so much about home lately. I have dreamed of seeing you or being at home or around home almost every night for a

week. You say Elwin wishes father was at home. I guess he does not wish so any more than his mother does, does he. I expect the sixth corps has gone back down to Petersburg, for something but I presume you will find out what for as soon as I shall, some think that there is one division left in the Valley yet, but I think not but do not know for certain. What does J pay for cutting logs and how many is he going to cut.

I have written to Marilla and Kimball hope I shall get a number of letters this week. I guess you will think this page is black enough whether it is of the right kind or not.

I must close so good by.

from your
Timothy

* * * * *

No 41

Camp Distribution near
Alexandria Va. Dec 27 1864

Dear Susan;

I received your no 34 yesterday & have been trying to make up my mind ever since what to do about sending for a box & I have come to the conclusion that nuthing venture nuthing have, so I am going to tell you what I would like & if it will not be to much trouble & expence you may send it as soon as convenient & if I should go away before I get it I shall leave it with some one to sell it. I would like about 8 or 10 pounds of butter & about the same quantity of sugar, perhaps you can find some at Pettigrews or some where else all ready caked I am not particular about its being the best quality & I dont want to rob you of that best sugar you had, if you find no other send some of that poorest, some dried raspberries & as for other eatables something that would keep a while if necessary such cake as you made for me to carry to Brattleboro & cookies will keep (& I havent any doubt but what some of those mince pies you spoke of would keep untill somebody got hold of them & eat them) I guess a quire of paper & pack of envelopes will do for now, a hank of black thread & some yarn to darn stockings, & a few pens, I believe that is all I will ask for, but you can have the privalege of puting in what else you have a mind to that is a great privalege aint it?

Please write what the things cost so if I should leave I should know better what to ask & also how much of every thing, you put in; I will send five dollars in this to go so far towards paying for the things. I think you done well in selecting a present for Elwin.

As for those drunken fellows they did not act so bad a great while so they did not get into trouble. I have written so lately that I believe I will not write any more.

You may have the box directed the same as you do my letters only not put on the carpenters department, from your true husband

Timothy B. Messer

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I guess you will think that I tried to cut a
great flourish directing this letter & could
not make out but I guess it will go Timothy

No 42

Camp Distribution near
Alexandria Va Jan 1st 1865

Dear Wife:

I wish you a happy new year, altho you are far from here. The old year has past away with many cares & anxieties to some; & joys & sorrows to others; & now we are commencing upon a new one & what it will bring forth time will only tell: I have been to church & just come back from dinner, taken off my coat, seated myself to the table with pen in hand a scratching away on this paper for you to read.

While writing that I wished you a happy new year I could not help wishing that I was where I could say it to you insted of writing it on paper & then waiting untill Uncle Sam carries it within your reach before you can know what I am writing; & while writing this the thought has come into my mind that as a husband I ought to do something to make the new year a happy one to you but what can I do so far from home? is their any thing that I can do? yes their is; in the first place I can write letters & send to you which I dare say, will add somewhat to your happiness if I write as good ones as I can; now another way comes into my mind, that is to take as good care of myself as possible so that when I do return home I can be of some use to myself & family; now if you can think of other methods for me to try please write what they are & if practible I will try them.

I received two papers from you day before yesterday that is all the mail that I have received since I wrote no 41 letter to you in that I sent five dollars & asked you to send a box by express & ment to have asked you to take a receipt for it of the express agent & send it to me but forgot it.

Since I last wrote to you I have not been so well as I was before; my back has troubled me a great deal & for three or four days it has been all I could do to crawl around & do a little light work I havent been to the surgeon to get any medacine, but feel some better today & hope I shall continue to through the week, if I do not I shall go to the surgeon & see what he says The past week we have had various sorts of weather some of the time it has been pleasant & warm, some rain, any quantity of mud, & night before last about three inches of snow on the mud, yesterday it was trod up together, last night it froze & today it is rough windy & cold, I havent told you the name of my bedfellow it is Seger he belongs to the 24th Mich

I do not expect to get any pay while I stay here for they send no paymaster here to this camp I tell you this so that you need not be expecting money & get disappointed. I hope you will not have to pay out so much sending a box to me as to make you suffer for the want of money; please write all about it, whether you are short or not & whether you have paid that tax or not. I am glad to here that Mrs. F & Mrs. G have made up good friends for your sake if nothing more, I close by hoping & praying that this may find you enjoying good health & in good spirits, as ever

Your husband
Timothy B. Messer

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At the opening of the year 1865, the Tenth had an aggregate of 789 officers and men, with 418 for duty 325 being on the sick list, and 27 prisoners of war.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict p. 330

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The drawing that I sent one of the carpenters drew while I have been writing the last page T

No 46

Camp Distribution near Alexandria Va Jan 29th 1865

Dear Wife

Another week has past & I am still here in camp & have not herd an other word about examinations; I dont know but you will think I am afraid of examinations or worrying about it all of the time; but it is not so I have been a soldier to long to loose any sleep on that account. I merely write about it thinking you would like to hear about it.

I received your letter (that you wrote while at fathers) last Monday. & was in hopes to receive another today but insted of geting one I have received three papers from father about an hour ago so I have not red any to speak of yet. I wish I could been at home to attended the meeting with you if that would made any difference with you in regard to going forward in baptism if you have another chance dont put if off Susan for me to get home for perhaps their may something take place to prevent my returning for life is uncertain & death is certain sooner or later with us all & the old maxim is very good; put not off untill tomorrow what may as well be done today.

I am glad you wrote how you felt about going forward & hope you will continue to write how you feel in your mind in regard to religion & I hope you will not think hard of me for writing as I have but please accept it as advice from a loving true husband & then do as you think best & proper.

It would be very agreeable to me to visit with you at fathers but as I cannot at present you may go twice as often or stay twice as long just which you choose & ask them if that will do. The last week has been very cold the coldest week we have had this winter. I am thankfull that I do not have to go on picket such cold weather but I pity those that do, but I have not lost all my patriotism in selfishness for I would willingly do my part of the picket duty in the cold if I was well, but that is the trouble I cannot stand it to do any very hard work any more then I could when I first came here but I do not intend to work hard enough to hurt me in a long run while I stay here in this camp.

Day before yesterday I had a different job to do from what I have had to do for a long time that was to make a cradle I believe I never made but one before but I believe this one suited; you may think it rather strange that such things are wanted in soldiers camp but their are men who work for the government that are not soldiers & have their famalies here with them so it is not so strange after all, I have no news at all to write & do not feel so much in a

writing mood just now as at some other times. Last Wednesday coming I attended an other temperance meeting the address was were delivered by two ministers they were very interesting as well as our other meetings; as ever your affectionate husband

Timothy

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No. 47

Camp Distribution near Alexandria Va Feb 1st 1865

Dear Susan;

I received your letter of the 25 ult today maled the 27 rather longer coming, then some others. I have sent three since I received the box & I presume you have received them by this time or before you do this.

The object of my writing this is I am sorry that I wrote what I did in my no 45 in regard to your writing to Dr Sutton; if you have not written I had rather you would not for it mite opperate different from what I thought then it mite, but if you have wrote you need not worry about it.

My reasons are they mite think I had somthing to do about your writing & be put out at me for some days I do not show that any thing ails me so much as I do others so perhaps they would send me to the front but I hope it will all come out right in the end.

It is past 9 o'clock so good night from your affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

I received a letter from Frank today. T

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No 48

Camp Distribution near Alexandria Va. Feb. 5, 1865

Dear Susan:

I must write again today if I did write so short a time ago for I am afraid I have made you worry about me or feel displeased with me on account of my changing my mind, but Susan do not feel bad nor blame me; if you knew how much their was going on continually in a place like this to cause one to change his mind you would not blame me for it, I guess it is all over now, for the next day after writing my #47 an orderly came in and said Dr. Sutton wished to see me. I went into his office he asked me what ailed me, what I was doing, how long I have to serve, if I had been in any battles etc, so on and so on such like if I knew William H. Walker, and finally he said that would do, with the remark to let him know when I was not able to do the work that I had to do. I do not know whether he was displeased or not he did not act cross. I do not have to work very hard now so I get along better then I did while ago. When in the Dr's office I thought I saw some of your writing but he said nothing about it, or you either, please write in your next something about what was written. I presume you thought about me day before yesterday in particular on the account of its being my birthday does it seem possible that I am 32 years old? it does not to me but I suppose it must be so. I think if I had been there I could done justice to my part of the baked rib if not more. You must excuse me for not going to stay with you

while J was gone to the Quarterly meeting for I did not get your letter soon enough. I do not know as I shall have a chance to get any tent cloth but I shall try and have everything I can that is worth saving. As to which is the cheapest, honey or butter I think their would not be a difference enough to notice. I want you should have that that you like best. I believe you and I think alike about going cold for the sake of saving something In regard to giving to Ministers give enough to satisfy your own concince and I will assure you it will be all right. As for the Star do as you and J think best I shall want the paper to read when I get home if that ever takes place.

It is very windy today and some cold but their is no snow here. I have drawn me a pair of pants and a blouce and just had my hair cut for the first time since I was at home and they all say I look very od, but I guess you would know me if you could get a sight at me. I have wore my pants through on the work bench but shall mend them so they will last to work in a while yet. I must close this and answer franks letter so good bye for the present, with a kiss for you and Elwin

I remain your true and affectionate husband
Timothy B. Messer

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No 52

Camp in the field in front of Petersburg Va Feb 27th 1865

Dear Susan;

I have got back to the regiment once more; arived here about two hours ago & find the boys enjoying good health & in good spirits. I havent much time to write but want to let you knew where to direct letters.

When you get that box please write what it cost to go by express.

I feel as well as I expected to but am somewhat tired tonight so good night from your affectionate husband

Timothy B. Messer

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No 54

Camp in front of Petersburg Va.
March 13th 1865

Dear Susan;

I seat myself to write to you once more and expect to make out slim this time, I should have written yesterday but had to go on picket and have just come in not only sleepy and tired but have caught cold some way, but I intend to write often as once a week as long as we lay in camp for I would like to hear from you as often as that even if it is a short letter if you do not feel like writing a long one. Since last writing, I have received the letter that you sent to camp distribution and your no 44 stating you had received the box, I am glad you received it all right but am sorry that Elwin felt so bad I didnt have time to make him any thing and had no chance at all to buy any thing for him and cannot think of any thing to send from here. That little box is composed of six different kinds of wood I done the most of the work evenings and Saturday afternoons, there was three or four

different ones wanted to buy it to send home for a present to some of their folks but I got it into my head that you would think as much of it as they would; I had a chance to do some extry jobs that I got pay for to buy the materials with which cost about \$3,50 with those pieces that were left. As to the cloths I hardly think it best to sell anything untill you find out whether I live to go home or not, unless you are short for money and can get a good price for them, the overcoat is a better one then I can draw for \$14 00 and the blankets \$7 00 each I believe I left a corps badge in the dresscoat pocket that Bomen gave me but do not care for it is to heavy to ware out here Captain Perhams son is out here do not know how long he will stay. Mr. Matison did not stand it a great while to do duty in the Regt. he is in the Hospital at City Point. I forgot to tell you that I had the honor of rideing from Alexandria to City Point in the same boat with the Reb prisoner R. A. Prior I presume you have red about him in the papers he was coming to be exchanged. It has been so long since you wrote to know my opinion in regard to hiring Morse I don't know as it is of any use to write it now, however if you think you could get along with so little room comfortably I think it would be the best way but do as you are a mind to I wont scold. I am glad you did not go up to Edsons you may give Elwin that badge if he wants it. I think Edson has done well I wonder if all the returned soldiers will do as well. We are having fine weather now days but the nights are rather chilly. I have written much more then I thought I should when I commenced but dred looking it over it will sound so flat so I will close by biding you good bye from

Your true husband
Timothy B. Messer

The firing I herd has nearly stoped altho there is an occasional boom. T

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No 55

Camp front of Petersburg Va
March 18th 1865

Dear Susan;

It is Saturday, in the afternoon almost Sundown pleasent & warm as we generally have at home the first of May in the daytime but the nights are rather more chilly the same as they usualy are here & we have about as much wind as we do at home. We have a considerable picket duty to do now days, I have been on picket once since I last wrote & am going on again tomorrow we have to go from two to three miles to where we do picket duty altho our camp is almost within gun shot of the rebs line but we go farther to the left & the first division picket here. We have a fire on picket but are not allowed to go to sleep in the night. When in camp; we have a great deal of duty to do such as building forts & so on &c & three or four hours drill a day but I can stand the duty we have to do better then I can hard marching as we had last summer but I would not wonder if we broke camp before a great while for all of this part of the army have been sending off everything they do not want if we should move as I suppose it to be to have us in readiness to move at short notice in case of necessity, which I suppose to be all right, but as usual we are entirely ignorant of the direction we shall go supposing we do move soon, I presume a move with us depends all together upon the movement of the enemy as usual.

I see by the papers that our Genl's continue to have good success & I hope & sincerely pray that they may continue to have good success untill they crush rebellion to where it can never more arrize.

I received your no 45 day before yesterday; I think it came very quick to what some of the letters do that come to the regt. There is a little firing on the right within a few minutes I dont know what it will amount to. As to news papers some of the Windsor boys have the journal every week so I do not care so much about having that sent as I other wise should As to paper & envelops I have a good supply. If you have not decided what paper to take, you need not make any difference on the account of sending them to me but send some of whatever you have to spare. I saw Nathaniel the other day he was well as usual. I have not received a letter from Marilla since the 7th of Jan. & havent written to her since the 22nd of Jan.

I have not seen Gen. Grant since I came back. My sheet is full but I believe I will write a few lines to J & send with this so to have him write to me good night as ever from your husband

Timothy B. Messer

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No. 56

Camp front of Petersburg Va.
March 27th 65

Dear Wife

I think when I tell you the reason I did not write yesterday you will say I have not broken my promise about writing as soon as convenient after a fight. I write expecting you will see some account of the procedings in the papers before you get this & be waiting & watching with eager anxiety to hear something from me. We went on picket (the biggest part of the regt.) Friday morning; but just before light we herd heavy firing off to the right, & before it was time for relief there was considerable firing on both the right & left of us & we had orders to be in readiness to advance & take the rebs picket line of rifle pits; (in sted of being relieved). In a short time we had a reinforcement at the right of our division & then we started in a charge (within gun shot of the rebs when we started) & advanced about two thirds of the distance (the bullets striking all around us like hail) when our support broke & fell back to our rifle pits that we started from; & two of our Co. were killed; Joseph A. Smith & John Smith (not brothers) we got a little more reinforcements & started again & this time we took the rifle pits & a part of the way all the men that were in them & we hold them yet; In our regt. we lost 2 killed & a few wounded don't know for certain how many. We held the line that night & yesterday we were relieved & got into camp about noon dirty tired & sleepy; the first night I slept between 2 & 3 hours but the last night none at all so you can see I was not in a very good condition to write yesterday altho I did not have the blues but Susan I will tell you just how I did feel I felt like rejoicing & returning thanks to my Maker for the prezervation of my life through another fight for the right & have no doubt but you will feel the same as I did when you get this, in sted of having the blues as bad as you did the last time you wrote or when you wrote your no 46 that I received last night. You speak of having a great deal of wind. I dont believe you have much more then we do here

& some days it blows like a hurricane & dust flies. Pants are worth \$5,00 a pair if you sell either pair sell the first pair I sent; I am not particular, sell one pair if you want to. That cold of mine is nearly all gone. Do not work hard enough to get sick. Since commencing this letter I have had to leave it three or four times. Has father B found out anything more about geting Lesages bounty & back pay? Capt. Perham says their is a way to get it; has father seen lawyer Walker about it? i f so what did he say? It can be collected even if neglected a year, or more, one of those boys that were killed Joseph was sick & sent from Monoccacy to the Hospital & had just come back to the company & that was the first time he had been on duty he was not instantly killed & said after he was hit tell his mother it was well with him, he died with his face to the enemy; he was from N. H. As ever your husband

Timothy B. Messer

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The Tenth stood to arms that morning with the rest of the corps, during the capture and recapture of Fort Steadman; and half of the regiment was among the first troops of the Sixth Corps sent to feel of the enemy's lines in the counter assault of the afternoon. The picket line of General Seymour's division that day consisted of 230 men of the Tenth Vermont and 160 of the Fourteenth New Jersey. Directions having been received from General Wright to push out the skirmish lines, in order to see if the enemy had depleted his force at that point to reinforce his left, General Seymour sent Lieut. Colonel Damon to temporarily relieve the division field-officer of the day, and take command of the pickets. The One Hundred and Tenth and One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio regiments, of Keifer's brigade, were sent to him to support his line. At three o'clock Damon ordered forward his men, in the general advance of the skirmishers. They were received with a brisk fire of musketry from the rifle pits in front, and of artillery from the enemy's batteries farther back, to which the Union batteries replied with effect. The men of the Tenth had advanced about half way across the open ground in their front, when they perceived that the skirmishers on their right had halted and some of them were retreating, followed by the enemy's skirmishers. They accordingly halted and lay down. Elsewhere the pickets and their supports fell back to the original line. A stronger assault was now organized. General Keifer brought forward the other four regiments of his brigade to support those before employed, which were now put into the skirmish line, and himself took charge of the movement. The detachment of the Tenth Vermont, as before, was the left of the division skirmish line. It had held its advanced position, and as soon as the rest of the skirmishers came up with it, the men started forward on the double quick, with loud cheering, and without firing a shot till the breastwork was reached and surmounted. They then began firing. A few of the Confederates behind the works ran for their main line but a larger portion threw down their arms. One hundred and sixty Confederates, including several officers, were captured by the Tenth in the trenches. Having no men to spare, Damon sent the prisoners to the rear without guards, and as the fire from the main line of the Confederate

works was still hot they needed no second bidding, but started at a lively pace for the Union main line, where they were soon joined by 700 of their comrades who had been taken on the right and left. The Tenth Vermont held the portion of the entrenched line which it had carried, till the next morning, when it was relieved. The Tenth lost two men killed and four wounded in this charge.

Vermont in the Civil War, Benedict pp. 331 – 332

This was Lee's last offensive, the attack on Fort Stedman.

ECP

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No 58

Camp front of Petersburg Va
April 1st 1865

Dear Susan;

Since I last wrote we have moved a short distance to the left & have been expecting to have some fighting to do before this time but we haven't done it yet; but we have been through the usual amount of packing up by day & by night, shifting positions, being in ready ness to march at a moments warning &c &c & there has been a considerable Canonading & musketry on the left of us. I was just a going to write that it was quiet just now but before I can write it I hear musketry & since I commenced this letter I have herd 15 or 20 big guns but they were far enough off so as not to hurt any. Sheridan with his Cavalry & two or three Corps of infantry have gone to the left but I do not know what he has accomplished yet.

I received the letter you wrote last Sunday night before last; you do not need to feel bad about the papers for I am glad that you take the one you want & I shall not hays to be dependent on others for State news, & the paper is worth all it costs to do up rations in besides what the reading is worth. I am sorry I wrote what I did after I sent the letter but it has proved all right now.

I shall be happy to receive the papers whenever they come. I do not expect we shall be where we can get any express from home so I am not loting on having sugar but buy some if you can so that I can have some when I get home. We have had a considerable rain the past week, it rained hard night before last & yesterday morning & today the wind blows like fury & there is a cloud of sand flying all the time so quick after the rain.

I done up my gloves & put them in the mail last night so which will get there first them or this. I write with a pencil because I have not got a convenient place to write with ink.

You did not say any thing in your last about having the blues so I hope you have got rid of that terrible disease that distroys hapiness wherever it rages, but do not be afraid to write about it if you should have another attack.

It is a most dinner time guess I will have some fried pork, hard tack & coffee for my dinner what are you going to have? I wish I could have some of it with you espetially the potatoes for I have not had any but three times since I got back to the company. I guess I have written as much as you can pick out so good bye for now from your husband

Timothy 8. Messer

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In the final assault upon the lines of Petersburg, on the 2nd of April, 1865, the Tenth Vermont took a truly brilliant part. ... The brigade was formed in three lines of battle the front line consisting of the Tenth Vermont, Lieut. Colonel Damon (on the right) and the One Hundred and Sixth New York; the second of the Fourteenth New Jersey and One Hundred and Fifty-first New York; and the third of the Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania. Coffee was served to the troops at midnight, and as the moon went down, the regiments, in light marching order, filed outside the breastworks and moved silently into position without attracting the attention of the enemy's pickets, 200 yards in front. The position of the Tenth was a short distance in rear of the entrenched picket line, and about half a mile to the left of that of the First Vermont brigade. The men lay shivering in the darkness for three hours. In the musketry firing which commenced before light on the part of the enemy, five or six men of the Tenth were wounded, but all lay still as before. As the earliest streak of approaching daylight crept along the horizon, the parapets of a Confederate earthwork became dimly visible a few hundred yards in front of them. At half-past four o'clock, upon the firing of the signal-gun from Fort Fisher, the men sprang up and started forward, took the fire of the rebel pickets, and, without replying, followed closely upon their heels through the openings of the abatis, and without waiting to re-form, rushed in a mass to the Confederate works. The Tenth, leading all the other troops in the division, struck squarely the front of a strong earthwork mounting six guns, with a deep ditch in front. The men leaped into the ditch, and while some climbed the parapet others sprang over the breastworks on right and left. On the left of this work little opposition was met; but on the right the Confederates stood their ground, met the intruders with a volley, and then fought with clubbed muskets, as with shouts of "Pile in, boys! Don't give them time to load!" the Vermonters swarmed into the redoubt, capturing there a number of prisoners who were sent to the rear. The rest of the garrison fled toward a two-gun battery on the left of the work, followed by some shots from a fieldpiece which some men of the Tenth had turned on them. Soon the guns in the two-gun battery were trained upon the captured fort, and were making things warm in that vicinity when a line of battle was formed, by Colonel Damon, of men of the Tenth and other troops of the brigade, which, advancing inside the works, drove the artillerymen from the battery. After a short halt to reorganize and strengthen his battalion, Damon pushed across a ravine and piece of swampy ground, against a stronger work still held in force by the enemy. The brigade captured this, taking 100 prisoners, the rest of its defenders taking shelter in the woods to the left of the fort, and outside of the line of works.

Vermont In the Civil War, Benedict pp. 332-334

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Camp in the Field near Burksville Va
Tenth Vt Vols
April 18th 1865

Mr Baker

Sir

Yours of April 12th has just come to hand, I hasten to reply, the mail before this brought me the official Sad news of T B Messers Death. I will give you the particulars as far as I can of his wound and death, of course long ere this you have heard of hard fighting on the 2nd of April of this continued marching for several days after we had orders to charge and carry, the works at daylight on the 2nd of April our Regt was to be in the front line consequently we were to scale the Walls first, on reaching their breast works it was a close fight but many of us reached the desired point & gained the inside of the enemies works and drove them from place to place untill our numbers were not enough for them but our men behaved splendidly, among the front ones was T B Messer he was giving Shot for Shot and was doing as well as man could do, he was at my side when he fell, he said to me Captain I think I am killed, I asked him where hit he replied in the bowels I asked him if he thought he could get to the rear with help he said he thought he could I then sent some men back to the ambulance train with him, I could not there ascertain the nature of his wound for at this time it was almost a hand to hand fight and if not then killed he was liable at any moment to be shot again, the men that helped him back informed me that he appeared to reach the ambulance with more strength than they expected, I heard from him the next day by one of the surgeons he said he thought he would live although his wound was a bad one. I felt in hopes when I heard from him again that he would be still better but in this we all were disappointed after a day of hard fighting the enemy was whiped, our wounded were carried to City Point and our dead were buried, we were put in motion after the fleeing enemy we have been on the move or engaged with the enemy ever since untill day before yesterday we are now fifty miles from Petersburg. It would not be possible to do anything now but if ever I am situated so I can I will do everything in my Power. I cannot now tell whether he was conscious to the last or not but if I get to where I can I will ascertain if possible he was taken to the USA Depot Field Hospital at City Point Va, the surgeon in charge of the Hospital Sent me a Notice that T B Messer of my company died in that Hospital en the 6th of April 1865 of Gun Shot wound '(abdomen) received in action, the Surgeons name as near as I could make it out was J Sykes Ely Asst Surgeon US Vols in Charge of Hospital, he sent me an inventory of his effects, which I will copy.

1 Blouse, 1 Trousers, 1 Drawers, 1 pr boots, 1 vest, 1 memorandum book, 1 Testament, 1 Inkstand, 1 Hat, 1 Suspenders, 1 Handkf, 1 watch and chain, this property will or should be sent to the Office of the Sect of War for the Widdow, It is my duty to send his final statement to the same place which I have done by the last mail, the War department are having a great many papers to look over and regulate of wounded and deceased Soldiers as soon as they can get to it you will get a settlement but it will be some little time probably before they can get

to it you spoke of Sargt Lasage Papers. I am verry busy just now but as soon as I can I will examine his papers and if I think any things can be done at present I will write you I have written this very hastily and have given such information as I have in my possession now if there is any questions you wish to ask I will with pleasure answer any letter you may write at any time. Remember me to the Widdow and asure her and the friends that they have the heart felt sympathies of the Officers and men of his company who were his comrades in Battle as well as in camp. We all know how to appreciate him as a man of untarnished character, his family though stricken in sadness can have the consolation that he died in a noble cause from wounds received in the front ranks while faceing the worst enemy our country ever had to contend with.

I have the honor to be Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt

S E Perham
Capt Co H 10th Vt Vols

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-----	Tyson Furnace July 25, 1861
-----	Tyson Furnace Sept. 29, 1861
-----	Camp on the Potomac near Seneca Landing Oct. 3, 1862
-----	Camp Grover at Arspers's Cross Road Nov. 24, 1862
No. 1	Rockville MD Dec 10, 1862
No 12	Camp at Whites Ford, MD April 2, 1863
No 15	Camp Heintzelman, MD May 10, 1863
No 16	Camp Heintzelman, MD. May 24, 1863
No 18	Camp Heintzelman, MD June 21, 1863
-----	Camp at Frederick, MD. July 2, 1865 (1863)
No 27	Camp near White Sulpher Springs VA Sept. 6, 1863.
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No 54	Tyson Furnace Jan. 25, 1864
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-----	U.S.A. General Hospital Brattleboro, Vt. Feb. 16, 1864
-----	Camp near Culpeper VA. Feb.17, 1864
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No 23	McHines Hospital, MD Aug. 29, 1864
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No 35	Bedloe Island N. Y. Harbor Nov. 26, 1864
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	To Mr. Baker

APPENDIX A COMPANY H ROSTER

SERGEANTS

Henry G. Stiles See officers' roster
Frank B. Davis Promoted to colored troops.
George C. Meade Wounded in Wilderness Campaign.
Edwin A. Pease
Artemus H. Wheeler See officers' roster.

CORPORALS

Jonathan C. How Promoted Sergt.
Warren P. Tenney Transferred to Vet. Res. Corps.
Ezekiel T. Johnson Promoted Sergt. Wounded.
William A. Clement See officers' roster.
Sylvester H. Parker Promoted Sergt. Killed at Cedar Creek.
Wilmer C. Barnard Detailed to Hosp. Dept.
William A. Chapin, Jr. Detailed to Hosp. Dept.
Thomas Hadley

MUSICIANS

Thomas C. Ball Transferred to Vet. Res. Corps.
George H. Whitcomb

WAGONER

Charles S. Goddard

PRIVATEES

Alexander Abbott Died Feb. 1, 1864
Wayland Adams
William B. Ashley
Alonzo Baker Promoted Corp. Died Dec. 15, 1844
James T. Baldwin Died of wounds received at Cedar Creek
Owen Bartley Wounded in Wilderness Campaign. Killed at
Winchester Sept. 19, 1864
Daniel F. Bennett Transferred to Vet. Res. Corps.
Levi T. Blake Deserted.
Thomas C. Bond
John G. Bostwick Detailed to Com. Dept.
Zenas C. Bowen Wounded in Wilderness Campaign.
Charles H. Boyd
Laroy A. Britton Died Dec. 17, 1862.
George A. Bucklin Promoted Corp. Died of wounds received at
Petersburg, April 2, 1865.
Dwight E. Clement Promoted Corp.
William N. Cobb Promoted Corp. Wounded.
George Colby
George L. Colpoys Transferred to Vet. Res. Corps.
Charles E. Colston Promoted Corp.

Nelson O. Cook Killed at Cold Harbor.
 Azro Craigne Died June 21, 1864
 Isreal T. Croff Died Jan. 6, 1863.
 John Daley Promoted Corp.
 Isaac N. Davidson Wounded.
 Ezra &. Dean Promoted Corp.; do. colored troops.
 Edward A. Dickerman
 Erwin M. Dunbar Promoted Corp.; do. Sergt.
 Jasper Ul. Dutton
 Addison F. Eaton Wounded.
 Samuel H. R. Emerx
 George H. Farnsworth
 Austin Fenn Promoted Corp.
 Patrick Finnegan Promoted Corp.
 Joseph W. Fletcher Promoted Corp.; killed at Cold Harbor.
 Albert Gassett Died July 15, 1864
 Oscar Gassett Wounded Nov. 27, 1863. Transferred to Vet, Res. Corps.
 John Gauthier
 James H. Goldsmith
 James Hale Killed at Cedar Creek
 Austin Harlow Died Feb 20, 1864
 Oscar Hemenway Promoted Corp.
 Elijah J. Herrick Promoted Corp; do. Sergt.
 Adelbert J. Hill Captured July 9, 1864
 Charles Humphrey
 Ira E. Hutchinson Died of wounds received in Wilderness Campaign.
 William M. Jones Transferred to Met. Res. Corps.
 Daniel Keating
 Patrick C. Kennedy
 Framl Larbush
 Simon Lesage Promoted Corp.; do. Sergt.; killed at Winchester.
 Henry M. Lull Died Nov. 4, 1862.
Timothy B. Messer; Died of wounds received Apr. 2, 1865.
 Samuel E. Mower
 Franklin W. Newman
 SeIden A. Nichols
 Charles Oliver
 William B. Paul Transferred to Met. Res. Corps.
 Loren H. Pease
 George P. Risdon Transferred to Met. Res. Corps.
 Ulric T. Ross Promoted Corp.
 Franklin Roys Promoted Corp.; do. Sergt.
 David W. Sanderson Deserted.
 Erastus Sargent Deserted.
 William Sloane Wounded Sept. 19, 1864 at Winchester.
 John Smith Killed at Petersburg Mar. 25, 1865.
 Joseph A. Smith Killed at Petersburg Mar. 25, 1865.
 Horace W. Stevens
 John Stevens Wounded Wilderness. Transferred Vet Res. Corps.
 Dan E. Stone Transferred Met. Res. Corps.
 Joseph Upham

APPENDIX B

REPORT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE B. DAMON OF THE TENTH VERMONT VOLUNTEERS CONCERNING THE ASSAULT ON THE LINES AT PETERSBURG OF APRIL 2, 1865

General: I have the honor to submit the following as a report of the operations of this regiment, in the attack upon the main line of works of the enemy, on the left of Petersburg, on the second of this month.

In compliance with orders from the headquarters of the brigade, the regiment, in light marching order, leaving all knapsacks and camp equipage behind, in order to facilitate its movements, moved at twelve o'clock, midnight, on the first of April, and went into position some four hundred yards in front of Fort Welch, and twenty paces in rear of our entrenched 'picket line. The brigade, which was the extreme left of the corps, was formed in three lines of battle, the Tenth Vermont occupying the right of the front line. The picket line of the enemy was also behind strong earthworks, about one hundred and fifty yards from us their main works being some two hundred yards farther to their rear.

Soon after we were in position, at half past twelve o'clock, and again at three o'clock in the morning, a very severe picket fire was opened on both sides, commencing at a considerable distance to our right, and extending to our front and left, and continuing each time for about one half hour.

The regiment is entitled to great credit for the silence which was maintained during this terrible musketry, both officers and men keeping a perfect line and displaying great coolness and courage. The darkness prevented a large list of casualties, some five or six men only being wounded.

At about four o'clock in the morning, at the firing of a signal gun from Fort Fisher, the regiment advanced at a double quick under a terrific fire of musketry and artillery, passing our own picket line and that of the enemy, pressing through such openings as we could find in the double line of abatis, and did not halt until the colors of the regiment were planted inside the fortified line of the enemy.

We first struck their works immediately to the left of a fort mounting six guns, which was evacuated on our approach. These defenses consisted of heavy field works, at least six feet high, with a ditch in front eight feet wide and six or seven feet deep, and forts and redoubts at intervals of from three hundred to four hundred yards, all mounted with field artillery. A portion of the men passed through narrow openings in the works and many jumped into the ditch and scaled the entrenchments. Many prisoners delivered themselves up here, and were immediately sent to the rear, but without guard, as our own safety required the presence of every man. As my regiment was in advance of the other regiments of the division, and had become somewhat broken by the obstructions through which we had passed, I caused the line to be reformed, which occupied some five minutes, during which time we were joined by portions of the other regiments of the brigade.

As soon as my command was reorganized, we moved rapidly to the left, in line of battle, within and parallel to the captured works, in the direction of a second fort, some three hundred yards distant, doubling up the enemy as we

advanced and capturing many prisoners. This fort, mounting two guns, was taken without serious opposition. Here we halted for a moment to reorganize the line, and again advanced, over swampy, uneven ground, upon a third fort, distant some four hundred yards, from which, we received a severe artillery fire. We were also subjected to quite a severe musketry fire from this position, which was obstinately contested by a large force of the enemy assembled there. The position was, however, carried, and the fort fell into our hands, the enemy retiring a few hundred yards to the left into the edge of a piece of woods, from which they kept up so severe a musketry fire as to check our advance. Adjutant James M. Read was here wounded, while nobly performing his duty, the ball entering the heel and coming out at the instep, necessitating an amputation of the foot, from which he died on the sixth instant. So rapid had been our advance from the time of first reaching the enemy's line, that the regiment was considerably broken up, while the other regiments of the brigade were without organization, though many of the men were with us. We were able, however, to hold our advanced position for about twenty minutes, when the enemy advanced upon us in strong force, moving parallel with their entrenchments and upon both sides. We were compelled reluctantly to fall back to the second fort, heretofore mentioned. Some of the captured guns of the enemy, and one of our own batteries, were now put into position and opened upon the enemy.

The different regiments of the brigade were, in the meantime, reorganized, as were some of the regiments of the Second Brigade, of the division, which now came up, and in a short time we again advanced, recapturing the fort and carrying everything before us. The enemy made no further resistance, but great numbers delivered themselves up as prisoners, and many escaped to the rear. Still moving on about a half mile, we met the Twenty-fourth Corps, which had just entered the works without opposition, further to the left. After halting here for about half an hour, the regiment countermarched and moved in the direction of Petersburg, together with the rest of the division. Passing outside the rebel fortifications a little to the north of the point where we entered in the morning, the division was formed in line of battle at right angles to their works, forming a part of a line which extended far to the left, and moved forward slowly, towards Petersburg, and until within about two miles of that city, where we halted until about sundown. We were then moved a short distance and went into position on the ground previously occupied as a picket line of the enemy, my command being the extreme right of the division and resting on the Vaughn road. Here we intrenched and bivouacked for the night.

I am happy to be able to state that the Tenth Vermont was the first regiment in the division to plant a stand of colors within the enemy's works, that it bravely performed its entire duty throughout the day, and kept up so perfect an organization as to elicit the highest commendation of the brigade and division commanders.

GEORGE B. DAMON
Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding

Brigadier-General P. T. Washburn
Adjutant and Inspector General

APPENDIX C

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