

September 7, 1862

My Dear boys,

I want to hear from you. How could you wait so long if you have any chance to write? If you knew how dreary our home is without you, you would send us a few lines every opportunity. Tell us how you fare, if you are sick or not, wether you think you can ever live through such privations. I know there is nothing but the mercy of God that can save you. o live near to Him, give up your hearts to him. Alway ask counsel of Him, do nothing but what you can ask God to bless. Dont, because you are going to war, think you must do things to mak you hard hearted. Seek the salvation of your souls, do your duty and leave the rest with God.

o, how hard it is for us to think of your going away. Dont put off coming home till they shall take you away without your coming home.

Mr. Hance's folks were here Saturday expect to see you. Uncle Elizah and Mary and Sarah Carrier were here.

Write and have it left to Henry Knit's and we can get it any time.

Your affectionate Mother,
C. Bayless

Henry & Burtis Bayless

you must get in the habbit of writing so begin at once.

September 14, 1862

My Dear Henry,

How I miss you on the Sabbath day! I want to talk to you. I have set you the example of keeping your mind yourself. I feel that it is not right; there is no enjoying religion alone. We must try to impart it to others or God will not help us; I know it by experience. o, if I had been more faithful to you and Burtis ~~and~~ in trying to encourage you to seek and follow the Saveiour, my burden would be lighter now that I must part with you. May the Lord forgive and help me to be more faithful so that He will hear my prayers for your protection here and for your happiness in the world to come.

We expect you home every day but we want to hear from you every day, if we could. Come home as soon as you can.

from your lonely mother,

C. Bayless

Near Harpers Ferry Oct. 7. 1862

Dear friends at home

I take this opportunity to write a longer letter as I am at leisure this afternoon. I shall begin from the time we started from Binghamton as the other letters were hurried and somewhat mixed. We left Binghamton after dinner in nice passenger cars and had a verry pleasant ride. The first station we stopped was Union. It is quite a nice village. Soon left there for Owego. As we were riding along Mr. Ackart lost his cap and had to go bear-headed to Almira. The boys took up a collection for him and got him one there. Had to pay two dollars for it. Another boy in our Company lost his cap and bayonet too.

When we arrived at Almira we were drawn up in line by the depot and stood there for quite a spell, then marched through some of the principal streets through a perfect cloud of dust for about two miles, then drew up before the depot again and stood there 'till the cars were ready to receive us. By that time it began to get dark. They were freight cars with a row of seats around the sides and one through the middle. We had to climb into the cars with our napsacks on from the ground there being no steepes; it was heard work. When we were all in there was a guard stationed at both doors to keep the men in. Then we two short pieces of candels furnished us.

In about two hours we started. They drove pretty fast and the old cars jounced and rocked about like an old lumber wagon but more so. Sometimes it seemed they would tip over when they turned a curve. Then it would be up grad and they would but just move. Then we would go down like the wind. We kept going so 'till morning, slept scarcely none at all. At daybreak we stopped at a station, forgot the name now, for quite a spell. Some got out and washed, others got apples.

We soon passed on again through vallies and over plaines, passed Harrisburg and other smaller towns. The country in the southern part of Pennsylvania is the finest that ever I saw. There was fields of winter grain up and green, the corn ripe and mostly cut up and verry good. The barns were verry large, nicer than many of the houses. Many of them were built of

brick with stone basements and two and three stories high with windows.

Stopped at York about three. There was a penitentiary by the track with verry high walls. Arrived at Baltimore at dusk on Sunday, marched about two miles to the depot; had a supper. I was some sick then and could not eat. Got in some more freight cars for Washington. I was tired and some sick. Soon laid down and went to sleep crowded pretty tight. Slept most of the time to Washington, got there just at the break of day. Soon piled out of the cars and stacked our arms and piled our duds in a pile on the platform. Then we went to wash back of the depot in a trough. Then came back, got our pint cups, stood around a spell and got some crackers and chees for breakfast.

Sat around 'till most noon and then was ordered in line to march for Arlington Hieghts. Marched through the streets which were verry dusty towards the long bridge with with our napsacks and all our things on. When we got about a mile we stoped under the shade of some trees by the side of the road, rested a spell and then started on again. When we got on the long bridge a ways we were comanded to halt and about face and march back again. Saw some ships and smaller boats in the river when we were marching. Saw Virgil Corbett. Went a ways back and stopped on a greensward by the roadside. There we stacked our arms and piled our things under them.

Then we went down to the Potomac to wash. The shore was wet and muddy. When we came back I wrote a letter home.

But I see that I must draw this letter to a close. I will just say that we left Washington that night and arrived at Frederick Tuesday afternoon, and encamped there and staid three nights and started Friday afternoon for Harpers Ferry. Got at Sandyhook half a mild this side of there a spell after dark. Marched up on the side of a hill which was verry steep and encamped for the night. In the afternoon of Saturday started for our encampment about two miles of. It was the warmest day that I ever saw. The sweat fairly run off from us. Had to lay on the ground with a verry little straw and it was verry cold. Was

Inspected by Gen. Kerny yesterday.

Write soon. Direct to Henry E. Bayless Co. F, 137
Reg. N.Y.I.V., Washington, D.C.

Yours, H. E. Bayless

I have had the diera som but feel well otherway Burt has been
verry well all the time.

Camp Pleasant Valley Oct. 20th
1862

Dear parents, brothers & sisters,

Received your first letter last Thursday night and meant to write before but could not get much time as we are doing something most all the time or expect to.

Have been pretty smart since I last wrote. The story about being in the hospital is a hoax. I have been there quite a number of times after medison when I felt unwell.

I believe I left of in my last at Washington at the depot. We went from there to the cars about a mile from the depot and staid there till we got asleep then we marched back again to the depot and left our napsacks. Then went back again to the cars. Had flat bottom lumber cars to ride on, the sides was about a foot high and we were packed on so tight that we couldnt hardly stir. The cars started Monday night about midnight. At morning we stopped at Anapolis Junction where the 109th were. Staid there an hour or so then started again.

The country was hilly and rocky. The track is verry crooked, could see both ends of the train most of the time. Just before we got to Frederic we passed over a bridge that was burnt by Jackson. Arrived at Frederic about four on Tuesday. The weather was verry warm. Marched about a mile to our campground. Had to lay on the ground on our tent cloths and our overcoats on; slept first trate.

The next day was on guard. On friday left again for Harpers Ferry. Wroad on the top of the cars all the way. It was a verry fine country to points of rocks. Saw a verry fine young orchard, the trees were all of a size. The road from point of rocks is in the side of a hill of rocks. Arrived at Sandy Hook after dark. Slept on the side of a hill and it was verry ste and some of the boys said they had to sleep against the trees to keep from rolling downhill.

The next day we left for our camp ground. It was the warmest day I ever saw. The sweat fairly run of in streams. We marched about a mile to our ground. It was in an orchard on the side of a hill. There we piched out tents for the night. To pich our tents, we

drive two sticks on the oposite side of the tent then put on a rail for a ridge pole, then put our tents over the ridge pole and stretch the tents' to the ground on both sides and fasten it with pegs to the ground. The tent is about four feet high at the peek and slant both ways.

A week ago yesterday we moved again to new grounds about half a mile of on a an elevated field sloping booth ways.

For breakfast we generly have pork, crackers and cofee; for dinner, beens, soup sometimes and crackers; for supper tea, crackers and pork. Last week our napsacks came all safe but the anamal cloth.

Yours truly, H. E. Bayless

Tell anny of the friends at Millburn if they want to hear particularly they must write.

Thursday heard the cannons booming at Charlestown.

Dear friends at home

I received your letter the 27 and was glad to hear from home once more. The weather has been verry cold lately, the wind has blown verry heard. It rained all day Sunday and Sunday night kept dry and comfortable. We had raised our tents by splitting trees and putting them under the sides and so raised it about a foot.

My last letter was directed wrong, it ought to have been the 19th.

There is not so many in the hospital as you have heard but there is a great deal sickness in the camp. Three have died and were buried here and one sent home. It was a meloncholy sight to see the Company following one of their number to the grave with twelve of their number with their guns inverted and the drum muffled; then to fire three rounds over the grave.

There has been quite a number of heavy frosts here and cold enough to freeze ice.

Yesterday at nine o'clock we struck our tents again for a move, left camp at about 10 A.M., passed through Harpers Ferry. It is quite a smart place and looks quite deserted. The buildings are principally stores, the rocks come most down to the river so it is the ruffest looking place I ever saw. We crossed the Potomac and Shanandoah rivers on Pontoon Bridges made on large boats anchored in the river with their heads upstream and forty feet apart as near as I can judge. When we crossed them they would weeve one way and another so we could hardly walk straight. The road after we crossed the Shanandoah ran close to the river in the side of the mountain of rocks. After we passed then we rested about half an hour then started on again over hills an valleys till we arrived at our new camp in Virginia. It is near a woods in a pasture sloping towards the East. There is a house just across the fence where a family lives. They seem to be respectable folks.

Had straw to sleep on last night and slept verry well considering the march which was a verry hard one as we had to carry our napsacks, guns, tents and forty rounds of cartridges but it was a clear cool day so I made out to stand it but I feel about sick today.

Haven't got well of the Diera yet, it keeps about so and some days feel some weak.

Tell Grand Pa to put in a few lines if he will. Please preserve my letters as I shall like to look at them when I return the Lord willing. Give my respects to all my friends. Hoping that you will remember us, I bid good by.

Henry E. Bayless

We marched about six miles yesterday. The sutler was taken up night before last for selling whisky. Think I will feel better when the cooks get a cooking.

Nov. 11th, 1862
Boliver Hights

Dear Parents and all,

You have said so much about sending a box I guess I will tell you a few things to send. I guess that we wont (want) much clothing. You might send a small Comforter and I should like to have you send me a night Cap. Some of the boys had night caps sent to them in a paper. I should like to see a Binghamton paper so you can send one with a night cap in if you please.

It has been pretty cold here; it snowed here last Friday about two inches. I suppose you have seen in the papers about the Reconnaissance to Charlestown. Our Regiment went but I was out on picket, and so I didn't go but Nen went. They started about three O'clock Sunday morning and got back a little after dark. Some of the boys got pigs and cows and some fetched in a horse or two. But the boys are pretty lame the next morning for they traveled about 29 miles. They expected to have to fight. When they started the artillery fired some but our men didn't. They went in the houses where the folks had the tables set for dinner and eat their dinner for them. Some broke in the groseries and eat pies and cakes and most everything. But it that I couldnt go for we went on picket Saturday and staid until Sunday night.

I guess that you neednt fix to send the box until we find out where we are a going to stay but I think that we will stay here but it is not certain. I guess that you can send the most of something to eat, some butter and cakes and anything that is good. I suppose that nen "will write what to send so I wont write any more.

I am well, excepting a bad cold. No more.

From Burt

Boliver Rights, Dec. 8th, 1862

Dear Parents,

I thought that I would write a few lines. I should like to have you get it before you send the box but I don't suppose you will. I don't expect you will send a great deal if Mother is sick. I should like some pies and apples and such like and some nice cake and dried berries and buisuit out of that new wheat.

I am a getting quite smart again. I have been quite down for over a week but I hope that I shall get along now.

I was quite surprised to hear that hear that I had a little Brother. You wanted me to send a name but I don't know-as I know of any name I should like to have him named now but if I think of a name that I should like to have him named I will send word.

The boys went out on a march to Winchester. They expected to find some rebbles there but they didnt have to fight. But I didnt go for I wasent able.

It snowed here friday about three inches deep and it is verry cold here now but it begins to look as if it was a going to be warmer. I dont believe that it is any colder at home than it is here. It is a quite an unhealthy place where we are encamped. The water is poor. Perry Winans has been in the hospital a quite a good while and is there now. He has been verry sick. Malan is in the hospital with the fever but I believe he is a getting better. There has a good many died out of our Company but they have sent a quite a number to the general hospital.

George Hunt and George Muckey had a large box sent them; they lots of pies and apples and six large raisens cakes, a lot of baked beanes and pork. I tell you they had a nice box. I should like to see some such come in our box. If I could have some pies from home I think that they would taste good. But some of them had some cooked chickens sent them but I don't expect that we will get much for Mother's sick and so I don't suppose you will bake much. But we will be satisfied with what we get, I suppose. No more this time.

From Burt, who thinks of you dayly. I hope that this war will son come to a close and we be spared to see our dear parents once more.

[Apparently from Henry]

Bolivar Hights, Va. Dec. 8th

Dear friends and all at home

You may think it has been a long time since I last wrote but you must remember that it is war times and it. has been war times with me the last week.

Received the next to the last letter last monday. You may believe there is pleasant faces when the letters arive from home. I should have writen last week if it had not been for a little march lasting from tuesday morning till saturday noon.

On tuesday morning we were called up at five Oclock to eat our breakfast and get ready for a march of which we knew nothing about before till then. So we got ready, those that were able, with one days rations in our havarsacks and started at day break with a number of other Regiments for parts unknown. We soon came to Charlestown, passed through it and rested a little while and took a little grub. Then took up our tim of march again. At about four we came in sight of Berryville. There our artillery shelled the woods beyond to see whether the Rebbels were there. They soon stopped firing and we marched on again till we came to another woods which they shelled shelled again; and then we went and encamped in them for the night after having marched about twenty miles. It being my turn to go on picket I had to go out with the rest of the pickets.

The weather was pretty cool and we were allowed no fire made it pretty tough but I stood it through the next day. Wednesday was a beautifull day with not a cloud to be seen and quite warm. About three we were called in to our Regiment and they soon commenced the march again. Went about five miles and encamped again in a wood for the night. You better believe that the rails had to suffer on this march; as quick as we broke ranks we pilled [plied?] in for all we could find.

In the morning, started again for Winchester having been joined by another force as large as our own. At ten *we* arrived before Winchester and were drawn up in line of battle and stood so for about two hours when the news came that the city had surrendered. We then marched in with collars fling [colors flying] through the streets, up the hill to the fortifications where we stood as spell and then started for home. Went about six miles and encamped for the night. There the chickens had to suffer. In the morning we started again ...

Bolivar Hights, Dec. 9th, 1862

Dear Father, Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

I write again this soon to Inform you that we start tomorrow morning for parts unknown; it may be to Richmond but where it is may God be with us is my prayre and I ask an interest in yours that we may be kept safe from all harm.

I don't know whether Burt will go yet or not as he is not verry smart yet. I am well except a bad cold.

You need not worried about us for God will be with [us] there as well [as] any place. You may not hear from me again in some tim as we will be on the march far from any mail rout. But keep up good courage and I will do the best I cans and will ever try to be found in the path of duty.

If you have not sent the box yet, do not for the present.

With hope of your prayres for me, I remain yours, as ever,

H. E. Bayless

as it is dark, I close

Camp near Fairfax Station

Christmas, Dec. 25th, 1862

Dear friends at home,

I wish you all a merry Christmas so -----
----- have had together. We ----- that is Burt and I
and the other boys that are here ----- and Perry were
back at Bolivar and we have not heard from them since.

I begin to feel rested -----feel as well as I ever did.
The weather here the first few days were verry cold, not thawing all day, but yesterday
it began to get warmer and today is clear and quite warm so we can sit in the sun
without our overcoats on with comfort. The ground is free from snow and quite
dry. There has not been as much storms here as there is north. The weather is
pleasant and more agreeable but the country in general looks forsaken and worn out.
The houses are far apart and scatering. I haven't seen a school since I left home and
but a very few school-houses. The stores are mostly white and flinty, some large ones
as white as snow.

Our camp here is in a piece of woods but the trees are fast disappearing as we
use it for wood. The talk is that we are going into winter quarters here but I don't
know but hope so. We draw soft bread now again so that we live pretty good for
breakfast. Burt and I fried some bacon and beef together then poured some watter
on the gravy after the meet was out, then cut up our bread and fried it in the gravy.
Then I made the coffee while Burt was cooking the other things, then we set down on
our blankets with our plaits on our laps and ate a hearty breakfast. We have pine
boughs to sleep on and rest pretty good.

Writing paper and stamps are getting pretty short. The money that I left, if you
have not put it in the Bank yet I wish to have put there as soon as convenient, where
it will be safe and drawing interest. I should prefer having it there than letting it out
where it may be unsafe.

You wrote once that thought of selling the place on the
river. Have you or not? How does Kent get along? Is he
likely to pay for the place or not? Write all the news.
I got your letter dated the 14th. Well, good wishes for
all. Bid you good-by.

H. E. Bayless

Have not heard wheather you have sent the box or not. Will write in the next
wheather to send the box or not if you have not sent it already.

Camp near Fairfax Station
Jan. 3. 1863

Dear, and always remembred friends,

I once more commence to write a few lines to my old Northern home, to the friends that I hold dear. We are all verry well at present and would wish you all the same, blessing for without health life is not enjoyed particularly in camp.

I received a letter Friday night dated the 28th. It had been over a week since I received one before and cheered us up to hear-that your were all well and the girls permitted to attend parties and associate with their friends and companions. At such times let not the thought of us disturb your pleasures, but feel that we have gone to defend the prlvelleges that you now enjoy. When they are established again, we will again return to enjou with you that which we went to defend. And I prey God that the time will soon come when our difficulty will be settled and that honorably; till then, wait and pray.

But I must now write on another subject, our march. On Saturday night the 27th after dark a little while when we had just got to bed and commenced to () the order came to get ready to march at nine with our napsacks and two days of provisions. So at nine we started and dark as pitch. We got along verry well till we came to a piece of woods. There the road was muddy and so dard that you couldnt see the man ahead of you till you came up all a standing. I had one run against me before he saw me. Kept on till three o'clock and then halted in a woods for rest, having gone five miles. In the morning at nine we started again towards Dumphries, the place that turned about at before. At noon we halted for dinner. Before we were half through, some of the waiters came riding by us on the run and crying that the rebbles were ca..aning upon us. Then the Colonel ordered "Attention! Fall into line" .. start up our drumer ... quick our napsacks and fall into line of battle. We could see the dust resind in the direction the rebbles were coming but there was a battery of two brass pieces between us and them who soon opened up on them who turned and left. We then marched in line of battle through a piece of woods on the right but saw nothing of them. Then we rested a spell where we were; sent out scurmishing ahead of the regiment; had to double quick to get there.

The weather on the march was verry warm, sweating our clothes through to the overcoat.

The box has not come yet but hope it may soon. We expect to get our pay soon if nothing happens. The boys are all pretty short; I have got forty cents left.

Camp near Fairfax Station
Jan. 10th, 1863

Dear Friends at home.

We received the box last night but we were both out on picket. But we came in this morning and the first thing I done was to open it. And what do you think was the sight?! A moldy lot of pies and cakes, and the chickens smelt rather old. There wasnt pies and cakes good for dinner. I hant verry well satisfied with this box!

We are a going to stay here this winter I think and I guess that I will have to send after another box. The few cakes that Nelly sent were good and them that were done up in a paper were all good, and that were all the cakes that were good. The pies were entirely spoiled so we didnt have a taste of pie or chicken. The bottles were all right, so were the dried apples and berries, so was the butter. That will come good; they sell butter here for fifty cents a pound. The mittens are rather large but they will do. The comforters are verry nice but I don't know as we will wear them much; it is pretty warm now but I dont know how long it will stay as it is a raining hard now and it looks like a long storm. There is plenty of mud down here in a wet time.

The other other day when we came in from picket when we arived at camp, who should we but Gaew(?) Kane and Acy Cole. Since then Henry Squires and Frank Corbitt have been here and Mr. Bagly was here the other day. So I have seen some of the folks that live around home.

If you think that you can afford to send another box by, it would come good. If we stay here and you send the box it will come through quick so the things wont spoil. This box has been about a month a coming. The Camphor and Pepermint and pepersauce and butter and berries and dried apples are all right. No more.

From your boys

Burt

Aquia Creek, Jan. 21, 1863

Dear Parents,

We have just been on another march of seven days through mud plenty and I feel pretty tired. For Sunday we marched about twelve miles then before I got my supper I had to go down to the landing and help unload corn until midnight. We are close to the landing where there is lots of steamboats and it is quite a sight to see them. The landing here is the place where the most of the supplies are landed for the army. We helped to unload a steamer Sunday night after we stopped. I felt pretty tired but there is no rest for a soldier.

We are sure to march on Sunday if we have to lay still all the week. I don't like it very well; it hasn't much like being at () where we used to go to meeting. I haven't heard a sermon preached since I left home and don't expect to very soon. But I hope that I shall live to come home where I can have the privilege of going to meeting and Sunday School once more at old Millburn.

I guess that I won't write anything about the march. I will let nen do that for I think he had little the hardest time of it. I stand it better than he does I think, but he stands it pretty well. I have kept up every day when larger men than I was fell behind, but it is pretty hard. It is hard enough on good going but when we have to wade through mud half knee deep it goes a good deal harder.

All of the boys are well, I believe. I haven't heard anything from Perry Winans. I should like to know what had become of him.

Burnside and Sumner took a steamboat here to this afternoon to go to Washington. Some of our boys saw him but I didn't. General Burnside is relieved of his command. I hope that they will get someone in that will end this war and we come home once more.

From Burt

My love to you all, the baby and all and all of my friends

Aquia Creek, Feb. 5, 1863

Dear Parents,

It has been a snowing all day and it begins to rain now. It has been verry cold here for a few nights, so cold that we would have to get up to ~~warm~~ to keep from freasing. We expect to have better tents in a few days, We are a going to move a little ways to a better camping ground. I think that we shall stay here a while but I dont know how long.

I got a letter the other day saying that we had a box started the same time that Chancie's was. He has got his box and we hant but we may get it before you get this letter. I hope that we will get it this time before the things spoil.

I am a going to send my check of ten dollars and I want you, Father, to draw the money on it or whatever you think best. I should like to have it fixed so if I should ever come home I could have a little to start with. You can do as you think best only fix it so that I wont lose any thing.

I hope that we shall come home before long. They don't seem to be a doing much of anything. I dont hear much news;now days I dont see no paper, anything to read, the news in.

The Landing here is quite a place. There is lots of steamboats at the landing all the time. There is fifteen men detached out of every Company to work on the dock. They have to work nights as well as days. There is lots of hay and grain landed here for the Army. This landing is about fifteen miles from Fredricksburg.

As I am a writing I hear that Cal Burt is here so I guess I will stop a writing and go and see him. I havent been verry well for a few days but I will be all right in a few days. Postage stamps is a scarce article here. No more this time.

From Burt

My love to you all.

Acquia Creek, Feb. 14th, 1863

Dear Parents,

I thought that I would write you a few lines to let you know that we are yet alive and enjoying pretty good health. We are to work now a putting up log tents to live in. I think that we shall stay here, I dont know how long but I guess a quite a good while. Our camp is close to the landing. We can see large steamboats and small ones any time of day. We are detailed out of our Regiment to help unload the boats. There were over two hundred detailed to day out of our Regt to work on the dock. There is lots of Soldiers a leaving on almost every boat. They are a leaving from Falmouth near Fredricksburg.

I saw Cal Burt and George English the other day. They came down from Falmouth about fourteen miles from where we were encamped but I believe that they have gone now to North Carolina.

There is not much news here. We dont have have any papers to read or any way to hear the news if there was any. They sell the TRIBUNE for ten cts. a piece so I dont buy any of them.

I heard that we had a box a coming a quite a good while ago but it has not got here yet but I am a looking for it every day. I want to get something good from home once more; it tastes so much better than anything we get down here. Chancy got his box as much as a week ago.

There hasent been much rainy weather. To day it is clear and warm. The ground has not been frozen this winter scarcely at all but I think that I had rather be home where I could have a sleigh ride once in a while than living down here. I dont think much of old Virginia.

Tell George to kiss the Baby for me two or three times. He is so sweet. I hope this war will soon come to a close and we be permitted to go home and to see our loved parents and friends is the wish of—

Burt

Aquia Creek Landing, Feb. 15, 1863

Dear parants, brothers and sisters,

I suppose that I must write again although I scarcely know what to write. We are pretty smart now although we both have had the diarhea a long bacl but are getting better of it now.

We have had some verry cold weather since I last wrote and having nothing but our shelter tents over and the ground under made it rather cold sleeping but we dident freeze to death quite.

We moved from our first camping ground a week ago yesterday about half a mile to better ground. We are now on a small hill on the bank of the Potomac overlooking it and the Landing. The Landing is composed onely of Government store-houses and Suttlers shops. The dock is lined constantly with steamers of all sizes. From our camp I can count sometimes forty or fifty in sight at a time. In the night they are all lighted up and look like a small village. The river here is I should think two or three miles wide. You can see up the river six or eight miles almost as far as the eye can reach. The country on the other side is level and you can just see houses and barns on the other side. On this side it is more hilly with no houses in sight. It seems to have been deserted intlrely, nothing remains but the ground and trees.

Since we have been here we have had brean onely once and fresh beef twice. Yesterday we drew flower and are going to have some pancakes. But we have had plenty of heard tack and pork with beans, rise, sugar and coffee. I sup- (pose) you would like to know how we cook our meals. Sometimes we soak our crackers soft and fry them in the gravy. Then we sometimes break them up in our cups, put in some meat and watter and boil them, so we change around.

We are building little log houses now and covering them with our tents; have a chimney and bunks in them. When we get them finished we will be quite comfortable.

But I must close. Give my respects to all friends. With hopes for the future, I remain yours, all.

H. E. Bayless

Burt has gone on picket for three days and George Kilburn is on guard so I am all alone in our tent.

(cont.)

The weather for the past few days has been quite pleasant but it rains to day.

I like the names you spoke of; either one of them would do.

We are out of postage stamps but got plenty of paper and envelopes for the present.

The 89th shipped week before last. Saw Cal Burt and George English.

have got two letters since I wrote before. The last dated the first. Have not heard from the box yet.

Aquia Creek, Feb. 26th -63

Dear Parents,

It is a raining and we sit in our shelter tent with nothing to do so I thought that I would write a few lines home. I am well and have been to work a helping build a road to the Landing. We do not drill any more, or we have not since we left Fairfax. We have been to work a building Forts and roads ever since we have been here. They are a building three or four Forts so all of the men in our Regt. are detailed to work on the Forts and roads. So we havent had time to build our log tent but the most of the tents are done.

It snowed here all day Sunday and the wind blew and it was pretty cold. It snowed about six or eight inches, so we sat in our shelter tent and slept the most of the day for it stormed so hard that we didnt go out for we didnt have any fire to get dry by if we got wet. So we didnt cook any but eat a few dry hard tacks and laid to bed. And a rather poor bed, to, but we curled up and kept as warm as we could until Monday morning and then we got up and fried some meat and crackers and made out a pretty good soldiers Breakfast. I thought of home then and wished that I could have somebody to cook my victuals, and have a warm fire to enjoy and a decent bed to go in when night comes. But we hant or dont expect to verry soon.

There is not much news here to write about. I have not heard no war news in a great while but I hope that the next news will be that this war is a going to be settled.

Tell George to kiss that Baby for me and tell him he must put him in a box and send him to me; he dont want him I guess.

We have not got the box you sent. I dont know as we ever will.

From Burt

Acquia Creek, Mar. 15th/63

Dear parents, brothers and, sisters,

I received your letters dated the 8th last night with some cloves In. They were quite a treat but there was some in the box. They are not all gone yet. I wrote as soon as we got to let you know how it came through.

It is Sunday and quite cold for this country and the time of year. I was on picket three days last week. The shanty on the post where we were was burnt down and nothing but a brush covering for us to stay under. It was cold but we kept a good fire all the time and kept comfortable. One of the boys on the post shot a turkey-buzzard; he was as large as a turkey. Then a duck came walking by our fire when we wer getting breakfast, so one of the boys took one of the guns and popped him over, then cooked him for dinner. The game here is () than it is at home. There is coons, rabbets, squirrels, quils, ducks etc. in abundance.

We got the TRIBUNE that you sent us and the INDEPENDENTS. They came good to read if there wasent anny news.

I have been working on the fortifications lately, shoveling and chopping down the trees in front of the forts. We have cut quite a follow, some hundred or two men makes quite a hole in the woods in a day. The trees are mostly oaks and small pine. There is plenty of sassafras; we cut one tree of it in the yard where a house had been burnt that was over a foot through. It was there where I got the slips of gooseberry that I sent in the last letter. There was large cedars there, to, that we cut down. It had been a nice place before the war but it is desolate now.

Gerome Watrous was here when I was on picket. Burt saw him; he stay's three or four miles from here. Mr. Howland was here and brought us some dred apples and a paper of corn starch for puddings. He is an agent for the Christian Commission for the benefit of the soldiers. He was a verry kind man.

I am verry well at present and hope you ar the same. But I must close, wishing you prosperity.

Yours, etc., Henry E. Bayless

Inclosed you will find a ring that I made of Laurel root when on picket.

I worte to Aunt Jane when at Fairfax and had no answer.

Aquia Creek, March 15th-63

Dear Parents,

It is Sunday and we have just come off of Inspection and there is a going to be Preaching this afternoon, so I will write a few lines before preaching. I am well and getting fat; I am a quite a good deal heavier than I was before I left home.

Jerome Watrous was here the other day. He is a smart-looking fellow. Chance and me went down to the Landing with him and had quite a visit with him. Nen was out on picket so he didnt see him. His Regiment is stationed down the river about three miles from us. And Henry Squires was here Friday but he made a short stay. We see once in a while a friend from Conklin. Jerome sends his respects to you.

The other day when I was a going out on picket I met a man and we got to talking and found out that he used to preach in Millburn. His name was H. O. Rowland. He knew you, he said you joined the Church when he preached there. He is down here a doing good to soldiers. He says he got Nen and me some dried apples and gave us some books. He wanted me to writ to you and give his best respects you.

I was sorry to see such a looking box! I should like right well to get a good box from home, but I guess it wont pay to send any more for it seems as if ther couldent anything come through good for me. Two fellows in our tent had a box come to them that was good.

A quite a good many are a going home on a furlough. Our Captain is home. I guess I shall have to get one and come home by and by.

So no more.

From Burt

Aquia Creek, March 2Qth/03

Dear friends at home,

I received your letters last Friday while on picket. Was glad to hear that you were all well but the cow and I hope she nay not die under the care of Dr. Knight.

We got a TRIBUNE with the letter. Burt got a letter last week from Uncle Daniel. He is building a house for himself. They are well and he talks of comming out to Kirkwood next fall.

I dont think that I shall try to get a forlough as the time they give them is so short and it would cost so much that it would not pay, although I should like to come verry well.

You need not be extra choice of such a ring as that, but wear it as much as you wish if it fits any of you and it is worth wearing, for there is plenty of laurel out on picket and time to whittle them out.

Jerry came back last week but dont look verry tough yet. He dont look tough like a soldier yet.

There is a good many in our Co. that are so fat t that it is heard work for them to get around. Burt is fleshier than he was at home, and I am to, and begin to like soldiering when they dont march all the time. I have got my hair shingled short off all around.

They say that the Rebbles have left Fredericksburg. There is reviews almost everry day. It is a grand sight to see them march in review, five or six regiments together, with the bands playing and collars flying. There is a brass band in hearing of our camp that plays almost everry night. At night you can hear the drums beat for roll call on the hills in everry direction.

The weather the past week has been quite warm, the grass begins to start on the sunny side of the hills, the wind blows today and it is quite cool. It rained one day when we was on picket. The shanty leaked some; we waked up and found the waiter dropping in our faces. It was morning, so we piled our blankets up in one corner in a dry place.

Well, this is all the news I can think of this time. Write all the news there is and how the folks are getting along. Are you going to have enough fodder to last through?

I was on the gravel train last week, loading gravel and carrying it to fix the track when the driving wheels of the engine ran off the track. You better believe there was some piling off, then down the bank and in the brush.

Yours truly, H. S. Bayless

You will find another little ring.

Aquia Greek, Apr. 14th/63

Dear friends at home,

I take this opportunity to let you know that we are all well and may this find you all the same. The weather is fine to day and warm as spring. There was a white frost last night and it begins to look stormy.

Burt and I are on camp guard to day. This forenoon the boys shot at a target. The talk is that there will soon be a moove made. It looks like it now. I suppose that we leave here tomorrow for some parts, I know not where but I hope wherever it may be, God will protect us from all harm. I have faith that the prayres of friends at home will prevail with God in ur behalf will be heard and answered. With these ... lines I close.

That God will protect us all is my prayre.

Yours now as ever.

Henry E. Bayless

Aquia Greek, Apr. 15

Dear Friends at Home,

I suppose that Nen wrot that we were a going to march to day, but it has rained all day and part of last night so we didnt go. We dont know where we are a going bit I expect that we will, as quick as it gets dry again.

I am well. We are a getting out of writing paper and we would like to have you send us some in a small package. It has been quite a while since we have had any pay and I havent got any money or I could buy it myself. No more.

Yours Truly,

Burt J. Bayless

Acquis Creek, May 9th/ 63

Dear friends at home,

I once more commence to write a few lines after so long a time, a time that will ever be remmbered by all that were engaged in it. We left Acquia on the morning of the 27th for where we knew not. At noon of the same day arrived at Stafford; there we ate cur dinner, then started on again. The day was warm and sultry, the boys began to throw their blankets and overcoats; you could see one everry few rods. The first night our Co. went on picket. We were pretty tired and the night was cold without fire. I slept but little. The troops began to pass our post at daylight. We had scarcely time to get our breakfast before we had to start. This day was the heardest days march and it went pretty tough but I went through. That night I was so lame that I could hardly stir. The third day in the morning we crossed the Rhappahanac on pontoons. At night we arrived at the Rhappadan. There the Rebbles had commenced a bridge but had not got it so that we could cross. We took the builders prisoners. That day it commenced raining. After dark we crossed the river, our men having fixed a crossing for us.

That night we laid on the ground with our rubber blankets over us. Just before morning it commenced raining so we had to get up. We soon started again and traveled *slow* in the forenoon but in the afternoon we made it up again. Just before night we came to a piece of woods, there we formed in line of battle and marched into them in line of battle. When we came to the brow of the hill, we stopped for the night.

The next day we went out on reconnaicance and found the rebbles. The opened on us with a baterry. The shells flew over our heads. We soon came back again to our old camp in the woods. After dark we threw up breastworks with our bayonets and platis. Saturday and Sunday was fighting most of the time. Sunday *we* left towards the Rhappahanac. On Wednesday *we* crossed it and the next day came here within a mile of our old campground. I came out without a scratch and I hope that it may ever be so.

I remain now, as ever, your dutiful son...

Henry

Inclosed you will find a letter written just after the battle. I received the paper and envelopes the night before we left. Since we came here I received one letter and paper.

Aquia Creek, May 9th, 1863

Dear Friends at Home,

It has been quite a good while since I wrote last and there has been quite a change since then. We left Aquia the 27th of April with eight days rations and marched all day and encamped about 5 miles from Stafford Court House, and our Company and two others went out on picket. The next morning we started again at daylight and an awfull hard march we had too that day. It was pretty warm and we marched so hard that five died; they dropped down beside the road dead. That night we encamped about three_miles from the Rhaphanic.

The next morning we broke camp at 7 oclock and crossed the Rhaphanic, about 8 oclock at Kelleys ford, and that day we marched until after dark and that day we took over 50 prisoners and we encamped just across the Rhapadan River. It rained that night and we had to lay on the ground in an open lot.

The next day we had a hard march and encamped in the woods. Pretty close to the ening the next day we were ordered out and hadent went far before we began to think that the Rebs wasent far off. We skirmished through the woods all day, then fell back to our old place where we staid the night before. Then we commenced throwing up breastworks. We hadent any tools to work with buy our Bayonets and plates. We worked all night.

Saturday our Company went out on skirmish. Ther was hard fighting to the right of us and the most of the night our Company stayed out until Sunday morning when we fell back bhind the breast works. We stayed there until we had to leave. The shot and shell fell thick around us. There was one wounded and one missing in our Company. There is about 80 in our Regt. killed, wounded and missing. The Major is wounded and the Colonel was knocked down by a shot but wasent hurt much.

Our Regt. was under fire of the Enemys fire three days. There was the hardest fighting Sunday. Monday our Regt. went out on skirmish and found out where the Rebs were. Then we came back and began to throw up entrenchments. We worked all night and part of the next day, and at night about ten Oclock we wre called up. The roll was called and we laid down again until about daylight 4 Oclocl and we crossed the Rhaphanic about daylight and marched two days and encamped at Aquia Creek not far from where we was before. There is more that I could write but no more this.

From Burt

Camp near Aquia Creek, May 31st, 1863

Dear friends at home,

I received your last Friday and to day is Sunday. The weather is quite warm to day and was verry warm last night. Everry thing goes about the same and there is nothing new, onely they say that the Rebs are going to cross the rivver. If they do, I think they will meet with a warm reseption.

I went yesterday with a lot of others to cut down a piece of woods in front of a new fort they are building about two miles from our camp. The trees were mostly small pine of the second groth. There has not been any rain here since I wrote and the ground is getting dry and dusty. The soil is mostly sandy here and is all cut up with roads and when the wind blows the air if full of dust.

Gerome has staid with us another night last week. He was well as usual. He had just came back from an expadition down the rivver. George Hunt came back to day all right. He said that he saw Pa the night he came home. They give onely a five day furlough now.

I am writing this in the woods, a little way from our camp, setting on the ground under the shade of some beech trees with a port-folio on my lap for a writing desk. The ground begins to set heard and I cant think of much more to write. As I see Ella said that the strawberries were in bloom, well, I had some ripe ones last week, and the lilacs and apple trees were in bloom. When we were on the last march, then I saw some white lilacs.

We are well and I hope this will find you all the same. Write soon, all the news you all can rake up. Write who teaches school this summer, and all go that can for you will some time feel the kneed of it. How does the Sabbath School prosper this summer and what new teachers are there, if anny? Does Mr. Guttells folks come as regular as ever? We have prayres and singing everry night on dress parade.

Wishing you all good health and prosperity, I remain now, as ever, your son and brother,

Henry E. Bayless

June the 12- 1863

My ever Dear Boys,

It is Sabath morning; they have all gone to meeting but the Babe and me. I must tell you a little about the Babe this time. In the start, he is a great fat fellow. He is six and a half months old and weighs 17 pounds and a half. He is a great fellow to jump and play but if he is turned of any he calls "Mam, Mam" for certain. Every one that sees him for the first time say "What a pretty baby. He looks just like Burtis!" George calls him his Babe.

Grandpa has gone over to the Delaware. When he is home George and him go to work. They pick up roots and stumps to burn. George works till he gets hungry then he has to come in and get his bread and milch.

Mr Knight was here yesterday. He said he had been sick for two weeks so he was behind hand with his work. He has the use of the orchard this summer. He said wanted to get ready to build a barn.

Luis Bone was here this spring gathering school money. He said he lived on Mr. Welton's place and had the use of the frud (?) place. He said Mr. Welton said he was going to get married too but we havent heard wether he has or not.

Monday afternoon. The weather has been verry warm to day and looks like rain again. We have had a good deal of rain for two weeks back.

I dont get much news yet. Verna has been to school some but we are in the Corbettsvill district so we have no benefit of the public money so the schooling comes verry high. Father and Mr. Tuler think we must send to Corbettsvill but I think it is too far. They have a school down to the Tanery; Electa Blackly teaches.

I hope we shal hear good news from Viksburg soon and the Rebs get such a starvation that will bring them to surrender.

O, that peace might once more come to our country and our sons once more be free and that God would protect you and keep you safe to the end is the prayer of your mother, C.B.

Henry & Burtis Bayless

We are all well. Write soon.

Camp at Edwards Ferry, Va.
June 28 1863

Dear friends at home,

You may begin to think that I do not write verry often but circumstances have been so that I could not write. We got a letter last Sunday from home. I was glad to hear once more from home and that you were all well and I hope that this will find you the same. I am well at present and so is Burt.

I wrote a letter when we were at Fairfax. We left there on Wednesday and and encamped in the afternoon for the night. The weather was verry warm and it was heard marching. My throat began to feel sore and was callesed on both sides. On Thursday I got my things carried in the ambulance and marched behind. Burt was sun-struck that day and was carried in the ambulance to where we encamped for the night. That afternoon and night it rained some.

On Friday we came to near Leesburg and turned off in the botts toward the rivver and encamped for the night about two miles from the rivver in a field of clover; so that night we lay in clover! As soon as we stopped we saw some sheep off in the lot and some of the boys pinte off after them. They were not gone long before they began to come in with halves and quarters strung on sticks and on theirs shoulders. So we had fresh mutton for supper. On Saturday I went out on picket. We hadent been on our post long before in walked a couple of sheep with their throats cut, so we had mutton again.

The next morning Sunday, the officer of the guard came around and said that our Regt. had left, no one knew where. In the afternoon we were relieved and started to find our Regt. We found about three miles from the old camp at Edwards Ferry, where we are now. The next day, Monday, I went and helped chop down trees where they are building a fort about three miles off, and today I went again and wer were relieved at noon.

Write soon all that turns up. There is a pontoon across the rivver here and we are guarding it. Balls Bluff is close by.

No more this time. Yours, as ever,

Henry E. Bayless

Camp near Fairfax Courthouse
June 16th /63

Dear friends at home,

I now write a few lines to let you know how we are. We are as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

We left the Landing on Saturday morning and went up the railroad to guard it about four miles from our camp. We got there about noon and before night we had marching orders. We had just got our tents up and had to tear them up and pack our knapsacks and get ready for a march. We lay on our knapsacks pile a most morning and then left for Fairfax. We got to Stafford about five o'clock and got a little breakfast but soon left again. We had a heard days march and went to Dumphries that day about noon and staid there till three oclock the next morning.

The weather that day was verry warm, It seemed as if I would roast but Burt and I stuck it through. But it was tough. I reckon when we stopped at here last night there was not twenty men to stack arms. There was more stragglers I guess than there was in the ranks. George Killburn was sun-struck but he came to the Regt. today. He is not verry well. Burt does not feel verry well and he does not write but he will feel better, I guess, after he gets rested some.

You will please send Harvy's letter to his wife; he is well.

Excuse this, from your son and brother—

Henry E. Bayless

Littlestown, Pa., July 6th, 1863

Dear friends at home,

You must begin to want to hear from us by this time, I suppose, so I will try and send a few lines.

We are all right and came out without a scratch. We arrived on the field of action on the ~~fourth~~ first of July after heard marching for five days from Edwards Ferry. The weather was rainy ~~almost~~ every day ~~almost~~ and the roads was muddy and it was heard marching but we came through with the Regt.

We took our position on the right on the second and sent out skirmishers in front. I was one of them. We went out about a quarter of a mile from our lines in a piece of woods. There was nothing but large trees and no underbrush, with lots of large rocks to hide behind. We saw no Rebs till after noon when a battery opened on our lines. But they went far from us. Then they sent out skirmisher to support their battery. Then we commenced firing on them. We could see them load their cannon and fire. But our battery soon made them leave. In a short time we could see their troops advancing in force. Then we knew that they ment to attact us. We skirmishers began to retreat back towards our lines, slowly firing on the advancing Rebs and retreating from tree to tree. Before we got to our lines it began to get dark. The bullets flew, around pretty fast. Our men had thrown up brestworks of logs, stones and dirt about four feet high so we had something to protect us. They Rebs got around our right and we retreated back a little waw but we rallied again and drove them back again. The firing kept up till midnight when it stoppsed.

In the morning it commenced at daylight again and kept up till about three oclock when the Rebs retrleted back. I fired ~~fire~~ thirty or forty rounds and loaded over a hundred for another of our boys to fire. We have lost many a poor boy in our Regt. I am sorry to have to say that Marton was among the killed. The Fourth we burried our dead; it was a painfull duty. The Rebels lay thick in front of our lines. I went over the field. Our Co. had four killed. Harvy is all right. Burt is on guard today or he would write.

Yours as ever,

Henry E. Bayless

We are now about five miles from the battlefield near Littlestown south from Gettysburg where the battle was fought.

I feel that God indeed has answered your prayers in keeping us safe. Thank Him for it, as I do.

Pleasant Valley, July 17th/63

D friends at home,

As I have another opportunity I will try and improve it in writing a few lines. We are well as circumstances will permit being tired and lame after marching so much. The last letter I wrote was we lay by the side of the road last Sunday. We lay there till about midnight when we advanced about half a mile and lay in our places till morning. Then we got up and got a little something to eat. Then the Regt. were assigned their positions and we commenced throwing up breastworks which we finished by dark. We went to bed that night expecting to be attacked the next morning.

In the morning we packed up our things and made ready. The first division of our Corps then advanced toward where the enemy were expected to lay. They had not been gone long before messengers came in saying that the Rebs had all crossed the river and that that there was none in sight or hearing. There was some disappointed looking ones to think that they had got away after all.

We lay there all day and cleaned up our guns and so on. The next morning we started south again. We had a heard march that day and the weather was verry warn. We passed through Sharpsburg about noon. The road was crowded the most of the way with waggons so that it made it heard work to get along at night.

We encamped at the foot of Maryland Hights and Burt and I went on picket. When we got out on our posts we found the blackberries verry thick. They were in an open lot and were the low running kind. The the ground was fairly black with them. We all, some 75 of us, hid all that we could eat and more too, and left plenty. Burt picked our two quart pail full and my cup full.

In the morning we left again at day-light. We came along the bank of the Potomac, this side of Harpers Ferry. The railroad bridge was dammaged so that the cars cannot cross. We lie about half a mile from where we were last fall. We came here yesterday.

Write soon all that transpires of interist. I dont know how long we will stay here. It rains again today. No more this time, so good by.
Yours, as ever,

Henry E. Bayless

Burt is well.

Catlins Station, Va., July 28th/63

Dear friends at home,

I will try and improve a few moments this afternoon in penning a few lines to friends far away but still remembered. The last letter that I wrote was at Pleasant Valley. We left there on the next Sunday and crossed the

Potomac and Shanandoah at Harpers Ferry. That day and the next we had slow marching and stopped for couple of days at a gap in the mountains.

After that we have had verry hard marching. The weather has been verry warm and I sweat my clothes through and through. Last Friday we went half a days march into Manases Gap and then came back again in the afternoon. Yesterday sunder (Sunday?) we had a heard days march, getting up in the morning at half past two in the morning and starting at four. We had about two hours nooning and it was after dark when we got here in camp.

The country along the road is good in some places and in some poor. There is lots of blackberries along the road. There is many a home made desolate by fire along the road. The effects of the war are visible evvery where. The ground is left uncultivated and the houses mostly that are left are left desolate.

Oh, that the time nay soon come when this war will close and peace once more again be ours. And I hope that the time is fast aproaching when that happy time will dawn upon our Country and I pray that it may soon come and may God answer the prayres of his people in the behalf of our Country that peace may soon come and that an honorable one.

We have been here two days now and I dont expect that we will stay here many days longer. Our Capt. has gone to the hospital. The march has been too much for him. Our first Lieut. has command of another Co. so Mart has command of ours.

The railroad runs from here to Washington.

Write soon all there is going on next and how the draft goes and who is drafted. We have men sent up after them and I hope to see some old friends with them.

But I must close, I remain now as ever, your affectionate son,

H. E. Bayless

July 28th/1863
Catlln Station, Va.

Dear Friends at Home

It has been a long tine since I have had a letter from home. We have been where we could not get any mail and had to live on three-quarters ration, but we have got now where we can get rations again.

We have had hard marching. We had to get up at two o clock at night for about a week, and march until after dark at night. It is verry warm here and it is enough to melt a a fellow to march, but I stand it pretty well. I am well at present but pretty sore.

I expect some of the folk in Millburn are drafted. We want them down here to help us; and I want to see them a coming for I think it is about time that this war was at an end. And I think if there is enough drafted we can clean out the Rebs. I shall be glad when this war is to an end for I think that I have seen all of war that I want.

I hardly know what to write although there is lots of things that would be new to you, but I could tell it better than I can write it.

It is a getting most supper time so I must fry some meat and hard tack. And I should like to have some of the berries that grow up on the hill to eat with them. There is a quite a good many berries here and I have had quite a good many. They are the running kind of black berries.

I dont know where we will go next but I expect we will chase the Rebs. They are not a great ways off.

I hope the prayers in our behalf by you may be answered and we be spared to come hom and enjoy the comforts of home once more.

No more this time. Excuse this, for I am in a hurry.

From Burt

To my loved folks at home.

Camp of the 137th N.Y.I .V. Kempers
Ford, Va. Sept. 4th/63

We received a letter from you last night; was glad to hear that you were all well. It found us on picket again in sight of the Rhappahannock but I didnt see nary a Reb this time. This morning we were relieved, having been out four days.

The weather continues cool yet and fair. There Is nothing much to write and I dont whether I shall be able to fill this or not. I should think Lew Bone was in big bussiness, striking little girls and whipping boys. I would hardly have thought that of him, but I guess he got his pay every time.

I should like to be home now while the berries and apples are plenty but I guess I wont come just yet.

But a few words about Malon. The particulars are short as far as I know. We were attackted in the afternoon, just before dard on on the 2nd of July. I was out skirmishing that day and did not see him since morning. It was dark when we were drove in, so dark that I could scarcely see any one. As soon as I got in the trenches I staide there till we were flanked and the rebs going around by the right of our Regt. Then we fell back from the trenches. At first we did not know that they were Rebs, till some of our Co. and Co. A went up close to them. When we found that they were Rebs we started back and it was then (it was about eight Oclock in the evening) I think, that he was shot. I dont know as any one saw him when when he was shot, it was so dark, and every one for himself. I think that he was killed instantly, without speaking. Ackert saw him a short time after and he was dead. He was shot just under the uper button of his coat.

He was buried on the Fourth. There was burial parties detailed for burring the dead. I did not help so I did not see him buried. Feunt Ackert helped and said he said that they were burried well, and have a board at the head of each grave with the name and Regt. on it. This is all I know about him. He died in a noble cause and was burried on the day that his country was born and thus gave his life for his country.

Write soon all you can find to write about; how much oats do you think you will have and how the other crops look.

From your son,

Henry E. Bayless

If you think it best, you can get a pair of boots made and I will pay for them.

If you have not sent any stamps, when you get this, please send some.

I forgot to send any money in the last and I havnt got any small bills now. If you get the suspenders I will send the pay for them.

Camp of 137th N.Y.I.V.
Kempers Ford, Sept. 8th/63

Dear friends at home,

I received a letter last night; was glad to hear that you were all well and prosperous. It found us all right and in good spirits. Every thing works well here as every other place and the prospects are fare for a closing up soon. I hope that it may so prove to be.

The rebels come down to the river once in a while. They say that they have give up all hopes of ever gaining their independance, that the falling of Vixburg and Port Hudson has cut their Confedercy into, and thus feft them without a hope.

I was glad to hear from GrandPa for he writes such good sound letters. I hope that he will continue to write once in a while when he feels so disposed.

I would have liked to have been to the plcknic first rate, and I hope that when they have the next one I shall be permitted to be there to enjoy it with you.

I went on picket again today and have come in camp and am writing. It is verry warm, warmer than it has been for some days back.

I received the stamps in the letter all right, also the paper all right to, but I had seen one of the same date so it was not new to me. Fount got a pair of suspenders from home lately and I think that it would be safe to send the things by mail in a package done up safely. I guess that the three shillings suspenders will do if they are good ones; if not, get the others.

Burt and I got our profiles taken last Saturday and I will, send mine in this. It cost one dollar a piece, for them.

We are all well and feel hopeful for the future that this war will play out in course of time if nothing hapens.

GrandPa spoke of all the officers being drunkards It is true that many of them are when they can get it. Shipman did, I know, when he could but Mart I never saw drunk there. He may have drank but I dont think he did much. He is promoted to first Lieut. in Co. B.

>

But I must close, wishing you all well. Write soon all that is going on and what you are doing on the old hill. So good by.

From your son,

Henry E.

(

Sep. 16, /1863
Camp near Rackcoon Ford

Dear friends at Home,

I suppose that you have heard before this that we have moved. The first night we marched to Kelleys Ford and crossed the and crossed the Rhapahanic early in the morning and marched to a place called Stepensburg and our Regiment went out on picket but we didnt see any Rebs. The next day we marched to where we are now. The report is that we are a going to stay here three days.

We have just been out to see two deserters shot and have just got back. We got our pay today and I will send mine in this letter. I didnt hardly expect any pay yet.

We are close to Rhapadan River and the next time we move I expect that we will cross. We have had verry easy marching this time.

We got the handkerchiefs that you sent. I guess you must think that we live gentlemen down here. I had rather had a dark colored one. It is a verry pretty one but it hant the right kind to have here. But we will make them do. I had rather had the suspenders; I need them worse than I did the handkerchief.

I am well now as I ever but I was and feel first rate war come to should like to have this think it is a an end, and I as fast as it can. coming to an end

It rained last night and there has been showers to day. I hope that we will come out all right and that your prayers in our behalf may be answered.

From Burt

Camp of the 137th. N.Y.I.V.
Rackoon Ford, Va. Sept. 22nd/63

Dear friends at home,

Just as I got the money, read -----
_____ the Serg. Major came around and said that all
that wished to send their money home could get checks
for it --- _____ the Paymaster to send instead of the money.
So I let him have the money and he got me a check for it but It was to late to
send it with the letter I wrote yesterday so I will send it to day, the sum of
\$8.00.

I have got six left and I guess that will stand me till pay day comes
again. You can pay for the Boots out of it and use the remainder as you see fit.

The weather is clear and cool to day with some
wind.

When we left Kempers Ford I was guarding a peach orchard with five
others and we had all the ripe peaches that we wanted to eat while *we* were ther
on guard being three days.

We hear heavy firing to the southward. They say that our Cavelry is
in their rear; I hope it is so.

The water is verry poor here, the poorest that we have had in some
time. Last night, after dark, we had eight days rations issued out to us, ready
for a march, I suppose. I think the prospects are fair of our seeing Richmond
soon if nothing hinders. There was whiskey ration dealt out yesterday and that
with what other whiskey they got made some of them pretty noisy. They were
up around most all night playing cards and carrying on in general so I didnt
sleep much and to day they feel pretty slim, some of them sick.

I must close. Write soon, all the news, what
there is; how the _____ are in general, and so on.

good by. From your son and brother,

Henry E. Bayless

Sep. 22/1863 Camp
near Rackcoon Ford

Dear Friends at Home,

I am on picket and I thought I would a few lines. Where I am now a writing I can see the Rebs a building fortifications and they shoot at our pickets. They have been a shooting this morning but they hant hit anybody yet. Last night the boys went up to an old fellows house and drove a two year old heifer down on our post and we killed it. So we had plenty of beef. It was a verry cold night last night. There was quite a frost.

You might get our boots made and keep them until we get some where so we can send for them. Harvey is a going to send after a pair and you might send ours with his. But no knowing how long it will be before we will get some where so we can send after them.

We got the suspenders all right. They ask verry nice ones such as them costs a dollar here.

I hear that you got the likeness all right. But I didnt know that you was a going to take it around for a show.

I dont think that they will atack the Rebs here for they are strongly fortified in a good position. We can see them at work and they work all night too now for two nights.

Tell George he had better look out how he goes wit Nellie and cut me out for I guess he has now. I dont hear anything about her.

My best respects to all inquiring Friends.

From Burt

Write all the news, and soon.

Bellair, Ohio, Oct. 1st, 1863

Dear friends at home,

I now take another opportunity to let you know
_____ we are and how we are getting along. We
are all well and hope this will find you are the same.

We got on the cars last Monday at Bealton Station where I last wrote. At sundown we were at Washington where George Milburn and Chancy joined us and I was glad to see them again. The next day we passed Harpers Ferry. The cars were pretty crowded, having 45 in a car. Some slept on top of the cars, others on the floor, and it was a crowded mess. We got coffee several times on the road. This morning at daylight we crossed the Ohio here on a pontoon bridge and are waiting here for the cars to go on our journey again. I suppose we are going to Tennasee.

The weather is fine and has been so ever since we started and I hope that we will have a prosperous journey the rest of the way, as we have had thus far, feeling that God will be with us here the same as other places.

I bid you good by from your son.

Henry E. Bayless

Camp of the 137th N.Y.I.V. Nashville,
Tenn., Nov. 9th, 1863 *

Dear friends at *home*,

I once more set(?) myself to write you a few lines to let you know that we are well and wish this to find you all the same. We have not received a mail since we started on our journey but I hope that ... _____ soon get one.

We came here last Tuesday and are encamped in the outskirts of the city. The weather since I last wrote at Bellair Ohio has been quite cool with some rain but to day it is warmer and looks like fair weather once more.

We met with no accidents on the journey in our Regt. but some of the boys were left behind; some just came in to day. To day we have d(r)awn some clothing. I drew an overcoat and pair of drawres and socks so I will be more comfortable.

Last night I went to the theater here and liked it verry well. There is nothing of interest going on here as I know of.

Burt and I have been verry well ever since we left Virginia. He is on guard to day. The country here to show the effects of war. We are encamped in front of a southern gentleman's house in what was once his lawn, but is our camp now.

Coming here we passed through Columbus Ohio, Indianapolis, Ind. and Lewisville, Kent. The two first are capotals. The best country that we passed through was in Ohio and some of Ind. In the latter state in two villages, Cambridge City and Centerville, the people had refreshments provided for us of pies, cake, bread and butter and so on. Long will those places be remembered by all the Soldiers that passed through. We met with as warm a reception there as we would have received at Binghamton.

*Certainly this letter was mis-dated. It probably should have been Oct. 9.
(Bruce J. Bayless)

There is some talk of our leaving here tomorrow, but none can tell 'till the morrow comes.

Write soon all that is going on at home and hoping that all is for the best. I bid you all good by.

From Henry

Fosterville, Tenn., Oct. 23rd, 1863

Dear friends at home,

I take another opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know how we are. It has been some time since we've got any letters from home; the last was week before last.

It has been some two weeks since I wrote last. Since then we have had pretty hard times guarding a wagon train through the rain and wind some 70 miles. I have been some unwell lately, with the Diarrhea but am better now and hope soon to be well.

I am here in an old store with the other ailing ones. We have pretty good quarters and fare as well as can be expected. We talk on leaving here soon but I don't know how soon. It is very wet, rainy weather now and has been for some time. Burt is very well, all but a bad cold and a little ear-ache.

There is little news to write. All things seem to work favorably, I believe. We came here yesterday; it is a station on the railroad and a desolate looking place. It is all from the cause of the war.

Write soon, all the news. So good bye.

From your son, Henry

Camp of the 137th,
November Nov. 1./63
Near Chatanoga

Dear friends at home,

I have got some sad news to tell you. I am sorry it is so, but you may be thankful that even one of us is spared. On the night of the 28th of October the Rebs atacted us about midnight and we had a severe fight and Henry was killed by a shot from the enemy. He was killed instantly; he didnt say anything when he was shot. I got his things and I will send some of his letters that he had in his pocket.

There was was 2 more killed in our Company and about eight or more wounded. George Hunt was wounded in the leg and George Killburn was badly wounded in the head. I dont think he will live.

I hardly know what to write but I will tell you that he was buried by our men. He was buried decently and a headboard put up. So you must keep up good courage and you may be thankful that even one of us is still spared. He done his duty while he was alive. He he had just loaded and raised up to fire and he was struck by a ball from the enemy. It is called the Battle of ~~Watehie~~ Wahatchie.

Chancy was sick and with the ambulance and the Rebs took the wagon and I expect that Chancy is a prisoner again.

I guess that you needent send my boots for I dont know I wouldent get them. So you needent send them. But write often, no knowing where we will be, but write. I will get the letters just the same.

From Burt

Since I wrote this letter I have heard that Chancy was not take prisoner but he is in the hospital.

George Killburn has died of his wounds and another man in our Company by the name of Cresson.

I am well and ask for your prayers for my safty.

I made up my mind not to send the letters that was in nen's pocket but I have some of his things I would like to send. But it is so far away from anywhere, I guess that I wont send anything at present.

You must keep up good courage, for death will come even at home. It seemed to be the will of the Lord and you know that he does all things well, but it seemed hard. But be contented.

Nov. 12th, 1863
Camp of the 137th Regt.
near Chatinuga, Tennase

Dear Friends at Home,

I havent got a letter from home in so long, I have just been a reading over some old letters and I thought that I would write a few lines. I am on duty so much lately that I dont get much time to write.

I see by your letters that you have good times at home and I wish that I was there to enjoy them with you. I am well, and can eat more than I can get.

We are encamped about a mile from the battle field. I was on picket the other day close to the battle field. The Rebs are close by on a side of a mountain. There are quite a good many of them a deserting. We are a building log houses for winter but I dont think that we will stay here all winter. We are on a side of a large Mountain in a rocky hole.

I got the letter that Laverna wrote. I dont forget her or any of the rest of you but I think of you often.

We have been living on short rations ever since we have been down here but they say that we will draw full rations tomorrow. I dont know as I have got anything to write to you more about the battle. I suppose that you will feel bad about Henrys death but I dont think you will miss him as much as I do. But it is the fortune of war.

Write all of the news, be of good courage for this war cant last always. Direct your letters the same as the last one that you wrote.

Girls, I wish that I was there to go with you to the paeties, I think that I would like it better than Soldiering.

No more this time. My
love to all and you.

From Burt

Nov. 13th, 1863 Camp of the 137th
Regt. Lookout Valley, Tennasee

Dear Sisters,

It is Sunday and I am a going to tell you what I done last Sunday and through the week. A week ago last Saturday I came off of head quarters Guard, and Sunday I had to chop all day. And Monday I went on picket and staid until Wednesday and Thursday I didnt do much of anything and the rest of the week I worked on the road and today I hant done anything. There hant been any meeting to day and we have eat the most of the day. We had some pancakes for supper made of flour and some corn that we ground in a coffee mill and a few hard tack mixed in and it tasted pretty good.

The Rebs keep a coming in and giving themselves up. I saw about 70 yesterday. They shook hands with our boys and they said that a Regiment of them was a coming in to night. They keep a coming in every day. They say that they didnt have nothing to eat; their army are about starving.

We are a putting up winter quarters and I suppose that we will stay here this winter. We have been a drawing Clothing to day. I got me a pair of shoes and a pear of pants and a pair of drawers and a Woolen Blanket.

It is a getting so dark that I cant see to write so I will stop. I am well.

Give my best respects to all, Especially the Gals.

From Burt

Dec. 2nd/63

Camp of the 137th Regt. Lookout
Valley, Tennasee

Dear Friends at Home,

I am not verry well at present. The next day after the Regiment left camp I was taken with the bloody disentary and have been quite sick, but I think that I feel a little better to day.

I saw the Regiment when they went into the fight the first day they drove the Rebs. The Regiment came in yesterday after being out a week and being in three fights. There wasent any killed in our Company but three wounded. They drove the Rebs at every point and took about twenty thousands prisoners and about 50 pieces of Artillery. It has been a big thing, I think, and I am sorry that it happened so that I didnt go but it may all be for the best that I didnt go.

They are a going to comence giving furlows again. I believe if it didnt cost quite so much I dont know but I would try and get one some time this winter.

I hope this will find you all well and enjoying your yourselves. I dont know of any thing now much to write about. The weather is quite warm, it freezes nights some. We have got pretty good houses to live in now and I hope that we will stay here all winter but I hardly think we will. We are on half rations again but I dont eat much of anything now so I have plenty, but Harvey finds a good deal of fault because he dont get enough.

No more this time. My best respects to all.

From Burt

I have plenty of writing paper but not many envelopes; a few stamps.

Dec. 25th/63
Camp of the **137th** Regt. N. Y.I.Vol. Lookout
Valley, Tennasee

Dear Friends at Home,

I received your letter dated the 14th and was glad to hear that you were all pretty well. I am as well as ever again so I guess that I wont get a sick furlow.

I havent been verry sick. I have been on duty now for quite a while and feel as well as ever.

There is another Regiment a going to start for home to day, the 60th N.Y. They have reenlisted for three years, longer.

You said that you was glad that I wasent in the fight; I was where I could see part of it from our camp and I had rather been in it with the rest of the boys than to of staid in camp for I felt real lonesome all of the time they were gone. If I had of been well enough I should of been there with them but may be it was all for the best.

I got the curl of hair you sent. I think it is verry nice but I had rather see the Baby but I dont expect you will send him. I should like to have you send me a Memorandum by mail if it hant to much trouble.

Marshall Corbitt hasent got here yet. When he does I will write how the boots fit. Chancy hasent got here yet. I believe he is to Nashville yet. I havent got any postage stamps nor envelopes yet. You said that you sent me some stamps but I havent got them.

My love to you all.

From Burt

Write often. There is nothing new here; all quiet on the Cumberland.

Jan. 9th, 1864
Camp of the 137th Regt. Co. B

Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

We left our old camp after living two or three days without anything to eat on Monday and marched to White Sides. It was cold and stormy and plenty of wind but we have got now where we can get plenty to eat. We are in a small Village, four Companies of us, doing provost duty so we have it pretty easy now although there dont hardly anybody live here but Niggers.

We have got two months pay and I will send a ten dollar check. I drew eight dollars over what was allowed me for Clothing and that had to come out of my pay this time. We expect to get two months more pay soon.

Marshall has got back and I have got my boots. They are a nice fit and they look like a good pair. I have been offered ten dollars but I didnt want to sell them. I got the envelopes and stamps and they came just the right time for I had got about out.

I got a letter from home dated the 25th. I was glad to hear that you were all well. I am well and enjoying myself as well as I can under the circumstances.

It has been verry cold now for three or four day and it makes it pretty cold to stand on guard. It is so cold or I would of wrote more so you will have to excuse me this time and I will write more next time.

From Burt

Camp of th3 137th Regt. N.Y.
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

We are pretty buisy now days a guarding prisoners and one thing and another. I have just got back from taking a Nigger to the guard house and putting a ball and chain on him.

I got a letter and two papers night before last. I was glad to hear that you were all well. Dan wanted to know what kind of weather it was here New Year; it was verry cold. I was on picket and I was on picket my Birth day in the woods behind a big tree and it was pretty cold. The weather now is quite warm and is quite muddy.

I havent seen Mr. Fuller or any of the folks that you said were a coming down here, but I think that I will if they come any where near.

I should like to have some dried berries for I havent tasted of any sauce in a great while. I hadent tasted of soft bread nor an apple nor a potatoe nor any such thing for three or four months before we got here and we dont get much now.

But I am pretty well, and I hope these few lines will find you all well. No more this time.

From Burt

Camp of ths 137th Regt. N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Sisters,

As I read what you got on the Christmas tree I thought that I would liked to of been there, too, but I wasent; but I hope that I shall be in course of a year or so.

I had to stop a writing and go to guard prisoners so now I will write a little more, and send it. I would like to have you write all the news, how all the folks are a getting along. And let me know whate has become of Josephine Hal and how they make things go. Write wether you have any more parties; if you do you must play my part until I come home.

There dont nobody live here but niggers hardly and it is kind of a lonesome place to me. But I dont know wether we will stay here long or not but I guess that we will stay a while.

Prom where I am a writing now I can see the Nigger Wenche a irening clothes out doors.

There hant no news on any consequence so I will close by bidding you good bye.

From Burt

Write often.

Camp of the 137th Regt., K.Y.I, Vols.
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I have just come off of Inspection and I havent got nothing to do the rest of the day so I will write a few lines. I am well and enjoying myself as well as passible, Night before last it snowed about foot, the first snow I have seen this winter. The Boys had great times a snow balling the Colonel and all of them had a hand in. Some one hit the Colonel in the eye and give him a black eye. But I dasent snow ball much for I was afraid I would have the ear ache.

We are a having good times here. John Whitney is keeping a Railroad Boarding house here and Harvey is a helping him. The first five days that he went there he got ten dollars for he has got a good place and he will stay there as long as we stay here.

I guess, Father, you said that you sold your oxen and bought another yoke. You didnt tell me how old they were or who you got them of.

There hant nothing new to write. I wrote a letter Sunday and I got a letter Monday. And you wanted me to write as soon as I got this letter, so I have tried to write but I guess I wont make out much. The last letter I got had some postage stamps in. Write all the news. I thought I would write the whole sheet when I commenced but I guess I will have to give it up. So hoping that this will find you all well, I remain, your Son,

Burt

My love to you all. Kiss the Baby for me and tell George I guess he dont want to see me or he would come down here.

Jan. 22nd/64
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I havent got a letter from home in quite a while so I thought that I would write a few lines.

Chancy got back to the Regiment this morning. I have had quite a visit this forenoon with him. The weather here is like spring, it is warm enough to go without a coat but it has been quite cold but no snow. We have got comfortable quarters here in a building. We have plenty of duty to do but it hant verry hard so we are a having what we call pretty good times, plenty to eat and a good place to sleep.

Chancy said that you wanted me to come home on a furlough. I dont think that I shall try to come home while we are so far away. I suppose that the war will come to an end before long, then we all can come home. I should like to come home but I hant home sick and I think if I live, I shall see this war play out.

There is some sickness around here. There is considerable small pox around here but I am well and enjoying myself pretty well.

I hope that you are all well well. Write what kind of weathere it is to day the 22nd. There hant no news here of excitement so I will close by bidding you good bye.

From Burt

Write soon, all the news. You can send some more postage stamps if you are a mind too.

Jan. 31st/64
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Sister,

I thought that I would write you a few lines. You seem to think that we are about starved to death- but we get plenty of soft bread now and plenty of meat and all things plenty, such as they are. We dont get any potatoes or onions nor any kind of Vegetables. Onions sell here for twenty cents a pound, eggs for 50 cents a dozen and Butter for from 60 to 80 cents a pound.

I should like to of been to Kirkwood to that donation. I think that I would of eat your oysters for you. We dont get any such thing here.

I think it was a great match between Bill Donnalson and Martha. I dont know but all the Gals will be gone by the time I get home. I guess that I will get a Nigger Wench and fetch home when I come if the Gals are all a leaving. I think it is rather hard you Gals cant get any young fellows to go with them. I thought that Fred was around to tend to such things.

I dont know as there is anything more worth writing about so I will close. I will sent another neck tie in this letter and two of them if I can get them in the letter.

From Burt

Feb. 1th, 1864
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y.I. Vols. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

As I havent got much of anything to do to day I thought that I would write a little. Mr. Fuller and Martin and the rest of the fellows from Conklin, they laid over here last night and Mr. Fuller eat supper and breakfast with us and we had a good visit. Mr. Martin is about sick, he has got a bad cold and so have most all of them. I was glad to see them, it seemed like a going home, most.

Harvey got some berries that Mr. Fuller brought him. He thought he had some for me but he didnt so I will help Harvey eat hisen. I expect that Mike will be down here before long, but I dont know as he will bring anything for me or not. I have got all the writing paper and envelopes that I want and all that I want you to send me is some stamps stamps once in a while.

There is lots of Rebs comes in here every day. They seem to think that the Rebs are about played out. There is lots of citizens that draws rations here, more than there is soldiers. The Government have to feed them or they would all starve to death.

There is not much of anything a going on here new and I have got to go on on guard now so I wont write any more now.

Tuesday Feb. 2/ 1864

I stood on guard from 7 to 9 o clock this morning and then got my breakfast and then went over to head quarters and seen them mount guard. We have got a brass Band in our Brigade now so we have good music and plenty of it.

It seems some lonesome a laying around the most of the day so I thought the best thing that I could do would be to write although I hant got any letter to answer. The rest of the Boys are a playing Cards but that is something that I dont do so I find something else to do.

There is a good deal of swearing and playing Card done in the Army

2-1-64

The weather here is verry fine. I am a sitting out of doors in the shade a writing now. It is just like spring, the blue birds are a singing and the flies are quite thick and every thing around looks like Summer.

There is lots of Soldiers a going home and there is as many mor a going to the front to take their place. By spring there will be the largest army in the field that ever was I think, and I think when Old Grant gets ready to move he will make the *Johny Rebs* hunt their holes for some other parts.

I would like to get letters oftener. I think I would but the mails dont come regular on some acount so I will close, hoping that these few lines will find you all well as I am. So good Bye.

From Burt

Write soon. Give my best respects to all inquiring Friends.

Feb. 7th/64
Camp of the 137th Regt., N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I got a letter this morning and was glad to hear that you was all well. I am well and enjoying myself verry well. The weather is verry warm here and has been for some time.

I am glad that you have got part of the Mitchels lot. I suppose that you will have plenty of work for me to do when I get home but I expect that I shall be so lazy that I wont want to do much for a while.

We have plenty of duty to do here but it hant verry hard and we get plenty to eat and a little fun once in a while so we enjoy ourselves verry well. There is not much of anything new. I see plenty of Rebs every day; there are lots of them a deserting every day.

Chancy wanted me to tell you to tell his folks to write when they got ready. He hasent got a letter from home since he got back here.

You spoke about reenlisting: I havent much of an idea of enlisting again, for I dont think that they will want us. I think that the Vetrens will see Texas or some other place. I dont know as I want to go there but I think that I shall stay in the service as long as there is a Reb to fight but I hope that wont be long.

No more this time. Good Bye.

From Burt

Feb. 29th/64
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I have been quite unwell now for about a week so that I couldnt write. I feel some better this morning so I thought that I would write a few lines. I got a letter from home the other morning and I got that Memarana_ book you sent me. I had one just like it. I wanted a diery but I guess you needent bother with it. I have bought me a watch so I wont have any money to send home this time.

There is nothing a going on more than common so I havent got much news to write.

I think that I will soon be well again. I have had a bad col and settled in my head and I have had a bad time with my ear but it is better now and I guess I will soon be all right again.

I am glad you are all as well as you are. The weather here is rainy this morning and it is a going to be a wet time, I guess.

I cant write any more this time, so excuse this.

From Burt

Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I got a letter from home the other night but I didnt feel like answering then so I will write a few lines now. I am a getting quite well but I dont do no duty yet but I think that I soon be able to do duty.

The 60th Regiment and the 78th that renlisted have got back. They are to work fortifying this place. We have the prisoners out to work every day on the fort and all kind of work. We have it pretty easy. I went over to dress parade last night. We have a Brass Band so we have good music and it is quite a nice sight to see them go through the performances.

Mart Corbitt has been promoted to Captain.

There is nothing new to write about much. There is lots of Rebs deserters come in here every day and there is a good many enlists in our army. There is some Nigger Soldiers here.

There is lots of soldiers a going to the front every day. I suppose there will be some hard fighting this spring. I dont know wether we will see any of it or not. The talk is now that we are a going to guard this railroad for a year. If we do we wont see any fighting without the Gurilles come in here.

I should liked to of went to Myrtle's party. I suppose you had a good time.

No more this time. Good Bye.

From Burt

March 12th / 1864
Camp of the 137th N.Y.I. Vols.
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I got a letter the other morning. You seem to think that I didnt write verry often. There was about a week or two that I didnt write when I was sick, but I am well now and we are a having pretty good times.

The talk is now that we are a going back to the Potomac, but I think that I had as leave stay here now as to go back to the Potomac.

We have been a moving our Camps on higher ground and fixing up for summer but I dont think that we shall stay all summer. We have got some new recruits for our Company but there hant any of them that I know.

The Weather here is verry warm, the peach trees are in blom and every thing looks like summer.

I hardly know what to write about; there hant nothing new much. We have to guard Prisoners every day to work. Yesterday there was two of them tried to get away and they shot at them and they give themselves up. Then we took them and handcuffed them and Bucked them.

You wanted to know if I had got a Wench picked out yet. I have got about a half a dozen picked out but I hant made up my mind which one to take yet.

Tell the folks that I am alive yet so they needent be afraid to write.

Give my best respects to all Friends. I am well.

From Burt

To all at home.

Write soon.

Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y.I. Vols.
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I have just got back from Nashville this morning. I went down with prisoners. We had a good ride; it is about a hundred and forty miles. We staid in Nashville three days and we had a good time. I went to the Theater and to a show and Harvey and me staid to a Hotel and give a dollar and a half for a bed; the first time that I have sleped in a bed with my clothes off since I have been out, and I dont know but it will make me sick. It cost us considerable but it is all in three years or sooner shot.

I am well and hope these lines will find you all the same. We are in the same place yet but there is talk of moving but it dont look much like to me.

I saw General Sherman the other night. He went through here to the front.

The Weather here has been warm and is yet. There hasent been any cold weather here. They are a plowing and the trees begin to leave out and the peach trees are in blom.

There hant no news to write so I will close. Kiss the Baby for me.

Give my best Respects to all inquiring Friends.

From Burt

Write often.

Good Bye all.

March 27th / 64
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I am well and you say that I must take good care of myself; I will try to. The weather here today is verry nice but last Tuesday it snowed about a foot and a half, but it rained and it is all off now.

I have just come off of guard and and have went and wrote a letter for Harvey and now it is pretty near noon.

I believe Mr. Fuller went through here the other night on his way home. I wished that I could of seen him. I have got a few little things I want to send home.

Bob Darling and Vining have died since they came down here. I haven't heard from Mr. Fuller; he agreed to write to us.

You said you sent me the Republican; I havent got it yet but I suppose I shall before you get this. The Boys here take the Standard and the Republican so you needent send any more for I read theirs.

You wanted me to write where I was every time. I wrote; we are in the same place. There hant no danger here of the Guerrlles; I hant much afraid of them.

Kiss the Baby for me and tell George to be a good Beray
(Bulkey Like.)

I think this war wont last more than always.

'My love to you all.

From Burt

April 8th

Dear Sister Laverna,

I got started to answer your letter and then give it up. I can read your writing but I havent got nothing to write to you but to tell you to be a Good Girl and mind your Ma. I would like to be there to help you eat Maple sugar this spring.

No more.

From Burt

Write

April 12th/ 1864
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y.I.Vols.
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I got a letter the other morning and was glad to hear that you was all well. I am well and enjoying myself as well as I can.

There hant much news to write. There are lots of troops goes through here every day to the front, but we stay here yet, but I dont know how long. There was to be a review to day by General Sherman but it rains and they put it off until tomorrow.

I went to meeting Sunday. I have been to meeting twice since we have been here.

We have ~~been~~ plenty of guard duty to do here but we havent drilled any since we have been down here. They begin to drill the recruits some. We have six or seven in our company. They are pretty poor soldiers, the most of them.

I dont know as there is anything I want you to send in particular for I have got all that I want to carry on a march now. But I hope we wont have to march a great deal this summer but I dont suppose they can take Richmond without us. If they cant, we are ready to go. I think the Rebs will have to hunt their holes this spring and I think the most of the fighting will be done this spring, at least I hope so.

Well, I think you will have plenty of work to do this summer and I would like to be there to help you if I wasent quite so lazy. I have got so I live without working but I dont get drunk out there are lots of them that does. They have carried some of our boys in once in a while but that hant nothing for a soldier.

I dont know as I have got anything more to write, so good bye.

From Burt

April 20th/'64
Camp of the 137th Regt. NY
Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

It has been some time since I got a letter and I hadent answered the last one that I got so I thought I would write a little this afternoon but there is not any news much. We have been relieved of our Provost guard and have went back to our Company. I dont know wether I shall like quite as well or not but I dont think I shall.

The Colonel is a going to have a big party tonight. I expect all of the gay Alabama Gals will be there but I dont expect there will be any but officers ther. I guess it is a going to be a kind of an officers drunk. I have seen the most of the officers drunk and the Doctors, too. They sell beer here and they get drunk. The other night; some of them got so drunk they wheeled them off on a Wheelborrow.

The weather here is verry warm and nice and the boys are a playing ball. We have got trees sot out all through our camp and it looks nice; and we have prisoners to clean our streets and do all of the work and we do the guard duty. We are on guard every other day. Things look now as if we was a going to stay here this summer. Fount hant got back yet; his time was out day before yesterday.

I am well and I will close hoping these few lines will find you all the same.

Good bye From
Burt

Give my respects to all Friends.

April 25th/64
Camp of the 137th Regt.N.Y.I.Vols. Stevenson,
Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I got a letter from you this morning and I thought that I would answer it. Fount got back this morning. He was about a week behind time. He brought the things you sent all right and I was glad to get something from Home. I thank you verry much for the things you sent me.

I was sorry to hear that Edie and Ma wasent verry well. I am well and I am on guard to day. The weather is verry warm and nice now days. The trees are a leaving out so the hills begin to look quite green.

We are in Stevenson yet. We dont know wether we shall go to the front this summer or not. There is a great many a going to the front every day but I kind of hope we shall stay here. But I dont expect it will be our luck. We are a having the easiest times now that we have had since we have been in the Service.

Well, I scarcely know what to write about. There is not much of anything new. We expect to get pay before long and I dont care how soon for I havent got much.

The small pox is around here some. The Niggers has got it; there was one died with it about ten rods from our camp. They burned the house so I guess there wont be a great deal more.

I hope that you will get along well this summer and I hope that this war will come to a close so I can come home and help you a little.

Hoping we all will be spared to meet again, I will bid you good bye.

From Burt

Write soon.

April 27th Regt. M.Y.
Camp of the 137th Regt. N. Y. Stevenson, Alabama

Dear Friends at Home,

I thought I would write you a few lines before leaving here. We have got marching orders and expect to go in a day or so. I dont know where we will stop. I am well and tough but the weather begins to get verry warm and that is the worst trouble about marching.

The 13th Wisconsin Regiment came here this morning and Gum Fuller is here. He was glad to see us, I tell you, and I was glad to see him, too. They are a going to take our place, I expect. I have sent my overcoat home in a box with Harveys directed to his wife. Mike got here the 25th; he hant verry well yet. He brought me the berries you sent me and they come good. He said that Charley sent me some apples but he eat them. I was sorry to hear that Fatherer was sick but I hope he will be well before this reaches you. I will let you know where we are in the next. I dont know where it will be now.

We have sent all of our extry baggage to the rear and we are now ready for a march. I think there will be some hard fighting this spring but I think the hardest will be in Virginia and I think the spring campaign will about wind this war up if the stories that the Rebbles deserters tell is so; I hope so, anyway.

I dont know as I have got anything more to write, so I will close by bidding you good bye.

From Burt

Write soon.

Friday May 6th
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y.
In Georgia somewhere, I dont know where

We have been on the march all the week. There is lots of the recruits give out. Mike had to get his knapsack carried. I stand the march first rate. We have went in camp in line of battle near Tunel Hill. I suppose we will soon see the Rebs again but we have got a large force and I think we will clean them out, at least I hope so.

I was on picket last night but I didnt see any Rebs; the is some not far off now.

We broke camp at Stevenson Monday morning at 7 o clock and marched to Bridgeport; the distance was ten miles. The next day we marched to Shell Sound, about 7 miles. The next day we marched to Chatanoog, the distance about 24 miles. The next day we marched over the old battle ground of Chickmauga within about 11 miles of Gingold and camped for the night, the distance about 23 miles. The next day we marched about five miles, where we are now. But I dont suppose we will stay here long. The worst trouble about marching, our feet get so sore we cant hardly walk and then it goes pretty tough. But we have marched pretty slow. I dont think we will see as hard marching this summer as we did last.

I went over the Battle field of Wanatchie when we was a coming down and I went to Henrys grave. But all of the boys have been taken up and buried in the Cemetary at Chatanooga. We didnt stay there only over night or I should went to the Cemetry and seen his grave.

I dont know as I have got much more to write about. The weather is verry warm and it is a pretty nice Country around here. There are large plantations of about the prettiest land I ever saw. But the Niggers have all left them most so there hant a great deal cultivated.

Well, Mother, I dont want you to worry about me. I will try and take care of myself the best I can and I hope your Prayers will be answered that you offer for me and that I shall be spared to see you all once more.

I dont know wether you have heard that we have been the 12 Corps, I mean has been consolidated into the 20th Corps, so you will have to direct your letters a little differant; direct Co. F, 137th Regt. N.Y., 20th Army Corps, Nashville, Tennasee.

Well, I guess I havent got any more to write this time. I dont know where we will be when I write again, but I will try and write as often as I can.

So Good Bye

From 3urt

Write soon.

May 9th/ 64
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y.I.Vols.
Near Daulton, Georgia

Dear friends at Home,

We have been on the march every day since I wrote to you last. Our Division had a fight yesterday but our Brigade was with Killpatricks Cavilry so we didnt get into it yesterday. I suppose there will be considerable fighting in a few days.

We have laid still all day to day in sight of the Rebs. I hope we all will come out safe. We have had some pretty hard marching. Mike fell out yesterday and is behind now. He hant verry tough yet. I am well and stand the march first rate. We have traviled through some pretty Country. There is lots of hogs and Chickens and the Soldiers will catch one once in a while. Yesterday I had some fresh pork for dinner.

I suppose we will have Daulton in a day or so and I expect we will have considerable fighting to do but I think this Rebellion will soon be crushed if we whipe them here. I hear that the Potomac army has whiped lee and I hope and pray it will soon come to an end and that our lives will be spared to meet each other again.

Well, I dont know as I think of anything more to write this time. I hope your Prayers will be answered in my behalf and that we all shall be spared to meet again. I dont want you to worry about me.

Good Bye

From Burt

May 14 / 64
137th Regt. N.Y.I. Vols.

Dear friends at Home,

We have been driving the *enemy* now for several days and it looks now like a big fight. I am well and if fortune is in my favor I will write more of the particulars.

Yesterday Killpatrick was wounded but not serious. We took Daulton yesterday and quite a number of prisoners.

I havent got but a few moments to write I think we will whip the Rebs here and there is good news from the Potomac and every thing looks like crushing the Rebellion. I hope we all will be spared to meet again. If the Lord sees fit, we should.

Good Bye
From Burt

Dont 'worry about me but have hopes
of the better.

June 8th/64
Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y.
Near Acworth, Georgia

Dear Friends at Home,

We moved the next day after I wrot that other letter and joined the Division and built breast work all day and now we have got marching orders and expect to start tomorrow morning. We have drove the Rebs before us so far with some hard fighting and tomorrow we start after them again. We are between twenty and thirty miles of Atlanta. All the houses where we have come through are deserted and the folks have gone south but I think we will overtake them before long. I suppose there will be some hard fighting but I think this summer will wind up this war.

I got a letter from you yesterday and I was verry sorry to hear that Father and Grand pa were so sick and I was sorry to hear of of hte bad luck of losing another Cow. I wish I could be home to help you for a while now, but if I live I will come home in little over a year. You must get along the best you can. I guess the Girls will have to be Boys until some of the Soldiers get home.

I am well and enjoying good health. I never felt better than I have on this march. I am tough as a bear.

I hope and pray the Lord will watch over us and keep us safe until we meet again.

Good bye, From Burt

Write often; it dont make any differance about you a writing because we are on the march. The mail follows us but we are sometimes where we cant get it for a week or so but when we get it, we get the back mail.

Give my best Respects to all inquiring Friends.

Remember me in your Prayers.

Atlanta, Georgia

Camp of the 137th Regt. N.Y. Near

Dear Sister Amelia,

As I have been down to the Creek and washed my shirt and drawers and myself, I thought I would answer the letter that I got from you last night which had your Patagraph in. I think it is a good picture. I think you have grown considerable since I left home.

There is a going to be inspection this afternoon and I must hurry and finish my letter and get ready. I am well and enjoying myself the best I can but I would like to know why Sut and Charley and the rest of my Friends in Millburn dont write once in a while. I havent got a letter from any of them since I left Stevenson which has been over two months. Tell them not to write until they get good and ready.

We have had it pretty tough since we started. We have been in ten battles and done some pretty hard marching and we have been a resting now for a few days but I expect we will soon start again.

I have seen the City of Atlanta but I was about six or eight miles off. The Rebs are in there yet but I think we will start them out of there before long. I will be glad when this war is over. I hope I will be spared through and we all be permitted to see each other again. Until then

good Bye

Write often, and all the news.

Tell Mikes Woman he hant verry well but he is along with us yet.

July 8th
Near Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Friends at Home,

It has been some time since I wrote last. We laid still the forth of July in sight of the Rebs and the fifth of July morning the Rebs had left and we followed them up in sight of Atlanta, but we havent got Atlanta yet. It is verry strongly fortified and it will take some time before we get it, I think.

I am on picket now but the Rebs dont shoot at us much now. We have taken a good many prisoners. They all seem to be sick of fighting and I will be glad when fighting is done for I have seen all the fighting that I want to see. We are pretty well wore out. We havent had any rest now for over two months, up night and day part of the time.

It is verry hot weather here and I dont feel much like writing so you must excuse me if I dont write much. The last letter I got from you was dated the 18th and I am a looking for one every day now. Maybe I will have one when I get in to night from off picket. I dont know wether we will get much rest verry soon or not but I hope we shall.

Write all the news, how all the folks are a getting along in Millburn and what they are a doing. I hope we will all be spared to meet again. Write often. Good Bye.

From Burt

While I was on picket I picked this up. It is in large chunks like stone all over the top of the ground in some places and I thought I would put some in my letter. I am well at present.

Chatanooga July 26

Dear Parents,

I suppose you have heard before this of my misfortune. I am well, pretty comfortable, and I expect they will send us to Nashville in a day or days. You must write again until I send you the directions. I will send them as soon as I get where I am going. If they send
.....they were within a mile first. There has been so hard fighting and a good many lives lost. I will be glad when this war is over.

.....to put my trust in the Lord and feel it is all for the best but it seems kindy hard, but one foot but it cant be helped. Now there was one killed and two wounded in our Company and I expect there is more by this time. I was wounded in three miles of Atlanta and before I left they

Now Mother, dont worry about me for you know it is nothing more than we can expect in time of war. I feel strong and I think I will get over it. I feel....

Aug. 19th 1864

My Dear Son Burtis

To day we have received a telegram from Mr. O. Wartrous that our Dear Son was improveing and thought out of danger. Never was new more thankfully received. O whut a load it removed from our hearts. We had made up our minds that you were sick or you would have writen. We waited till the 17 when Father went to Binghampton and Telegraphed and staid there two days but got no answer. Went to see Mrs. Davis; she said you were sick and we would heare from you soon.

But these two days have seemed verry long but we are rewarded to day with the good news that you are better. Oh how thankful I am to our heavenly Father that his kind care is still over you for good that he is so kind to us in sparing you to us. O how can we ever thank him enough for his mercy and those kind friends that are taking such good care of you. God will bless them, and your Mother will pray God to do them good all the days of there lives. Tell that kind Lady that takes care of you that your Mother thanks her as no one els can for her kindness to my poor lame sick Child. O how I wish I could be thare to help her, we all want to come.

Father would come down now if he could stay till you were able to come home or could do you any good. He will come as soon as you are able to come home. I hope you will be able to write soon but get some one to write as we are verry anxious to hear how you have been. We shall be verry glad to hear from you once more for we dont know as you have got our letters since you have been thare for we couldent tell wither it was the 16 Ward or the 10 tenth ward. We want to know for certain wich you ment.

I sapose Mr. Wartrous wont stay thare till you can come home, but I am so glad that that you could see some friend from so near home.

I hope your leg will get well now and not make you sick again. I was so afraid it would make you sick this hot weather. I hope the danger is over now. We are pretty well and that the Lord would restore you health and spare your life to get home to us safely is the prayer of your Mother.

So good bye my dear Burtis.

C. Bayless

How glad we shall be to hear from you. Write as soon as you are able.

I want you to write the directions verry plain. If we havent got them rite, and I want you to write twice a week for I cant wait a week to hear how you are getting along. I hope they will take good care of you

and may God bless that are kind to my poor lame boy and your Mother will pray for their good.

So good bye my dear Burtis.

From your Mother

Write often

Aug. 10th 1864

My Dear Son Burtis

We have just received the first letter that you wrote after you was hurt, yesterday. We expected to have heard where your foot was shot and how far above the

anle your foot was taken off, and how dreadful it must have hurt you, and how you got to Chattinuga, and how you lost your things, did you lose your watch.

You didnt write any particulars. We are anxious to know something about it. We are glad to hear that you have good care. I hope you will have good care and get well fast. Mr. Fullar thinks if thare should come a great many wounded thare they might change your nurse and you might not have any care. If that should be the case you must write verry often and let us know for we might better fetch you home than let you stay thare and suffer. You ought to try and get your discharge papers made out so that you will be ready when you are able to come.

Write what you think about Fathers coming down thare. Some think he ought to come come down rite away and some think you wouldnt be able to come home, and some dont know as they will let you come till you get well. Mrs. Knight says tell you not to try to come too soon for fear it will make you worse. We will try to wait till you are able to come so it will be safe.

I want you to write particular how your leg gets along wether it pains you now. It is three weeks now since it was hurt and wether it heals I hope it wont get enflamed this hot weather. Be verry careful and not do anything to hurt it.

It seems hard indeed to have but one foot, but if by the meanes your life is spared we may be thankful indeed for had you been able to have stayed longer your life might have been gone before this. I hope the Lord will be pleased to spare your life to get well and get home safe.

We should be glad if some of us could be thare to wait on you and take care of you but we will hope for the best.

Hosp. No. 2, Sect. 3 Nashville,
Tenn.

Dear Parents and Friends,

I received a letter from you last night and was glad to hear that you was all well. I am doing pretty well. My leg is a doing well now and I hope it will continue to do so. I think if I have good luck I will be able to start for home in about two or three weeks.

I havent got much to to wirte. They are a going to put up a hundred more hospital tents. They expect a battle down to Atlanta. They have sent all off that is able to Gainesville.

I get plenty to eat and get taken care of well. I get eggs and mush and milk and tosted bread and pickels, but I had rather be at home. I think I would get enough to eat and that was good too. I wish you would send me some more paper and envelopes.

Hoping soon to be able to come home, I will quit writing.
Write soon.

From Burt

Write all the news. I am pretty weak yet so you will have to excuse this poor writing, I dont know wether you can read it or not.

Sept. 1st 1864

My Dear Son Burtis

We have just received your letter dated 20 after waiting and watching and mourning that our poor boy must be too sick to write. At last your letter came saing you felt pretty well. o how thankful we are that you are getting better. We were so afraid you leg was worse again, but I hope and beg and pray that it will get well now verry soon, but Father says you musent try to come till your leg is most well for he is so afraid it will enflame it and cause you suffering.

Sept. 2nd. To day Father has had a thrashing machiene here to thrath his wheat, came about nine in the morning and got done and started home at three. He is going to sell it for seed. I am afraid he wont get any wheat sowed for he hasent got his follar ready.

Mr. Tidler and Pa are going to try to fix the road. The town has aplyed 20 dollars to help them make there road. I hope they will get time to make it for the road is pretty bad.

The Girls have gone down to stay with Nelly this afternon. Her mother has gone to Blnghampton and she sent for them to stay with her. Orval has got home and we want to see him to hear from you. o how I wish you could have been well enough to come with him.

I dont know how to wait till you are able to come. It seems so hard to think that you must stay thare all through your sickness amoungst strangers. If you were ware we could send you something and come and see you it wouldent seem so hard. If I was strong and could stand any thing and wasent for leaveing the baby I couldent stay here, I would come and take care of you. Dont think we forget you, no, the last thing I think of and pray for when I lie down at night is my sick and sufering child and when I awake in the night I think he lies thare, alone, may be sufering for all I know. But I trust the Lord will heal you and permit that you shall get home safe. They tell me it is dangerous to move one till the sore is pretty much healed or it will all burst out again.

Uncle David and his wife and Biron and his wife and children stayed here Wednesday night. They wished you were here, they wanted to see you verry much. We heare of a god deal of sickness in the army. Mr. Winans has had word that Perry was verry sick and has gone to see him.

Chancy wrote home that he was quite unwell again.

I hope you have got the letters that Harvy has got for by this time. He wrote home to know where to send them to you.

I hope this will find you a great deal better for it is a good wile since we have heard from you.

Sept. 3. Mrs. Knight sent word last night to charge you to be careful and not go around too much when you get to walking for that might enflame it. Do be verry careful and use it more than it will beare, for I want it to get well as soon as posible.

What makes you talk of a furlough; cant you get a discharge. I dont want you to go back thare again, and I shouldent think they could ask it. I would like to know what makes them move you around so much. Do they take you to a better place every time? If you get idle and can answer all this it will pass away some of the time. I gess you will be discouraged when you see this long string but you may get more such. It wont be so tedious when you get able to go about a little.

Poor Lute, he is determine to go. He need not go for they refused him. He had to get Bob examened In his place before they would take him.

We will get some letter paper and send you some. If you get the money we send, we will send more if you want it. We like to know if you get it.

So good bye, till you can come. May Lord take the kind care of you and keep you safe. We are all pretty well. Do write as often as you can is the wish of your Mother.

C. Bayless

Millburn Sept. 3 1864

Dear Brother Burt

As Ma has not quite filled her sheet, I thought I would try and fill it. The weather is some warmer, it has been quite cool.

We got your letter last Thursday dated the 20th, just a week from the time we got the other one dated the 19th. We was glad to hear that your leg

was a getting better. I hope you will soon be well now but I suppose you ought to keep pretty still. It must be hard to have to lay still all the time. But if you get around to soon you might get inflamation in it again.

We want you to come home awful bad but dont come till is perfectly safe. I hope you will be able to come home before your birthday and lection.

Lute is home on a ten day furlough. I dont know as there is much news so I guess I will close by bidding you good bye. Write soon. I you will soon be home.

Amelia

Hosp. No. 2, Sect. No. 2, Sect.3

Dear Friends and Parents,

I had been a looking for a letter from you for some time and last night I got one. I was glad to hear that you was all well. It found me a feeling pretty well. My leg is a doing first rate now; it is most healed up. I begin to crawl around considerable. I am a going to get a pair of crutches to day and then I expect I will be all over most.

You wanted to know when my leg was taken off last. I dont remember exactly but it was about the 12th of Aug. I was under the influence of cloroform so I didnt know anything about it until it was all over. I suffered

a good deal before it was taken off the last time. I had it burned with acid and it wasnt verry pleasant.

I think I will be able to come home in about two weeks if nothing happens and the Lord is willing. I get pretty good living. I get a egg and toasted bread, beef, pickels, oysters. There hant no danger of my starving.

Tell Lute if he can get rid of the draft and they woulden pass him, I would advise him to stay at home.

There is great excitement here at present. They are a arming everybody that is able in the Hospital and all in the city, too. Wheeler is close by. There was fighting yesterday about eight miles from here but I guess he wont get in here. He has tore up the railroad track between here and Chatanooga and I expect he will do a good deal of damage before our men drive him a way. There is a large force after him now.

I guess I have got money enough.

No more this time. I hope this will find you all well.

Good Bye

From Burt

Sept. 12th/ 64

Hosp. No. 2, Sect. 3 Nashville,
Tenn.

Dear Parents,

I received a letter from you yesterday and some paper and envelopes and some postage stamps.

There was a salute of a hundred guns fired here to day at twelve Oclock and to night the city is to be alumenated and fire works and I dont know what all, hardly.

Sept. 13

The City was lit up last night and it looked verry nice. They had the Hospital lit up verry nice and at the Capital they had a meeting and it was crowded. The City was full of folks, so they said, I didnt go.

I am a getting pretty well. I have got a pear of crutches now and I have been out doors and all around most. I think I will soon start for home but I cant tell when exactly but as soon as I get my discharge.

I dont if you send me a little more money for I am out about for I buy considerable to eat; my apetite first rate. I can eat all I can get a hold of most. I expect when I get home I will eat you out of house and home. I guess you will be sorry I came home.

I got a letter from Harvey last night. He said he was a going to send my letters the next morning so I guess I will get them tonight or tomorrow.

No more this time. Good Bye till the next time.

From Burt

Hospital No. 2 , Sect. 3
Nashville, Term.

Dear Friends at Home,

I received a letter the other day from you and I got six letters from the Regiment and I got the Pictures I think Father has growed old since I left and Ella, I didnt hardly know her. I think she has growed a good deal. I am pretty well, I can eat all I can get and my leg is a doing first rate but I dont know when I shall start for home. I shall as soon as I get my discharge and get ready and I dont know how long that will be. It may be quite a while. I hant in no particular hurry for we live pretty well here and I hant home sick and I think you will see me soon enough.

There are a fixing up the tents for winter and I think they will be pretty comfortable. We havent got into any yet but I expect we will have to move to day or Monday.

There hant anything new of any consequence to write about so it is pretty hard work to write a letter but I will try and write something.

The doctor was just in here and he said he thought he couldnt send me home before the first of next month. I think that will be soon enough if I have to go alone. As long as I can get good living I hant in no hurry to go home until my leg gets well, so you neednt look for me until about two or three weeks.

Good Bye

From Burt

Write Often.

Sept. 19th/64
Hosp. No. 2, Sect. 3
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Friends at Home,

I just received a letter from home dated the 13th of September. I see you worry a good deal about me yet there hant no use of worrying. I am all right but I hant in no particular hurry now about starting home. Now I have got so I can get around and get plenty to eat and a good place to sleep and that is about all a fellow can ask for. But I am out of money but I guess we are a going to get some pretty soon. I want a little money to buy an apple once in a while. I have got a great apetite, I want to be a eating the biggest part of my time. That is all I have to do now.

I like our new house better than I did the other but I dont think I shall stay here long. I think Father needent to come, if he thinks of coming, for I think I will find somebody that is a going my way. If I dont I can go alone.

Sept. 20th/64

I will try and finish my letter to day. I have drawed some new clothes this fournoon and now I am all ready to come but getting my furlough and I think I will get it before long.

I am glad to hear that you are a getting the meadow cleared of. I think it will look a good deal better after the stumps are got off. I expect the hill is cleared up so I wont hardly know know it when I get home.

The weather here has been pretty cold especially at night. I sleep cold with a sheet and a blanket over me and last night I had two blankets and I slept warm.

I guess I have wrote enough this time. Tell Amelia she must learn that boarder better than to be bashful and you must keep that potograph nice, and Ella...I will be home by and by to see what that fellow gave you with a smashed toe.

No more. Good Bye.

From Burt

Your one leged Son

Sept. 26 - 1864

My Dear Son Burtis

We received your letter with no date and couldnt tell when it was mailed but we knew it the latest one. We were verry glad to hear from you.

I think the first of next month will be as soon as it will do for you to start. But do you know of any one to come with you. If not, wont Father have to come after you. He thinks he dont hardly know how to come, but we dont want you to come alone; if they would send some one part of the way with you. I wouldnt start without I knew of some one to come with you. Father says if you want him to come, say so and he will start as soon as he gets an answer, and then you must stay till he comes. But he must know that you are all ready for he cant stay there long.

The weather here is verry cool and comfortable now, but too cool for you to travel nights without an over coat. Write wether you have got clothes warm enough to come home in. If not, if Father comes he must bring you some if you need some. If you can have any one come with you from thare let us know what day you will start from thare so that we may know when to expect you here. Will you get your pay so that you will have money to come home with. Write what you conclude to do in your next letter so that we may know.

We sent you 2 dollars in our last letter. Let us know wether you get it or not. We will send 50 cents in this.

We are all well and hoping this will find you well and most ready to come home. I will close. I think you ought to have your leg bandaged above your knee to keep the flesh from jaring. Ask your Dr to fix it for you. So says your Mother.

Good Bye for this time.

C B

October 6th/64
Hospital No. 2, Sect. 3
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Friends at Home,

As I havent got nuthing to do but lay to bed I thought I would write a little. I feel well, all but my leg that is pretty sore, but I think it will get along after a while. It runs some and I I got a flax seed poltice on it. I have give up telling when I will start for home but I think it will be some time. We get pretty good living here and plenty of tody and punch to drink so you see I am all right on the goose question.

I wish you would send me one of Henrys potographs. I would like one verry much. The last letter I got had 50 cts. in. I had plenty when I got it.

I hardly know what to write. There hant anything going on much so I will have to quit writing. Write all the news. You needent worry about me. I think I will come out all right after a while.

I would like to be at home now first rate to help eat the good thing but I guess there will be some left for me when I do get home.

No more.

Good Bye

From Burt Bayless

Send me Henrys likeness

October 10th/1864
Hospital No. 2, Sect. 3
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Friends at Hone,

I received a letter yesterday dated the 1th of Oct. I was glad to hear you was all well but I am sorry you got disappointed about my coming home. I think it will be some time yet before I get home. My leg is pretty bad at present but I think it will get along after a while. I think I shall try and get home time enough to put in a vote for Old Abe and I would like to be home for my birthday.

I was glad to hear that you had a good lot of potatoes for I want to help eat them this winter. We get some here once in a while but they are pretty poor ones but we get plenty to eat such as it is.

About the Election, I think Abe will be elected. We had a vote in the hospital the other day and MacClellan didnt get but a verry few votes. I think Old Abe is good for four years more.

The weather here for the last ten days has been verry cold and nights it is hard work to keep from freezing.

I think I shall try and get a furlow before long but you needent look for I shall come as soon as I am able.

From Burt Good Bye Write
 Often

Oct. 12th/1864
Hospital No. 2, Sect. 3
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Friends at Home,

I though I would write you a few lines. My leg is pretty bad and I think it wont hardly pay for you come after me for it may be some time before I will be able to come home and I think this is the best place for me until my leg gets better and then I can come home myself, although I had rather have somebody to go with me. It will cost you a good deal to come here and I think I can come as soon as I think my leg will do. So I think it hant hardly best for you to come but I want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know what you think is best.

I am well and have a good apetite but my leg is bound to act mean but I hope it will get beter soon.

I havent got no news to write much. There is men knocked down and robbed most every nigh. There was one knocked down and robed last night. There is a good deal a going on around here.

Hoping this will find you all well, I will bid you
Good Bye.

From Burt

Write soon, all the news of G _____ C _

Sunday Oct. 16th 1864

My Dear Son Burtis

It is with a heavy heart that I take my pen to night. I am afraid my poor boy is suffering greatly with his leg or we should have got a letter to day. If you were able to write. o must it be that you must suffer so again with that poor leg. o that our heavenly Father would spare my Child. Oh that he would be merciful and heal that poor leg and save your leg to you. Oh I hope I shall hear soon that it is getting better, that it will be saved. I had so hoped that you wouldnt have to suffere any more with it. But how little we know what we will have to pass through in this world. o that it might lead us to put our trust in God who is able to save us from sorrow in the world to come. o put your trust in Jesus who died to save your soul.

Oct. 17th. We have heard sad news today. We heard that libbie Ostrander was drowned last night, that she and Eliza Gray and the lllittle girls went out in a boat after dark and she got fritened and fell out and was drowned.

We have heard that 89th was to pass through Binghampton today for Almira. o if my poor boy was so near home how glad I should be.

Grand Pa is quite sick, the rest are pretty well. I hope this will find you getting better. I do hope you will get better verry soon. The girls sent you Henrys picture last 'week.

Oct. 18. To day we have received two letters dated 10th and 12. I am glad that you feel well but verry sor that your leg is so bad. But I do hope that I shall hear next that it begins to heal and you can soon start for home. You didnt say wither it pained you now.

If Father knew that you would be able to come so that he could get back before Election he would come after you but he says he is afraid you wont be able to come so he dont know what to do about coming. He would have to start next week and we couldnt get word wether you was well enough or not by that time.

You could write so that he could by the middle of next week, then he might get back in time to vote.

The papers say that all that are able will have furlows and be sent home to vote from the Hospitals, so if you are able they will give you a furlow I gess.

Father says he dont think you will be able to come before Election, so you must vote there if you cant come home. o how I wish you could. They say thare will be a commitee sent to the hospitals to take the soldiers votes, so you must look out for them.

Father will come after you as soon as your able to come. So hoping this will find you getting better I will bid you good Bye from your mother.

C. Bayless

Write often

October 26th/64
Hospital No. 2 , Sect. 3
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Father,

I thought I would write you a few lines and tell you that I am a going to start for home next Monday. My furlough came yesterday but I thought I would wait a few days for I didnt know but you might of started after me.

I am a getting along pretty well and was glad to hear you was all well.

Tell Laverna she will have to wait till I get home before I answer her letter. I got a paper and a letter the other day. There hant nothing new to write much.

You can expect me in Binghamton about the 2/th or 3th of Nov. if nuthing happens.

Good Bye

From Burt

Give my respects to all Friends.

And dont start after me.

Jan. 29th/65
U. S. General Hospital

Elmlra, N.Y. Ward 3

Dear Friends at Hone,

I will write a few lines today, seeing it is Sunday. I got the letter with the two dollars in all right.

I am doing pretty well. My leg is most well but I dont know how long I have got to stay yet but I expect some time. My discharge ought to be here before this time but I dont see any sign of it yet. I dont know but I am about as well off here as anywhere. We have considerable fun and pretty good living for this place but there is a good deal of fault found with some of them about the victuals.

There was a man here the other day seeing how many wanted a wooden leg. If he gets ten he is a going to set up a shop here. If he does, I guess I shall get one. He thought that my leg was a pretty bad one to fit one on but if he comes here he thought he could fit one on but he didnt think it would be as good as it would be if it was off above the knee. I hant made up my mind to have it off again yet.

They took a fellows finger off yesterday in our ward.

I want to get home time enough to have a sleigh ride if I can. I dont like the style of being shut up in the hospital all winter.

Millburn April 18th/65

Dear Burt

We received a letter from you last night but you said you hadent got any from me. I wrote one last week and I suppose you have got it before this. There hant any news to write as I know of. Millburn is the same as when you left. Mike is at home now on a twenty Day Furlough. He dont like it very well at Elmira I believe. Jerome is around here yet. I saw him to meeting last Sunday and he is a Smart looking Fellow too.

It is awful about Lincolns Death. Sunday they had the Pulpit Down here all trimed in black. Mr. Brundage said it changed all of his plans about his Sermon. He preached altogether a Different Sermon from what he Calculated to. He said he had been about Sick ever Since he heard of it.

Pa and Grandpa are a chopping wood to day. The weather is quite warm to day and was clear this morning but begins to get some cloudy.

School commenced here last Monday. Marie Corley teaches. Verna goes but they dont have a very large school I believe.

I should think you might get a furlough if you have to stay a great while and come home.

I cant think of any news to write. There Is Prayer meeting to Mr. Brundages to night. I heard that George Donnelson was married the other day. We will send one of your Photographs in this and see if you dont think they are first rate, for I think that they are. But I must stop this Scribbling. Write soon and get afurlough if you can and come home for it is real lonesome here, nothing agoing on at all.

But there was an old Crazy man here the other day, or Something was the matter of him for he talked and acted Silly enough, jabbered all of the time. He had a Gold piece he said that he was a going to the Bank to Draw money on and he showed it to us and it was nothing but a two cent piece. But enough of this Stuff. I doubt if you can read it. Write soon as you get this. From yours

Ella Bayless

Wednesday April 19 1865

My Dear Son Burtis

We received your letter last night. Was glad to hear that you are well but how tedious it will be if you have to stay there two or three months. I hope you wont have to stay so long.

What a dreadful thing the murder of the president. Every body feels sad enough. Our pulpit was dressed in mourning and Mr. Brundage preached a good funeral sermon I think. He was to have preached on the fall of Richmond but the death of the president changed his subject.

Linas Watrous is to be buried to day. Nellie sent for Amelia to come and help her. They expected the friends to be there and Mrs. Watrous is sick so that she cant do any thing. So Amelia aint home to write.

I have heard that John Bayless is going to New York this week but I dont know for certain. I want get your address to him and get him to come and see you. I think they might let you come home on a thirty day furlough if you have got to wait so long. Jerome Watrous is in the place yet I believe.

I hope Daniel will do well to the oil diggins but the oil faver is getting over here. I guess there is a good deal of humbug about it.

Hoping this will find you well and that the Lord will protect you and bring you safe home. I remain yours truly,

Mother C B

Write often. We will send you a picture in this. I think they are nice.

Central Park Hospital April
28/65

Dear Friends at Home,

I will write you a few lines this nice Sunday morning to let you know I am well. I got the letter with my picture in. They are better than I expected they would be.

Uncle Daniel was up here yesterday to see me and brought me some apples and a book and he and Charlott talks of coming up here to day. I have found several boys here that I am acquainted with and I feel pretty well contented.

I could get a furlough if I wanted one but I dont think it would pay. I dont care about coming home untill I get my leg. I may get ready to come home sometime in June if nuthing happens and I dont get a place here.

I suppose there will be a great time here tomorrow the dead President is a going to be here. I would lik to go down in the city and see the prosession but there will be such a crowd it would be a poor place for me so I guess I wont go.

I would liked to of seen Jerome Watrous first rate.

Well I dont know hardly what to write about. There hant no news much. The papers says this morning that Jeff Davis has got to Mexico. I guess it is a good thing for him.

I hope this will find you all well. Tell Edie and George to be good Boys. Write all the news.

From Burtis J. Bayless

Millburn,

Broome Co.

N.Y.

Central Park Hospital Ward A

Central Park Hospital Ward A
New York City

Central Park Hospital
New York City
May 13th/1865

Dear Friends at Home,

I will write a few lines to day seeing I feel pretty well. I am expecting every day now that my leg will be ready to fit and then it will tak about ten days to finish it. I shall be right glad when I get my discharge for I am getting pretty tired of this. The war is over now and our grub here is getting verry poor, nuthing but dry bread and coffe the most of the time and that is pretty poor living for me.

Sunday May 14th

I am feeling pretty well to day. I got a letter to day saying you hadent got a letter from me last week. I believe I didnt write for I was pretty sick the most of the week but I have got about well again. The past week has been rainy and cold and I got a verry bad cold but the weather is warmer to day.

I havent seen anything of Harrison Holmes. You said he was a coming to see me. He may be up here in a few days. I though he was dead.

I havent been down _____ the City last week. I dont know how near done my leg is bit I think I shall get fited this week. If I do, I think I shall get my discharge sometime the first part of June but if I get out next month I think I shall be glad. I guess the Regiment will get home before I do.

Well I have got a good big sheet of paper that was give to me and I dont hardly know what to write to fill it. The Park is about the nicest thing there is around here, it is full of flowers now. The lilacs is about as nice as any of the flowers and the park is full of them most. Yesterday the Park was the fullest of coaches and carriages I ever saw it, the roads got so full they couldent hardly pass sometimes.

There is meeting here this afternoon and evening. I think we have got a good Chaplain. I will send you a few pieces that he wrote with his name signed to them. We sing them to meeting here.

You said you hadent got the garden plowed yet; that mak me think of the garden stuff I have had: regishes and saled and onions over two weeks ago down to Uncel D. I expect he will be up _____ to see me to day but Idont know. I think I shall go down there this week if nuthing happens but Idont care about a going much until I get my leg and then I am a going to see the shows.

Well, I guess I have wrote enough for this time.

So Good Bye

From Burt

Central Park Hospital