

Camp on Rappahannock River
Aug 10th 1868

Friend Lou

Your
very unexpected letter came to hand
last evening, and I now thought
in haste attempt to answer it.
Lou you can imagine my feelings
on receiving a letter from an
old friend who I thought had
long since discarded me.

I often wondered what was
the reason but supposed you
had grown weary of your
Patriotism and turned Copperhead.
However I am glad to hear from
you once more but sorry to
hear of your afflictions.
I am very sorry to hear
of the death of Martha's little
girl, it will be a great loss to her

I suppose you have heard of
the late battles that we have
been engaged in, we suffered
a very heavy loss in killed
and wounded. I lost in my
company out of 22 lost 13 men
from our neighborhood.
Elkanah Sargeant was killed.
Harland Richardson Austin Gault
Francis Ford were taken Prisoner
I received a slight wound in the
neck but not serious. Our
Regt is very small we left
Indianapolis one of the largest
Regts that ever left the State
and we now number less
than two companies or 150 men.
Now is the Draft coming on
we are very anxious about it
here we want some more
men to fill up our shattered
ranks if you have any

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Friends Drafted tell
them to come to the old
18th A Regt - that has never
failed to do its duty
we need help here with a
few more good men we
will go to Richmond
How is Daw on the
War question does he think
we will whip them or not
tell him for me that we will
Law my time is precious at
present and I shall have to close
I do not think there will
be any fighting of consequence
here soon, as it is very hot
and the Rebs are disposed to back
out, their main force is
on the South side of the
Rappahannock, Law give my
compliments to all Engaging
friends tell Webb folks if
you see any of them that

1-4
Dave and Roll are still
alive and would like to hear
from them if they have not
forgotten us.

Give my Compliments to
your Mother and Mr Wright
and especially Martha
I had not heard of Mr Wright's
marriage say go with them

From your old Friend
Roll

To Lou
Please answer

Adieu

James R. Nash
1st Lt - Co C

P. Dave sends

his regards to you

Excuse hast

Camp Elkhavater Western Va Oct-14th (61)

My Dear Lady Friend

I presume you will be somewhat surprised at receiving a letter from me, but I hope you will excuse me if I should infringe on your generosity by asking you to favor me with an answer in return! For my presumption, that is if you consider it such, but I hope such will not be the case, for situated as I am, you cannot tell with what pleasure I could open & read a letter from an old acquaintance & especially from a ~~particular~~ friend, I expected you was favored with a sight of my letter to Pay Cline, & of course know all about our trip out here & I expect about as interesting as I could make my letter would be to give you a dis-

- Description of our camp & manner of killing
 time; first, our camp is situated about
 1 mile North East of where we was when
 I wrote to Coz. & a much pleaster place
 it is too, for there it was a little to
 low ground to be pleasant only in dry
 weather, here it is a gradual slant from
 the foot of the mountain (which is only about
 100 yards) to the beautiful river called
 Ebkwaters, & in every direction a mount
 rears its lofty head (as it were) into
 the very heavens & it really looks curious
 to one like me that never saw a hill
 much higher than a house before,
 & just north of camp we have a
 beautiful parade ground of about
 12 acres on which we put in
 the greater portion of the day, we
 have to drill 8 hours every day
 & on Sunday we go scouting or
 else we lay around in our tents &

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killing about is when ter place little to in dry cant from only about called a month into the curious a hill forey a about in me day or ts &

eat, read, sleep; & write letters to some
 loved friends who we have
 left behind enjoying all the pleasures
 of home, (it would not go hard for me to
 try ~~it~~ about 1 week, really) but duties calls
 & I am doing all in my power to fill
 my place in battling for right &
 liberty & in so doing I think I
 have the best wishes & prayers of
 all my friends for success & a safe
 return to them, we have just been
 out 6 weeks & the time has passed
 off fast & pleasant with the exception
 of our long marches, & when it comes
 to them I would little rather be
 some where else. Our march to the
 crossing (where ~~we~~ had the big fight at
 Green River ~~river~~) was very hard and
 started from here the 2nd of Oct. & marched
 some 12 miles & camped on the 3rd
 we marched to about 10 miles & camped
 [Cheat Mt. Pass]

on the side of Cheat Mtn. & was
 aroused at 12 O'clock at night & marched
 to the enemies camp & commenced
 on them with our big guns & they
 returned the fire with the same, but
 ours done great execution while
 theirs did but little harm, but I
 expect that (I know) you have the news
 more correct than I could be able
 to give it & therefore I will not
 give any more, only tell you how
 our Company stood up to the works
 we were thrown in several very
 dangerous places, places where cannon
 ball & shells were flying thick &
 fast all around us, but Co. F. stood
 her ground & acted nobly during
 the whole fight, but were sadly
 disappointed when she had to retire
 with the rest of the Regt. without
 trying the use of gunpowder, with
 the exception of a few scattering
 shots, the distance being too great &
 the Confederates keeping themselves se-
 creted in their ditches, during that day
 & the after part of the night before
 we were on our feet 24 hours, & one
 third of the time on double quicks,
 so you may know we felt a little
 tired when we got into our quarters
 for the night & did not feel much
 like laughing & cracking jokes.

Next day we had to travel 20 miles & it really seemed to me like I never could get back to camp, well we started & marched about 2 miles & the firing of guns near the fort (where we stopped at during the night) raised the alarm & report said that the enemy had followed us & had attacked the fort, we were ordered to about face doublequick back, we reached the breast works some 3 hundred yards from the fort & 1/2 of our Regt was behind them, when we found out that it was some of our own men who had encamped between us & the enemy & were just coming in, & then we had to

about full again & march back,
but if we were tired out &
sore we were, nevertheless badly
disappointed not to get a fight
for these we knew we could
easily whip them out & probably
take the most of them prisoners,
Dave, George & I received a letter
from W. S. Lucas & Charlie yesterday
they seem by the tone of their letter
to be enjoying themselves lying
in camp & doing nothing, if
we only had them out here
we could soon convince them
that they were not soldiering
any at all yet, you know you
asked me how I liked soldiering
when you were at Franklin
the front of July last, I
told you then I liked it
fine, but then we were only

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My Soldier, here we experience
it, I liked it first rate
then but I like it better
now, for then it was not my
business but now my whole
soul is in it &
working to see if I can make
anything out of it, if I am
only blessed with good health
I get as much to live upon
as I do now I think by
the time I serve 3 years
I will be a man in size
I hope to be a good soldier
I get just as much to eat
as we can possibly do anything
with & more that we ought to
have for I do believe I
never had such an appetite
before & am afraid I eat
too much & I would appear

at any rate for with in the last
two weeks I have gained just
10 1/2 lbs. & if I keep on at
that rate I will soon weigh
something less than 300 lbs.
I hope your health is better than
it was when I were there,
if you should deem to answer this
poorly written letter, please tell
me all the news & you will
confer on me a pleasure.

If you see fit you can show this
to Maggie & Uncle's folks &
it will save me the trouble of
writing a letter before I receive
one in return to that one written
to you all, I expect it would
have been better for me to ^{have} waited
& see whether you would have
helped written an answer or not,
if you have not, please put it in
one envelop by yourself & send it,
it is getting late & taps have just
been sounded for lights to be
extinguished & I will have to close.

Write soon from your well wisher
Direct to Elmer Holmes
Co. 3rd St. West, Andover, N.H.

Raleigh North Carolina
 April 26th 1864

My Friends, I have taken this opportunity of writing, an old friend and acquaintance after a long absence, I am well and hearty at present and hope this may find you all in good health.

Well I hardly know what to write about first so much transpiring and taking place especially the last week there is so much excitement over the great victory that have crown ed our arms all we talk about or think about is war and what has happened since the war began Grant and his army achieved one of the most brilliant victories ever known Sherman is not far behind in accomplishing his grand march from Atlanta Ga. to Raleigh N.C. every thing seems to be working well and we all hope in a few more days Peace and Liberty will dawn upon us.

We have passed through many hardships and exposed to many dangers yet we consider that nothing more than our duty and are glad to know that we did not lag behind in the hour when needed most we will be highly paid if we can but return Peace to live in Peace and Prosperity.

We are pleasantly camped near the City on a beautiful knob, covered with pines. It is a fine and healthy location for a camp - good water close by which is very essential. The camp is picketed every morning and kept as neat as possible. Raleigh is quite a nice City with a good many fine shade trees which is a very fine thing in this warm climate. ~~The grand old flag is floating from the Capitol Street~~ and the strictest military discipline prevails through out the City. Nothing in Raleigh has been destroyed or even disturbed, Guards placed at each corner to preserve order. General Sherman occupies Governor Vance's Palace - for his Head Quarters. The trains are running regularly now - to this place from Monrovia City - Newbern - and Goldsboro. We have been receiving Mail quite regular. It has not kept me very busy in the last few days. There is some rumor of our moving after Johnson - which we will do unless he surrenders - and then our fighting is about over. A great many of his men are coming in daily and giving themselves up, we see a great many of ~~dear~~ men that live in this state on their way home - they all say they are tired of fighting and think rebellion played out - they want to see Jeff Davis hung.

Well Sir I often think of the times I have enjoyed myself at your house - when the old Lady was so kind to us and doing every thing she could to make us comfortable - I have often wished - while marching along tired and fatigued - that I could step into Mrs. Lesters and have some good cornbread and butter and butter milk -

Well if I ever get home ~~And sure are~~ all living I will most certainly give her a call - how is Uncle Sam getting along - I remember the times we used to sit in the parlor and hear Georgia play on the Melodion - I received a letter from her a few days ago they are all well she is the same Georgia - in every letter she most earnestly invites me to stop at Philadelphia on my way home - and also see the City of New York - also Mr. Rafferty does want to see you - I don't know yet what may turn out -

~~But I don't know what may turn out -~~
General Grant and staff is in the City - also General Meade and Sheridan - General Grant was accompanied by General Meade - Sheridan - General Logan - General Hancock - General Hazen - and General Sherman - reviewed each regiment in this Corps on yesterday - at their respective commands - our regiment was called out in line - and as the General reached the head of the regiment they came to a present arms - General Grant was at the head. he held his hat

hat to one side as he rode slowly along eyeing each man - followed by the Noble Sherman who looked as gay as a French - also followed by Sheridan and the rest after passing three rousing cheers was given by the regiment - they did not stop but rode on to the next regiment - in that little assembly was some notable Generals of the present age -

Well I must close for this time, Remember me to our folks - the old Lady and Dow, Please write soon --

Yours true Friend

Jeff Hark

{ 100th Ind Vols.
2nd Brig 1st Div.
15th Corps }

{ Army of The Tennessee }