CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF AMORY K. ALLEN*

Amory K. Allen was a young man who lived in or near Loogootee, Indiana. Though he had a wife and young children, he volunteered for service at the beginning of the Civil War. Another child, that he was not privileged to see until after the close of the conflict, was born several months after his enlistment. Before the newly formed regiments left Camp Vigo, Private Allen became Corporal Allen. From Atuttetam to the last months of the War, he was Sergeant Allen. Promotion to First Lieutenant came in the last campaign. He belonged to Company C of the Fourteenth Indiana Regiment until 1865. Escaping injury until 1864, Sergeant Allen was wounded in the leg, but not seriously when Grant's army was leaving the Wilderness to advance toward Richmond. After a short period in a hospital, he was, without a furlough, returned to active service. He was with the forces at Petersburg. On April 6, but three days prior to Lee's surrender, Lieutenant Allen was shot through the left shoulder and sent to Seminary Hospital in Georgetown, D.C. The last letter in the collection was written by the veteran of many campaigns on April 23 while still confined to his bed. At this time, he was still unable to use his shoulder. He probably did not reach home before the middle of May or the first of June, 1865. Lieutenant Allen died at Montgomery, Indiana, on August 13, 1885.

THE LETTERS

Camp Vigo Terrehaute Ind.
May the 17th 1861

Dear Wife, I take the opportunity to inform you that I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you and the children well. I will tell you something about our trip. We got to Vincennes Friday morning after leaving home we received a treat from Mr. Breen and then quietly down in the eating house till daylight got up washed our selfs combed our heads and got our breakfast there.

We then after promamizing some over town paraded and formed company and marched through town to the Depot on the Evansville and Terrehaute road to Start to terrehaute we then marched back in town

Documents: Letters of Amory K. Allen 339
to go with the vincees company to receive their flag we then marched to a tavern and got a free dinner we then marched back to the Depot led by the Brass Band heard a speech from Niblet* who said we was the finest company of men that he had seen and give us bread and cheese enough for supper and all in all we were very highly favored by the people of vincees we then left on the evening train both compays we got to terrehaute Friday evening we were marched to the fire company hall where we staid till Monday we then marched out to camp vigo where we are now in regular camp about 2 miles from town where we will be for some weeks we are sworn and mustered in to service and drill every day I want you to write to me soon for I have not heard from you since I left home. I want to know how you are getting along we are bound up here tolerable close we do our own cooking we have got nothing yet but our provisions and cooking vessel so no more at present I will write every opportunity take care of the children and I will not forget you

Yours Truly
Amory K. Allen
To Mary D Allen

Sunday
June the 9th 1861
Camp Vigo
Terrehaute Indiana

Dear Wife,

I take the present opportunity to inform you that I am well and hearty through the kind mercy of God hoping these few lines will find you all well. I received a few lines from you in tates* letter which stated you was all well and doing tolerable well we are now sworn in to the United States Service for 3 years if not sooner Discharged and are waiting here for further orders I expect to come home to see you before we leave here.

We expect to [get]² in the state ser[v]ice
some of our comp[any]

at home this w[ee]k
king my ar[ran]gement

1. Probably William E. Niblet, who had just finished a second term in the national House of Representatives.
2. Nat Tate, who lived on the Loogootee neighborhood.

* The correspondence of Lieutenant Allen is now in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Laura O'Brien of Montgomery, Indiana, who kindly permitted the Indiana State Library to make photostat copies of the letters which are here reproduced from the originals to the Magazine for use while preparing the correspondence for the winter. The editor is indebted to Mr. Haskell Callard for his agency in procuring and forwarding the letters.
home about the 
not sooner [?
will probably be at home this week he say's we will all have a chance to come home in the course of a month if we stay here that long he can only allow 4 or 5 to be gone at one time we will take it by turns like going to mill we are bound up pretty tight here we have preaching of sundays we have to obey all orders the military law is quite different from Common law we have to toe the mark I am appointed Corporal. Corporals are allowed more pay than the privates it is an under office they have charge of squads going out of the camp and of placing and relieving [sic] guards that stands around the camp to keep men from getting out of the camp. I have got along very well with myself without any trouble there was one man drumed out of the service for mis behavior getting drunk fighting and abusing the officers he was made to march along the line of dress parade on Sunday evening with a chain lock around his leg with a big chunk of wood to drag him he wore this 2 or 3 days and was marched out without any pay for his service the tune of the rogues march was played for him I guess he has gone home if that is the way to get home I never want to come. I think our Colonel wisely looks* for us and will do the best he can for us and our Capt does first rate tell Mis Green that Thomas is well and that she may look for him home about the middle of the week he does not know for certain that he will get off that soon or not I expect he will wait for the uniform we exp[ec] to get that tomorrow or next day keep in good heart and take good care of my dear little children and I will not forget you no more at present but remain yours truly

Amory K Allen

Camp vigo Terrehaute
Indiana, June the 18th 1861

My Dear Wife I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well hoping that you and the Children are enjoying the same blessing I have nothing certain of importance to write to you if I were to write all the time I could not tel half that is going on here and if I was to look my eyes out and listen my ears off[?] I could not see or hear anything at all in comparison to what is going on here although I see and hear more than I could write in 3 years the colonel came to camp yesterday evening and attend[e]d the evening Dress parade with us he then left camp and went to town and I heard this morning that he had gone to Indianapolis to see the pay master and have him to pay us off so I have not had any chance of talking any with him only just to say how-de-do he said you was all well and all right the way the orders are now there will be no chance of any of us going home we have give up the idea entirely of coming home at the present although it may be sometime yet before we leave here. we may have other orders in a short time the orders now is to be ready to march at one hours notice but from the news and the way things

Documents: Letters of Amory K. Allen

seems to be working I doubt think we will leave hear for some time yet but still if they need help and call on us we are a going to help them out of course we do not know where we will have to go to but[?] still we are willing to go where ever we are needed the Colonel said there was going to be a fight at manasses Junction virginia and we was to have a band in it but some thinks we will go to cairo or to St. louis Missouri and its all guess work with us we wont know where we will go til we start and you may look for us home when you see us I will come as soon as I possibly can write soon and write often if you only write a word at a time and don't forget me and take good care of my dear little children and I will not forget you there is a man taking pictures here in camp and if I dont come home now I will send you my likeness here is a lock of my hair for you to keep yours truly

Amory K. Allen.

to Misses [Mrs.] Green

tel Mis [Mrs.] Green that tom is well and hearty and that he is out of heart about coming home by disappointing the colonel having orders to hold us in readiness to leave hear he wants her to write to him soon for he is out of patience waiting for a letter from her and he is uneasy and he says he dont intend to write any more til she writes to him he has been looking for a letter ever since he wrote the last he thinks it may be possible that we may have orders to wait for a while but he dont have much hopes of coming home for the govern ment intends to push things on and have done with the war probably by winter if possible the sooner the better

A. K. Allen.

for Thomas Green

Cheat mountain summit virginia July the 21st 1861

My Dear Wife I take the opportunity once more to inform you that I am in good health hoping these lines will find you enjoying the same good blessing I wrote you a letter a few days ago and started it by mail but I suppose it will be a good while a going and to day is sunday and I have been resting all day in Camp the boys have been making themselves rings out of the root of a bush that grows on the mountains here that is called laurel it has a very nice blossom and is very poison to cattle or any thing that eats of it I dont know what put it in their heads to make rings out of it but I think the people here make pipes out of it they say it gets as hard as a bone and makes a very good and lassy pipe so I thought I would whittle one out and send it to you so you could have it to say I had sent you something from virginia as there is a man a going from here to logooette tomorrow I have a good chance to send my letter to you as I have nothing else to send to you I cannot give you a description of our travel in full for it would be to tedious to notice all the particulars I am here on cheat mountain

* See "Letters from Cheat Mountain" in Indiana Magazine of History (XXIX, 350-371), December, 1903. These letters were written by a soldier from Vincennes (then named "Prock") to the Vincennes News during 1861. "Prock" and Allen were both in the Fourteenth Indiana Regiment but not in the same Company. The letter above, it should be noted, was written on the day of the Battle of Bull Run.
It was the intention to find out their position and to know how to take them. I suppose we will take them without being in as much danger as we were in reconnoitering their camp. Our men and officers are very brave. I sent you a letter giving an account of the attempt the rebels made to attack our camp and I sent a ring for my messick. If you don't swap one of yours for it, I have not got any letter from you since the one that you requested me to send my messick the ring in that has been a good while ago. I had sent a letter and a ring to you by Frank Nolen before I got the last letter from you and I have sent one by mail since with another ring which makes 4 rings I have sent to you and I now sent this to you by walls. He fell down and cut 2 of his fingers off and he is discharged and is going home in the morning. I also send you a pipe made of laurel root and a sword that I captured from the enemy as it will not cost you any postage the soldiers can send letters free but the ones that gets them has to pay the postage there is a great many sick and crippled by accident and there will be a great many discharged on the account of it. We will need a great many recruits for our regiment. I want you to keep in good heart and trust in God and he will make all things right. I have plenty of paper to write you letters and I have plenty to eat and we have got new pants and drawers and overcoats and I will have plenty of money in a few days and I expect to come home to see you before a great while by the last of January at the farthest from your writing that you was not able to do hard work that you might need me at home about that time. I want you to write and let me know how you are getting along and you know what you and the children needs and you must get it. I will send you some money soon so I am yours A. K. Allen

Philippi Virginia
December the 8th 1861

Delphany I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and in good health hoping you and Children are enjoying the same good blessing has been over 3 weeks since I wrote to you and I have got tired of waiting for a letter from you so I thought I would write again william seaford is going to start in the morning for Loogdottie and I can send this letter paid off a little over a week ago and we have some money now and as Seaford is going right to Loogdottie I will send five Dollars in this letter to you and mises [Mrs.] Green Thomas [Green] got a letter that Taylor brought which stated that you had moved in with Miss Green and that you was all well. Thomas is well and hearty and is holding the candle for me to write and this letter will Do for us both as you are living with Miss Green it will have writing two letters we send a five Dollar bill for you to divide between you and Miss Green two Dollars and a half a piece we would send more but we think may get a chance to come home and bring it our selves
and Sefrect is cearies\textsuperscript{10} and we dont like to risk much with him we have left Huttonsville and come to Philip\textsuperscript{11} 12 miles from webster and the Railroad and were quartered hear in house and we are living tolerable well now only we are rather much crowded this a small little town we got hear last friday evening [December 6] we had a very muddy walk of it and was very proud to get hear we do not know how long we will stay hear some thinks not very long but there is no telling I think we can hear from one another oftener now we are 40 miles closer [to] the railroad and I think we can get the mail hauled this far the roads is so bad that waggons can hardly travel we want you both to write to us and let us know how you are getting along and if we dont get to come home we will send you more money soon there will be some one or other a passing every once in a while if we get settled down hear for all winter I think we will get a chance to come home and we may be move\textsuperscript{12} closer home and maybe farther off we cannot tell there is a talk of a battle at Winchester or Romney\textsuperscript{13} and we may be ordered there and some thinks we will go to a[1]bany or kentucy but if we are not engaged any where I think we will come home we want you both to take good care of your selves and do the best you can and we will not forget you the boys are all in good spirits and mostly all well there has not been very much sickness or many Deaths for so many to be together it is night and we are not very well fixed for writing and we think best to come to a close for this time So no more at present only remains truly

Amory K. Allen
and Thomas Green
to Mary D. Allen
and Sarah E. Green

Romney Virginia
Sunday evening January the 5th 1862
Dear Wife I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well except bad cold which is a very common complaint hear at this time I hope these lines will find you and family all in a good state of health. I received your letter dated December the 27th 1861 you intended to send it by the Colonel but it came by mail I got it a friday and the colonel has not come yet he is on the way and will be hear tomorrow but I thought I would not wait as the mail starts from hear soon in the morning and I am very anxious to hear from you just at this time. I sent my likeness to you last monday with a letter in it suppose you have got it by this time I wish you would write oftener I wrote a letter to Vester 2 or 3 weeks ago and I have received no answer from him yet tell the boys to write to me and I will answer their letters with pleasure I think between you and them and the rest of the family you can keep me supplied and keep me busy writing to you. you must not wait for a direct answer from me to the same letter for that would take it 2 weeks at least between letters I want you to write once every week if not oftener and be sure to put your letter in the office about 2 hours before the train goes east and it will not be long in the office your letter was headed Montgomery station and was mailed at Loogootee and you never said whether you was at your fathers or not but I suppose by your getting my letter and speaking of your mother being sick that you was there I directed the likeness there and will this allow you said you got the letter that I sent by Kimball I want you to write as soon as you are confined or have some of the rest to without fail and let me know the result for I am uneasy about you but I hope you will get along as well as if I was with you my self you must be patient and take good care of yourself and I think you will get along you know as well as I can tell you how to take care of yourself and you must be caution and careful and not be scared at trifles for the world was not made in a day and if your mother needs any help to wait on hire a girl to help and I will pay the bill you must watch the Children they will get in such rippets clim bills about they might Break their necks we are still at Romney Doing nothing but wait for orders for we would all be glad to get away from hear we are so crowed up in houses that we cannot cook eat sleep or anything else with any satisfaction I am sleeping in the court house up stairs in a room without any fire and the window glass is all broke out and it is a cold place and the weather is getting very cold hear now I dont know why they dont push things ahead and do something to wards bring the war to an end it appears like they dont want it to get over soon or they would pit[ch] in for we have men out exposed to cold and every other hardships that a man can mention and the expenses is very great we were mustered for pay again the 31st of December but the pay master is not hear and we have not got our pay yet if I do not know how long it will be before we get it our Brigade is scattered the 134th, 15th, and 17th Indiana regiments is our Brigade I dont know when we will all be together the 15th was ord[er]ed hear and got to Springfield about half way between hear and the railroad at greensprings and was ordered back to go farther east on the railroad to hancock [Maryland] we hear the secessh have got in there and drove our men back and is tearing up the railroad at that point if this be the fact we may look out for a fight some where about hear I think there will be something done when the Colonel gets back. General Rummels is to take command hear I expect that Kimbal will be commander of the post when he gets hear and I think there will be different arrangements made hear I think he will [have] some of the cake sellers and candy shops dried up and give the rooms to the soldiers where they can be more comfortable and not be billed up like hogs half frozen to death. as I said before bad cold is very common and there is several laid up with it there has been no deaths in our company since we left the mountain. there was a man by the name of childers of company A that was drowned in the river on newyears day he was wading it with a jug of whiskey he

\textsuperscript{10} Careless. The word was often pronounced, careless on the frontier.
\textsuperscript{11} Philippy, a town west of Laurel Hill. The Fourteenth Indiana Regiment was sent down the Tygart Valley, northward from Huttonsville to Philippy early in December, 1861.
\textsuperscript{12} The regiment was transferred to Romney before Christmas. Romney is on the South Branch of the Potomac a few miles south of Cumberland, Maryland.
was some little intoxicated and somewhat deranged and was supposed by some that he drowned himself a purpose but he is drowned any how, I will send you some more money soon if you need any let me know and I will send it to you James Smoot wrote to me that Hyat and Neal was going to push on him for what I owed them he is security on the note and I hate for him to be pushed on it but I can not help it now I think I can lay up some money in this war if I have no bad luck and if he has to pay it I will pay him back when I can he may ask you for it but you need not pay any of my debts till I tell you to and then I will send you the money to pay it with so what money I send you keep for your own use I will send you some now but I want to have it in gold all that you dont want to use I can send you paper any time you need it. yours forever. Amory K. Allen CORPORAL

Camp paw paw Tunnel Virginia February the 5th 1862

Delphany I am badly situated for writing the weather is cold and I am out in the wind by a fire where the boys are crowding around making coffee in tin cups. we have moved from camp north Branch Bridge’s down the railroad and river [Potomac] about 7 miles below the South Branch Bridge we are new on the main Branch of the potomac river and about 23 miles below Cumberland on the virginia side of the river right on the railroad and our tents and cooking vessels has not come to us yet they are some where on the way but there are so many soldiers on the road they keep the trains hot and busy and crowded there is 5 batteries of artillery hear and cavalry [cavalry] and secesh have left Romney and burned the Bridges to keep us from following them but we have crossed the South Branch on the railroad and I think we will get at them yet if we have to build a few Bridges I dont know any thing about what we are going to do or where we are going but we are going to do something sure if it is nothing more than to repair this railroad and run the secesh out of winchester manasses and Richmond Virginia we got good news from our men on the Mississippi with their fleet of gun boats they have taken fort henny [on the Tennessee] by one hour and a quarters hard fighting and they took general Floyd [Floyd] one of the ring leaders and his staff and Filmore and 60 prisoners without much loss on our side. Harsh for our side we will soon show them what yankees can do for uncle sam and the stars and stripes fore we are the boys that fears no naysay although we are far from home

Monday morning Feb 10th Delphany I am well this morning and I hope this will find you and your little ones enjoying the same blessing I received your letter of the 2nd the 5th inst which gives me much satisfaction to hear that you was well and you was on foot and was able to write me a letter your self I wish[?] you much joy with your new boy you must take good care of your self and your children and keep them warm and dont stir out too soon I also get a letter

13 The bridge across the North Branch was a short distance above the junction with the South Branch to form the Potomac.
14 Baltimore and Ohio R. E.
Camp near Katletts station
Orange and Alexandria Virginia railroad
May the 20th 1862

My Dear Wife I take the present opportunity to inform you that I am still alive and well and I hope these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. I have not received any letter from you since we started on our march but we are looking for mail to day as we left New Market Monday yesterday day a week ago and we have been marching ever since through the rain and mud without any tents to shelter us. We went on east course from new market and crossed the mountain I forget the name [Massanutten] and we crossed the main Shenandoah river on the south fork it is larger than the north fork that runs up [down] the valley we were in at new market. This valley along the south fork is a very nice country and the woods were green and looked more natural we came through a little town called Leuray [Learay] 14 miles from new market and crossed the first night and 1 mile east of the place next day we traveled about 19 miles and camped it was very warm and some of the Ohio boys gave out the next day we went to front royal only 5 miles it was raining and we camped there 2 nights. I wrote a letter to you there it was raining all the time we were there we had some temporary sheds fixed up to keep some of the rain of we expected to take the cars from there but there was not cars enough on the road to haul us so a Friday morning we started on our way a foot back a south east course we traveled about 10 miles and camped for the night Saturday we went ahead again and crossed the blue ridge and we wound round so much we could not tell which course we came or how far we traveled we passed a little town called flint hill there was a sign up that said blue ridge hotel we passed one very rich mans farm and there was more young negroes about the quarters than there would be pigs and Chickens in our country we come to a pike road there and we had very good roads from there on asunday we came on to warrenton about 12 oclock and we stopped for a while for the 2nd Brigade to go ahead of us they went stopped west of town and the 3rd Brigade east we are in the first Brigade of general shields Division and Kingstons our Brigadier general we passed through the town and there was more negroes looking at us than I ever saw the white folks looked very sulky but our bands plaid hail Columbia Dixy and yankiedoodle and the soldiers cheered heartily and the negroes were more than funny we camped about 5 or 4 miles out of town and monday about 12 oclock we got to this place [Catlett's Station] there was a brigade of soldiers hear just fresh from their home camps from new york and maine they are to join this Division and there is a battery of artillery and some cavalry hear we are about 25,000 strong altogether we are strong enough for any force

15 A town in the Valley of Virginia between Winchester and Staunton.
16 They did not cross the Shenandoah proper but the South Fork of the Shenandoah which runs northward on the east side of and parallel to Massanutten Mountain.
17 The valley drained by the South Fork of the Shenandoah, between Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge.
18 From Rohr at the junction of the forks of the Shenandoah near the north end of Massanutten Mountain. It was a station on the Massanutts Gap R.R., which passed over the Blue Ridge via this Gap and ran eastward to Massanutts Junction.

Documents: Letters of Amory K. Allen

the Seeshe can raise against us and we have a good major general and a good Brigadier general and we are fighting men and if we meet the Seeshe we will make them wish they never had a been born this is a nice place to camp I don't know how long we will stay hear the cars runs from Washington and Alexandria some distance south of hear the road has been tore up by the rebels and is not repaired yet there is some talk of our going to Richmond but I guess the fight will be over before we get there for McClellan will take the town this week I expect though we may move that way or some other for there is no chance of us being idle the mail come but nothing for me I think you have skipped a week how you must right often tell tates and Tom greens folks that they are well and stood the march very well no more at present only remaining yours til death

Amory K. Allen

Camp near rector town va.
May the 29th 1862

My Dear Wife I received your letter of the 15th inst this morning which gave much pleasure hear from you it found me well and hearty and I hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing it is the first letter that I have got from you since we started on our march which was the 12th day of may we have been on the trim ever since we have traveled near 200 miles we went to Fredricksburg on the rapahannock river then we stayed there 3 nights and got orders to march and came right back we did not know what for till we got back to Catlets station we began to hear the news the fact was that as soon as we left the Shenandoah valley old Jackson came back and run [General] banks out and took possession of strasburg and Winchester again and had run some other of new york troops out from front royal and along the manassas railroad and I guess it is in the papers that we were cut off but we are not cut off yet now we are not going to be we went to manassas junction from Catlets station and had orders to go to Alexandria but the order was countermanded and we turned and went towards manassas gap and came through thorough fair gap along the manassas gap railroad and camped hear [Rector Town] last night and we are resting to day it is about 15 or 20 miles from hear to front royal and about 30 to strasburg this railroad runs to strasburg it is about 5 miles from hear to manassas gap the seceshe have burned a bridge some where in hear since they come back but I guess they will not stop us hear long I guess if Jackson dont get out of the Shenandoah valley we will be able to stop him shortly but he is afraid of it it was either [General James Shields] division that whooped him at Winchester before and if we get at him we will give him another thrashing I dont think he would have got to Winchester this time if we had been there he is a fraud of us for he knows we will fight they say he is not afraid of banks and his eastern troops and I expect he can run them any

18 Winchester, in the Valley of Virginia about thirty miles from Harpers Ferry.
19 Strasburg, also in the Valley is about eighteen miles south of Winchester.
20 Whipped was often pronounced as it is here spelled in pioneer families. The oo is sounded as in book in the form whooped.
place but he tried us when banks started east and left us at Winchester but he found out that we was not the running kind so he had to run him self we run him about 80 miles and could not get a fight out of him at no place I dont know how they are getting along I suppose there is some secehs at front royal and there was some New yorkers in hear that run out as we come in and said the secehs was coming but we have not seen any of them yet except a few scouts we took prisoners yesterday that we heard was trying to get away you said it had been a long time since you had got a letter and that it was a long time on the road I think it has been longer since I got one and they had been longer on the road we have not been payed yet I will send you money again when I get my pay it is hard earned but I want you to enjoy it if I cant there is many things that I could spend money for but it is but little enjoyment to me I could spend twice as much as I get and never see any good it done tobacco is very high and some times we are short of provisions and that is all that is necessary for any one to spend money for I could squander all of my money and you would never know what become of it I could tell some story about it and that would be the end of it I wrote a letter to you from front royal as we went along and one at catlets station but I did not get to send it till I got to fredricksburg I sent it and some words in Tates letter to you so no more at present only I remain yours til death Amory K. Allen

Camp near Front Royal Virginia
June the 18th 1862

My Dear Wife I received a letter from you last sunday we was on the road from Louray down hear and I had no chance to write I was very glad to hear from you it had been a long time since I had got a letter from you it was dated may the 25th it was a long time on the road we got hear monday night and camped I got a letter from you yesterday but I had the colic so bad I could not write but I am better this morning only I am little trembly though I think I will be well and stout by tomorrow we are laying in camp resting and getting shoes and cloths and we signed our pay rolls yesterday and we will get our pay to day we will only get 2 months pay now the last of this month there will be 2 months more coming to us I had as soon waited and got it all together as to have it now but it is as good one time as another Just so you have enough to keep you a going which I think you will from this out I hope this will find you and my Dear little Children in good health I have written to you every time we stop long enough to write but we have not stoped more then 2 or 3 days at a place since we leave new market where Capt Brooks and James McIlley left us on the 11th of may we have traveled over 300 miles since we left there we are about 40 miles from new market and about 14 miles east of Strasburg and about 28 miles southeast of Winchester. We have been to Fredricsburg on the rappahannock river and we came back by the way of Manasses Junction and to this place when we got hear as we came back from Fredricsburg we found the secehs hear that had come down the valley after we left and drove our troops out with a hard fight and took possession of the place and had run banks down the valley and went to Winchester and Martinsburg but what we found hear was soon dispursed they heard that shields was coming and they got away from hear as soon as possible our Brigade under Brigadier Gen. Kinbal came in the advance and fired a few shots at them and they set the deys and some cars on fire and left we had but few cavelry with us but Colonel Dorn our artillery man led them and rushed them across the Bridges and saved them from burning and cut of some waggons and took some 150 prisoners and captured our prisoners that was taken when the secehs come down we run them towards Strasburg and we heard fitting that way the next 2 or 3 days we started that way and heard banks had whooped [them] and we turned back and went up this side of the mountain and river the east side and we heard canoading in the other valley 3 or 4 days we went up the east side of the river above Louray and the 4th Brigade went up some 90 miles to post Republic to cut of Jacksons retreat as Fremont [General John C. Fremont] was pitching in to him in the west valley there is a mountain [Massanutten] in the forks of the Shenandoh river that runs from hear up to port republic and there is but one place to cross it and that is east of new market so Jackson went clear above the mountain and burned all the Bridges on the river up to post republic our men got to it and tried to hold it but was entirely overpowered and had to fall back badly whooped for they fought till they were half killed wounded and taken prisoners and if we had have been there we would probably have held the Bridge and Jackson until Fremont could come on to him for he was only one hour behind but there was only apart of the 3 and 4th Brigade of Shields Division there the rest of us was about 12 miles to slow we waited to cover the retreat but Jackson did not come down and we came back to Louray and then down hear and I dont know where we will go next Yours truly Amory K. Allen

We are dressed up to go in town to get our pay I will send you some of my pay the first chance

Camp at Bristow station vi
June the 25th 1862

Dear wife I again take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope this will find you and my little Children enjoying the same blessing. Tate got a letter of the 15th inst.— yesterday evening it stated that you was well and was tired waiting for a letter I am tired of waiting for a letter from you I have wrote 3 and sent to you since I got one from you the last one I sent 10 dollars in to you I sent on the 19th I suppose it will be expressed from Washington to you I want you to write immediately and let me know whether you have got it or not we dont get mail very often and when it does come there is no letter for me in it not one time in ten I had almost

Martinsburg is a town west of Harpers Ferry, north of Winchester, and about eight or ten miles from the Potomac.

New Market is west of Massanutten Mountain in the upper part of the valley of the North Fork of the Shenandoah. It is about fifty miles southwest of Winchester.
got out of all faith in writing I got letters so seldom, but our Drum Major is discharged and is going to start home to Terre-haute to day and he says he will take letters for us and if he don't go through Log-geotse he will mail it to you from some post office on his way and as you are tired of waiting for a letter this is the quickest way I know of getting one to you we are now in camp at Blustow Station on the orange and Alexandria Railroad about 3 miles from Manassas Junction we got hear yesterday evening we have been on the march from front royal for 3 days we are almost worn out tramping around we have been in so much fight lately we were ordered to Richmond and we are on our way but we are so worn out that I think they will surely give us a little rest or take us on the corps but that is not fashionable for we have been traveling right along the rail road for over a month and the cars running and soldiers riding and we walked the whole time we have had very hard fair for the long time—while there in others that have had nothing to do we may rest here or we may not we may go to Richmond or we may not or we may go to Alexandria or the arlington heights or we may not I would not be surprised if we had to go back to the valley of Virginia the Shenandoah valley again for Jackson will be back their again as for going to Richmond I dont hardly think we will get their in time for the fight for McClellans says he will take his dinner there the 4th of July and as for riding we will not be apt to get any till the war is over but I think when Richmond is taken the fighting is about over and indeed I hope it will be soon I long to see the day that I will be at home with you again the way we have been dragged around is enough to ware a mans body and mind and life out it is aggravating enough to ware out the patience of Jobe or any other man tell me green that Tom [Green] is with us and he is able to be about now he is wore out he is not able to do any service for himself or any body else hear and has not been for some time and will not be soon if he don't get better and get rest and a chance to take something to help him he might as well be discharged for he will not do any good without he gets better he will not get stout while he is dragged around with us he is not able to carry his gun and march with us Tate is well no more at present only I remain yours truly Amory K Allen

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Camp near Harrison's Landing
on James River va. July the 9th 1862

My Dear Wife I take this pen in hand this evening to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty thanks be to god for his mercy. I hope this will find you and my dear children enjoying good health I have got out of patience waiting for a letter from you I have not received a letter from you since we left Blustow station on the railroad near Manassas junction I had just wrote one to you from Front royal a few days before that and sent you fifteen dollars in it to you and I have not heard whether you ever got it or not yet I would have wrote to you before now but we were not allowed to send letters from here till now and I dont know whether this will go quick or not but I suppose it will go right away but it has a long and crooked road to travel we are a long ways from Front royal now we left there soon after we got our pay we walked to the Orange and Alexandria railroad and took the cars to Alexandria and we came from there hear by water Alexandria is on the Potomac river about 6 miles below Washington city we saw Washington city it is in plain view of Alexandria we got plenty of whiskey at Alexandria and several of the boys got tolerable high we came on the steam boat Columbia we came down the Potomac to the mouth it emptys in the Chesapeake bay we run in the bay to the mouth of James river and came up it to Harrison's landing about 25 miles below Richmond we lay 2 miles above the landing the night after we got of the boat we was on water 3 days and nights and was out of sight of land on one sid of us as we came through the bay there was a great many vessels to be seen on the water steam ships and ships to run without steam and men or war ships and gun boats and we was on salt water over a day and night we was crowed on the boat and it was very warm but the trip was very interesting we are now in Mc Clellans army it has fell back to this point the secche followed him and fought him on the way but he got the better of them every fight they had the next morning after we landed the secche fired on our pickets and drove them partly in we were put in front and went out some 3 miles and found some secche fought them and drove them back and took a position some 5 miles from the landing built some temporary breast works and lay by them till yesterday evening there was 4 of our regt and 7 of the 4th Ohio wounded in the first days fight 2 of our company George Sholtz with a piece of a shell in the eye and levi Dunlap with a ball of grape shot in the back they were both expected to live the last we heard from them the next day the rebels made an attack on us 6 regiments and failed to drive us in the bay 4 of our regt and after a considerable skirmish went back on their own ground 5 of the 7th Virginia and 2 of our regiment was wounded in the skirmish thomas Nolan of our company was wounded in the hips though not seriously one of the 7 Virginia and one of the 4 Ohio has been buried hear is all that has been killed in the last 5 days skirmishing our men are all healthy we moved back a little and fixed up our tents yesterday evening the secche left last night a negro that got away from them sayed they were going back 12 miles our pickets have been in gun shot and in sight of them til they left after they quit shooting at each other they went close and talked to them and picked blackerry's together tell my green Tom is with us and he is a little better than he has been for some time Tate is well and wood is well and padget and george Fram is well I want you to write to me often the mail has come to us for 5 days and nothing for me

Yours truly Amory K Allen

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At this time McClellan was carrying on his Peninsula Campaign against Richmond.
My Dear Wife I take the opportunity to day to write to you to let you know that I am well and hearty hoping this will find you and my Dear little Children enjoying the same blessing. I received your letter dated the 21st day before yesterday evening from your writing you must have wrote it on the 22nd I received one last Friday evening dated the 20th and wrote an answer to it on Saturday I was so busy yesterday I did not have a chance to write we were drawing new bridge boxes and accouterments and getting some new guns and there was something to do every little bit so I did not write until to day I am on guard but my relief has stood 2 hours and we are relieved and I have just eat my dinner and I have about 3 hours to write and rest before my relief comes on again So hear goes for it as the boy said when he run by himself we had potatoes for dinner and I have a full belly and a strong back we get plenty to eat hear now we get corn meal potatoes and onions this is a great vari[e]ty for us we get fresh and salt beef and salt pork sugar Coffee Molasses and vinegar and the dead ends of Crackers our sutler has got hear and has any quantity of preserves to sell which are very good. there is a powerful sight of soldiers hear there is no telling how many by looking and guessing for you can see no end or side but for all this is a lonesome place for me there is scarcely a woman ever to be seen or any thing else but soldiers there is hardly any houses in this part of the country the house where general Harrison once lived is hear close to the river we are camped about one mile from the river the house where John Tyler lived that got to be president by Harrisons death is not far from hear but I have not seen it yet Tyler is dead now too. it might have been a good thing for this Country if it had been a been Tyler that died in the place of Harrison for I believe this war has been a brewing ever since and everybody knows that Tyler made a poor president and all thought that Harrison would have made a good one and the world has been in an uproar ever since and now it is at a high pitch and if it is pitched much Higher it will pitch clear over we have being laying hear doing nothing for sometime only having reviews and inspections and Drilling I dont know what we are waiting for but I suppose somebody else does so I am content as it is the best way to be thougb[t] this is an awful lonesome place to me there is some talk of their taking us back to the shenandoah valley again this looks to me like foolishness but still I had rather be trotting round there after the rebels than to be laying hear there is better water there than there is hear and I think it is healthier in them parts than it is hear but this is only camp news we have no orders to go any place yet I expect we will leave hear when we get orders and I expect we will go where ever we are ordered to if the order is not countermanded before we get there so you can guess about when we will start and what time we will get there so it is no use for me to write anything about it until after it all happens so I must bring my letter to a close I was surprised to hear that he had got home so soon I wrote you a letter a Sunday after he started and thought it would get there as soon as he would and I wrote another last saturday and named in it that I though tom would get home that day he must have been lucky about getting his pay I expected he would have to stay at washington city all monady to fix his business but I am glad to hear he got home safe any how you said you wanted me to write once a week I think I have wrote twice a week almost so goodly for a while

Amory K Allen

Camp Newport News virginia
August the 24th 1862
My Dear Wife I have the pleasure of writing you a few lines this morning to let you know that I am well and hearty and I hope this will find you and my Dear Children enjoying the same blessing. I received your letter of the 13th last night before last you wrote that the bale was sick and had been ever since you wrote before I am very sorry for him and uneasy about him I wish I could be at home with you but it is impossible for me to come I hope he will get well I trust you will take as good care of him as I could I cannot help you and I dont know what advice to give you only to tell you to do the best you can and that is all that can be done we have been on a march for several days the weather was cool and we stood the march very well last thursday was the warmest day we had the roads were dusty and we almost smothered we came from harrisons Landing by land down to the chickahominy and crossed it on a pontoon bridge and came on by williamsburg and fortifications and battle ground and on through Yorktown and the fortifications there and on down hear at newport news on janes river above fortress Monroe we got hear last Friday and we have been waiting for transportation to take us on we were just 1 week on the march I guess we will leave soon we are to leave as soon as there is boats to take us we will go to join popes [General John Pope] army in the valley if we dont get different orders we will go by water from hear the way we come to Aquia or alexandria somewhere in our old range as the rebels are all gathering in there there will be a big fight there if it is not already over Some of McClellens army has gone there and they are going all the time the whole army is falling back togeather to get strong enough to stop any thing that comes so I must close we have not got our napsacks yet and I have no paper I am yours forever

Amory K Allen

Camp on battle field
Maryland
September 20th 1862
My Dear Wife it is great pleasure to me this morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and well thanks be to god for his tender mercy. I hope these lines will find you and my Dear little Children all well. I dont know what to write to you only that I am glad that I am alive we have had a big battle44 and a hard fight and al most every body is

44 Battle of Antietam, Sept. 17, 1862.
killed or wounded that was in the fight or any where near by. we was in the very heart of the fight our line was some 9 miles long we are in summers corps. Frenches Division and Kimbals Brigade and was in the center of the line and fight I cannot begin to tell you anything about the fight or how many was killed only in our own company we went in to the fight with 37 men and come out with 10 unhurt though there was but 3 or 4 but what was marked in some way in the fight there were 4 killed dead and 2 others missing that we dont know whether they are dead or not Robert Bryant James E. Fadget John Mc Corde and E. S. Tramer was shot dead in the first of the fight. Steve Collins and Wm Lord is missing. Warren Alford we think will die the others we think will get well again some of them are not much hurt I will name some of them Tate was not shot but he got his back hurt in the fight so that he had to be carried off he is getting better Levi Dunlap had just got well and got back in time to go with us in the fight and was wounded again in the foot. Levi read was wounded in the ankle. George Boner was wounded in the knee Isaac crm in the arm. Edgar Hall in the arm they think he will lose his arm. Isaac Hutton in the ankles and there was 8 of the last recruits we got west in the fight with us and 5 of them got wounded the rest I need not name they will all write to their friends shortly there was a great many of our company left behind sick and barefooted that was not in the fight at all they have about all got hear now Capt Houten was wounded in the arm and is not able to be with his men but Hopkins is orderly sergeant now and is the highest officer with us and has charge of the company we have about 80 men to day. Hutton Back and Borney Berry are both behind sick we have marched along ways since I wrote to you before I could not tell you where all but we came from Virginia to Maryland about 10 miles above Washington and marched up to Frederick city and we began to find where the Secesh has been and was in hearing of the cannon and we came in to the mountains and on last sunday we were in sight of the fight we got a great many prisoners and killed a great many more and routed the enemy completely we marched on through the battle ground next day and followed the rebels close skimming with them all along within about 2 miles of this place and on Wednesday morning the 17th inst. we went in to the fight was awful [Battle of Antietan] we fought for 4 hours and got out of ammunition and shot away all that the dead and wounded had left and held our position and drove the enemy we are camped to day near the battlefield the rebels have left our forces are following them up I suppose they have crossed the river in to Virginia not far from Harpers ferry about 5 miles from hear So no more only I was in the fight and was not hurt good by

Amory K. Allen

Camp near Harpers Ferry virginia
October the 15th 1862

My Dear Companion I take my pen in hand this morning to inform you that I am well at present hoping this will find you and my Dear little Children enjoying good health. I received your letters yesterday evening one dated the 15th of September just one month ago to day the other September 28th they have been a long time on the road they were sent to Washington and stoped there for us to get settled before they were sent to us we never get any mail when we are on a march or expecting a fight but we have been hear ever since the 22nd of Sept. and we have never got any mail since we started to drive the Secesh out of Maryland until a few days ago. I have been aggravated half to death about the mail being so long behind times and nothing to hinder us from having it only the neglect of some of our leaders to attend to it. the mail comes from there hear now in about 4 days and I hope I will hear from you soon again I had almost got out of all hopes of writing any more or getting any more letters from you I wrote a letter to you from the battle field of Antietem creek and capt. Houghten went home from there and Clem Riley went from hear since we came hear and I knew that you had heard from us and knew where we was but I thought the time long waiting to hear from you I havent heard from you for so long before this that I have wore the letters out I believe the last I got was in August about the time Dobbs company was starting out and it is now about 3 weeks since the date of your latest letter I have no good news to tell you we are in camp at Harpers Ferry and we may stay hear all winter this is an important point and there will be some soldiers stay hear as this place is not to be give up again I dont know whether they will let us stay hear or not there is a report going in camp that governor Mortan is trying to get us to come home to rest and recruit this winter but I dont suppose they will let us stay any where as long as we can raise 10 men that can drag one foot after the other our regiment is small now you wanted to know who messed with me now my mess is about played out when we first started out we were formed in messes of 6 men in a mess. I had C. Walls, A. W. Love, Thomas Green, J. B. Padget, and Thomas A. Wood for messmates and new out of the 6 there is but one left that is Thomas A. Wood him and I am in only 2 left of the old mess. Walls cut his arm and was Discharged at Cheat Mountain. Love was Discharged at Huttanville on account of sickness and Thomas Green was Discharged at Harrisons Landing wore out and J. B. Padget was killed in the battle of Antietem on the 17th of Sept. Wood is hear now he was not in the Battle he was behind with the sick and barefooted he is well and hearty now though he has been sick several times and left behind. I am the only one that has not been at hospital I have never been left behind yet I have been in every fight and on every march that the regiment has had since we started out and have never rode or had my nose pick hauled on account of sickness I have been very lucky and fortunate I have been through seven engagements with the enemy and have not been hurt though it does not look like I could come through it again for I was right in the face of the enemy at Winchester my canteen was shot off and in the battle of Antietem I was color guard and color Bearer a good part of the time the color Bearer handing them to me to hold while he was helping his wounded and dying friends off [of] the field the colors is always a mark to shoot at and the color bearers is almost sure to get
shot but our flag is bound to wave I was not touched only by a small piece of a shell that dropped on me doing no injury there was 6 of us color guards and out of the 4 of us was shot 2 of them are dead the other 2 I don’t know whether they are living or not one of them was Abe Howard he was shot right by my side and died the same night I was very sorry to see him fall I could no nothing for him only wish him well he appeared well satisfied and I trust he is at rest he was a good and a brave soldier he fought bravely and fired some 100 rounds before he was shot we fought side by side and spoke to each other in time of the fight he was a shore shot on the secehs at a time when I was a holding our colors he spoke to me and said he was going to try the secehs colors a pop and he pulled off and away enough they I a seceh was shot up if she pulled trigger on him we had a hard fight of it I hope with the colors did not know much about our company until the fight was over and it was awful J B Padget R Bryant John Mc Cord Ed Frainer killed and most of the rest wounded J W Alford has since died he only lived a few days and Steven H Collins and William Lloyd I suppose was both killed we have not heard anything of them since the fight Boliver Gold and R Conolly are both hear well and hearty it is not worth while for me to write the names of all the wounded now as I suppose all their friends have heard from them before now so I will tell you about my messmates now my mess was No 13 at first and when we got the sibly tents last winter at north branch the bridge the company was formed in 5 messes a mess[es] to each tent we had about 15 in a mess my mess was No 1 and after we give up our big tents we got the little shelter tents they are about 2 yards square we divided our big messes in to messes of 2 and 3 in a mess and mess No one is divided round since padget was killed Tate and me mess[es] together Thomas A Wood and Thomas Clements together and S Nicholas and long together Wallace and Bussinger george 2 room and westover together and H F Hopkins and Chas Gibson together we are all well except Tate he has the flux and is puny the seceh are at Winchester and Martinsburg our pickets and theirs come close together we may have another big fight in these parts so no more at present only I remain yours Amory K Allen

Harpers Ferry virginia
November the 1st 1862

My Dear Wife I take the present opportunity to let you know how I am to day I have not been well for sometime the Regiment Marched from hear day before yesterday and I did not feel able to march and carry my load so I stayed hear with the sick I have had the dysentery and have been passing some blood I am able to up and walk about but I am not very stout and I saw that as long as one would go he might so I thought I would stop hear until I get stout again I dont know where the regiment is gone they crossed the Shenandoah river and went towards Leesburg25 the most of the soldiers that was hear left and

25 Leesburg is east of the Blue Ridge and a little south of the Potomac, nearly twenty miles from Harpers Ferry.

others have come hear since I suppose there is a big move on hand they took every thing with them they will not be back hear any more I dont suppose they will have to hunt Winter Quarters or get the sibley tents and stoves again for it is cold now to be out in the open world I would not be surprised if we had another battle for our men will march on when they get in the notion and I believe the notion is a coming and the mister secehs had better be crawling back a little faster or they will be caught I received a letter from you 3 days ago it was dated the 21st of October it had a letter in it from Emily Houts I am very glad you sent it I was glad to hear from you and them and to hear that you was all well you said you had not got but one letter from me since the battle I have wrote 2 and this makes 3 I wrote one from the Battle field and one from hear I have been looking for an answer to the last one for several days but when I got your letter I was surprised to think you had not got it yet I dont know what makes letters go so slow it is no use of writing when they dont go I have been out of all heart about writing I got a letter the other day from you dated the 24th of August this is the way your letters comes to me I got 2 others at once one was dated the 15th september and the other the 28th and I wrote an answer to it as soon as I got it and it has been long enough for you to have got it before you wrote on the 21st of October I hope you have got it before now I wrote to you in it about selling the cow I had forgot to say anything about it in my letters before I wrote to you to sell her if you could get any thing for her for you might need what you could get for her to live on and I expect you will it has been so long since I sent you any money to use

November the 2nd 1862 good morning.

Capt Houghton got hear yesterday and I was anxious to see him before he went on to the regiment so that I put my writing aside when I heard of him and put out to hunt him up I found him and had a chat with him and did not get back in time to finish my letter so I am at this morning I feel tolerable well this morning and I think I will be able to go on to the regiment soon Capt Houghton is hear yet he is going to the regiment with the sutler or with the ambulance train we were just as proud to meet as Brothers he thinks a great deal of me in fact he thinks well of all the boys but more especially those that was in the fight and stood up to the work him and I was about the last to come of the field me carrying the colors and using my gun both he is going to make me a sergeant now that will add 3 dollars a month to my wages so I am raising a little this will help me and you along some they say a child must crawl before they walk I think that I have been along time a crawling but perhaps I may learn to walk yet if I dont it shall not be my fault the capt thought strange to see me behind and it is no wonder for I have always been on hand with him and the company before they dont know what it is to go without me I have been the main stay well I wrote in my other letters to you to get another house to live in where you can have some peace and get away from the Devilish Children of Williamses I dont want you to be bothered with any bodys Children but my own and I want you to take good care of
them and keep them away from such Devilish Children as much as possible and learn them to be Smart Children that will be a pleasure instead of a trouble. I have not anything more to write at present. I hope you will get this soon and I hope it will find you well and that you will be satisfied about me. I expect to write to you often and if you don't get my letters I cant help it. I have plenty of good warm cloths for the winter and I allow to try to take care of myself as much as possible. I would give anything to be with you. I hope we shall be together again the hopes of a better day is all that keeps me alive. I could not live a day if I thought I would never see you and my Children any more though the chance looks slim but I trust that God will bring me safe home to you again our time is half gone if we stay 3 years but I believe that 3 months more will about close the war day before yesterday was muster day there is 4 months pay coming to us now and I think we will get our pay in a short time and I will send you money as soon as I get it. Write soon. Direct to the regt. as usual Amory K. Allen

New Camp of Convalescents
near Fort Barnard Virginia
January the 8th 1863

My Dear Companion. I received a letter from you to date dated Dec 26th 1862—your Christmas gift was a Christmas gift to me for I have been looking for a letter ever since before Christmas and got none til to day. You said you got one from me on the 23 ult and wrote one and started it to me. It has not found me yet nor any other. I think I ought to have 3 or 4 by this time. I have written several since I came to this Camp and this is the 2nd one that I have got. I wrote one to you since I came to this new Camp and I have been looking for an answer to that for several days there may be some thing in the way you back your letters this one come hear after so long a time it was backed to Alexandria M. D. I am in Virginia. Camped near Fort Barnard 4 miles from Washington District Columbia. This lacks some of being in Maryland. I see the backing is not your hand write. I think you can do better than that yourself and not direct a letter to Maryland when you want it to go to Virginia. I wrote in my other letter about our Camp being moved from near Alexandria up to near Fort Barnard Virginia and how to direct letters—hear I am hear yet and I don't know when I will get away. They are examining men all the time hear and are discharging some but it is a slow business hear to get any thing at all if you want to get rations, letters Medicine or examination we have to fall in line and wait till our turn comes. There is a long line at the post office all the time and go when you will it takes about half a day or more to get up to the window and then if it is dinner time or near night the hole will be shut on you and you will have to try it over again we call our selves lucky if we get to the hole at all. It is almost the same way at the Board of examiners the Dutchman that tents with me is waiting his examination to day and it is cold to be out standing around he says he will [al]most frese to die [day] he is weekly. I expect he will get a discharge though it appears like they discharge who they please sick or well. Wm. H. Crays and Thomas Berry is hear and tents with me yet they are able to be about. Tom is going to try to get a discharge he is weak in the back from his wound and he is likely to get a discharge I suppose. But as far as I know Capt Houghton will be there before gets there and Kimbal is there before now they was all wounded at Fredricksburg. Hopkins is at the Hospital at Washington, D.C. badly wounded in the side and there was some of the company killed and missing that I had not heard of till a day or so ago. L. Witchen and James Wallace was killed. Wm Gilkerson missing with others. George Sutton a recruit was killed. I forget the report but I suppose you have saw it in the papers before now or heard more about it than I have. Well I have not got any pay yet and I cannot send you any money. I have gathered rags and sold enough to buy my Tobacco. I think we will get our pay in a short time next there is 6 months pay coming to us now. I dont suppose we will be paid hear til the regiment is paid and then the pay master will come hear or we can go to him and get our pay I will send you some as soon as I get my pay. I have no Christmas gift to send you now but when I get my money it will be a Christmas and new years gift altogether. So be patient and do the best you can and live in hopes that there is a better day a coming when I will be at home again in peace and liberty. We had a dark dull Christmas and a warm bright New Year's. Hear the weather has been very warm for winter weather hear we have had scarcely any snow or freezing weather hear this winter there was a woman hear from Michigan a new year. She had crout and pickles giving to the soldiers. I got a little of her crout and a little white handkerchief and a drawing of tea that was very good. Well I must close my letter. I have just been and got a shirt and a pair of drawers and will get a pair of shoes and socks in the morning. They are sanitary clothing and are sent hear by the state for free distribution. This will be a little of the many things that are sent to the soldiers. That I have got for the first time I suppose you have as full is I have the western army is fighting again I hope they will be victorious. I suppose you hear plenty of talk about the free negroes. I dont know how the folks like it nor dont hear if it will only bring the war to an end any sooner. I am like the fellow that got his house burned by the guerillas he was in for emancipation subjugation extermination and hell and damnation. We are in for anything to beat the south. So no more only I still remain yours till death.

Direct to New Camp of convalescents near Fort Barnard Virginia
Washington, D. C. Amory K. Allen

New Camp of Convalescents
near Fort Barnard Virginia
Jan the 25th 1863

My Dear Companion I received your letter of the 15th day before yesterday. I was glad to hear from you. It has been a good while since

— Fredericksburg, south of Washington on the Rappahannock. The Battle of Fredericksburg was fought on Dec. 13, 1862.
I got a letter from you before it stated that you had wrote to me on the 5th inst. I have not got it yet I got one dated Dec 15th 62 and one December 26th 62 and this one of Jan 15th 63. makes 3 letters in all that I have got for over a month I got one from you in the old camp near Alexandria I have only got 4 in all since I left the Regt at Harpers Ferry I have wrote some 6 or 8 to you since that time I was try to get to go to Washington to get my pay but the rain stope us from going and yesterday there could be no passes got the paymasters have gone out to pay the army in the field and they are to pay the troops hear when they come back so we will have to wait till they come and I thought I would answer your letter to day and let you know what I was doing it has been raining hear all this week till yesterday it cleared off and is fine and warm to day Leevi Dunlap got hear day before yesterday from Hospital at Philadelphia he has got well of his wounds but he is in bad health and is a going to try to get a discharge hear there is a great many being discharged hear every day and the board of examiners is crowded all the time there is a great many hear that has being try to get examined for 2 or 3 weeks and cant get in there is citizens hear getting their friends discharged they are mostly from the eastern States and they manage to get them in and examined first and the western men that has nobody to do any thing for them stand a bad chance to get any thing done for them until the others get through there is so many trying to get discharged that there is nothing else talked about I dont know whether I could get a Discharge or not or whether I could stand soldiering any more or not I thought I would be examined any how before I go to the regiment and if they give me a discharge I will come home and if not I will try the trapany again and see how I will come out I dont suppose I could get a furlough they only give fur- loughs to them that is wounded so you need not look to hard for me to come home now for fear you may be disappointed but I hope the time will soon roll round that will bring me home with you again we stay in tents hear yet and sleep on the ground the eastern troops have most all gone in to Barricks we are to move in to Barricks next monday it will be better living in the Barricks they will be dry and warmer and off the ground I may get better in such a place I am about as hearty as ever I was but I am not stout and can not stand hardships like I use to stand them but I may get stout again if I had a good chance I am not in a suffering condition. I hope this will find you and my Dear little Children in good health and in good condition I am glad you have got a comfortable house to live in you must try and hire your wood chopped it is to much for you to have to chop wood and attend to your children and you cannot chop your wood without neglecting the children you said you had not got Thomas Green to chop some for you and you can get him to chop more and tell him he will be sure to get his pay whatever he charges he knows something about soldiering and how the pay comes and he knows what is right so keep in good heart and every thing will come out right yet yours for ever Amory K. Allen

Documents: Letters of Amory K. Allen

Camp near Falmouth V. A.
March the 6th 1863

My Dear Companion I take the present opportunity to let you know that I am well at present hoping these few lines will find you and my Dear little Children all in good health. I got to the Regiment hear on the 28th ult. I was 2 days on the way I came down the potomac on a steam boat to Aquia creek and on the cars from there to Falmouth things is all upside down hear and I have been busy getting the run of things and I have not had a chance to write to you until now. Capt. Houghten is hear and he is Major of the Regiment Sergt. Samuel Nicholas is acting first lieutenant Sergt. Charles Gibson has gone home on a furlow and I am acting orderly sergt of the company I dont know how we will be placed exactly but Barny Berry resigns he is at home yet and I guess he will not come back then I suppose Charley Gibson will be 2nd Lieut and I or Levi Dunlap will be orderly sergt but Dunlap is at the convalescent camp yet and I think he will be Discharged he has the Dispepsia very bad and he is not able for duty Hopkins will be our captain when he gets well enough and gets back but he is not likely to be well enough to stand the service. Lieutenant Hattenback has got his Discharge and left for home he will be at Loogotice in a short time and will be there for some time to gain his health he resigned on account of his health he said he would call and see you while he was there he is a small man and a very nice man and a geman and talks very polite or try to he always had a very good opinion of me I don’t know whether you can understand him well enough to have any satisfaction or not but he is so well acquainted with me that you will not be anyways strange to him or him to you so you can make free with your Conversation with him without being anyways bashful they are giving the men 15 days furlow and allow 5 men to go at a time I dont know what time I could get to come home but it would be some time yet there is several before me and the time is so short that I dont know whether to try to get a furlow or not yet it would cost me about 40 Dollars to go and come and the money will be needed other ways I have not got any money to send you the boys have spent all their money and there is none in the company we think we will get paid about the middle of this month I hope you will not suffer before I get my pay and if I dont come home I will send you what money you need I cant tell any thing about what we are agoing to do hear we had a review to day and that is some sign of a movement we stand picket on one side of the river [Rappahannock] and the secsh on the other in plain sight and Neville distance I want you to write often I wrote to you before I started to the regt but I guess you have not had time to answer it yet Direct your letters to Company C 14th Regt. Ind. vol. army of the potomac Va. So nonsore at present only I remain your faithful husband till death Amory K. Allen

27 Falmouth, on the north side of the Rappahannock a few miles above Fredericksburg.
Camp near Falmouth, Virginia  
March 19th, 1863

My Dear Companion, I take the present opportunity to answer your letter of the 13th inst. that Charles Gibson brought to me. He got here yesterday, he was one day behind time, but he is all right now. He said he went to your house and stayed some 2 hours with you. He said there was 2 little Children there you called mine and he guessed they were that they looked like me very much and especially their curly hair and he said there was a mighty good looking girl there. I suppose it was Sis*, he asked me how old you was, he supposed that you was older than I am. I told him that I was a little the oldest when I left home but I hardly knew which was the oldest now. I have been minding peart and kept myself clean and I suppose he thinks I am as young as any of the boys soldiering. Charles says he had a fine time while he was at home. He says he had to kiss most every woman he met and old and young. Charly says it cost him about 50 dollars but he don't begruge it, of course money is no object to him his father has plenty to give him when he gets out.

Well I wrote a letter to you a few days after Charly started home that you said you got just before he started back and after you had writ the most of the one he brought I wrote my opinion about furlows in it and I got one [letter] from you on the 15th dated the 9th inst and I wrote an answer to it and said I thought I would try to get a furlow and come home if I could and I am of the same opinion yet but it will be a good while before I get one if I get one at all you must keep in good spirits. I will come if I can and I think I will stand a good chance if we don't get in to active movements or engagements with the enemy so that the furlows will be stopped which I expect will be done when we get in to active operations but if I don't get to come home this spring I think I will get to come in the fall and get to stay longer than I thought if I was to come now so keep in good heart and don't never give up for the worst. I have the likenesses you sent me yet and I think it is the prettiest little family that could be. I hope the time will soon come that I can be with you. You are ever in my mind. I would give anything in my possession to be with you but I am in the service of my country and I will serve it faithfully and do my duty and if I never see you more I will do nothing that will disgrace you or my Children or my people state or government and if I should live I expect to serve my time there and come home manly and with honor to myself and country honorably. Discharged and I hope to live in peace and comfort the rest of my days and I shall never be ashamed or afear to see or be seen by any body well I have just been out on Battalion Drill. Samuel Nicholas is on piquet guard to day and I have full command of the company to day as Gibson has a blister on his heel and has not went on duty to day. I have full command of the company and every thing to attend to and it is most mail time so I must close my letter and fix for dress parade. It is right cold to day we are all getting along well. We had some Skirmishing on our right flank day before yesterday and our men took some of the rebels in. I don't know the particulars as it was some miles up the river. We heard the cannons firing there was a great time in the Irish Brigade on the 17th racing horses and women riding races and a big fun generally. Charly brought a letter for tate but he is not hear and I have not heard from him for some time. George Fain is well. I am well and hearty thanks to go for his mercy and I hope this will find you and my Dear little Children all enjoying the same blessing. The pay master has not come yet, we are still looking for him every day so no more at present. I still remains yours till death.

Sergt. Amory K. Allen
Co. C, 14th Regt.
Ind. Vol.
Army of the Potomac

Camp near Falmouth, Va.
April 2nd, 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your letter of the 25th yesterday evening which gave me much satisfaction to hear that you and my Dear little Children was all well and I now take pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty hoping when this reaches you it may find you enjoying the same blessing. I am in good spirits. I think we will come out right. The boys are mostly all well and lively. Governor Morton was hear to see us the other day and made us a short speech. He said he thought the war would soon be over and that we would all soon get to come to our homes and that we would be received with the highest honors possible. He said we had went through more than any other Regt that he knowed of, but he thought the embraces of our relations and the blessings and sympathies of friends would pay us for all. He said he thought that the old regiments would be filled up with drafted men and let the old officers and soldiers learn them how to soldier and that suits us exactly for men that have stayed at home. This long has not right to be an officer of any kind, they need old soldiers over them to make them soldier and I wish they would send them right out at once there is some that has been a pitying the south and they will find out that they had better pitty their own selves before they get through yet they don't think there is a war or a government or soldiers out fighting and suffering and dying for their country but they will find out and the sooner the better for the war is going to go on through till the Rebellion is put down. Well you said Hattenback had got to Logootee and was in good health. I am glad to hear he is well. Tell him that I am in his place—the place that he stood when we first started out—that is first sergeant that is the place I hold now. Hopkins is to be our cap but he has not got hear yet. Nicholas first Lieut. and C Gibson 2nd Lieut. Levi N. Dunlap will be orderly sergt of the company. He is hear and he is trying to get his discharge. He has the same complaint that Hattenback had. He is not able to do duty and I don't know whether he will be discharged or not. It is hard work to get a discharge hear now if he is discharged I will be first sergeant that would help me some. I would get 20 Dollars per month and I now get 17 Dollars per month.
will draw Sergt pay since the Battle of antietam give my best respects to all enquiring friends we expect to move in a short time I dont know whether I will get a furlow or not

Yours truly Sergt A. K. Allen

the pay master has not come yet I will have plenty of money when I get my pay keep in good heart and the good time will come I have not heard any thing from tate for a long time I cant tell where he is

April 19th 1863

Camp near Falmouth Va.

My Dear Companion I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty hoping this will find you and my Dear little children all enjoying the same blessing I received your letter of the 12inst. yesterday evening just as we were going out on dress parade the parade was soon over and I hastened to read your letter it give me great satisfaction to hear that you was all well and I hope you will keep in good spirits and that your hopes and wishes will be rewarded soon I received a letter from vester that he wrote while you was there but I have received none from John I answered vesters letter a few days ago I wrote a letter and sent to you by J. C. Williman he left hear last sunday on a furlow and I suppose he got to Logootee by wednesday we got marching orders about the time I wrote to vester but we have not marched yet we have 8 days ration on hand we have 5 days packed in our napsacks and have orders to keep that much in them all the time ready to march all the time so we may march to day may be to morrow may be not for weeks but there is going to be some thing done soon you need not be surprised to hear of a big Battle about Fredericksburg in a short time and that our side will gain the victory for everyone thinks we will whip out this time easy we are going to fight them any way and no dout there will be a great many lives lost this is certain to be the case with both sides we have a large army hear and it is in good trim for fighting and they all like General Hooker [Joseph E. Hooker] first rate they think he will do them justice he has fed them well all winter ever since he took command of the army we have had soft Bread and onions and potatoes most of the time and the men think their general hears something for them and they dont dread to go in to a fight under him this makes a great difference with men about fighting they must like their general or they will not fight for him so I think we will make a good fight of it when we get at it and we are going at it and we are going to fight they call our general fighting Jo. so he must be a fighter I am going to take things as they come and if it comes my turn to fight I am going to do it on the square I am not going to show my back to Rebels if I should happen to fall it will be no Disgrace to my country or people but I hope and trust I will come out safe as I have before and I have no doubt or fears of being killed though there is no telling who will fall in battle so I must close we are still looking for

the pay master George fraim is well and sends his respects to all enquiring friends we have heard nothing of Tate hear I am very sorry for Mrs. Drum's trouble so no more at present only I still remain your affectionate husband

Amory K. Allen

Camp near Falmouth Va.

May the 26th 1863

My Dear Companion

I received your letter of the 17th inst yesterday I was glad to hear that you was all well I am well and hearty an in good heart and I hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing I wrote to you a few days ago and sent you 25 dollars in the letter I hope you will get it I would have sent you more but I was afraid to risk much in a letter and I will have a chance to send you some more soon I think that waggoner of our company will start home on a furlow about the last of this month and I will send you some by him when he goes home he will go right to Logootee and will take the money safe we are still in camp and we are expected to stay hear along time so I dont think we will have much marching to do this summer or much fighting unless the rebels come across the river our men are giving them fits in the south and south west I dont know what will turn up but I think we will soon whip them all out before a great while we are getting them in a bad fix well I tave not much to write to you I suppose you have heard from george E. Fraim before this time we got a few lines from him since I wrote my last and I suppose he has written home before now but I will state a part of his letter he wrote that he was taken prisoner on the morning of the 6th inst which was the morning the army fell back across the river and was [G. E. Fraim] marched to richmond and kept there some days and was paroled and sent to our lines and went to annapolis Maryland he is a paroled prisoner he is not yet exchanged but I see in the papers that they are exchanging prisoners that was taken in that fight and probably he will be exchanged right away and come right back to the regt but if he is not exchanged he will stay at the paroled prisoners camp and probably will get to go home and stay awhile he was well and he is all right any way he is safe out of the Rebels hands and in the care of the United States Government. Since the Battle19 I have been Messing with Thomas A. Wood, and Thomas Clements. I was acquainted with them both before I left home and I suppose that you know them both Clements got a letter from his sister yesterday she wrote that she heard that he was among the missing but he is hear with me and him and wood is both well I suppose he will write home soon his sister wrote to him that she went to about 3 dances a week some times and to one every week I would like to be at home at a nice dance very well my self I dont know when I will get to come but I am going to come as soon as I can and I hope that will be soon I would like to be at home dance or no dance if I could get to see you and the Children it would be dance enough for me you wrote to me some

19Chancellorsville. This battle covered the period from May 1 and May 2 and was fought south of the Rappahannock, a few miles west of Fredericksburg.
time ago about wanting me to get my likeness taken with my uniform on. I have had no chance until now, there is a chance of getting it taken near from our camp so I think I will have one or two taken. I think and send home. I expect I look just about the same as ever. I hope that you will get to see my natural face before another year. Well I have nothing of more importance. I will just say that we get plenty to eat out sutler has butter to sell at 60 cts per lb. and eggs at 5 cts a piece cheese 40 cts per pound so if a man wants to spend his money it won't take him long to do it. A soldier will give any price for anything he wants though his money is earned by the hardest so no more at present.

yours truly Amory K. Allen

Camp near Falmouth Va
June the 3rd 1863

My Dear Companion

I take my pen in hand this morning to let you know that I am well and stout and hearty and I hope when this reaches you it will find you and my Dear little Children all enjoying the same blessing. I received your letter of the 20th ult. stating that you had got a letter with 25 Dollars that I sent you which I was very glad to hear. I hope it will help you along for a while you must be as saving as you can. If I get to come home it will cost a good little pile of money but I don't expect I will come soon they have changed the furlows and only give them 5 days now instead of 15 so that would not give me time enough to come home and get back and I will not pretend to come home so short a furlow I think they will give longer ones after awhile again. Lieutenant Nicholas has gone home on 15 day furlow waggoner did not get to start before the time was changed and he is not going to take a day furlow. I jumped Rogers over Dunlap and me both it may all come right but live close enough to go and get back in the time Nicholas said he would try to go to loosootee and if he does he will be apt to call and see you the company bought him a fine sword and presented to him before he started home he is quite a fine man and makes a good officer. He will be our Captain when he returns. Rogers 1st Lieutenant and Levi N. Dunlap 2nd Lieut. and I suppose I will be orderly sergeant. I would have been Lieutenant now if the right thing had been done but they jumped Rogers over Dunlap and me both it may all come right but there is one thing certain I think that the boys will never buy Rogers a sword they all despise him and they don't like Houghten neither he was the cause of rogers being jumped. Neither of them would ever get a vote from company C for any office. This is something they will never forget through life. They all think well of Hopkins and Nicholas and they all thought well of Gibson and would go their bottom dollar on either of them and will for ever hear after do anything in their power but the way things stand now it will be right to the reverse with Houghten and Rogers and I guess they know it and I think they both hate themselves for they can't blame the company for it is all right. It would take at least a dozen such Majors as houghten to impeach their character there is but few of us but we are mostly all very powerful men there are 4 medals to be given to each camp for bravery and good soldiery to 4 of the best men. I suppose that I will get one of them as I have been in the most battles and stood the longest they can't well get round it. Well I must close for this time we are still laying in camp and no sign of moving I don't think for a while I will send you more money before long if I don't get to come home I got a letter from Emily Houts a few days ago they was all well I still remain yours truly Amory K Allen

Camp on Elkurn Va.
August the 10th 1863

My Dear Companion

I received your letter of the 2nd last evening and was very glad to hear from you and hear that you was well. I am sorry to hear that George is so puny but I hope he will soon get stout and hearty. I am glad you got my letter of the 20th July with the 10 Dollars in it. I marched 3 or 4 days with it in my pocket after I had wrote it before I got to send it and I got a letter from you the next day or so after I started it to you which stated you had got the one that I wrote from Maryland with 10 Dollars in it and I wrote another to you about the same time that I suppose you have got before this time. We have been hear in Camp ever since the 1st inst. and we are taking a good rest we have not much to do only cleaning our camp ground the weather is very warm do not seem that we could stand to march at all now but we have marched when the weather was as hot as it is now this last campaign was the hardest and longest we ever had we marched about 400 miles almost without stopping a day and not much more than stopping a night we was all the time from the 14th of June when he left Falmouth till we camped hear in a continual strain and hurry if we slept any we would have no time to cook and if we cooked we had no time to sleep we never knew what minute we would get in to a fight or have to pick up and start on a march day or night there was a great many that give out on the march and some fell dead on the road marching along and several were sunstruck or overheat so that they will never get over it. Our campaign was a very hard one but I think it has done a great deal towards ending the war therefore I do not begrudge my tramp I stood tolerable well as well as the best of them. I was never behind. there was not many knapsacks or woolen blankets carried through the road was strewn with blankets and clothing I carried no blankets but I carried my knapsack with a shirt and portfolio some paper your likeness and some little trinkets and a frying pan the whole route most of the people in Maryland was friendly to us and would give us bread milk and butter some without pay also in Pennsylvania we got things to eat the cherries and dewberries was just ripe and were thick all over this whole country and the women baked pies and sold them to the soldiers from 10 to 25 cts per pie. I suppose you have heard all about the battle long before now.
our wounded are getting well you say you saw Capt. Nicholas passing through town he is having a fine time but it costs him a pile of money he would not have got to go home if he had not have been wounded there is no furlows allowed now only in cases of disability for service but the time is getting nearer all the time and if I dont get to come home before my time is out I will not have to pay for it and I will have a good long furlow when I do come well I must close Rogers commands the Company Dunlap has his commission as 2nd Lieut and I am orderly or first sergeant we have got 2 months pay since we stoped hear and all have plenty of money I will send you a little change in this letter I am well and I hope this will find you and my Dear Children all enjoying the same blessing your husband Amory K. Allen

Camp Elk Run Virginia
August 14th 1863
My Dear Wife I take pleasure this morning to write you to answer your kind letter of the 7th Inst. which I received before last it gave me great satisfaction to hear that you and my Dear little Children are all a living. I am well and hearty and I hope these lines will find you all enjoying the same blessing I am sorry the Children are so pany but I hope they will soon get stout and healthy again. the weather is so hot that it is very hard on weakly Children. the best way to stand hot weather is to keep away all the filth of every description and keep perfectly clean and keep as cool as possible in the freshest air that can be had and use moderate diet and not overload the stomach with unwholesome food and not drink too much cold water at a time when a person is warm if all these things is noticed particular and carefully attended to it would be of much benefit to the general health of all persons particular in hot weather these rules is followed closely in the army when we are in camp all litter and trash is cleaned away and all scraps of meat bones and such like are taken away and burned or buried it is bound to be done there is so much filth about a camp where so many soldiers are that we could not live if we were not cleaned up therefore it is cleaned thoroughly every day regular and the men have to keep their cloths clean and their bodies too and their heads combed our army is quite healthy hear now and I believe it is a general thing all over the whole union Army in all climates land and water according to all accounts in the newspapers we are in camp yet taking things easy as possible we get papers every day I seem from the papers that Grant’s Army is getting furlows since the taking of vicksburg I see that Kimbal and General Sullivan has a furlow and have gone home to Indiana they are old virginia c Roxies Sullivan was col. of the 13 th Ind. and Kimbal Col. of the 14th Ind regiments when they first started out 2 of the best Regiments in the united States Service we done such good fighting that the Colonels were both made generals and sent west they are both good fighting men they will have a good time in Ind. I reckon there are no furlows given from this army we are to weak to spare any men at present the way we are placed we are holding a large scope of country and

our lines are long and have to be guarded closely to prevent our supplies from being interrupted though I dont think we will do anything only hold what we have got for awhile the most of the Regts are going to be filled up with drafted men we are looking for the men now they have been gone after them some 2 weeks I dont know what they will do with our regt though I suppose they will consolidate it in to about 4 companys and muster the rest of the officers out as they are not drafting enough men in Ind. to fill up the Ind. regts. I dont know who will be mustered out Nicholas has a commission for capt and Rogers for 1st Lt. and Dunlap for 2nd Lt. and I am first sergt. but they have refuses(d) to muster the men on these last commissions and ordered the men to take their former positions and so it stands yours till death Amory K. Allen

our army will be strong when the conscripts all get here there is some of them coming now Camp on Governors Island New York Harbor August 25th 1863 My Dear Wife I take the present opportunity to inform you that I am alive and well and hearty hoping these lines will find you and my Dear little Children all enjoying the same blessing I have not had a letter from you for some time but we have moved our washing and I thought I would not wait any longer for a letter so I thought I write and let you know where was and where I am stopping at present we are in New York Harbor on Governors Island we are surrounded by water and ships and boats are running all around us the time there is about 30 acres of land in hear that we are on and large vessels run all round us by water it is about ½ mile across the water to New York city and we are in plain view of the city with the exceptions of the ship rigging that is crowded around that partly hides it from us New York city is to the east of us and the city of Brooklin is to the South of us and Jersey city is to the north of us and Camden New Jersey is to the west of us so we can see a town any way that we look and we cant go to any of them without crossing water and deep water at that Brooklin is partly built in the water it is but a short distance from our Island to Brooklin Jersey city is upwards of one mile and Camden is some 2 miles away this is a pleasant place we have a cool breeze hear all the time and very good water to drink there is ships and boats and vessels of all kinds steaming and sailing through the harbor all the time there is a camp meeting across in Jersey and there is steamboats going in and coming all the time I have not been across to the city yet since we landed hear but we expect to go to the city in a few days on duty in the city of new york we can get a pass to go over and stay all day in the city for pleasure and pastime we are all very proud of our situation though we are not fixed up very well yet though we will have a right fine time hear if we get to say hear very long there is several of the old regts of the army of the potomac hear I suppose to rest some and to keep down the rioters in new york while the Draft is going on and I think that us being hear will keep the peace without having to use any
rough means but if there should be any disturbance we are the boys
they want hear exactly we will not show much mercy to copperheads
for they bite almost as bad as a rattlesnake and they are more sneaking
and if we fire at them they will hear the bullets fly and feel them too
we will not waste powder to score them when we shoot we shoot to kill
dead well I must tell you something about our trip we came from
Alexandria Va hear by water we came on a large steam ship called the
Atlantic New York she rocket up the mud from the bottom of the potomac
several times though we did not get stuck there was 5 regiments of us
on her togethear namely the 14th Ind 4th and 8th Ohio 5th Michigan
and 1st mincedota regts we are now all hear in one Brigade commanded
by Colone Carroll S — a regular army officer and a good man well
we came down the potomac in to the Chesapeak Bay and through the Bay to
within some 10 miles of Fortress Monroe and ran out of the Bay in to the
Atlantic Ocean and run a north course through the deep waters until
we arrived at this laceter we was 3 days and nights on water and out
of sight of land half the time the water was calm and the ship did not
rock much though there was all sorts of spewing on the way yours
forever Amory K. Allen

I wrote you a letter from Elk run va and put 12 dollars in it and sent
you before we left there I believe that is 2 hundred and two Dollars
that I have sent you since I left home we got hear last sunday I will
write to you again when we get settled

Camp near Alexandria
Virginia
Sept the 11th 1863

My Dear Wife
I received your letter of the 7th inst to day and was very glad to hear
from you and to hear that you and my Dear little Children was all
well your letter found me well and I hope this will find enjoying the
same blessing you will see from the heading of my letter that we are
on the sacred soil of Virginia again and I suppose you will be surprised to
hear of it so soon but it does not surprise me much for it is out of the
question for us to stay any place where there is no fighting to do we
have been in the front ever since the war commenced and I guess we will
be until it is over but I am in hopes that will not be long for our side
is gaining on the rebels on every corner Besides the army has gained a
victory at Cumberland gap and rescuers at Chattanooga and ginmore at
Charleston is gaining slowly he has taken fort waggoner and its guns
and ammunition and has fort sumpter battered in to dust and morris
Island is now in possession of our troops and perhaps fort Matry
[Moultrie] is battered down by this time and there is now nothing to
hinder our men from taking Charleston or Burning it to ashes and in
a very short time and all there is to be done is for the army of Virginia
[Army of the Potomac] to strike a blow which I suppose it is going to
do I suppose it is strong enough now to go almost where it pleases
there has been conscripts going to it ever since we left it and they are
still going and the old soldiers are going back we will start to the front
tomorrow morning I guess I suppose we will go to elk run or some
where in the neighborhood of warrenton or falmouth and then for the
rebels we had a fine time we saw a great deal of the world we spent
the most of our time in East new york and stoped a day and night in
the city of Brooklin and marched through the city of new york the
people treated us very kind and especiay the citizens of Brooklin and
more especiay the Ladies were very respectfully friendly and sociable
there was no disturbance concerning the draft while we stayed in
new york is a large and a fine city but I like Brooklin a little the best from
what I saw will I must close we came back on the same ship we went
on we was on it 4 nights we got off this morning so no more at presen
t still yours Amory K. Allen

we have not got our pay but we expect it every day
Direct to company "C" 14th Regt Ind. vols virginia

Camp on Cedar Mountain va
Sept the 20th 1863

My Dear Wife I take the present opportunity to let you know that
I am still alive and well hoping these lines may find you and my Dear
little Children enjoying the same blessing. well I wrote to you from
Alexandria on the 11th inst to let you know that we had left new york
and come in to old virginia again we left there the next morning for
this place we come the trip a foot we had a tolerable hard march of
it we marched out from Alexandria to fairfax court house and then to
centerville then to Manassas Junction and right along the stagg and
Alexandria railroad to Culpeper court house and carried our packmack
and 3 days rations we was 5 days on the march we marched from 15
to 20 miles a day we are some 6 miles out from Culpepper and some
80 or 90 miles from Alexandria Culpepper is a right smart little town
though it is Secesh and considerable deserted we are right Stop up
against the rebels we can see their camp from ours we was out on
picket night before last and yesterday we was close to the rebels and got
corn out of their roston ear patch they did not shoot at us nor we did
not shoot at them there has been considerable skirmishing out hear
but our cavalry has done the most of it they have been driving the
rebels back for several days and we have been following up there is only
a small creek between us and the rebels now they are on a range of
mountains just the other side of the creek but I dont think there is a
great many of them there we expect to march every hour but I dont
know whether we are going to move on the rebel camps or not Some
think we will have a fight hear and Some think we will not we are
across the Rapshahannock River and we are in about 5 miles of the
Kappaid we are in a long ways above fredricksburg and chancelorsville
and further out in virginia though we are not much nearer richmond we
are facing more in the direction of Gordonsville which is not a great
ways from hear I dont know exactly how far there was 2 deseters
shot hear day before yesterday it was an awful sight to see I have
saw many men shot and I saw a man hanging to a tree but he was a
spy and did not affect me but very little but to see men marched to their graves with their coffins carried before them and placed near the grave and the men set on them and a cloth tied over their face and shot to death is the most serious sight of all there was 20 men shot in this army day before yesterday for desertion these 2 was in our division and belonged to the 14th Connecticut Regt the others were in different divisions and corps and I suppose were shot according to orders in the presence of their own division well I have a heap to write more than I could write in a week I cannot attempt to commence half of what I want to tell you there is one thing a going on now hear that I dont know what to say about it or do in it and that is about reenlisting for the war our Regiment is small and will be consolidated by putting 2 and 3 companies together and muster out all the spare officers and Sergts but the way things is there is no prospect of me getting out before my time is up and I dont know whether that will be the 23d of April or the 7th of June next but it is one or the other I would not mind staying my time out hear if we was to remain in companies as we are but this we cannot do I cannot explain to you by writing what I want you to understand our regt is less than 500 and there can be no more promotions made in it Leevi Dunlap has a commission as 2d Lieut but he cannot get Mustered on it and of course it does him no good in the way of pay I have been first Sergt for a long time but I have never got any pay as first Sergt nor would unless dunlap gets musterded as Lieutenant and if this consolidation takes place

Camp in the field
15 miles South of Fredricksburg Va.
May the 10th 1864

Dear Wife
I take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the land and amongst the living hoping that this will find you all enjoying good health it has been some time since I heard from you and some time since I have wrote to you we left camp on the night of the 3rd Inst and came across the rapplidan River and marched out to chancellorsville on the 4th and on the 5th we went south some 5 or 6 miles and found some of the enemy and in the evening we moved to our right and met them in battle order we had hard marching and hard fighting the rebs were firing and driving our men back and was a bout to get possession of a cross roads that was important to us and had drove our men from a gun stationed in the road and was about to capture it and our regt was sent in to save it we went in and charged the rebs and drove them back and pulled the gun out by hand there was severe fighting all along the lines that evening but we held our lines thomas Clements was wounded in the knee Logan T. Frain and James Sanders slightly in the finger Berry Noland Mortally in the back I dont know whether he is alive yet or not we lay near the rebs all night some firing going on all the time and on the 6th we had hard fighting we advanced on them and drove them about a mile and they got reinforcements and drove us back some but we rallied and had a very hard fight in the woods I dont know the name of the pace [place] yet only the battle in the wilderness in this part of the fight I was wounded and went out of the fight and went back to the Hospital and stayed all night and next day there was a powerful sight of men wounded though there was not so very many killed after I left the field the rebs drove our men back and charged on our breastworks and took apart of them but our Brigade charged and took them back again and killed a good many rebels on the 7th there was not much fighting the rebs fell back and the Hospital was moved to Fredrickburg and my wound being light not very light either for it was my belt and belt plate that saved my life it busted the plate and stopped against the leather but it bruised my belly considerably but I came back to the Regt and on the 8th was in the fight again George W. Waggoner and Robert A jergerson was wounded but not very bad and on the 9th we had another fight we made a charge on the rebel Breastworks but was repulsed our Regment run like the devil but they are not to blame they went to their works and found that they could not get over them and of course they did not want to Stay there and be shot down Oscar Hall was wounded slightly in the hip I cannot give all the particulars we have been fighting every day on the 12th we charged the rebeis Breastworks and took them and 16 cannon stand of colors and 8000 prisoners and buried any quantity of them they are falling back slowly but as fast as they can we are now on the road from Fredrickburg to Richmond and we are getting reinforcements and we are going to clean them out General Grant is a going to stay with them there is no fighting yet this morn- ing but I think it will commence soon our men are closing up on the rebs our loss has been heavy we started with 22 men in our company and we now have 10 but we have but one killed yet that we know of that is Wm Harris henry Bussinger was wounded and I suppose the rebs got him the rest is all safe I heard from George Prain yesterday he was about the hospital in the field and the rebel cavalry is watching around our rear and it is dangerous to be safe your husband

A. K. Allen

Ward 5 Mt pleasant Hospital
Washington City D. C.
June the 12th 1864

My Dear Wife
I received your letter of the 4th inst. 3 days ago but did not Make up my mind to write until now I would have wrote yesterday but the letter would have laid in the office until tomorrow morning any how and so I put off writing till now I have give up the idea of getting a furlough to come home this time the Doctor says my wound is not bad enough for a furlough he cant give furloughs to any that he thinks will get well in less than 30 days and he thinks I will be well in a week or 2 and I think so too but I did not tell him so the fact is I am about well now that is I can walk about very well and I expect I will be well enough for duty in another week you said for me to net wait for money for I might Die I have got to be killed or get somthing the matter with
me yet before I die. I was in the city last thursday and got my pay that is my monthly pay up to the last of April. there is 50 Dollar Bounty. Due me now that I did not get because it was not put on the Roll. it can't be helped now I will get it next pay day. I have plenty of money now so you need not be uneasy about me on that score. I have been treat-ed well by all about the Hospital it is about 2 miles from hear in to the city. the Indiana agency tells me I can have anything that I want to eat or wear they have given me a shirt a pair of Drawers and socks and some oranges and caned peaches to eat. they are many things Brought to the Hospital for the Soldiers such as Strawberries oranges lemons and jellys but those who are wounded bad Suffer much and many die with pain and Mortification and Lock jaw and some by bleeding but of course every body has to die some time. well I suppose the old 14th Indiana will be at home before you get this their time was out on the 7th inst. I expected to see them the day I was in the city but they did not come up that day I heard that they come friday but I did not get to see any of them I heard that they left the Recruits and Veterans in the Breast works towards Richmond and they was not transfered or any thing else done with them well I guess I will be with them in a short time again I saw Lieutenant Andrew's of Co B in the city he said he was going back to stay with the Veterans and it was rumored that we would get a Battery but I dont know what will be done yet there has been awful hard fighting and we have lost many men but I think we are a going to be victorious all the time to the end and I think the end is not far off I hope I will be as lucky as I have been all along and come out safe I have been very lucky I have been struck twice in this last Campaign and one half inch Difference each time would have killed me almost suddenly I want to send my belt and pants home if I can and then you can see how narrow was my escape. I will send you some money by ex-press to Logootee I think it will get there by wednesday or thursday write to me as soon as you get this I will be apt to get the letter before I leave hear I must close hoping you are all well I remain yours

Amory K. Allen
Ward 5 Mt Pleasant
Hospital Wash. D. C.

my letter28 is badly wrote but probably you can make it out. I am leaning on my elbow and I am trembly but I am all right and I think I will soon be well again to help put down the rebellion. I believe this war will soon be over I will write soon again I have plenty of paper and stamps and I will be able to sit up and write in a few days. write soon Double quick for I may be moved from hear soon I may be taken to Philadelphia be sure to not put the company or regiment on the back of the letter

Sergt. A. K. Allen
Ward 5 Mt Pleasant
Hospital Washington D. C.

28 Letter of June 12, 1864, with which this added note was evidently enclosed.
Dear Wife,

I take my pen in hand this morning to let you know that I am well and hearty hoping this will find you enjoying the same blessing. I received your letter of the 2nd inst yesterday it got hear on the 5th but I was in the city and did not come back until yesterday morning. So I did not get it til about 12 o’clock and then I was put under arrest 3 hours for staying over my time so I did not feel much like writing until I was released. The fellow that was with me was put in the guard house for 3 hours. me being a Sergt kept me out of the guard house. all the punishment I got was to stay by my bed and not have the privilege of going out or walking around any til the 8 hours was up. I could have wrote but the punishment was so light I thought I would take the full benefit of it so I kept cool. I am all right this morning only my hand trembles considerable but I guess you can make out to read the words if they are a little crooked. I had a very good 4th of July in the city on the 5th. it was a dull 4th hear we had a drink of ale for a treat. well I expressed my belt and pants and my old blouse and an old shirt the sanitary commision give me that I had no use for. I allowed to get some other things and send but I could get no box handy so I just roled the cloths up around the belt and tied a cord to them and let them rip I guess they will go Safe I expressed them on the 5th and they will be at Loogootee by the time you get this or before the expressage will be $1.25 cts. I thought I would not pay it til they got home and if they go safe you can pay it there when you get them. you can do as you please with the cloths as they will not be much use for me to ware perhaps you can fix them for willy. I want you to take particular care of the belt. as it Saved my life I would not take gold for it. the hook that fastens the belt is in the cap pouch and you can see that when it was buckled the leather was under the plate and the leather stoped the ball from going through my bowels well I am Still hear in Hospital yet I was muster hear for 2 months pay and I think I will Stay til I get pay, if they pay off as soon as they generally do. I dont know whether I will get my bounty hear or not but I suppose I will but if I dont I will get enough to make out with til I do get it. I can get it by going to the pay master general and getting a certificate of my enlistment which I can do if necessary the Soldiers wages is raised now. from the 1st of may Corporals get 18 Dollars Sergts 20 1st Sergts 24 dollars per month privates 16 Dollars per month I will get 48 Dollars monthly pay this pay day this will help make up the price on Coffee a little I will Send you some more money when I get my pay and as soon as I get pay I will apply to go to the army I would go right away but I will wait a few days more if I can on account of getting pay keep in good Spirits a trust to luck I am truly yours Amory K Allen

Documents: Letters of Amory K. Allen

My Dear Wife

I take the present opportunity to let you know that I am still alive and well. hoping this may find you enjoying the Same blessing. I received your letter of the 6th inst. last Sunday I was glad to hear from you but I was out north of Washington near fort Slocum and had no chance to write to you till now. I suppose you have heard that the rebels have been in Maryland on a raid again before now. I had got well and tired of Staying at Hospital and had applied to the Doctor for and order to get my pay and be Sent to my Regt on last Sunday week ago and would have got off on monday week ago, but the Rebels come So close to Washington that all the men that was in the Hospitals was ordered out that was able to walk to the fortifications to Defend them against the Rebels. So I got in to this Scrape and have not got out of it yet. we came out to these Barricks and Drawed guns on last monday week we was formed in regiments and officers put over us to command us and marched out to fort Slocum on monday night we drawed rations and I acted as Commissary Sergt for the Company that I was in and Stayed with the waggons and went to the Co. on tuesday morning the officers were from Hospis and Invalids and the one that commanded my Co. give out going out to the fort about 5 miles from the city and the orderly Sergt got Sick and I had to take command of the company we had 105 men all from Different Regts and all Sorts of people and it would break a mans arm to write Some of their names. we afterwards got a Lieut to command and I acted orderly it was very Bothersome business, all the men being strangers well the Rebels come right up to the fortifications and it was thought that they intended to try to take them but after us Hospital fellows got on the forts and trenches they could not come there was a part of the 6th corps march hear and advanced on the rebels from fort Stevens and charged on them and a severe little fight the guns of the forts playing on the rebels. our men got the best of it and the rebels left that night there was great destruction of property in the neighborhood several houses burnt and ridded with shot we lay in the ditches to hold them til the rebels left. we came back hear last monday was out ten days we turned in our guns and the men are kep hear and are being examined by doctors hear to see who is fit for duty and who is to be Sent to hospital our Lt. has got off and I am in charge of what is left of the Co we are to be examined to day I dont know when I will go away from hear you will Direct to the Hospitl as before. A. K. Allen

Camp North James River in front of the Rebel works

My Dear Wife

I take the present oppurtunity to inform you that I am in good health hoping these lines will find you and my dear little Children all
enjoying the same blessing. I received a letter from you and John yesterday dated August 11th. I was very glad to hear from you. I did not expect to get a letter hear so soon and I dont expect I would if you had not been informed that I was hear a week before I left Alexandria so it is all right there was a letter hear for me when I got hear. I wrote one to you on the 15th and got one from you and John on the 17th Inst. I got to the army on the 12 Inst. and our Corps (the 2nd) was on the move we got on boats and came up the river [James] and got off on the opposite side. I wrote to you about it in my other letter.  

[Paragraph continues with additional details about the war and movements, including mentions of电池, army movements, and the impact on the personal life of the writer, including news from home and discussions about the future.]  

My Dear Wife  

I take the pleasure of writing to you again this evening to let you know that I am well and hearty and received your letter of the 12th Inst. this morning. I was glad to hear from you. your letter was 6 days on the road. though if our letters all go that quick we can hear from each other once a week. I have nothing new to write at present the firing is still kept up day and night and the bullets are whistling about our quarters all the time. one cant step out or walk about any place without a ball whizzing past his head. there has been 2 or 3 of our regt wounded on the line since I wrote to you before and there was one killed in his quarters some 4 days ago. but none of our company have been hurt. Since the last man that was killed belonged to Co "E" and was one of the old 14th boys George E. Fraim belongs to that company. he is well, he got a letter from his father this morning and is answering it to day. it is So curious to see how the piqutes fire at each other day and night that it would put any body to their studies to think about it. the way we are fixed we have a good line of Breast works where we camp and they are built high and we can walk along behind them and not be exposed to the bullets at all but then when we get back from our works on a little higher ground the bullets come close. well the piqute line is not So good a protection it is out a couple of hundred yards from our mane works and is only little pits dug and the diet threw out that makes a shelter for a few men to hide behind. and these pits is some 20 feet a part and no ditch cut from one to the other. So the men are bound to stick close to their pit to be safe they are Safe enough when they are laying in their pits the bullets cant touch them. but between the works and the piqute line there is nothing to shelter the men going out and coming in. but for some cause or other both sides stops firing every evening about a half hour by Sun and dont commence again till all hands are ready this is the time we send out new men and them that is out comes in the Rebs do the same as we do. I suppose they are glad to stop firing for they could not relieve their men without being shot going out and in. well when the boys begin to hallow to cease firing the whole of both sides raise up and have a jollification and one evening one of our boys went over to their line and swapped papers with them. well when every thing is ready they call out get in your holes and they lay down and shoot away all night. I send out 5 men from my company every night and they take from 100 to 150 rounds of ammunition and five a peice—all they have. our boys some of them come in through the day for water and coffee while the shooting is going on this is a little dangerous but none of them have been hurt yet. they have got a ditch dug to go out in now most all the way. we keep a little ahead of the rebs all the time. they keep firing to keep us from slipping up on them again. I must close hoping that I may find you well and that I may soon be with you Your Husband A. K. Allen  

there is rumors that we are to be paid off right away and also that all legal voters are to go home to vote.

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My Dear Wife  

I received your kind letter of the 18th inst this morning it found me well and hearty and I hope this will find you and my Dear little Children all enjoying good health. I have nothing very Strange to write to you at present we are Still laying along the front line before Peters-
burg and our Sharp Shooters and the rebs keep firing most of the time though there is but very few hurt on either side. Sergt Robert Deyo was killed Some 3 days ago he belonged to my company and was one of the old 14th Veterans. he was on piquet and was coming in to get some dinner while the firing was going on. and walked along in plain Sight of the rebs and they Shot him through he died instantly he was a good Soldier and his death is much lamented by the company he was reckless in walking around in Sight of the Rebs and giving them Such a fair chance to Shoot him when he could have went concealed by going a little way round, though he was always that turn he had no fears and escaped So far but one bullet at last done the fatal work. there has been some fighting along our lines Some days back but I have not heard the truth of what has been done for certain yet but I have heard heavy cannonading on our right towards the James River along Butlers lines Butler is working in to the rebs he is digging a Canal across a point on the James River to run gunboats in and it is rumored that he has cut the Rail Road between Richmond and Petersburg and that he had a big fight and the Rebs charged on his line several times and was repulsed and drove back with heavy loss each time. So we are gaining on the Rebs every where all the time we will Soon have them pinned to the wall Sheridan has cut them all to peices in the Shenandoah Valley and was Still cutting away on the peices the last we have heard of him a good fight or two more will make a finish of the Rebellion and I dont think it will be long til we have it. the rebs have only one Rail Road now leading from Richmond and we are very near having that in two places, to wit Sheridan Driving the Rebs from the valley back to linchburg will get hold on the Road there if he is successful which he will be unless Lee sends reinforcements from Petersburg to him and if he does that grant will pitch in to him hear and make a chassa [chasse] to the left and get the road near Richmond or petersburg if not the places too and when we get the road we have them cut off to starve or smo[ke] out or come out and fight us where we will have the advantage everything is working well and I think the war is near an end and if old abe is elected president again I think the rebs would give up and quit trying to fight any longer. All that keeps them holding out now is the Seccession list in the north thinking they will get a president that will settle with them and give them their independence and divide the union I think there has been too much blood Spilt for that I must close we Signed our pay Rolls to day and are to be paid tomorrow there is Still talk of us coming home to the election to vote I am truly your husband A. K. Allen

Camp before Petersburg Virginia November 26th 1864

My Dear Companion

I take my pen in hand this evening to let you know that I am in good health hoping these lines will find you and my Dear little Children all enjoying the same blessing. I received your kind letter of the 17th Inst. last night and was very glad to hear from you and hear that you was all well and doing well. I guess I did not get the letter you wrote on the day of the election, the last letter I got was dated October 29th that was before the Presidential election, but I guess the copperheads and butternuts know who is who and what is what now, and I guess they will have to lay low and keep dark I guess they can See now which side is the Strongest and who is right & who is rong. Lincoln is elected by the largest Majority of any president Since Washington or Jackson, this does me good to know that there is So many union men in the north and that the traitors are So few I cant call them any thing else for they are going right against what the Soldiers are fighting for but I think it is time for them to give up the ghost, the rebellion is bound to be put down and if it cant come down no other way it will be put down by force the last man in the Southern confederacy will be Swept from the face of the earth rather than give them independance over us of the north and the union. I say hurrah for Lincoln he is the man for the times the Soldiers are in good Spirits they all think we are Sure to win without much fighting and that the war will Soon be over but it may last Sometime yet for the weather is bad now and there can not be much done though we are not Settled we are expecting to have Some kind of a move hear Soon we have been held in readiness to move for Several days and we are looking for Someing big to turn up in this army the canal on the James River is read to blow out and let the water through and the fleet is ready to run through the army in readiness to move and Sherrmans army is on the move and there will be a hell of a dust raised Somewhere before long but we dont know where. to day is thanksgiving day yesterday we got turky's cakes pies & apples enough to make us 2 good meals it was a made up dinner for the army by the citizens of the united States and the Sanitary Commission and was the best dinner we ever got for there was plenty it does the Soldiers good to know that the people think enough of them to Send them a dinner hurrah for the union and the women well you Said that Jerry and Wm Johnson was both drafted that is pretty heavy but I guess they can go as well as anybody else I have not heard from them for Some time I dont know how bil is but I allowed he would be excused on account of his eyes I would like to know whether they was gone or not and where they went to I guess lucinday and mary jane will both take duck fitts about it but it is all on account of the war and they will have to stand it there is a risk to run and Somebody has to run it. you said that benny was at home playing off Sick he had better be careful and not Stay over his time or he will be taken up and have to Serve his time out without any pay if nothing worse. I will have to close for the present I hope to See you before Spring I still remain yours A K Allen I am very much obliged to you for the stamps.

"Copperheads" and "Butternuts" were terms applied to northern sympathizers of the South or to opponents of the War. The term "Copperheads" was applied by some to all who opposed any measures of the Government.
Camp of 20th Ind. Vols.
Near Petersburg Virginia
February 18th 1865

My Dear Wife

I received a letter from you this morning dated January 22d. It has been on the road almost a month, but it is no wonder by the round it went, it was put in the round mail Sack Somewhere and took the round track, I dont know where all it went to but I see it was resailed at Savannah Georgia. I suppose it has been all through the western army before it took the right track well I had a letter from you of a later date and wrote an answer to you day before yesterday, we was building new houses then and it was very cold and rainy but we have got them built now and it is fine weather we had a little rain last night but its very nice and warm to day we was out yesterday to see another desertor shot he had been convicted of cowardice and of desertion and was sentenced to be shot to death by musketry and the Sentence was carried in to effect yesterday he belonged to the 124th new york regt and to our Brigade and of course we had to witness the scene he was marched around with music and his coffin along the lines to his grave and a detail of 8 men Shot him as he Sat on his coffin he fell back but Still showed life when 2 other men went close and Shot him through the heart and the Ceremony was over and we come to our quarters and rested to day we had our monthly inspection and things went off tolerable well only Some of our men did not have their Knapsacks packed as they Should be and the inspector found fault but Still I dont think this will injure me in any way as I was not in command of the company to day as Cole our captain was present and Bossed the job I have had inspections before this when I had to attend to the company and be Responsible for their appearance and conduct in general but by the G. D. S. I always had them to come out Right and got the praise for it and the good will of the company and all concerned there was an order that no Furloughs or leaves of absence would be given to companies who would not make a good appearance on inspection and they would have to be inspected till they got everything right but if they was a little round to day I think it will not interfere with me I have made application to come home and I think I will get to come about the last of this month or the first of next at the out side I did not put in on the acct of Sickness but it is on business that will do just as well I think if it does not this last letter I got from you that Stated Jerry was sick will do me for another so if my first application fails I will put in the second so I am bound to come if I live and the order holds out long enough George E. Frain is coming home and I will send this to him I am well hoping this will find you enjoying the same blessing A K Allen 1st Lt Co B

Dear Cousin Delphina

I am seated to write you a few lines feeling it my duty But I am

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*This is the only letter in the collection not written by Lieutenant Allen.*

Very Sorry indeed that my first Should Bear you Bad News to Brake or tell you sofly is beyond my power.

Amory was Wounded on the Sixth of this Month by the Explosion of a Shell Near him thrown by the enemy But he is not dangerous But Very Severe it Will be Some day before he is well again his Wound was in the point of the left Shoulder.

You need not be alarmed about him for he is all O K I think he will be at Home ere this Reaches you Enclosed you will find a Letter that he wrote and gave to me on the 3rd inst But I never had an opportunity to Mail it until now. You will forgive me for this the best news I have seen or heard tell of was the Surrender of Genl. Lee to Genl. Meade [?] of 37,000 Men and all the Equipments pertaining to the Grand Rebel army of North Virginia this took place on Sunday the 9th day of April 1865 near Clover Hills Va.

Give my Love to Ellen and tell her She Must forgive Me for not reporting to her on Thursday I promised But I was detained 2 days Longer at Dover Hills than I expected. I will Write to her Soon & make Necessary apologies for my failure

I presume I will be discharged as Soon as we get in camp But then as the War is about over I dont know as I want out until the Regt is disbanded.

Well Cousin I guess I have Written enough for this time So I will close With Love and Best Wishes to yourself and all the family If you See Mother tell I am Well and all O K I have Written to her.

No More Compliments to all

Ever your Cousin

G. E. Frain

Delphina Allen
Montgomery Station
Indiana

Seminor Hospital
Georgetown D. C.
April 23rd 1865

My Dear Wife

I take the present opportunity to let you know where I am and how I am getting along I got leave of absence from city point as all do that are wounded and I came to Washington and Stopped at A Hotel thinking I would come on home but my Shoulder got worse in place of better and I found it was no use for me to try to travel with it So I come to hospital and will stay here until my Shoulder gets So that I can use it Some before I undertake to travel any more and you can write to me now hear for I will be hear for as long as 2 weeks or longer my wound will be along time getting well but I will get a leave to come home as Soon as I get fit to come well I guess you have hear all about the president being kill by an assassin the most terrible of all circum-
stances that ever happened in the united States. I was not able to go to the funeral but I went out on the street and saw the hearse and procession pass which was the biggest thing of the kind I ever saw. but the biggest thing to me was that I had my pocket picked of a hundred and ten Dollars in the rounds but how I cant tell. I had the money in a roll and stuck in my pocket it must have worked part of the way out but I always carried so and never saw any sign of it looseing before. I think some d---m thief was watching me and went for the money in the crowd the streets were crowded full. well that is so much more schooling it was a big haul on me and was most all I had after I paid my tavern bill but I guess I will make out till I get some more. I guess I will get two months pay the last of this month so I can come home and have some left but I cant send you any yet till I get my pay well I am tired writing I am all of a trimble I must close hoping to hear from you soon I cant tell whether my arm will be stiff yet or not I cant use my shoulder one particle yet but it is doing well but it has to have time for the bone to cure up I still remain your husband til death

Amory K. Allen

Direct your letters
Lieut. A. K. Allen
Seminary Hospital
Georgetown D. C.