

Sunday May 5th 1861
In Camp 1st Regt Conn Volunteers N. Haven

Dear Gussie

Here I am still in camp this beautiful Sabbath day. I have just come in from Guard duty having been on from 12 to 2 O'clock. At six I expect to go on Guard again until 8 O'clock again from 12 at night until two tomorrow morning. I received your letter yesterday. It contained much news. This afternoon the Regt attends Trinity Church. Our Co only is deprived of church privileges today on account of its being our turn for Guard duty. My mind has been in Danbury very much today. I have been at home in the church, at the Sabbath School, etc. While I have been treading along on my beat backwards and forwards, I have thought of you much. This morning while I was in the Guard tent waiting my turn to go on Guard duty, the church bells began to peal forth their music and it thrilled through me like electricity. It was with difficulty that I could suppress the tears from flowing. It seemed so very much like our own village bells calling you and myself to religious worship, but then I thought that it was all for the best and while I was discharging my duty as a soldier I tried and believe I did realize that it was the Sabbath and while I carried a musket on my shoulder I felt that God's blessed spirit was hovering over me and my heart almost melted under its influence. I feel that it is too true that I need to watch and pray more than you do for while you are surrounded by helpful influences, I am beset on every side with temptations and hinderances. The only time that I am alone is when I am standing Guard. Then I can enjoy sweet solitude when I am not interrupted by having to hail some person who may attempt to cross the line. Capt Wildman has discontinued Bible reading and prayers and has spoken of sending the Bible home. Yesterday I went to the artist and had a Photograph taken. It will be finished tomorrow morning when I intend to get a pass to leave the encampment and go after it and I think I shall send it to you by express as that will be the safest way to send it. We are now fully uniformed and equipped furnished with arms etc. and the report now is that we will leave N. Haven on Tuesday. There has been many reports as to our destination. Some say to the Norfolk Navy Yard, some to Harpers Ferry and some say to Florida, but as yet I think it is uncertain. As for me being promoted to the position of corporal it is not so, but had our election been a fair one by ballot I should have had that place or a higher one. This nearly all the Co say now. The election of officers to fill the vacancies which was holden at the N. Haven Hotel on the 20th day of April was done by acclamation in a hasty moment. Most of the men being new recruits did not know the men they voted for so as to vote understandingly, and many did not vote at all. The Co has drawn up a petition to be sent to the Col asking for a new election, they being very much dissatisfied with the result of the last one. If a new election is called the members tell me that I will surely have an office higher than a corporal. I shall send home my citizens clothes in a few days. They will be marked so that you can tell them from those belonging to the other members. They will probably be sent in a large Box directed to S.S. Peck. You asked me if I had made up my mind not to shave any more. I have. It is some trouble to do it and then I have seen it strongly recommended as a preventative against exposure. I am becoming as black and brawny as an old farmer. My tent mates are mostly new recruits who you do not know except one old member, a corporal Nathan Couch. One of the new ones though I guess you know, Geo Sears, a brother to Mr. Sears who lived on Deer Hill this side of our folks. His family lives down town. He worked at the Pahquioque Shop, a maker. Most of them are very profane and wicked. I am intending to make a different choice of mess mates soon. I suppose you have already learned that the Legislature

has appropriated \$10.00 extra pay to all of Comm Volunteers which will make my pay \$21.00 instead of \$11.00 per month. My picture is taken with a Sharps Rifle with a sword bayonet as I expected we were to be armed with them. But we are not. We have the same kind of arms as we took away with us, the Minnie Musket. It shoots equally as far and as correct. It is only inferior to the Sharps Rifle in one respect viz in the rapidity of loading. Sharps load at the breach without a rod while we have to use a rod for the Minnie Musket. The man who carried my last letter was Smith Barnum, Tweedy and White's salesman. Andrew Knox had the toothache at the same time that I did and we went together to Dr Malletts. He extracted one for Andrew and mine he thought I could save as he thought it was only a cold in my face. Give Prince a good rubbing and patting for me. How I should like to see the old fellow. It will soon be time for me to go on Guard again as I have been interrupted several times and by the means it has taken me nearly all the afternoon to write this. Remember me to all the friends. Continue to pray for me and I will ever remain your devoted husband

Horace

May 6th 1861

I have sent my Picture by express together with Geo B. Allen's. Please send it immediately to his wife in Miry Brook.

P.S. - He says you may leave it at Avery Raymond's Fish Market. His father will get it from there. His name is Elijah Allen. We expect to leave N. Haven tomorrow or next day without fail.

Horace

Bear Gussie

This moon I expressed my Photograph together with Geo Allen's and his Ambrotype to you. His you will leave as I told you in the letter I mailed at the same time at Avery Raymond's Fish Market where his father will get it and carry it to his wife. It is designed for his wife. Please leave word to that effect. How do you like the picture? I wanted to send you a good one and I thought to get one in that position equipped as I was and have it show to good advantage the Photograph would be the best. I thought that it might possibly be the last thing I could do for you and I felt that I could not do too much. The pictures cost \$2.00, the frame \$1.25. I thought that to send it by express would be the safest. I hope you received it all safe and unbroken. I received your letter together with Mother G, Fanny's and Emily's. I also received one from Geo. One from Peter Starr also. It is raining here dreadfully. I was up all last night ~~mixing~~ on ~~daybreak~~ Guard. It was pleasant nearly all night but just about day break it began to rain a little, and at 9 O'clock when our time expired for Guard duty and another Co came on, it began to rain hard and ever since with the exception of a short time just before noon it has continued. It is now about three O'clock P.M. and for an hour past the storm has increased. We are now in our tents. Some are writing, some mending clothes and others asleep. When I came from the city at noon I found our Co in a great tumult and uproar it nearly ended in a riot. It was about our food. Some thought that they had been nearly starved while some thought they had had enough. And now to answer your question about our food I will say with two or three exceptions I have had enough (though it has been plain and coarse). Then I did not have quite enough to eat in particular one morning but we were allowed to go off the ground and go down into the city when Geo Allen and several others with myself called on Mr Ferry the baker where we had all we could eat. The cause of ~~the~~ the trouble in camp was on the reception of the news in the papers stating that the First Regt was not half fed upon which the Capt lectured the boys pretty sharply saying that they had had their rations in full. The report this morning was that we were to start away on Tuesday. But now it is altered again that we start either on Wednesday or Thursday taking a boat at N. Haven and keeping the water all the way up the Potomac to Washington. In regard to my coming home last Saturday night I did try to get a furlough from the Capt to go and be gone over Sunday, but it was of no use. Those who did get one got it because their families were sick or at least they said so. It would have been a real pleasure for me to have surprised you and attended church once more at home with you. It was the thought of this that made me feel so on Sunday morn when I heard the church bells ring here. I did not tell you this in my last but as you have asked me why I did not come I will own up. I did not tell you because I thought if you knew that I tried to come and could not you would feel bad. I have bought a piece of enameled cloth to sleep on, rubber I could not find in N. Haven. Harris Anderson is with us and is well, He conducts himself as well as the majority of the soldiers for ought I know. Our three months counts from the time we were sworn into the service of Uncle Sam which was Apr 22nd. Let me assure again that I shall come immediately home when my time expires if I live and nothing unavoidable happens. Gussie I love you too well to deceive in this. It would indeed be a comfort to me to have your tender care in sickness when far from home but this is not the fortune of a soldier and I remain reconciled. I may not be sick or hurt. I hope not at least. I shall do all in my power to prevent exposure and thereby avoid sickness. Our Col says that he intends to take such care of his men that he may bring every man back if possible that is not killed in battle.

I do not imagine we shall have much if we do any fighting but still we go prepared for it ready to meet it if it must come. Thank to Mother, Fanny, and Emily for their share of the letter. Tell them I hope to hear from them often. I told you in a previous letter that we were to be armed with Sharps Rifles and I took one with me to the artist's to use in taking my Photograph as you will see by the picture, but the arrangement has been changed and we take our old ones or more like them, the Minnie Musket. If we do not get away before Wednesday or Thursday I shall try to send you another letter from here. I must close and try to answer Peter Letter.

Your Husband ever true

Horace

Danbury May 5 1861

Dear Horace

We miss you very much and shall be very glad when you can return to us and we will hope that God will bless and protect soul and body to the end of the time. You have many prayers and many warm kind wishes. God will never forsake those who put their trust in him. Trust in him you will never be confounded. Gussie is well and ~~cheerful~~. She is quite as much so as we can expect and does not really need so much comforting as I should think you would. Tell me truly do you have enough to eat. I hear so many ~~people's~~ complaints that I want to know the truth. I know that of course you have very plain food but do you have enough of that. If you do you will get along. We hear that you leave on Tuesday for Washington or Florida. Is it so? Well Horace whatever may be your lot life or death, comfort or suffering, may you have Christ in your heart and then you will have joy and peace in the midst of either. We had a letter from Edwin. He says Elyria has sent out two Companies and they were forming a third. He was glad you had gone. ~~and that~~ One of our cousins Arthur Griswold has gone and left a wife and child at home. I thought I would write today fearing I should not have an opportunity again very soon if you left New Haven on Tuesday and I wanted to say again Be Faithful to God. If faithful to God you will be to your country. God bless and keep you prays your Sister
Fanny

Bear H. - You are not forgotten by me I assure you. I think of you much and when in bed with Gussie (for she sleeps with me when father is gone) I try to commend you to that God who watches over you and will do all things well. We shall do all we can to comfort Gussie. I think she behaves very well but last night she was disappointed by not getting a letter and O how she talked in her sleep about the army. Take good care of yourself as you can and put your whole trust in God, may he protect and bring you home again in health and in peace.

Your mother

N. Griswold

Brother H

I take the liberty to write a few words to you. I have a nephew in your company by name H. Harris Anderson. I wish you would get acquainted with him and write a word about him if you can some times. He is not converted and I feel very anxious about him. We miss you very much at all our meetings but we feel your safe so long as trust in the Lord. Yours in haste

Emily Anderson