

Camp Curtin at Harrisburg
August (12 - Tues.)? 1862

Dear Wife and Children:

I write a few lines to let you know of my health which is very good and I hope through the mercy of God these few lines will find you in good health. I got to camp Saturday at two o'clock and we drew our tents and set them up and we took the soft side of a board for our bed and I slept as well as I do at home.

There are about twenty-five thousand soldiers in our camp and every day about one thousand leave. We have been sworn in today. Dr. Cobb examined me and I passed. A man can not be lonesome here for there is everything going on.

I went to a meeting three times on Sunday and there are meetings every night in the week. They are the best of meetings too. Everyone of Uncle Sams boys loves one another as brothers. We are not un-united as you are at the north. If men will be united at the north the war will not last near a year.

I shall send my money to you by Chandler. It will come to New Milford. I think I will get the Government bounty in a week or two and I shall send it home.

I think I will buy a pistol. It will cost about \$15.00.

You must keep up good spirits and I will and all will be well.

I sent \$34.55 to Mr. Smith. I sent a check by Mr. Chandler to Mr. Smith and he will pay it to you. I paid Cobb that note and you must get a note. I kept five dollars.

I think I will be in Washington this week but we are not sure. I will send my clothes this week to Chandlers store in Montrose.

No more at present. Good-by for this time.

We have plenty to eat and drink. We have the name of having the best lot of men on the ground.

Don't write until I write again.

J. Delamarter

September 1862
Camp Whipple

My dear wife:

I received your kind letter of the tenth and was glad to hear from you but was sorry to hear that the children have been quite sick. I am as well as common thanks be to God for it. I hope through the mercy of God these few lines will find you in good health.

I am on picket duty now for twenty-four hours. I have to stand on post two hours and off four hours but I have to lay down by the post when my time is off. It is not very easy work.

It is hard for a man who has a family to be so far from home but I trust in God this war will be over before long. We are in plain sight of the Capitol. It is four miles to the Capitol but it doesn't look to be more than two miles. It has been a pretty country here but it looks hard now. All of the fences are burned up. It isn't half as thickly settled as it is in the north. We are having a big battle now. We hear the cannons plain here. We have been called in line of battle once since we have been here and one of the men was so badly scared that he nastied his pants. The enemy did not appear. It is an awful sight to see all of the soldiers that are coming into the battle. The hills are covered with tents for ten miles around.

A soldier can not get anything extra to eat without paying three times what it is worth. Three cents for an apple, twenty-five cents for a pie and everything else in accordance. I wish I could have some of our apples, butter and potatoes and then I should think I could get along. Instead it is fat pork, bread and crackers. I sent one home in my coat pocket. You can't _____ soft but it is good enough for a soldier I suppose.

I don't wish to complain. I am not sorry I came for this thing must be settled and I don't care how quick it can be settled as it should be. I never saw such a change in men as there has been in our regiment. We have preaching every Sunday and prayer meeting. A good many men have _____ religion and are happy in god.

Jacob Delawarter

Camp Supter
Virginia
District of Columbia
September , 1862

Dear Wife and Children:

It is through the mercy of God that I am permitted to take my pen in hand to let you know of my health which is very good at present and I feel to thank God for it. I hope through the mercy of God these few lines will find you and the children in good health. I hope you will put your trust in God and I trust you do. I hope you who have homes and houses to sleep in will pray for the poor soldiers who have to take the earth for their bed and the sky for their covering. You may think I am finding fault and am sick of the service but it is not so. I like the service as well as I expected when I enlisted. I intend to be a true soldier. A great many men will find fault. I don't wish to be one of that kind. Let us all who claim to be true Americans stand firm on our Christian privileges and our Government.

It would be a sight for you to see all the soldiers that I have seen since I left home. It is quite hilly where we are at present and you can hardly see a hill but what it is covered with soldiers. General Sigel retreated back from Alexandria and his army came through our camp and they were all day passing through our camp. It was a sight to see the poor tired soldiers marching along. I think there will be something done that will count before long. We have Stonewall Jackson in a hard place. His army is only about fifteen miles from us. We can hear the cannons plain from the field of battle.

We have had orders to march to Alexandria but they were countermanded. We don't know how long we shall stay where we are but we came to fight and I don't know as it makes much difference how soon it comes. We have been called in line of battle once since we have been here but the enemy did not appear.

I think this war will be over by the first of next May. I hope and trust it will. I want you to write and let me know how you and the babies get along. I want to see all of you the worst kind. We have just got marching orders and I must close.

Direct to Washington.

Jacob Delamarter

October 22, 1862
Camp near Poolesville

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you to let you know that I got your kind letter of the ninth of October and was glad to hear from you and to hear that you and the children were well.

I hope and pray that God in his goodness will spare our lives to meet together again.

We expect to go to Texas to fight the Indians but I hope we may not go for it is a great ways off.

Tell Birdy he must grow fast so paugh won't know him if he ever lives to come home and George must be a good boy and learn fast so he can keep school and little Ella I want to see the scamp so I don't know what to do.

The Colonel says that we must have our pay soon or he will make a fuss. We have a good Colonel we like first rate but we do not like our General Robinson. He is a hard man. He liked to have killed us all marching to Poolesville.

It is very cold today. We have had three frosts here and the nights are very cold along the river.

You need not send the box until I write for it. It is curious that you could not send my box when Charles Brockstaver sent for a box of things at the same time and he got his Monday on the same railroad. It is curious you couldn't send mine for a great many of the boys are getting boxes from home all of the time. I was very much disappointed for I told the boys I was going to have some butter and cheese and boots as well as they but it has not come. I know it might if it had been done right for the rest of them are getting them all of the time.

Write when you get this.

J. Delamarter

I still remain your affectionate husband.

November 16, 1862
Camp near Washington

Dear Wife

I take my pen in hand to inform you of my health which is good through the mercy of God. I hope through the mercy of God these few lines will find you and the children in good health.

I have marched four miles today and we have stopped to kill some cattle for rations. We are ordered to have five days rations and we conclude by that that we are to have a big march toward Richmond. We have a big force with us and we may have a battle in less than two days if the rebs make a stand. We think they will make a stand at Culpepper Court house and if they do it will be a big battle for Longstreet and Jackson's forces are near us but if it has got to be fought out the sooner the better. Some think it will never be fought out but I think it will be by spring. I hope it will be at least so I can come home. It is hard to be away from home and love ones but I can't say I have been home sick since I have been in the service for I have made up my mind not to be homesick. Some of the boys are so homesick they lay down in the dirt and won't stir to wash themselves in two or three days and just give up and are sick. We have had some twenty-five sick men in our company and some of them stayed behind and they have been taken prisoner. I intend to keep up with the regiment if I can. Some of the boys have made their brags that they would not keep up with the regiment so they would not have to fight and by that means they have been taken prisoner.

I want you to write often for I don't have half the chance to write that you do. Take good care of your apples and dry them and not let them rot for everything is going to be the highest it ever was. Everything is used up in the South where we go.

Don't let Cobb have but three dollars worth of apples. That is what Trumble got for his half of his part. He was not to have any of them and I trimmed the orchard and that was worth a good deal and if you have let him have more you must turn it in on the rent. Tell Cobb I said so.

This is the third letter without an answer. I can not tell when we will get our pay. We may get it in two days but we may not get it in a month. If you get out of money tell Mr. Smith he must help you and when you get your money you can pay him.

Better stay where you are this winter. Don't sell any of your potatoes or corn. Keep up good courage. I can not but help think that I shall live to come home if it is the Lords will to be spared.

If you are a mind to have your likeness taken and send it to me. I would like to have it taken in a case. It won't cost but about twenty cents. A number have had their pictures sent to them.

You must kiss all of the children for me and tell them paugh wants to see them and they must be good children until paugh comes home. I saw Steven and Abe and Thomas. They are in the 89th N.Y. and they are well. Give my love to Mr. LeBoddy and all of the rest of the neighbors and inquiring friends.

It may be my lot to fall in battle but I put my trust in God that if I fall I fall fighting for my country.

To E. M. Delamarter from

Jacob Delamarter

November 22, 1862
Camp ten miles from
Fredricksburg

Dear Wife and Children:

I take my pen to inform you of my health which is as good as common. I hope these few lines will find you and the children in good health through the mercy of God. I havenot had a letter from you in four weeks since you wrote some and sent it with James McCray and ~~xxx~~ I don't know as you are going to write to me again but we think we have not got a couple of mails.

I would like to hear from home. Write how much corn and apples you had and how you get along for wood.

We have been on the march for the last three weeks and this morning at about four o'clock we have orders to march at seven o'clock to Fredricksburg.

The rebels hold one side of the river and we the other. They have burned the bridge across the river but we have a railroad from near Washington to Fredricksburg and we shall get our mail every two days. We don't know whether we shall stay there long or not.

I could tell you a good deal of news if I had time to write but the bugle has sounded to pack up and march so I must close. I am writing this on my knee in the woods by fire light.

I ever remain your affectionate husband until death.

J. Delamarter
to E. M. Dlamarter

December 21, 1862
Camp near Fredricksburg

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand this pleasant Sabbath morning to inform you of my health which is good thanks be to God for it and I hope through the mercy of God these few lines will find you and the children in good health.

I have been spared through one hard battle and it was a sight to see the poor wounded soldiers lay on the field from Saturday until Sunday night. We lost about ten thousand killed and wounded and we think the rebels lost as much as we did. We drove them from the river to the woods and they stayed in the woods and we had to stand out in the open field and fight them and they had strong fortifications and we had none. The rebels came to our lines and gave themselves up and we took a number of prisoners, most of them were intoxicated, and they said they were tired of fighting. During the battle the rebels striped our dead of their clothes and money. It was a hard sight to behold. Such a sight I never want to see again. After the battle our regiment lay on picket within fifteen rods of the rebs. They fired at us five or six times while on picket but did no harm.

We have come back to our old camp where we were before the battle came off. We hold the north side of the river and the rebs the south side. We lay one and a half miles from the river opposite Fredricksburg.

I am the heaviest now I have ever been. I weigh one hundred and thirty five pounds.

I would like to hear from you and the children as often as I have. I don't know why you can not write as often as you did. I want to see my little babies the worst kind especially the oldest one.

Give my best respects to all the neighbors and friends. Write and let me know how much corn and apples you had and how you get along and how you get your wood this winter. I would like to be there and get wood and eat apples and drink cider with you. I hope you enjoy yourselves.

I have sent you five dollars and I send you ten more in this letter and will send ten more if you get this safe. I got my bounty of twenty-seven dollars but have not got a cent of my monthly pay yet which is over fifty two dollars, but I think we will get two months pay in a few days but can not tell for certain.

Abe and Steve got their pay for four months. Abe was over to see me yesterday and he and Thomas came out of the fight all right but Stephen has deserted and started for home. I have seen Lew Delamarter. He belongs to the Cavalry.

You must write often. I cook for the Captain yet so I don't have to carry a gun but I was right in the fight with the boys and carried water for them and made them coffee when they were not fighting. It lasted four days.

To E. M. Delamarter from
Jacob Delamarter

December 24, 1862

Dear Wife:

I received your letter of the nineteenth and was glad to hear from you and glad to know that you are as well as you are thanks be to God for it.

Our Company did not lose a man either killed or wounded but our regiment had one killed and three slightly wounded. None taken prisoners as you have heard.

Don't send anything to me by Jerry Stoyers for I never would get it. I think I will get my box this week. The Colonel has ordered them to come to the owners right away and if mine has not been broken open or lost I will get it as long as we don't have to march again soon.

The rebs lay where they did before the battle and we do the same. The rebs dare not attack us. They won't come out of the woods and fight us on equal ground but they wait for us to attack them and in that way they have all of the advantage for they choose the ground and that is in the woods and we have to march up in the open field.

James McCrary is well. I saw him yesterday.

Don't sell any of your corn or potatoes or dried apples for they will be high another summer. I had to buy a pair of boots the other day and they cost me five dollars and if I get mine I can sell them.

Do the best you can and not borrow trouble about me for I am doing well now. I cook for the Captain and two Lieutenants.

Write as soon as you get this.

Jacob Delamarter

January 5, 1863

Dear Wife:

I want you to send me some of those ague pills. Send two or three ounces. It won't cost but three cents an ounce the same as the letters. Send them right away.

I got the box today and was the tickledest fellow you ever saw. I was as tickled as any little boy. The pears were spilled and lost, the apples were rotten, but the butter, berries and part of the cheese was good and the boneset more than good.

Put the pills in an envelope and another good strong one on the outside. The letter can weigh three ounces and come for three cents. The kind of pills I mean is what you made last summer. If you haven't any you can find the man _____ root if you know where they grew last summer. The captain wants some of them and I want some the worst kind.

Lieutenant Guile sends his best respects to you and the children. He is the best of an officer.

Write soon. I have sent you twenty dollars in all since I got my bounty. Write whether you got it all and how you and the children get along for wood and grub as we soldiers call it.

January 15, 1863
Camp Pitcher

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand to let you know of my health which is very good at present thanks be to God for it. I hope through the mercy of God these few lines will find you and the children in good health.

We expect to march tomorrow the sixteenth and where we do not know but it is rumored over the river again after the rebels. I hope it is not so but the worst must come sometime or other.

I got a letter from you the fourth and was glad to hear from you. Tell Georgy I don't think I got his letter but I got a letter that had some stamps in but it did not say that it was from Georgy.

How I would like to have one of the children with me if they could be taken care of. That is if they could have a comfortable place to stop. I would not get so lonesome if one of them was with me but that can not be so I must be contented.

Write what cider was worth per barrel last fall. I bought a few apples to eat and only had to pay five cents a piece for common apples.

We haven't had our pay yet and we don't know when we will but we hope soon.

Send me some letter stamps for I can't get any.

I must close for the mail is going out and I want to send this scribbling to let you know how I get along.

Give my love to all the friends and neighbors. So good by from,

J. Delamarter

January 25, 1863
Camp Pitcher
(near Fredricksburg)

My Dear Wife:

I take this Sabbath morning to inform you of my health which is very good at present and I feel to thank God for it. I hope these few lines will find you and the children in good health.

We started the 19th of this month to give the rebels battle and we marched eight miles up the Rappahannock where we intended to cross in the morning but that night it set in and rained for the next thirty six hours and the mud was so deep that it took fourteen horses and fifty men to draw one pontoon wagon where six horses would draw one in our country. The land is sandy and as soon as it rains it is all mud. So the battle has been given up for the present and we have marched back to our old camp where we lay now. The old soldiers have given up the idea that we shall ever whip the rebels, but they feel in hopes that the Democrats will carry the day in Congress next spring and then the war will be settled.

I hope I can come home next spring. There is no telling the suffering the poor soldiers have to endure. I hope and trust in God that this war will soon come to an end.

Write and let me know what the folks think about the war and when they think it is likely to come to an end. We soldiers get discouraged and are almost ready to give up in despair but then something will come up again in the papers and give us new courage. That is the way the world goes in the time of war but I think there is some big blow about to be struck but what it will amount to I do not know. But one thing is sure there will be a great many lives lost.

Write and let me know what you will do for a cow this spring when you let the heifer go.

Tell the children I want to see them the worst kind and all the rest of the folks. I long to see this cursed rebellion put down but when that will be the Lord only knows.

Write and let me know how you get along. I think we shall get our pay for two months in two or three days. Uncle Sam dare not pay his men for fear they will desert. One of the Indiana Regiments got their pay for four months and forty of them deserted the next day. They had eight months wages due them.

The Army is greatly dissatisfied if a man is sick. He doesn't have any more care than a dog. He lays on the ground and has to care for himself. It is hard to see a sick man lay in his pup tent on the ground. Men can not take care of one another as they have to do duty all the time they have and none areright well.

From

J. Delamarter to wife and children

February 2, 1863
Camp Pitcher

Dear Wife;

I received your letter of the twenty-third and was glad to hear that you and the children are well. I am as well as usual thanks be to God for as good a degree of health as I enjoy.

You wrote about going home to stay. Do as you think best but if you do you had better make a van and also sell off all but the beds and dishes. You might sell some of your dishes if you see fit to. It won't pay you to move much so far. You must be saving of your money if you get any.

The Brigade has all been paid off except our Regiment and I think we will get our pay in two or three weeks. Some of the men have got in debt to the sutler twenty five dollars and their families must suffer. I don't owe twenty-five cents to anyone. When I get my money I owe it to myself by hardships.

If you can get something to do to earn part of your living it will be a good thing for us as long as you don't have to work too hard.

I saw a letter last Sunday that you wrote to Abe and you said that Stephen was wounded. It is not so. He was not in the Fredricksburg battle. If he has been wounded it was in trying to get home. There was a man deserted the same time Steve did and they caught him and have him in the jail in Alexandria. It is a dangerous thing to desert. They take all their pay away that is coming to them for the whole three years and sometime they even shot them.

I don't expect to get home very soon but I would be as glad to come home as the next one. Some in our Company are trying to get furloughs. I would try but I could not get one for more than ten or fifteen days and it would cost me \$25.00 or \$30.00 and I am not sure I could even get one. If we can't move for six weeks they may give some furloughs.

It rains nearly half of the time and the folks that live around here say it will until the middle of March. It is the worst mud you ever saw when it rains. We have also had two snow storms here this winter. The snow fell about five inches deep and stayed on about three days. The sun shines so hot the snow must go before it.

We have so many new commanders in the field we can't do anything. Our officers don't care for anything but their pay and to drink whiskey and play cards. I think it is the way of most of the men that rule our Government. Our nation is so corrupt that it can't prosper. I don't know what we will come to yet for our wickedness. I hope our nation may be led to see their wickedness and repent and turn to God that they may prosper again as in days gone by. Those that prosper to be Gods children would be more faithful to God.

Virginia has been a good country before the war but it is a hard looking country now. Not a stick of fence left to be seen for miles. Barns and houses are torn down and destroyed and it is desolated now. Virginia has been a nice state once but it is far from it now. War lays all things prostrate before it except the rebels.

February 2, 1863
Camp Pitcher

Abe was well and also John Melton the last I saw them and that was last Sunday. John swears as bad as any one you often hear but Abe, I think, is steady and pious.

Let me know how much Gunn charged for my boots. Let me know how much hay Trumble had on the Cobb place and how your hay holds out.

I should think you could live with your mother seeing they have no family but do as you think best as you are boss now. I would like to get a furlough if I could but it would cost me so much to come home that I could not afford it and if I should I don't know but I would be tempted to stay home and that would not be right so I don't know what to do. Get someone to inquire what the fare is from New Milford to Washington. I am about sixty miles from Washington. I cook for the Captain yet. He is also trying to get a furlough to come home but I don't know yet whether he will get it or not and if he does it won't be for more than fifteen days and I shall probably cook for Lieutenant Tyler.

Lieutenant Guile has the rheumatism and I think he will come home in a few days.

Tell George, Bird and Ella that they and you must have their likenesses taken and send them to me right away as I want to see you all. Have it put in a case as I can not carry it any other way. Get good ones that are as natural as you can. Send them as soon as you can.

The last letter you sent had a plaster. It would have come with one stamp as well as two.

It is very cold today and the ground is froze hard and the wind is in the north. I want you to write what for a day it is there the third of the month.

I remain your affectionate husband and well wisher.

Jacob Delamarter
to E. M. Delamarter and children.

February 18, 1863
Camp Mitcher

Dear Wife:

I take this favorable opportunity to inform you of my health which is very good at present. I have just come in from picket. We were out four days on picket and don't you think I had the pleasure of going into a house and setting in a chair for the first time in three or four months. They were Union folks. They came from Pennsylvania twelve years ago and they are well off. They have two girls, one ten and the other twelve, and they sent them to Rochester New York to school. They sold us all the wheat hocakes we wanted for twenty-five cents a piece. One would make me a meal. I must tell you how they are made: They take flour, water and salt. That is all they take to make them of. One barrel of flour would come to \$125.00 dollars made into hocakes.

I sent only two dollars in my letter instead of ten as I wrote because the Captain was going home. I did not know that he would go home when I wrote the letter. I sent thirty dollars with him and he is going to give you some five dollars for cooking for him. That will make thirty-five dollars and if he gives more you need not refuse it but you need not ask for the five dollars. He said that he would take the money to you but if he doesn't you can go to Montrose to the Lawyers - McCallum - and get it.

I got my pay for two and a half months which was \$34.65 and I will send it all to you seeing as I have no one else to send it to. Some of the boys spend all they earn. I tell you it stands us in hand to save our money so we can get a home. If you can make most of the children's living and your own I could save a good deal of money. I am saving, you better believe, of my money as so to send it home. I have sent over one hundred dollars home, \$45.00 from Harrisburg, \$20.00 from here when I got my bounty and \$37.00 now.

I would like to know where you are going this spring and what you are going to do. If I were there I could tell more about what you had better do but as it is I can't tell what you had better do but do the best you can and that is all I can say.

The Captain talks of getting a darkey at Montrose to fetch back to cook for him but I don't know if he will or not but time will tell.

Tell me how little Ella grows and whether she remembers anything about me or not and how the boys get along. How I would like to see you all but I can't tell whether I ever shall or not. Sometimes I think I shall and then again I get discouraged and have the blues. But I try to keep up good courage and hope for the best.

Let me know how your cow does this winter.

Abe and Johnny have gone so I don't see them. They have gone to Fortress Monroe.

February 18, 1863
Camp Pitcher

We are getting soft bread now and it seems a little like old times. We have had hard tack for the last four months and I can hardly live on that. I perfectly hate them.

I will send my likeness in this letter. I don't think it is a very good one but you may think it is better than none. I want to see yours and the children's coming before long.

I wish you would send me another box. Send a cheese that will weigh about fifteen pounds. Get a pretty new one and a good one and send ten pounds of butter and make the butter saltier than the other was. Buy a new five quart pail with a lid on it and fill it with the butter. Put cabbage leaves around the pail inside and on the top of the butter. Also send me a good coffee pot that will hold two quarts. Get one of good heavy tin. Send a paper of mustard and two or three ounces of nutmeg and some dried apples and buy a couple of quarts of black raspberries and send any other things such as you think best. Don't send anything that may rot for it will spoil the rest. Don't send any green apples. Send only dried fruit. Send me a quart of boiled cider in a good thick bottle and put in a good cork and put it in tight. When you get the box fixed up put a hoop around the middle of the box and each end. The other box was open when I got it. Pay the freight and send the receipt to me and then I can get the box or the pay for it. I will sell enough to get what the stuff cost you and send it back to you, the money I mean. Send it immediately without delay. Don't have the box weigh more than fifty pounds that is so they will charge for more than fifty pounds. If you do they say the box is over fifty and they charge for one hundred pounds. If you can't get all you want to in the box without it weighing over fifty pounds then make it up to one hundred pounds box and all. I can get sixty cents a pound for the butter and forty cents a pound for the cheese so it counts up fast. I will send five dollars in the next letter. Have the directions put on the box with black paint as you did before. Have it marked plain. Direct as you do the letters.

J. Delamarter

February 20, 1863
Camp Pitcher

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter today and was glad to hear from you and also glad to hear that you were all well. It did me a lot of good to hear from you and the children if I can't see you but I hope we may yet live to see one another but my health has been very poor for the last week. I am so as to be around but last Sunday I could not set up any of the time hardly for I had such a pain in my head and still have a hard pain in my head. I went to see the doctor today and got some medicine which I hope will help me. I have a bad pain in my left side and left kidney but not as bad a cough as I have had.

You did not write how I should use those pills for the throat and lungs. I got pills three times in different letters.

I would like as many as ten letter stamps for I have borrowed a number. Send them immediately.

It has rained and snowed most all of the time for the past ten days and it makes it very disagreeable for a soldier. The mud was about an inch deep in the bottom of our tents and we had no wood to keep us warm so we had to go to bed to keep warm in the day time.

I saw Nelson Honley today and he was well. Tell Mr. Gunns folks about it. I have only written one letter since I have been in the service but what I wrote to you and that one was to John. I can't get much time to write as I have to fetch our wood a good ways.

You must kiss the children for me. Tell Bird he must get him a little pony and come and see his par.

I can't write much today for I don't feel like it so will write one of your kind of letters. That is part of a sheet full. You have gained in writing a good hand. You have improved in writing very much.

I think if you can get Gunns house it would be the best thing you could do for you would have pasture for a cow and you could also keep your things. It would cost you thirty dollars to move to Ovid and then you don't know how long your folks will stay where they are but do as you think best.

I must close for the present.

To E. M. Delamarter

Jacob Delamarter

From you know who:

I send five dollars in this letter to you as I have so much money that I can't keep it very well myself so you can keep it for me and I will be much obliged to you for it. I send the children a little present.

March 3, 1863
Camp Pitcher

My dear wife:

I take my pen to inform you of my health which is about as usual and I hope thru the mercy of God these few lines will find you and the children in good health.

I have not heard from you in about fifteen days and I think it is very strange. I have written some three letters since I have heard from you. I sent two dollars in one letter, in another five dollars and thirty dollars by the Captain and my likeness in another letter and I think it is strange I can't hear from you. I think you must have written to me and it has been miscarried. I have been waiting to hear from you and I can't wait any longer so I write a few lines to you.

We are to move camp tomorrow as the wood is getting so scarce that we have to carry it about one half mile and burn brush at that. I think we will not go over six miles to a new camp in the woods.

I must close for it is getting late and we must march at nine in the morning and I have all of my traps to pack up ready to march in the morning. I can't write much news this time as I haven't much time at present but I want you to write all the news about the war.

Let me know what the folks think about the war coming to a close. Some times we think it can't last long and then we think we are in for the three years.

I must close by bidding you good night and hope you and the children are well but I am afraid some of you are sick or dead. Two have died in our camp inside of a week.

I remain your ever affectionate husband until death.

J. Delamarter
to E. M. Delamarter and children

March 12, 1863
Camp Igudish

My dear wife:

I received your kind letter of the fifth and was very glad to hear from you and I am glad that you have bought a cow. I hope you will have good luck with her. Things will be awful high out there. I suppose you have all the corn you will need for this summer.

I have been sick for the last eight days with neuralgia, all of me. I had it very hard in my head and face. I was so sick I could not sit up hardly any of the time but this morning, thanks to God, I am quite smart again. I began to think I was not long for this world and I still think so but let that be as it may. I want to be consigned to the will of God for he does all things well. I have been looking for those likenesses but have not seen them yet. I wish you would hurry them up. It would be so much consolation to me to see all of you once more.

The Captain got back last night and did not fetch anyone with him so my chance is good yet.

It has been very unhealthy weather. It has rained and snowed most of the time. I want you to write more often than twice a month as you have for the last month. I think when the weather gets settled I shall be smart again. My side and back hurt me a good deal. I just can't stand such hardship any more.

Write for I can't write much this time as we do not have our tent up and I don't have much of a chance to write. When you direct a letter always put P.V. on it which is for Pennsylvania Volunteers or they don't know whether it is for a New York regiment or some other state. You direct them right except you don't put the P.V. on them. Write often.

You have the price of grain higher than any of the rest.

Maybe something will turn up that I may get my discharge. The darkest time is just before the day. Anyone to get a discharge has to be sick two months in a hospital before you can get a discharge.

You and George had better raise all yucas for there will be almost a famine another year.

If things go as their likely to now this thing can't last much longer. One of our men has been to Richmond and he says salt is as high as a dollar a pound.

J. Delamarter
to E. M. Delamarter

March 26, 1863
Camp near the Potomac Creek

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter of the twentieth and was glad to hear from you. I would not write so soon but we do not know how soon we shall leave here. All they are waiting for is to have it come to settled weather so they can move the Army and then we start for Richmond and how far we will get that way is more than I can tell but we have a large army and the rebs have it fortified all the way to Richmond. When we commence to march I don't expect to write very often so I must make up for it now. I expect you get tired of reading my foolishness in letters but I can not help it. I do not tire of reading your letters. It is a comfort to me to hear from you and home.

It appears to be the opinion of most of the soldiers that this war will end in three months but I don't know how it will be but I hope it will be so. I can't see it in that light.

Let me know if you have heard from Abe Covert. I have not heard from him since he left for Fortress Monroe. Let me know if you have heard anything from Moses Delamarter. Also write and let me know how your cow done this winter and how you are getting along.

I save all of my money for you and the children. A great many men in our Company never send home twenty dollars. Wash Huit spends his money about as fast as he gets it. The sutlers will take all a soldier can earn if they can coax the soldiers to trade with them and get them in debt. Some of them get in debt twenty dollars from one pay day to another and that is the way their money goes. I don't get trusted. I don't trade much with them, that you can plainly see, as I send my money home and if I want any I shall send for it.

Be careful of your money for it is hard times and will be harder still but you must not complain for it is in the time of war and we must expect hard times. I don't feel to complain because there is an all ruling power at the bottom of it so we must not complain with the Lord and I think it will come out right in the end.

Write how your hay is coming out and corn and potatoes.

I think it is a shame I can not get your likeness and the children. I have been expecting them every mail for the last month. If you haven't the money to get them taken I will send it to you. I sent five dollars in a letter this week to you.

I am looking for the Captain yet.

J. Delamarter

April 1, 1863
Camp near the Potomac Creek

My dear wife:

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to let you know of my health which is a great deal better then it has been. I am quite smart again. I am so as to be around and cook for the Captain and the rest of the family. I live very good.

We have a ham to eat and some dried berries. The Captain has some _____ flour which came from home and I have some very good cakes. We can not live as we did at home for we haven't got that brindle cow nor those pullet eggs that we had at home nor many of the other things that we enjoyed at home but we make the best of it we can.

I tell you I think as much of home as anyone can but I can not say I am sorry that I came to war for it is every true Americans duty to help put the rebellion down. It makes me so mad to see so many copperheads to the north who sympathize with the south. I wish they would go to the south and then we could fight them just where we want to fight them. Oh how I hate a Northern sympathizer. They are as bad as the tories of the revolution but enough of that.

The rebels came across the river and we gave them enough of it and they were glad to get back on their own side again. We took a good many prisoners from them. The Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel and Major have had their wives with them for the last two weeks and it made me think of home to see them. I often think of home and you and the children but when I think you and the children are so much better situated than I be I can not complain. A good many of the women that have husbands here tells _____ to keep their money and make themselves comfortable and they will take care of themselves. I want to see you and the children have enough to eat and drink even if I don't. I must send my money home to take care of the babies with.

I hope you will have good luck with your garden and have plenty of fruit. I think you get cheap rent if you get a cow wintered in the bargain. If you can buy another cow cheap I think it would pay you to keep two. Butter is so high and will be this next summer. I shall have fifty dollars coming the next pay day and we will get our pay I think in two weeks or less but in course of a month I think at the furthest.

I can hardly wait to see those likenesses till they come. I want to see how my little children look. You had better use spirits of turpentine on George's foot for I think it is very good for a frozen foot.

We are in camp yet and how long we will be here I do not know. I hardly know what more to write but one thing I can say, the Lord has been good to me and my family in sparing our lives thus far. I feel to praise his dear name for it. I hope we will prove faithful to the end for it is these that shall wear the crown.

Jacob Delamarter

April 11, 1863
Camp near Potomac Creek

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter of the seventh and was glad to hear from you. I have written two letters to you that you have not received yet. I sent five dollars in one and I told you that I got my box all right and also the postage stamps. I was right glad to get the medicine that came in the box and the rest of the things.

You have some beautiful dried apples. I could sell all of your apples for twelve cents a pound if I had them here. I sold all of the butter for fifty cents per pound as I was cooking for the Captain and I sent the money to you and I'm sorry if you don't get it. You must have had bad luck with your hog. I am sorry but you must try it again.

Let me know who you bought your heifer of. Your apples you had better not be in a hurry to sell for there may not be any fruit this season.

I want you to explain your name in the next letter. I don't know what it means.

I can not write any more for my hand trembles so that you can see I have ague so much that it all but kills me.

We have been on picket for the last four days and I could not write. We went eight miles on picket and stayed in the woods for the four days.

The most of the folks here think the war will close in three months.

J. Delamarter

April 17, 1863
Camp near the Potomac Creek

Dear Wife:

I take my pen to write a few lines to you to let you know of my health which is about the same. We have been under marching orders for the last four days to be ready at an hours notice but where we are to go we can not tell. We are ordered to take eight days rations. Some think we will go on water to Texas, others think over the river again but we can not tell where we will go yet. I think we will go where there is plenty of fighting to do.

I hope the war will close before another winter but I want it to close honorably. I hope you have got that five dollars. I don't know when we shall get our pay. We may not in some months yet. I don't feel like writing much this time as my head aches bad.

If we had moved three or four days ago I should not have went. I would have gone to the hospital but I have got some better now so I am around. I cook yet for the Captain and the rest of the family.

Let me know how they get along with the drafted men to fill up our regiment with. Write whether the children grow much or not. I would like to see you all and I hope and pray I may yet. I must close as I am tired. I think this is the first one I have not filled. I hate to see a letter that does not fill the whole sheet. Kiss all the children for me. Ella especially.

to E. M. Delamarter
from J. Delamarter

April 21, 1863
Camp near Potomac Creek

Dear Wife:

I thought as I could not get a letter from you I would write again to you. I haven't had a letter from you since the fifth of the month. I have looked in every mail for a letter but in vain. I think the reason that you have not written before is because you have been to Susquehanna but you could have written from there just as well.

We have been under marching orders for two weeks. We expect the whole Potomac Army will move together for some point we know not where. I don't know whether I shall be able to march with the Regiment or not.

April 22, 1863

We are still here and are likely to be as Hooker broke his leg so the army will lay still while Fremont takes his place until old Joe gets well.

It seems as if the Potomac Army has all of the bad luck imaginable but I do not know as I am to blame for it.

I wish the war would soon end but I don't see as it will end in two years to come but a great many think it is near to an end. I can not see the point but I hope it is so.

We are looking for a dreadful hot summer here this summer. We have had some dreadful hot days here lately. Peach trees are in bloom here. I suppose it freezes up there now. Now I would like to be home and work in the garden this spring and to help you eat your good red potatoes and apples. If you would send your dried apples down here I could get twelve cents per pound for them and get the cash.

Let me know how much the freight was on my box. Let me know if Bird and the rest of the children grow much. You don't write much about the children. Write more about them and the rest of the folks. Tell Mr. Lee Freddy I would like to help him do his haying this summer. Tell Ella and Bird if I could see them I would squeeze them most to pieces. Ask Bird if he can't send me an apple in a letter something else that is good.

I can not eat anything hardly. Sometimes I eat once a day and sometimes twice but nothing tastes good but if I was home to get buttermilk I would think I was made for something to drink. I have not had any buttermilk since I left home. You would not see a cow here once a year hardly. Cows are scarce in Virginia. You think you have it hard there but you don't know anything about hard times. I thought I did but when you are so sick you can't hardly hold your head up in the night and have it come up and rain right down in your face through the tent that seems hard. At least it did to me the other night but this is war times now and we don't find much fault.

I must close. Keep up good courage to the end. Write often. I shant write any more about those likenesses as I am not likely to get them. I still remain your affectionate husband.

J. Delamarter

April 26, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter of the sixteenth and was glad to hear from you and that you and the children are well. I got my pay for four months and I let Daniel Searle have fifty dollars and his father is to pay it to you or you can give Mr. Smith an order to get it for you. Be careful of this money for it cost me a good deal of pain and suffering and I have been saving and not spent much to save it so if I was spared to come home I would have something to help myself with. You can see how much I have spent by reckoning up how much I have sent home and how much I have received. \$158.65, sent home \$157.00 and since I have been sick I have had to hire my washing done. You had better be careful how you leave your money in the house when you are gone or how you carry it with you. Some men here have had their pockets picked of all they had.

There is considerable talk of our marching soon. I think we will but I am not able to march yet but I am quite smart now. I would like to have been with you to Susquehanna and in fact I would like to be with you all of the time. I often think of the enjoyment we have had together and I hope we may be spared to take some comfort together yet.

I am tired of war but we must maintain our Government. If there is any truth in the papers the rebels are about starved out. A great many think the war will close in three months but I can't see it in that light but I hope it is so. I want to see the war close as quick as possible and have our Government saved as it should be.

Be sure when you get your money that you get Government money, that is green backs, for I let such money go. It is Searle in Montrose that you have to go to get your money. Write as soon as you get this and let me know whether you get it.

I can not think of any more to write only it is a very sickly time in our Company now. Gib Corwin has Typhoid Fever now and he has been very sick. He is in the hospital. George Carney is very sick also now and a great many others. The water is very bad here and that causes disease.

No more at present.

Jacob Delamarter to
E. M. Delamarter and children

April 28, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

I thought I would write a few lines to you to let you know of my health which is better but not very good. We have marching orders. We have to cross the river again and attack the rebels in their strong hold but how many of us that will be spared to come back the Lord only knows. Some of us will be laid low in the earth but who it has to be I know not but I hope and pray who ever it may be he may be prepared to meet his fate.

I want you to send me some postage stamps for I am out and have had to borrow. I forget to write for them. I should think you would send me some without me writing for them everytime, as I can not buy one here for love or money. I don't know how I can even send this letter unless I can borrow a stamp.

I have sent fifty dollars to Searle in Montrose for you and I have sent the order in a letter to you and likely you will get the money before you get this letter. I let his son have the fifty dollars down here and he gave me an order on his father in Montrose for the fifty dollars. Don't take anything of him but the money. I hear he is a great man to try to get anyone to take part of it out of the store but don't you do it for he is rich and he can get the money anytime he wants it. He has it in the bank at his command.

How I would like to see my little children in a cage but it don't do any good to say anything about it. I have looked and looked in vain for them for the last five months. I think it is a shame if you don't want to send me yours but I want the childrens immediately. If you can not get them taken I shall try to get someone else to get them taken. I think it is a shame the way I have been used about it. I have tried to have patients but I can not any longer.

It is raining this morning and I hope it will stop us from marching. Cobb came to see us last Sunday and he said my liver was badly infected. His regiment is about four miles from us and he said if I would come to his regiment he would give me some medicine that would help me.

Don't keep any money but green backs. That is government money and that is the best money that is going now and will be as long as we have a Government and when we don't have a Government other money is not good unless it is gold or silver.

No more at present.

Jacob Delamarter to
E. M. Delamarter and children

May 1, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter of the third and was glad to hear from you and glad to hear that you and the children were well. I got Bird and Ella in a letter and I was never more pleased than I was to get them. A great many of the soldiers say they never saw a nicer picture. I had to kiss them more than once but I have broken the glass. I wish you had sent the case. You could have gotten an envelope from the post office. Be sure and have a good stout case for yours. Not a costly one but a good one to wear.

Write and let me know what they say about sending more men. We have had as hard a battle as we had last winter under Burnside. It seems as if the north and south are bent on having all the men killed off before the war is settled. The north will not give up nor the south until they are obliged to. We expect to have another battle in a short time but how soon we don't know. We had twenty-four killed and wounded out of thirty-five that were in our company. Twenty of them were wounded. We lost our first Lieutenant, he was killed and the Captain was wounded. Our second Lieutenant was wounded in the hip. War is an awful thing and how long it will last God only knows but I hope not long. We think sometimes we will have to stay the whole three years, that is all that live that long. One of the Corwin boys was shot through the back part of the neck but not dangerous. Gib Corwin was sick in the hospital but is smart again now. Most of our company was wounded in the arm or legs or hands. The wounded from our company were sent to Philadelphia to be taken care of. I have to take a gun now as I have no one to cook for. I don't know how soon I shall be in battle but my prayer to God is to be prepared for death let it come when it may. I hope we may live in that way that if we never meet on earth that we may meet in Heaven where sorrow never comes nor pain nor death. I want you to pray for your unworthy husband when it is well with you.

How I would like to see you and the children but I don't know as I ever shall be permitted to behold your faces again in this world. I hope we may meet in Heaven if not on this earth.

I am going to attend a funeral for Sergeant Kent of the New Milford company who was wounded. He had his leg taken off and died last night I believe.

Keep up good courage. The darkest time is just before day.

From your unworthy husband,

J. Dolanarter

May 7, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

My life is still spared thanks be to God for it. We have had one of the hardest battles that has ever been fought since the rebellion commenced. I was not in the battle on account of not being able to march. Our regiment was all cut to pieces. There are only about one hundred and sixty men left out of the regiment fit for duty. Our company has only about fifteen men fit for duty.

The battle lasted six days. All the time hard fighting day and night but the rebels had the hardest of it I think. We had at the least fifty thousand killed and wounded and the rebels more than that. We took a great many prisoners from the rebels but when this rebellion will end I can not tell. It will never end by fighting I don't think. It is the hardest war that has ever been in history already. I hope it will be settled some how before all the men will be killed off that are left. The rebels say they will fight as long as there are any of them left. I saw about one thousand of the rebels that were prisoners and I talked with some of them. They say the war will not end as long as Lincoln is President, but that is to be tried out.

I hardly know what to write as this makes me feel so bad since the battle to think so many of our company were killed and wounded. There were only two killed in our company but twenty-four wounded. Delbert Corwin was shot through the back part of the neck but not dangerous. Hank Carney was shot through the leg. George Carney is sick in the hospital but is getting better. We expect to march again in a few days. I expect to march along as I am better. Our Captain was wounded and our First Lieutenant was killed. Our second Lieutenant was wounded but not dangerous. Such a battle has not been since the war began as this has been. Twelve days without any mail. I thought I would write and have it ready to send when the mail goes. I have not had any mail for eighteen days or more. The mail has stopped since the battle commenced.

Jacob Delanarter

May 22, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am as well as usual and I would like to know how you are. I have not heard from you since the fifth of May and I have written three letters since. I would like to get an answer from some of them.

We are laying in camp since the battle and I think we shall for awhile. It is very warm weather here now and dry. I was very much pleased with those likenesses. If there is any chance to come home on a furlough in the course of two months I think I shall come but I don't think there will be. I drill with the company now as we have no Captain or Lieutenant with us now as they were wounded and have gone home for awhile. The Lieutenant of the New Milford Company drills us now. I shan't write much this time for I want to hear from you before I write much more.

If you are a mind to send a box of dried apples and cheese and some other notions you may have. If you send any butter you must put it in a can and have it soldered up for it will melt and run away. Butter is worth seventy five cents a pound and it tastes good when I can get it.

Give my love to all inquiring friends.

I wish you would make some of that brandy and seal it up in a can or solder it up so it can't leak out and mark the can "preserves." I want it to put some medicine in.

I looked hard for a letter tonight but I looked in vain. I think you must have written before but it must have been miscarried. Tell George he must learn to write so as to send me a letter. Tell Bird he must see how fast he can learn so he can write to paugh. I want you to write often.

This from your affectionate husband until death.

Jacob Delamarter
to E. M. Delamarter

Send me some stamps as I am out.

May 31, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand this blessed Sabbath morning to answer your kind letter which came to hand last night. I was very much pleased to hear that you were well.

I feel this morning as if I would like to be home to go to church with you. It is a beautiful day. The sun shines and it is very warm. We are encamped within two miles of Belplain Landing. We can see the steamers and sloops from our camp. It is the most pleasant camp we have had yet, but it does not seem much like home. What would I give for a bowl of milk. I have not had a taste of milk in six months or more but a soldier has to put up with anything he can get. I hope we shall take Vicksburg and Charleston and then I hope the war will soon close.

We can't see anything growing for twenty miles around. The south is all desecrated and given up for hundreds of miles around. Slavery is a curse to any nation and the soldiers feel it now for the soldiers are slaves to the Government. The privates haven't any privileges under their drunken officers.

I expect to get paid for two months this week but you can not tell.

If you haven't sent a box to me yet send a good lot of ground mustard and some maple sugar and a half pound of ground pepper. Send them immediately if you haven't and direct them as before.

I am as well as common. I have not heard from Abe and Thomas since they left. Captain Tyler has not come back yet but I think he will come back this week. Let me know if you are likely to have much fruit and how your cow does and fowls this summer.

Tell Ella that paugh kissed her and Bird a good many times. Let me know if you have heard from John and mother lately.

The general health of the army is good at present. The chill fever rages some here now. We moved our Camp since I wrote before but we moved only two miles.

You wrote that you had such a pretty lamb. You had better keep it for sheep are high and scarce. I can't think of anything more to write just now. I saw Nelson Haulley last night and he was well. I have not seen James McCrary lately. He belongs to a battery. Write often. I wrote in my last letter about sending me a box of things. I suppose you have sent it by this time.

I must close. Keep up good courage and hope for the best. Don't borrow any trouble about me for it won't do any good but hurt.

J. Delmarter to
E. M. Delmarter and children

June 7, 1863
Camp Sickles

Dear Wife:

I take my pen in hand to inform you of my health which is good for me and I feel to thank God for it. We are under orders to march at a minutes notice and where we are to go we can not tell but we think over to Fredricksburg again. I expect to go in the battle. I have just been on Picket. We were gone four days from camp. We were on one side of the river and the rebs on the other side. Pickets don't shoot at each other much anymore. They often cross the river and eat together, that is five or six at a time. They can wade the river and often change papers with each other. Two came over the river the other day and gave themselves up and did not want to fight any more.

I hope if we whip them at Vicksburg the war will soon close. Some think we will go to Vicksburg to reinforce Grant but that is owing to whether the rebs on the other side of the river go to reinforce their army at Vicksburg and some think they have gone and probably we will know in twenty-four hours where we go.

We get pay tomorrow for two months. The Captain has not come back yet but we expect him every day but I do not care whether he comes back or not for we have a Lieutenant to command us from the New Milford Company by the name of Brainard from Hartford and he is a sober man and does not drink as the rest do. Our second Lieutenant is a bully good fellow but he is home now. You need not look for me home now for I can not get a furlough. I do not think there will be a chance for me before next winter and it is hard telling what will happen before that time. I put my trust in God and hope for the best and I hope you will try to serve the Lord and pray for your unworthy husband.

Write often. I long for the war to close so I can come home but I don't know when that will be. Tell the children I want to see them and they must be good children. Kiss them for me and do the best you can. You need not worry about me for it will do no good. Let me know the price of grain in your next letter and also flour and groceries.

No more at present.

From your husband

J. Solawarter

Write about the children

Helen Halley is well, I see him most every day.

June 8, 1863
Camp Fitcher
(near Falmouth)

Dear Wife:

I wrote to you the seventh, which was yesterday, and I said we intended to march right away but the order has been countermanded and we are drilling again so we may stay here for sometime yet so I can get my box.

The company drew their pay today but I didn't get any for I was not mustered in for pay. The last time we were mustered in was when they were on the march to battle and I was not along with some others so we will not get our pay until next pay day and then I will draw forty dollars.

Write how you get along and let me know if you have money enough to last until next pay day. Write all the news.

Jacob Delamarter
to E. M. Delamarter

June 23, 1863
Gum Springs
Loudoun Co., Virginia

Dear Wife:

I write a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well. We have been on a march for the last ten days. We are falling back toward Washington and have been expecting a fight any day but we have not had it yet and I hope we will not have one.

I haven't had any mail for about three weeks on account of the march. When we come to a stop I will write a good long letter.

I must close to send this by mail.

Jacob Delamarter

June 30, 1863
Toneytown, Maryland

Dear Wife:

We are on the march yet. We are within five miles of the Pennsylvania line and we will be in Pennsylvania State today. We are after the rebs. I think this will be about the last of the war.

I can't write much for I haven't time. The citizens came in camp to see us this morning and it made the tears come out of my eyes to see the feeling they have for the soldiers. I could fill three sheets of paper if I had time but I haven't.

I am as well as common. We have been on the march for the last eighteen days. I haven't got my box yet, nor won't until we stop for awhile. Write often for I haven't the time, nor paper or place.

Remember me in your prayers. Don't get scared up in Pennsylvania for the rebs are drove to their last resort.

J. Delamarter