

## **Letters of GEORGE P. SAWYER**

**Clinton Falls, Steele County, Minnesota,  
Co. G, 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Regiment**



*George Sawyer. WIC.*

**To Helen Sanborn**  
**Medford, Steele County, Minnesota**



*Helen Sanborn. BCHS.*

## LETTER ONE

Fort Snelling, May 26, 1861

I will improve this opportunity in writing a few lines to you- It is raining hard and I am very lonesome and I think that I cannot improve my time better than in writing to you. You are the object of my thoughts most of the time when I am lonesome. I have been most of the time this morning. I read several chapters in the Bible and a large share of the news in two papers.

We marched to St. Paul yesterday and received a flag from the ladys (sp.) of that place. We got so tired marching down but we had as good a dinner as I have eaten. After dinner we were allowed to go where we liked till the drum was beat - when we mustered and marched on board the Northern Belle and had a fine ride to the Fort. The report is that we are to start for Fort Ridgely by Tuesday morning, but I think it is some doubtful about our starting quite as soon as that but we shall probably start some day this week. I am glad that we are going there instead of South to remain through the hot weather. I think if there is any fighting to be done the troops that are now at the Fort can do much better service than we can while we can defend the Fort as well as they. I am sorry that we are not able to remain here long enough for you to come and see me. I should have been very happy to have you come but I suppose it cannot be so, but I hope that you will make us a visit while we are at Fort Ridgely. I have just been reading a short-piece in a paper which I think is very good and very true, I will copy it, "Female Patriotism". While so many of the brave sons of our land are leaving their homes with hearts throbbing with patriotic fervor to Strike for their altars and their fires, let it not be supposed that their mothers, sisters, and friends are right behind them in zealous public spirit and unselfish devotion & cause the contrary we believe that daughters give up more than sons. It is easier to march to the battlefield amid the enthusiastic acclamation of an excited people than to sit by the deserted - hear the sick and faint - with deadly apprehensions for which there is no relief but in prayer.

Yet the pain (?) will be for me borne today in a thousand homes and sweet-lives are imploying (sp.) blessings on those to whom they lately breathed farewell.

I must close for my dinner is ready.

Please write often dear Nellie and direct to Company "G" Fort Ridgely. I remain as ever your faithful friend.

George

## LETTER TWO

Camp Gorman, Va. 19th July/61

Dear Friend,

Having a few spare moments- I think I can improve them profitably in writing to my dearest friend. We arrived here last night after dark. When we came here we expected to have a hard battle today and we thought it very probable that we should be called out in the night but there has been nothing done yet - and I think there will not be today. I think we shall have a very hard fight in a day or two. We are encamped (or rather stopping, there is not much of a camp. We stack our guns and lie down on the ground close to them with all our recruitments - and ready to start at a moment's notice) within two miles of the enemy camp. There was quite a serious battle here yesterday before our arrival - our troops were not successful. It is impossible to tell how many were killed on our side but as near as I can learn there were twenty killed and thirty wounded. The last time I wrote to you I had to close so hastily that I did not write half as much as I wished to. I had hardly time to back yours and Bennies and put them in the office before we started. It is very warm marching here in the middle of the day especially on double-quick but we have stood it quite well thus far. One of our men gave out day before yesterday but he is better now. I was quite unwell yesterday when we received orders to march about 3 o'clock P.M. I was fearful that I should not be able to march but I started and the further I went the better I felt - today I feel quite well. About a dozen Rebel prisoners have been brought into camp today by our scouts. I have heard that two of them are to be hung. They have been taken before and were discharged by taking the Oath of Allegiance. I am ashamed of my writing Nellie but I cannot very well help it. There are no conveniences here for writing on. The head of delirium men are on every side some talking some laughing and others singing. The accommodations for writing are so poor that I do not write as many letters to you or to others as I should otherwise do. But I wish dear Nellie that you would write me often whether you hear from me or not and I will write to you as often as I have an opportunity - whether I write any others or not - I expect many of our letters will be lost - but - we must write often enough to make up for that. I have not heard from Medford since a week before we left Fort Ridgely. I have been expecting a letter from you for two or three days. I wrote to you on the boat at Washington and at Alexandria. I am lonesome and I want very much to hear from you and I wish you would ask Roger and our other young friends to write to me. They have a much better chance to write to me than I do to them.

I suppose dearest-friend that before many days I shall be called into action. What the result will be - God only knows but I believe we shall be victorious but probably some of us will be called from this to another world. God grant that we may all be prepared for that great change. I trust and pray that if it should be my lot to fall that I may meet in heaven all those I love on Earth. I am aware that I am a sinner but I endeavor to put my trust in a kind and indulgent Father but I find it so much harder to do right here than when I was at home with friends that love God - to sympathize with me and help me do right - how I sometimes long to be at home for a short time. I would give a good deal to see you and talk with you of our joys and our fears but - I know it is impossible to see you so I take what comfort I can in thinking of you dear Nellie. You are the object of my thoughts most of the time. There are so many around here that I have much chance to sit down alone to read my bible or to meditate but nearly every day I sit down ... and read a Chapter in God's Holy word. I wish you to pray for me dear Helen that I may not be led astray but may live and become the follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. It is time for the mail to go out and I must close. Do not worry about me dear Helen but trust in God and hope for the best.

The mail has gone so I cannot send this for a day or two.

Saturday P.M. we had received marching orders and shall probably be out of here sometime tonight. We know nothing about where we are to go but probably a short distance. I have just read in the Faribault paper that there

was a celebration at Medford, July 4. I hope you had a pleasant time. I'd liked very much to have been there with you. I hope that next 4th, I shall be with you. Please give my respects to all and accept my love. Write often and please also write long letters. I will as often as I have opportunity. It is getting dark and I must be (???) . . . if we cannot leave here tonight.

Farewell and good night.

From your trusted and faithful friend,

Geo.

I did not get my chance to mail this letter and have kept it till the present time. I had it in my pocket (directed to you) through the battle hoping if I would be killed and our troops gained the day - it would be sent to you, but thank God I am alive to send it myself.

Geo.

## LETTER THREE

Camp Stone, September 22, and 24, 1861

Dear Friend

I will spend a few minutes in writing to my best friend. I shall have written yesterday had I felt able to. I was very near sick all day. I do not feel well today but I am much better than I was yesterday. I have not been as well since I had the sickness before.

I have not received a letter from you since I wrote to you last – I hope to get one tonight. I received one from (???) A. last week

James Sawyer has lately received a letter from F. Melvin. He wrote that Roger (???) George Lincoln, and G. Haskell had enlisted. I wish they were in this Reg.

Our Co. went out on picket this morning. I was not able to go with them. Our turn to go out next time will come on Sunday. We should be out there Sunday in succession if our turn came regular.

We received our pay last Saturday. I received pay for two months service twenty-three dollars & sixty-six cents. I sent ten dollars to uncle Kendrick which was all I could afford this time. I have spent quite a sum for things I need. I spent two dollars for a rubber blanket - seventy-five cents for a book ... spent considerable for stationary and postage. Our "mess" buys many articles. In the eating line some of them need and some of them do not – the majority rules and whatever they say buy is bought. There are ten now in our "mess". We have a "commissary" appointed to buy whatever must be bought – each one paying his share of the expense. Sometimes I think we are rather extravagant – but of course if the majority think it best to buy anything. I also do not object – but – if they all like some they buy as much as they now do. I work too hard to earn my money to spend it all on some of the boys, also some of them spend every cent of their wages. At the next payment – we shall be entitled to \$26.00 (Twenty six) dollars.

Everything is going smoothly here. There is no excitement and but very little dissatisfaction in camp.

I do not think we shall have any fighting to do here at present – it does not look much like it now.

I wish dear Nellie that I could be at home with you a few days until I got recruited a little if I could have the pure breezing air of Minn. and the kind care I should get there. I should soon be as well as ever. I think I shall soon be well enough to go on picket tomorrow. I am willing to trust all to my Father "he doeth all things well." He has ever been kindly with me and I believe he will not desert me now when I need his care most – my only hope is in him. I cannot without his help resist the temptations with which I am surrounded. This dear Nellie is a hard place to live right. Is much worse than any other that I was ever in but I hope and pray that with God's help, I may "come off more than conquer." Pray for me Helen that I may do many things which I ought to do ... yet I think I have a desire to do God's will and to lead a consistent Christian life.

I will not write anymore tonight – perhaps I will write a few more in the morning. The mail has gone so that I cannot send it tonight – which I intended to have done.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

I feel better today. I did not get any letters last night - the mail for Regts., ours one of the number, was lost yesterday coming from Washington – the carriers horses ran away. I was going to mail a book to Bennie today entitled Dakota Sounds about Dakota life. Please write – whether he receives it or not.

Yours affectionately,

G. P. Sawyer

## LETTER FOUR

Camp Stone, Sunday, Oct 27, 1861

Dear and Beloved Friend

The Holy Sabath (sp.) has arrived and we are allowed to rest and worship God if we are so inclined.

This pleasant Sabbath morning reminds me of the mercy and kindness of Heavenly Father in sparing my life and health and in giving me so many of life's comforts. When I look around me and see how much better I am situated than those around me.

I realize that I do not love and serve God as I should, I often mourn over my coldness and indifference in the service of my master.

I am on guard today but have some time which I will improve in writing a few lines to one I love.

I do not think our excursion into Va. hurt me any. I am as well as I was before I went - my health I think was never better than at present. I have a slight cold just now but it does not trouble me much.

The troops in Bank's division moved from here towards Washington yesterday. There is a report here - that the rebels are crossing the Potomac near Aquia Creek in large masses and the forces that moved from here are going there. If the report is true we are liable to be ordered from here right away. I do not think we shall cross the river here again soon.

What a happy meeting it will be dear Nellie if we live to meet on Earth. If we do not - I hope and trust we shall meet in Heaven where all is happiness and joy. I hope the war will close, but it does not look just now as if it would. The prospects look rather dark and gloomy. Yet, I am not discouraged. I have always thought and still think we are in the right and must be victorious. I hope this darkness may soon be followed by light.

I think both parties will soon make active and refined movements and I hope we may be victorious.

I have some papers which I should have sent to Bennie yesterday. I will send them tomorrow. I will also send you a Harper's Magazine.

The sergeant in Co. H. who was accidentally shot some time since died last night. The pictures that I have sent and soon send of the public buildings in Washington are very natural. I do not think of much more to write you. Must excuse short letters when I write often. I will write more next time.

Give my respects to all the friends and accept of my love yourself.

Yours with the best wishes of a true friend, Good bye.

Geo P. Sawyer

## LETTER FIVE

Camp Stone, Nov. 24, 1861

Dear Friend

I received your welcome letter (10th) the middle of last week. I wasn't able to answer it until today. I must thank you dear Nellie for your good long letters -they are just the letters I like to get. Short ones are always acceptable from you but I like long ones rather better. It takes so much longer to read them but you must not write long enough to get tired. I like to hear from you often and will be satisfied if I hear but little if that - little is good messages as it usually is.

It is a rainy day. I am lonesome and homesick thinking of loved ones and about friends that are far away and as I think of them I can hardly help shedding tears. How I wish it was over so I could be with you and spend this afternoon quietly. There is but little chance to spend it agreeably here but I will make the best use of it.

It is snowing now which is the first of the season. I expect that the weather will be very disagreeable. I hope we shall soon find out where we are to remain this winter and get winter quarters fixed up. We returned from the river this morning where we have been on picket two days. I received an *Independent* at the same time I received your last letter. I wrote to Benny yesterday. I also sent him a paper a day or two ago. I have got Jeff Davis's and Beauregard's pictures which I will send to you. If I was coming back home happy I would be to . . . be with you and share your fancy "fixings" but never mind Nellie we'll enjoy ourselves when I get home. "if it-were not for hope the heart would break" I always try to look on the bright-side. If I did not - things would sometimes look very dark.

I have heard all about what was written to camp in regards to my writing about the officers. I never wrote any such thing as was reported here.

I do wish Nellie that you could attend school or at some other place where you would not have to work much. If you attempt to board out - home and go to (???) it will be too hard for you to as it always has been. You will have to work hard whether you will have to stay at home or get sick going. I also think often of you so much to write. It is nearly time for (???) and I will close by bidding you good night.

George

## LETTER SIX

Company G of 1st Reg't Minnesota Volunteers  
Camp Stone Maryland, U.S.A.

January 1st, 1862

Dear Helen

A happy new year to you dear Nellie (my hand trembles so that it is almost impossible for me to write and my ink is very poor). How I should like to be at home with you today and tonight. I think we could enjoy ourselves but we must take what comfort we can in writing to and thinking of each other. It is very warm and pleasant here today.

My heart aches a little now but I hope it will soon be better.

I received a very welcome letter from you last night also one from uncle Kendricks. I received one night before last tell him I will answer it soon. I have a lot of letters to answer which I have received since taken sick.

I have not got very strong yet but I am gaining slowly. I have been discharged from the hospital two days. I shall probably not be able to do duty for a week or two perhaps not as soon as that. I believe when I get my strength my health will be better than it has been for some time.

I wrote to sister Anne yesterday. I shall send some pictures of Washington to Sarah tomorrow. I would like to have you ask her to write the next time she writes whether she received them.

Lieut. McCallum intends to start for home tomorrow on a furlough. He will probably get there before this reaches you.

My letters have come quick lately. The three last have been but seven days from the time they were mailed till they arrived here.

The day after I wrote you I found a letter in my portfolio sealed and directed which I wrote a few days before I went to the hospital and forgot to mail it. I never done such a thing before and I do not think I should have done it then if I had not been half crazy.

I was not in the hospital with your cousin. I was in our Regimental hospital. We are over thirty miles from Washington.

I hope dear Nellie to be at home with you next new years, okay. I hope peace will be restored before that time. I have never thought so much about home for two or three weeks past. I suppose I have thought more about it because I have been unwell and have had nothing to do. I received about two weeks ago a very good letter from Mr. Thomas. I received a letter last night from Jobe. He says he is going home soon and dearest friend when I think of home it is of a little house situated in a grove of trees on the banks of Straight River known as the residence of "uncle David." It is to that quiet spot that my thoughts wander often since I left it to act the part of a soldier in this distant land. No other place seems like home to me. To that spot dear Nellie I shall direct my steps if God sees fit to spare my life till I am discharged. I think when I get there I can appreciate the value of home and friendship.

I do not want you to think that I am homesick or discontented for I am not because I believe I am engaged in a just cause and it is my duty to be where I am. Nothing else would induce me to leave home and the friends I love. I love life itself to live as we live here. How often I think of you and wish that I could be with you for a short time and talk with you of happy days that are past and of happier ones that are in store for us in the future if our lives are spared. How we could enjoy ourselves Nellie if I could drop in some pleasant Sabbath morning and walk together to meeting and hear one of Mr. Thomas's good sermons and then walk home and spend the afternoon and evening together but that cannot be dear friend but we can take much pleasure and comfort in writing to each other. The most pleasant time I have is when I am writing to you or reading your letters. Oh, how I love to get a letter from you and sit down and read it and meditate on nearly every day. I take all your letters and read them over. I have almost got them by heart. Do write often won't you Helen. I do not believe I get all your letters. I have been looking for two or three days for an answer to the first one I wrote to you after our arrival in Washington but have been disappointed in getting it. I am fearful that you do not get all I write to you. I have written to you nearly as often as twice a week and I will try to write twice every week here after if you wish me to. There is so much noises in the tent where I am writing that I hardly know what I am doing. I have commenced a letter to Bennie which will try to finish tomorrow,. Since I commenced this letter we have moved about seven miles. We are now encamped at Rockville, MD. I think we are going to Harper's Ferry, Virg. My letter is quite lengthy and I will close. I must again ask you to write often. You must excuse bad writing and mistakes for I am writing amid great confusion.

Please give my respects to all and accept this with much love. Good bye,

Geo. F. Sawyer

## LETTER SEVEN

Camp Stone, Jan 28, 1862

Dear Nellie

I have not received any letter from you for more than a week but I will write you a few lines. I should have written yesterday but I had a hard head ake (sp.) so I deferred it until today. I expected a letter from you Saturday night. Was some disappointed because I did not. I hope to get one tonight.

I was injured last Saturday night for first time since my sickness. It was a stormy rough night the worst of the winter. I caught a hard cold and was nearly sick Saturday and Sunday. I was fearful Saturday afternoon that I should have fever but by... from eating, parading and or half laying (sp.) in bed and taking a sweat, I threw it off. Today I feel about as well as ever. I did not write to you middle of last week. I think I will write again this week. I received Josiah's letter last Tuesday. Have not answered it yet. Tell him I will do it soon. We have not received the payment due us yet; the pay roll were not made out right and were sent back from Washington to be made out correctly. I hope we shall get it soon. I think we shall. Sq. says he is going west in the spring and wants me to come home. Could go with him but probably shall not go unless the war is ended.

(\* apparently one page of the letter is missing \*) ... great country. I received the two *Independents* you sent the time you sent the last letters I received. I like the story well. I think it will be a good one. Mrs. Stowe can write a good story when ..(?).. trys. We are still at our old camp as you will see by this but I shall probably move soon, at least appearances indicate it. We have orders to have every(thing) to march at an hour's notice. It has been rumored here that we were going to Kentucky ...but I think it nothing but a rumor. I am tired of remaining here so long idle. The prospects seem brighter now than for several months past the late victory in Kentucky. I trust we'll soon be allowed by other more brilliant ...(???)

I fear dear Nellie I have not written much that will interest you. I will write again soon and try to do better. I do hope I shall hear from you tonight. You my dear Nellie are the object of my thoughts wherever I am. You have always been a true and faithful friend to me and with God's help I will be true to you. Heaven grant we may ever love and serve our blessed master and that our love to each other may never grow old.

Give my respects to all enquiring friends and accept these few poorly written lines with the love of your friend,

Geo

## LETTER EIGHT

Camp Stone, Jan 29th (1862)

Dearest Helen

I received your letter of the 17th Monday night and I wrote you, I hoped to. I also received one from aunt Mary and one from sister Ann, I have not felt so well for a long time as I did when I got those three letters. All good ones full of love and sympathy. These dear letters from loved ones far away help to lighten the cares and hardships of the soldier's life. Ann writes a very good letter. I will enclose it to you, Ann was always a good girl and I trust she will make a good and virtuous woman. Aunt Mary's letter like all of hers was long and good. It is full of sympathy and encouragement. I think a great deal of her. She has always been very kind to me and has used me like a mother.

Your letters dear Nellie are always good. I like them far better than any others I get or could get. The last is one of the best there is. Love and tenderness in every line.

It has been just nine months today since we were mustered in. The time has passed very quickly (???). I think them the next nine will (*sentence unclear*) should I remain in service so long, which I hope and trust will not be the case. I want to see this war ended. I long for the time to come when I shall be free to return to the friends and home I love. I look forward with bright anticipation and to that happy meeting. If God in mercy spares my life I believe I can appreciate the comforts of home and the society of friends and the love of a true and faithful wife.

When Alfred and Mary are married, please give them my respects and tell them I wish them a long and happy life with nothing to disturb their domestic felicity. I suppose they live with uncle John's folks don't they. How is Mary's health this winter ... Is Dr Finch blind yet. What kind of girl is the Miss Hawkins which Josiah is waiting on. Will they strike up a match do you think .

Thursday, Morning Jan 30, 1862

Last evening I received a letter from Bennie and two papers from you. Many thanks for the papers. I think a great deal of the *Independent*. The more I read of Mr.(Mrs.?) Stowe's story the better I like it. Bennie wrote me a real good-long letter. He always writes good letters.

I know you cannot have much time to write dear Nellie when you attend school. You must not write me, so often if it is not convenient, I do not want to have your sister sit up at night when you ought to be sleeping or write when you are tired, I would rather go without the letters. We have not yet received our pay. Shall probably get it soon. A thousand kisses and many good wishes. Good bye

G.P.S.

## LETTER NINE

Camp Stone, Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862

Dear Helen

I once more take my pen to write a few lines to a "loved one at home". The one that is nearest to my heart. You dear Nellie are the subject of my thoughts by day and of my dreams by night. There has been no meeting today. I have been reading in my testament and in the *Independent*. I had hoped to receive a letter from you last night but was disappointed. Hope to get one tomorrow night. I answered Bennies letter Thursday. I was on guard Friday. It was a bad day very snowy and stormy but I did not get cold as I did when on before.

My health is good. The only trouble with me now is lazyness (sp.). The longer we remain here, the longer I get the less I want to do. It is very muddy here all the time. So bad that we cannot drill any except sometimes in the morning while it is froze. It rains or snows nearly half the time. We received our pay Friday. I have lent twenty dollars of mine, so I cannot send much if any home this time. I have five dollars of mine that I have lent to the boys. I want to get a likeness taken for Sarah and another for Alice Ann. I have paid my share for a stove we bought. Have bought a brush. Paid fifty cents for washing, twenty-five for (???)...to clean brush. Forty for paper... besides buying postage stamps, blacking ink, ec. All these things we have to have and are very dear here and use up the money fast, but I am not going to spend as much in the next two months time as I have in the last two.

I have been thinking some of getting a photograph taken to send to Sarah, if so I think I will send you one also. I would like very much to have your picture dear Nellie if you will send it to me. I will be very much obliged to you if you get one taken to send. Please get a small one. I shall want to carry it in my pocket and the smaller it is the better it will be on that account.

We expect to go on picket in a day or two.

Does Josiah wait from Miss Hawkins very much what kind of a girl is she. Does Newell (?) wait on Miss Jones now. Who does Jobe find to ride around with this winter. Is Mr. Bartholomew still (???) ill. What business is Mr. Hawkins in.

There is no news to write. I do not feel much like writing and will close. Will write you a line the middle of the week if we are not on picket.

G.P.S.

## LETTER TEN

Bolivar Heights, Jefferson Co., Virginia March 16, 1862

Dear Helen

I received a very welcome letter from "my distant loved one" last evening which I read with great pleasure. I had not received one for nearly two weeks.

I have not written to you dear Nellie as often as I intended to since writing you last. We have been on the march nearly all the time; the little time we have been in camp I have been tired and have not felt much like writing today (Sunday) we are back here where we were when I wrote last

We have been in sight of Winchester when we got there we were ordered back here where we arrived yesterday P.M.

We have had some hard days marching. The rebels have all left this part of the country so there is not much to do here and we are going to some other field of action; where that is none of us know. Probably somewhere on the coast. We shall probably leave here soon perhaps tomorrow. I think we shall go to (???) or Annapolis and go on a fleet. I am willing to go anywhere where we can be of service to our beloved country. I had hoped we should have had a battle here because I have no doubt that we could have defeated the rebels easier here than where they have now gone. But it is all for the best. We can defeat them where ever they go. I believe their course is about run. Liberty, Truth and Justice must and will Triumph. I trust the day is not far distant that will see our glorious banner wave over all this fair land. I received last night a letter from Sarah and from Bennie, two papers from you and two from uncle K. Please tell B. I will answer his letter soon. I have no idea dear Helen that the war will last more than three years. If it should perhaps as you say it would be my duty to go home. Undoubtedly I shall do so. I promised you dearest friend that I will take your council and advise. I will not enlist unless you think I ought to. I consider it my duty to consult your wishes and opinions as well as my own.

I think the verses you sent are very good and true. Also the few lines about "sweethearts and wives." Helen, God will protect us wherever we are "I can trust him all is well."

I will not write a long letter this time but will try and write again soon. When I write to Bennie I will give him some account of our campaign here. When we are on the march I do not have a very good opportunity to write but will do the best I can.

Please write often direct to Washington.

Yours with much love

Geo P. Sawyer

## LETTER ELEVEN

Camp near Yorktown ,Virginia, April 7, 1862

Beloved Friend,

I will commence at myself to write a few words to my dearest friend. I did think I would not write until I saw what success we had here but as there seems but little probability of there being much done today I will write a short letter. I should have written before but I had but little opportunity of doing so. I received a welcome letter from you at Hampton several days ago.

Since I wrote to you last (at Alexandria) we have been moving most of the time.

We embarked at A. (Alexandria) the 29th of March on the barge, *N.E. Edmonds*. Landed at Hampton April 1<sup>st</sup>. We had a pleasant trip down the river and by passed Mt. Vernon. Had a good view of it also the deserted rebel earth works on the river.

Hampton was formerly one of the richest towns in the United States but it is a deserted looking place and nearly every building is burned. Gen. McGrouder (rebel) burned it last season. He (McGrouder) is now commander here at Yorktown. I trust he will soon suffer the penalty of the law for the evil deeds he has done. As near as I can learn McClellan has got the rebels surrounded here so they must either fight or surrender. He has ordered them to do the latter and given them today to decide (that is the refront) he will probably get things arranged today and if they do not submit to his terms he will attack them tomorrow. We have a strong force here and I have but very little doubt that we shall be victorious. God is with us. Without doubt if there is a battle (and there probably will be) it will have been fought and decided before this reaches you. We will otherwise be very (???) and until you hear from me but trust in God dearest Helen, "He doeth all things well." If my life is spared I will write to you as soon as it is over. May God watch over and protect us and may we ever put our trust in him is my humble obedient prayer.

Excuse bad writing and a short letter for my pencil is poor and I am sitting in the cold wind.

Yours with the true love of a firm friend,

George P. Sawyer

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Wednesday morn. Apr. 9th

I did not have the opportunity to send this yesterday so I will write a line this morning. We have not moved since I commenced this and there is but little prospect of it today unless we go on picket. The weather is very unpleasant and it has rained most of the time for the past two days. Having no tents we have had rather a rough time. ... I dreamed I was at home with you. What a happy meeting we had. I soon woke up and instead of being at home with you was lying here on the ground. It was raining hard and I was wet and cold. I intend when I do get home to make up for all this if a kind Heavenly Father spares my life.

I do not think we shall have much fighting for several days. I think McClellan will try to take the place by siege.

We have not yet received the pay that is due us and do not see much prospect of our getting it very soon. I cannot write much until we do get it for I have not yet money to pay the postage. I will try to write to you and to Sarah. The mail is going soon and I must close. Please write often dear Nellie.

George

## LETTER TWELVE

Camp Winfield Scott, Near Yorktown, Va. April 17, 1862

Beloved Friend

I once more seat myself to write to one I hold in memory dear. My health is good and I hope dear Nellie this will find you enjoying that greatest of all blessings. I have not received a letter from you since my last. I have now, the mail has just come in and brought me a very welcome letter from you. ... I feel very happy as much as possible under the circumstances. I have faith ... dearest friend that

*(skips to Page three)* in a few weeks the war will be ended and I hope to get home in time to see your roses if they bloom this year. My prayer is that it may be so. Yet they will not ... (???)... be done Oh Lord. It seems to me that if we are victorious here (God grant we may be) the rebels must yield. We are gaining on them here slowly although but little has been yet to what will be done in the next few days. While I am writing our cannons about a fourth of a mile from here are occasionally firing at the rebel batteries. Probably they will continue to all night. They did last night. There was a hard fight about half a mile from here yesterday - the rebels want to fight... were engaged and fought bravely

*(Sawyer now goes back to Page two)* (I was careless and wrote on the wrong page. Please excuse me I haven't time to write it over) supporting one battery and we were supporting another. The rebels came out and attacked the Vermonters but were driven back with great slaughter. They did not come out where we were. Some of our regiment was injured but two or three in other regiments of our brigade were killed by shells. Yesterday there was a continuously roar of artillery and musketry. Our artillery opened fire on the enemy this morning but they did not answer. Since then our guns have fired only occasionally and have not been answered by the enemy's. There will probably be more or less ... every day till the battle is decided.

McClellan's object is I think to take the place by siege and thus lose very few men compared with what he would to storm their works immediately. I have great confidence in "little Mac" (as he is familiarly called by us soldiers) and I believe he will prove himself one of the best generals of modern time. He is cautious and will not rush his men against batteries and strong entrenchments to be slaughtered like cattle when by taking time he can accomplish as much or more with but little loss of life.

We have been on picket twice in the past week. We're within a very short distance of the enemy but they did not trouble us. This brigade has been relieved from field duty for a few days. The (weather) has been pleasant for a few days past. Warm and cold nights. We are camped in a heavy pine forest within range of the enemy's guns but they do not know our position. If they did they would probably drive us out. I received a letter from Annie Dapter a few days ago. She has got her picture taken for me. I wrote to her to send it to you. How I wish I had yours dear Nellie. I would rather have it than ... I hope I shall get it soon. The guard says lights out and I close for tonight.

G.P.S

## LETTER THIRTEEN

Camp near Tyler House, Hanover County, Virginia May 30th, 1862

Dear Helen,

I hasten to answer your very welcome letter which I just received from you about two weeks ago. So long a time has never passed before since I enlisted with my getting a letter from someone. I think some of my letters

must have been lost. I have not had one from Sarah for nearly or quite four weeks. I hope to get one soon. I received two *Independents* this morning and have just read the last of "The Pearl of (???) Island." I am very much obliged to you dear Helen for your kindness in sending me so many papers. I have thought a great deal of them and I hope they have done me some good. I have spent much time reading them which would have otherwise hung heavily on my hands. They have been about the only good reading of the kind I have had.

Your letter is all love and sympathy as they all are. I always love to get and read them. They make me feel happy, increase my faith and courage. I often feel lonesome and sometimes almost homesick. A sense that I doing my duty is all that prevents me from being more so. I do not like this life and should be very unwilling to follow if did not conscience tell me I was performing the duty. I owe my Country in doing all in my power to crush this unjust and wicked rebellion. This with a firm trust in the "God of battles," sustains me in the hour of danger and of suffering.

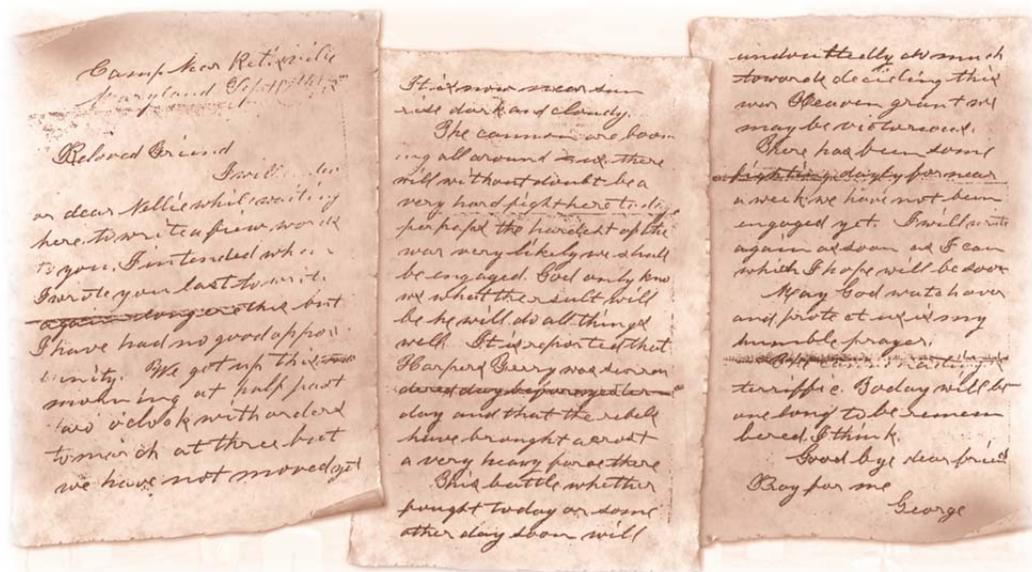
There is heavy cannonading in front of us and but a very few miles distant. Also heavy columns of smoke rising. Very probably we shall be ordered to move soon. Last Tuesday morning very soon after I finished your letter we went out to the river and worked all day building a bridge. At night we stopped there intending to commence work on it early in the morning but about twelve o'clock we were woke up and ordered to put on our accutriments (sp.) and be ready to fall in at a moment's notice. At two o'clock we ordered in line after standing there half an hour. We started for (???) where we arrived just at day break. We were ordered to pack up in light marching order and be ready to march at five o'clock. With three days rations in our haversacks, we started before sunrise and marched about four miles where we remained until last night. It seems we were sent there to support General Porter while he moved around to the north of Richmond and cut off communications between that city and the rebels in front of McDowell which he done by burning bridges and destroying the telegraph. When this was accomplished we came back to camp where we now are. The firing today continued a little more than half an hour then ceased. Since then heavy guns have been fired occasionally. Tonight at dress parade a letter from Mr. Sanford, minister to Belgium, is to be read. Mr. S. is the man that presented this Regiment with three six-pound steel cannons. The guns are now I think at New York. There is some talk of sending for them and having them here in the field with us. Whether it will be done or whether they will be sent to Minnesota is uncertain.

It is rumored that the paymaster will be here soon. The weather is very warm most of the time. The nights are cool. My health is good and I hope dearest friend yours is also. The verses you sent me are very pretty. Much obliged for them. I did not go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> N.H. Regt. but have been to the 5<sup>th</sup> N.H. Found a lieutenant there who I was well acquainted with in N.H. I used to attend school with him. He is not a year older than I am. Our little tents are very small and unhandy. There being hardly room to sit on the ground erect in them. Yet they are of great value to us. They protect us from a burning sun which would allow most of us had we not some protection. They shield us from the very heavy dews which fall here and are some protection from rain although a hard rain drives through them.

The mail is going out and I must close now but will write again soon. Excuse mistakes and bad writing and accept with fervent love and wishes of.

Geo. P. Sawyer

## LETTER FOURTEEN



Camp Near Retisville (Keedysville) Maryland, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Beloved Friend

I will endeavor dear Nellie while waiting here to write a few words to you. I intended when I wrote you last to write again longer this but I have had no opportunity. We got up this morning at half past two o'clock with orders to march at three but we have not moved yet.

It is now near sun rise dark and cloudy.

The cannons are booming all around us. There will without a doubt be a very hard fight here today perhaps the hardest of the war. Very likely we should be engaged. God only knows what the result will be. He will do all things well. It is reported that Harpers Ferry was surrendered day before yesterday and that the rebels have brought across (sp.) a very heavy force there.

This battle whether fought today or some other day soon will undoubtedly do much towards deciding this war. Heaven grant we may be victorious.

There has been some fighting daily for near a week. We have not been engaged yet I will write again as soon as I can which I hope will be soon,

May God watch over and protect us is my humble prayer.

The cannonading is terrific. Today will be one long to be remembered I think.

Good bye dear friend. Pray for me.

George

## LETTER FIFTEEN

Camp near Fredericksburg, Virginia Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Beloved Friend

I will ... the present opportunity in writing a few words to my dear friend. My health is good and I hope and trust this may find you well.

We have lighted our fires on the Rappahannock's shores. We left camp at Warrenton the 15th arrived here the 17th having marched nearly or quite forty miles in two and a half days. We get some tired, our knees and ankles were heavy and we carried three days rations and we marched by the side of the road all the way which made it much harder than if we had been in the road. It is very uncertain how long we shall remain here but my opinion is that we shall not leave here for several days. We cannot go till some supplies are brought up. We have got nothing lately for rations, but hard bread pork & Coffee came, not enough of these. When we drew last, some of the boys had been out for twenty four hours. What we have now got to last us till tomorrow night. Yet some of the boys have not enough for supper tonight. I think I have enough to last me but when the other boys get out we (???) have it will divide with those who have not. I never yet went hungry long at a time and also do not expect to now. We shall be provided for in some way.

I received a letter from you a day or two after I mailed my last to you. I was glad you had a pleasant visit to Garden City. I think I could have enjoyed myself well, could I have been with you which was impossible but dear Nellie I hope it will not be long till we shall have the blessed privilege of meeting and enjoying each other's society. Let us hope and pray that that happy day may not be far distant. I must close for it all most dark and I have some wood to cut and my supper to get make some coffee in my cup and roast a piece of pork on a stick before the fire. Please give my love to your mother and to Ellen. I will try to add a few words in the morning.

Good night

Geo

## LETTER SIXTEEN

Falmouth, Va. March 1st 1863

My dear Helen

I now take my pen to write a few words to you my dearest friend. I have not received a letter from you since writing last but hope to get one soon. I want one very bad indeed. Received a letter from (???) day before yesterday.

My health is very good. I am not on guard at the hospital now. We were relieved two days ago. We were mustered yesterday for pay four months is now due us.

The weather for the most part is very unpleasant and the roads very bad. I never saw them worse.

Some of the boys are getting furloughs. One is granted for every fifty men. Six from our regiment at a time. Fifteen days is the longest they can get. I did think some of trying to get one and go see Wm and Mary but if gone for fifteen days would not be long enough to go to Minn and back.

The boys talk some about going to Minn. this spring and many seem to think we shall go but I do not. I think we shall remain here during our term of enlistment. The 2nd N.H. Regt has gone home to recruit.

Jim Sawyer does not speak aloud. He says he thinks if he was out of the army where he could take care of himself and not keep getting more cold he would soon get over it and I am inclined to think so myself. If I were as he is I think I should try to get my discharge. It is a poor place for a man that cannot talk. Edgar Morrison is well. Harry Magoon received a letter yesterday from his mother. She wrote that uncle Kendrick was going to send me a box and she had put some things inside.

There is a meeting today and I am very lonesome. Oh! How I long to return home and again enjoy the sweet influences of religion and the Society of the good and pure. Tears will inevitably start dear Nellie when I think what we once enjoyed. Heaven grant we may very soon meet and again enjoy each other's Society. Prospects do not look very bright just now but my faith in God is strong and I am expecting when the spring campaign opens that our arms will be victorious and I hope the rebellion speedily crushed. We are fighting on the side of Liberty, Justice and Humanity and we must be victorious. I cannot believe this government is to be destroyed. The Daughter of Truth is turned back from its course leaving the World in its utter darkness and the evils of slavery reign triumphant. "We must and will conquer" I love Country dearly and I believe I am willing to give all I have, even to life itself, if success is in its defense.

I think it time for us to turn lights out and I must close.  
Please give my love to your parents. A thousand kisses and many good wishes.

Yours forever G.P. Sawyer

## LETTER SEVENTEEN

Falmouth, Va. March 23, 1863

Dear Nellie

It is with pleasure that I again take my pen to address a few words to you. I have not received a letter from you since my last but I am looking for one and do hope to get it tonight. I want very much to hear from you again. I had a letter from Sarah day before yesterday. Have not answered it yet. Intend to do so soon. I wrote to her but a short time since. I have not heard from Alice or Mary for several weeks I was on guard yesterday. There was a meeting in the A.M. but my "relief" was on at the time and I could not attend. It has been a long time since I listened to a sermon. The Gov. has not yet arrived in camp. He will probably be here soon. Most of the boys seem to have given up all hopes of our going home this spring. I never had much hope of going and consequently shall not be disappointed in the least.

The weather for a few days past has been rather unpleasant out. Rain or snow falling most of the time. Yesterday after noon the sun shone bright and warm and the mud dried fast but today it is cloudy with good prospects of another storm. There is very little here to interest, excite or amuse. Things move on about the same day after day. We are in good condition and under a good discipline, much better when Hooker took command and we are well fed well clothed and as well cared for in every respect as can be expected for soldiers in the field with limited means of transportation. We have confidence in Genl. Hooker and will follow him to "victory or death." We are no holiday soldiers we know and realize the stern realities of war and trusting in God for help & are ready to meet them. We expect an active and vigorous campaign. Hooker is a "fighting man" and we shall either gain great victories or meet with serious disasters. Our course is just and I believe "victory will be ours." Heaven grant it, is my earnest prayer.

Last week I had a picture taken which I sent to cousin Nellie Sanborn. She asked me for one a long while ago and I promised her that if I had an opportunity to get one she should have it. It was a cheap one without a case. As soon as we are "freed off" I intend to have one taken for Alice and one for Sarah if she has not had one taken from yours. If I ever get to anyplace where I can get a real good one (I do not mean a good looking one but a good one that would look natural) and when I have decent clothes I will have another taken for you dear Nellie, so you can see how much I have changed in looks since my last was taken.

Edgar Morrison was just in here. He looks well and rugged he is a "good boy." I think a great deal of him. He's honest and he's brave, kind and faithful. I believe there are none better among us. He is loved and respected by all as far as know. I will not finish this till after the mail comes in when I hope to get a letter from my dear Nellie.

Tuesday Morning

The mail came in last night but no letter from you. I was some disappointed, but

Tuesday morn 24th, 1863

I think I told you in my last that our pens had come did I not. We have got a good "stock"; have sold some. The weather has been so bad since they came that it has been bad getting around to sell them. Our boys are nearly

out of money. Most of them as are most of the troops in this vicinity so they do not sell as readily as we could wish, but we are hoping to get paid again a few weeks and think they will sell quick.

The regiment has gone on picket today (the 24th) we are still on guard. The weather is rather cool today but is growing warmer. The roads are in a very bad condition. It would be impossible to advance at the present time or in fact to move at all in any direction.

Yes, Nellie almost two years has passed away since I left home. We have been in service twenty-two months and have fourteen more to serve. I hope and trust my life and health will be spaired (sp.) to return to you my dearest friend. Life is sweet to me. I have much to look forward to in the future to make life dear. Yet if it be the will of God that my life should be given in defense of this Government I trust I am willing and ready to make the sacrifice. When I enlisted I pledged all I had even to life if necessary to maintain this Government and thank God I have never regretted the course I then took. The cause of Country and of Freedom is the one nearest my heart and I believe I am if necessary willing to give my life for it. Who was S.D. Eastman's wife? She going South to join his regiment? You spoke of their having to part.

I am very happy dear Nellie to congratulate you on your high department as a scholar and I hope you will get the prize but if you should not, do not feel bad about it. Remember there are many scholars and but one can get it. The last winter I was in N.H. I attended a large high school. At the close the department was read. 10 was perfect, none reached that. However Helen Parker one of the oldest and probably the best scholar in school was marked 9"98 I was next and 9"95. The poetry you copied into your last letter is very good indeed. I think Thy love is a blessing. Wherever thou art in sunshine or shadow the joy of my heart.

Your speaking of being at Luthers and of Hattie and Mary makes me think of the time I left home last and of the sorrow that filled my heart at that time when thinking of the many near and dear and I was leaving perhaps never to see on Earth again, but I felt that I was doing my duty. Had I not, it would have been much harder. I always thought a great deal of Sauthers children. I was not with them a great deal and they were always so good. They always made me think of my sisters Annie and Mary when they were small and I was at home.

Please kiss them for me and give my respects to Luther and Sarah. Also to aunt Abbott and the other friends. The mail will soon go out and I must close. A thousand kisses and as many good wishes.

Yours as ever

G. P. Sawyer

## LETTER EIGHTEEN

Falmouth, Va. March 30, 1863

Dear Helen

I again seat myself to write a few lines to you. I should have written Saturday but was on guard. I have not received a letter from you for more than two weeks and am very anxious to get one. I am all most (sp.) afraid you are sick. The reason you do not write but I sincerely hope not dear Helen. Undoubtedly you have written and the letters have been delayed somewhere on the way. I do hope I shall get one tonight. I want one real bad. I received last night a package of papers from you. Very much obliged for them. Last week I received the boots and other things that uncle Kendrick sent me. The boots were too large and I sold them.

Gov. Ramsey, the Pay Master, and Col. Morgan are expected in camp today and tomorrow. When the Gov. comes we shall probably however learn whether we are going home this spring.

My opinion on the subject is the same that been able all the time that we are not, and most of the boys seem to be of the same opinion but a few think we shall go. I do wish we might, very little hopes of it. I shall be glad when we learn the decision and the talk and speculation on the matter are at an end. Edward Needham (my old "chum") has just returned from a visit to his friends in Ohio where he has been on furlough. Dunham and myself were at his tent last night and had a feast of "good things" in the shape of sweet cake . . . syrup preserves. This morning he (Needham) gave me a big ball of butter.

We have drill, the weather is good. Are to have "Battalion drill" this P.M. We have considerable duty to do now. There is a "detail" from the regiment every day for picket which with the camp guard brings us on often. One of our Corporals is detained at headquarters as clerk. One is Co. clerk, one is "color guard" and Jim Sawyer is not on duty so there are but four of us to do duty in the Co. and one is on nearly every day lately either on camp or brigade guard or on picket. The reason of our having so much picketing to do it is said the troops are some of them moving so we are doing what they have been doing.

We shall undoubtedly move in some direction soon if the rebels will commit, how soon or in what direction Hooker does not tell. Many think a large portion of the army will move down and cross the Rappahannock below here which will compel the enemy to leave his works here to fight us or us to get in his rear. Others think the army or a part of it will go to the Peninsula again and advance on Richmond from that direction. I heard this morning that some of the army was already embarking for there. That it was all going but this Corps. That we were to fall back to Aquia Creek and remain there but I put no confidence in the report.

I have got a cold and do not feel very well today, but I hope to be over it soon. I have been troubled with colds but very little the past winter, less than any winter previous since I can remember. It is stated that all the army except the Corps are "under marching orders." It was so cold yesterday that there was no meeting. It has been a long time since I heard a sermon preached.

It is nearly time for the mail to go out and for us to go and drill so will close. I will write again soon unless we move and I will try to write a more interesting letter next time. I do hope to get a letter tonight from you.

Good bye dear Nellie

George

## LETTER NINETEEN

Falmouth, Va. April 24th, 1863

Dear Helen

Your letter of the 12th & 13th came to hand night before last and was very welcome indeed, I received last evening a welcome letter from Mary also three papers from you for which dear Nellie receive my thanks. A short time ago I had a letter from Ann. She is well. I also received a letter from Mary last evening. It rains one half the time lately. Today a hard storm is raging. I expected this morning (???) but a sergeant went from our Co. instead of a Corporal. It is rumored that Genl. Hooker has resigned but I do not believe it. I sincerely hope it is not true. We do not hear very much about moving just now.

The pay master is here. Has paid some of the regiments. Will probably pay us today or tomorrow four months pay. I am very sorry to hear that Nelda (???) is sick but am glad to learn that she is some better. I hope and pray that she may soon be restored to perfect health. Please give her my love and sympathy. Yes dear Nellie it would be a heavy blow to her family should she be taken away, a sad thing indeed. You ask what kind of a boy Ed Needham is. He is as good hearted one as ever lived and as brave as a lion. There is not a better soldier in the Co. He fears no danger when in the performance of duty. Always cool and determined when on duty. He and I have been together several times on what were considered a little dangerous. He is always one of the first to volunteer for such duty. He is moral, but not religious. I like him well. I admire a brave man and a true soldier and he is such. He and (I) were mess mates most of the time from the first Bull Run till he went to cooking for the Lieut. last fall. We have some pleasant times here playing full checkers and pitching quoits. Some of the boys spend considerable time playing cards but that is something I never do and never intend. I do not know as there is any particular hurt in it except that it usually leads to gambling and that is enough. Mary sent me a little lock of her own hair and another of Mothers. As I have no convenient way of carrying it on a march without danger of losing it, I will enclose it to you, please keep it for me. The Rappahannock is very high caused by the heavy rains of late. I shall be on picket tomorrow and I hope it will cease raining before that time. I often think dear Nellie of the sad and weary hours you are spending at home. I know that in many respects your lot is harder than mine. When in camp we have very little to do while you always have to work hard and are always anxious "the loved ones far away." I trust in God dear Nellie and hope for the best. All will yet be well.

This cruel war will not always last. The more dreadful the night the happier the day when it breaks and it surely will break. God is just. Remember me dear Helen at the Throne of Grace that I may resist temptation and live Christianity.

Yours very affectionately

Geo.

## LETTER TWENTY

Falmouth, Va. April 29, 1863

Dear Helen

I once more seat myself to write a few lines to you. I have not received a letter from you since written last but hope to get one soon. The Army of the Potomac is moving and probably while you are spending the day "in fasting and prayer" tomorrow we may be engaged in deadly conflict on the battlefield. Dear Nellie must we not be successful when thousands of earnest prayers are being offered in our behalf by loyal and Christian men and women it seems fitting that we should be fighting while they are praying for our success and the restoration of the Union.

Last night the pontoon bridges were put down below here and today some of the army has been crossing. There has been some skirmishing and cannonading today but I expect to hear much more even perhaps tomorrow. All the troops in the vicinity have moved except our division. We are left here in our old camp and are doing a very "heavy picket duty." We do the picketing now where several divisions have been doing it and we have to go on every other day. We shall probably remain here till after the battle if there is one fought here and take no part in it except to support the batteries and pickets in front which will probably expose us to but very little if any danger.

I hope and pray for victory and I have strong faith to believe that through God we shall be successful.

Two years ago today dear Nellie we were mustered into the United States service so we have served two thirds of our time. I will close for tonight. My candle is going out and I am sleepy. Was on picket last night and did not sleep more than an hour. I will write more in the morning if we do not move so I cannot.

Good night. A thousand kisses and as many good wishes.

**Thursday Morn** (*April 30*)

A rain storm set in last night which will undoubtedly delay the Army some. I have not a shot fired this morning and appearances indicate now that there will not be much done today at 2 o'clock P.M. We were paid last week. I have sent to uncle Kendrick sixty five dollars. I should have sent more had I got pay for my boots and all that was due us for (???) but did not.

The clothing account is being settled up. The master Government is in debt to me on this year's allowance twenty dollars and thirty four cents which amount I am entitled to when discharged. I am very sorry to see it rain. I wish we could have good weather now the army is moving but I trust it is all for the best. I shall not be surprised if the rebels evacuate this place (Fredericksburg) and fall back near Richmond. It is hard telling what they will do ... there is quite a force up there. No one seems to know whether there on the left but if there is anything done you will hear all about it before this reaches you so I will say no more about it. I will try to write you again very soon dear Nellie. Till then good bye.

Yours in love  
Geo

## LETTER TWENTY-ONE

Camp Near Uniontown, Md.      June 30th, 1863

Dear Helen

As the P.M. says he will send out the mail this morning, I will write a line to you my dear friend and I have time to write only a line. Since writing last (at Thoroughfare Gap) we have marched a long ways. Have done some of the hardest marching we ever done. Yesterday we marched thirty one miles which I think the best marching ever done by any corps of this army. We got tired - very tired but I kept up as I always have done. When I got here my feet were very sore and I could hardly walk but this morning they are better and I think I could make a good march again today and perhaps shall have to. This morning we are to be mustered for pay. I was on guard last night after marching all day. Did not sleep much. The people through this country seem to be truly loyal and very glad to see us. They bring water to the road side and many of them gave the boys wheat bread pies and cakes they had. I got none for I never stopped for anything but water. But at Liberty where we halted half an hour I bought a big loaf of bread which made myself and pardners (sp.) a good dinner and supper.

We have got our mail but once for more than two weeks and I see no prospects of our getting another very soon. We do not have an opportunity to write or mail letters very often when on such a march as this. So you must not worry or be disappointed if at such times you do not hear from me very often. When we are there I will try to write often. We left Thoroughfare Gap the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. When we had got out a few miles the rebels opened a battery of "flying artillery" on us at short range and burst a large number of shells all around us. One passed through the head of our Co. but none of them done any damage to our regiment except to break the leg of our Col's. horse. It seemed first accidental that we were not some of us killed. A few men were hit in other regiments. One of the 19th Maine was killed. He was married just before he left home ten months ago leaving a young and lovely wife to mourn his loss. I see no prospect now of our moving today yet we are liable to get orders to pack up and move out any moment. A report has just reached us that our mail was all captured by the rebels a day or two ago. Twenty boys belonging to our corps. I hope it is not so.

It is also reported that there is a fight going on at Harrisburg today. We are now between forty and fifty miles from and nearly south of Harrisburg and about seven miles from the Penn. State line seven miles west of Westminster at which place there was a little fight yesterday but I have not been able to learn the result. Nellie please excuse this paper. It is large and is soiled but it is all I have and must use it or none.

My head aches hard and I will close. Write often dear Helen whether you receive letters from me or not.

Yours very affectionately

Geo.

## LETTER TWENTY-TWO

*Written by Henry Clay Whitney of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Regiment to Benjamin Sanborn (Helen's brother)*

B.C. Sanborn

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 17th enquiring about the death of our friend and fellow soldier Cpl. Geo. P. Sawyer is before me and in reply will say, I was near George when he fell and he spoke to me and sayed (sp.) he was mortally wounded.

He requested me to write to his friends and say to them "that he died with his faith in his God and his face to his enemy."

He also remembered your Sister and sent his love to her in his dying moments . . .

H. Clay Whitney

Head Quarters 2 Army Corps