

Camp Griffin Va Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1861

My dear Father

I have just read your good long letter and I tell you what it did me good it being the first I have received since I left Montpelier from home. I can not tell why they do not write. This is the sixth letter I have written home One to be sure on the road dated Havre de Grace two while at Washington and this the third from camp. But I have not borrowed any trouble as yet thinking that perhaps there had been some delay in the letters so that they had not received them. Well I suppose you have a pretty correct idea of our situation but perhaps I can help you a little now. In the first place I do not wish you or any other person up there to think that this is any warmer climate than in Vermont or any less hilly as far as I can see. We have had ice on our water pails standing outside our tents an ½ inch thick and if you had to

(pg. 2)

double quick up these hills you would think them quite as steep as in Vt. But never mind I am getting on finely, the cold that you spoke about having left now. Am learning every day as fast as possible. They say there is another Regt. to be formed in Vt. Is there any chance for me as Adj't. in it, as for Col. Lord I do not think there is a persone in the Regt. whom is more pleasant than myself and I am sure that he would do any thing in his power to help me. I am very much pleased with my Capt. and the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. How is it about my drawing seven dollars a month from the state. If we do please find enclosed an order to that effect that you draw. I expect to be able to send you fifty dollars with in a few days and perhaps more. Every little helps you know in these times and I only

want enough to keep me in provisions.

James Clark [Pvt. John Clark of Enosburgh, Co. K, 6<sup>th</sup> Vermont Inf.] is quite unwell. He sent for me last night but I have not had time to go yet but hope tomorrow. The rest of the boys are well I believe. Davis, the boy we left in the hospital at Baltimore has returned all right. My love to all. You may be sure there is not an hour passes but that I think of you. Good night. Horton

Camp Griffin Nov 9 1861

My dear Mother

I feel so much better that I will venture to write you though I suppose the Surgeon would forbid if he knew just one week ago to day I was taken with what I supposed to be a severe cold but which turned out to be on the next day the measles. Yes I have had a very easy run of them so far and Dr thinks that if I am careful and do not take cold that I shall be all right.

The Col and Chaplain have both Been in to see me. The former

(pg. 2)

Enquired kindly for you & father.

My eyes are the only thing that trouble me and I think they wont a great while. Both of your good letters were read with pleasure and I have thought a great deal of the subject of them both before and since their reception. There is not a night or morning passes but that I pray to God to grant me a new spirit And I think that he has answered me at least I hope so.

Rather cold night. I believe you must have missed some of my letters for I written

(pg. 3)

twice a week since I came here. Not notwithstanding. I have received only two from Sheldon.

The butter when it will be most thankfully received.

Lat you today is Saturday.  
Now I will write you again  
on Wednesday if I can. Perhaps  
I may be on picket or scouting  
duty, if I can it will be im-  
possible but if I don't do  
not work yourself up. I must  
stop now for my eyes are very  
weak. Write often. Love to  
Father, sister and all. Tell Father  
My next shall be his and  
with a great deal of love to  
yourself. I am affect'ly your son.

Horton

Camp Griffin Va Nov 17 1861

My Dear Mother & Sister

Wishing to answer all  
my letters and yours being the only ones  
I have not answered I will devote a little  
time to you. There I have warmed my hands  
a little and perhaps I can write. In the  
first place I would politely inform you  
that I do not sleep on the ground and I  
wish you would not say that I do again.  
I sleep as well as you do on a bed made  
to be [used] in rather a primitive style viz  
four crotches having been drove into the  
ground. Two sticks are then placed in the crotches  
after which boards staves thereon. That is the  
bedstead. Then we have ticks which are filled  
(thanks to the thirty cents) with straw and  
as Lieut. Green and myself sleep together  
we have plenty of clothing and sleep as warm  
as a bug in a rug. I have just received  
a letter from Father dated the 14<sup>th</sup> inst.

(pg. 2)

in which he bids me take care of my eyes.

They thank God as well as myself are  
well except a little summer complaint.  
I am officer of the guard tomorrow and  
think I shall come out all right. It is  
the first time I have done duty for two  
weeks today. There two hundred  
sick in the Regt. Sick with the measles  
and mumps. I believe I have had  
the mumps so I am all right.

I have forgotten whether I told you that  
Henry Benton [C. Henry Benton from Johnson, Vt.] my old classmate is  
Sergt. Major of the fifth Regt. There  
have been twelve deaths in that Regt. and  
fourteen in the fourth and only two  
in the third. Concerning Mary Aldis I hope  
you will not fail to tell her just how it was  
and that I did not have time even to tell

my own relatives good bye. I sent her a paper to day and my address. Now if you do your duty I shall receive in all probability some acknowledgement of its reception. There is no real suffering for want of clothes in any of the Regts. If you could put in the box a can of honey or maple syrup it would be most acceptable.

(pg. 3)

I assure you in this connection I would say that the butter and cheese have not arrived but patience you know is the word in the army. Not only in such things but in a great many others as for instance when you have told a man five or six times how to hold his gun right to have him the next minute get it wrong and I am sure that man of himself could do nothing as you would say if you could hear some of the Col and Genls swear some times when everything does not go to suit him. Our Col never swears at his men although I believe he is a profane man.

I wish you could have been here two weeks ago yesterday. My I never saw or thought of such a storm. Tents blew down and it rained all sorts. We did not have any beds till then but that morning we woke up and found ourselves in about two inches of water. Now you may think I am stretching it but it is the truth and the next day I came down with the measles. But I must stop. Write often and tell the rest to do likewise. Love to all.  
Your affect son Horton

Head Quarters 6<sup>th</sup> Regt Vt Vols  
Camp Griffin Va-Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1861

A. Keith, Eq

Sheldon Vt

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst is received.

It gives me pleasure to inform you that your son

Lieut Keith is quite recovered from his sickness.

I have advised him once or twice when his zeal  
and interest in his company were getting ahead of  
his judgment. That his own health was of more  
importance than any thing else.

I shall be happy whenever an opportunity offers  
to place your son in such a position as you desire  
for he is worthy of promotion. At the same  
time present experience will prove valuable  
to him in whatever position he may here after  
serve.

I shall not mention to your son that you desire  
his promotion or that I intend it-incase  
opportunity offers.

I should be pleased to see you in camp. A visit  
would prove very interesting to you.

My regiment is doing well and I trust will continue  
to improve. Very Respectfully Yours

N. Lord, Jr. Col 6<sup>th</sup> Regt Vt Vols.

Camp Griffin Va  
Nov 23 1861

My dear Father

As this is to be a long and perhaps interesting letter I will direct to you as being the head of the family and I wish it distinctly understood that whenever I write home to any particular person I mean it for the whole, but you know that it is easier to talk or write to one than to more. First I reported for duty last Sunday night, fourteen days after the measles. Returned not having received Mother's advice to wait sixteen, and now goes well. See how they needed me. Monday I was officer of the guard all alone. The first time on record that one has acted. Tuesday I was put on picket. Wednesday morning I returned as you may judge quite sleepy and tired. But perhaps a few lines on my experience in picketing

(pg. 2)

(I suppose you notice that this paper is some what dirty but you must understand that we can not keep any thing clean except ourselves and it is mighty hard to do that and speaking of paper you tell me to use plain paper. We have to take any thing we get here) But to proceed-at seven o'clock on the morning of the eventful 19<sup>th</sup> inst. we were-the whole regiment-formed in line of battle. Next came the order Battalion right face forward countermarch by file left march. So on we went to Lewinsville. We halted there and the right wing went one way and left in which I am stationed went the other. Well now such places as they took us through I never saw. Through bogs and ditches and swamps. Over fencing. Through woods stationing men all the way thirty paces apart with orders not stand still or sit

down. Well they managed to march me about twelve miles around the same place we started from-Lewinsville. Remember I was on duty all the day and most of the night before. The main reserve of the picket is stationed here and I was placed there. It was now about eleven o'clock

(pg. 3)

and till two I had a nice time sleeping most of the time. I at that time the officer of the day sent for me to come and relieve picket so of course I went. I had then charge of forty two men in two reliefs to be relieved once in four hours. Well this was not hard so after I had relieved the guard I thought I would look around "which I did it." The houses are, with hardly an exception, deserted. There are not more than thirty of forty of them any way with one store a hotel and shoe shop. Also a church. All of these have been sadly mutilated by the soldiers. Nothing of importance occurred till about ten o'clock when I was coming back from relieving guard. I was met by a large body of men coming out from camp. Of course they were halted and countersign demanded which was given but not the right one. Here was a pretty mess and all falling on my shoulders. I made very minute inquiries you may believe. Found out they were the 43<sup>rd</sup> Penn. going out scouting. Finally I let them pass and it came out all right. At twelve o'clock midnight the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vt. relieved us till six

(pg. 4)

so I had another chance to sleep which I improved choosing the softest side of a board in the shoe shop where I laid me down with a blanket over me. I tell you what I enjoyed myself and no mistake. But it could not last always and at six I had to take up my bed and walk at ten. We were relieved

again and went home. I should have said that  
on our way back there were some twenty five regts  
passed us on the way to the grand review  
While I suppose you have read about. But often  
all my talk I did not go that, I tell you what  
it was hard-but we were the only regt. in many  
miles left to guard the camp and we had to stand  
to our arms all day. So I did not get any rest  
till night when the Regts. returned and if I did  
nt sleep there I hope I shall never have a chance  
again. But about 3 o'clock A. M. we were aroused  
and orders given to have every man that was able  
be ready with his gun and cartridges-40 rounds.  
But here comes the paper which I will send home.  
You will notice we were "thar." After all my  
hardship I come out all right except that the  
day we went out foraging standing so long in one  
place I caught cold which has settled in my  
bones. No cough whatever. I like my officers  
first rate and we never disagree. Well I  
must stop. Hope I shall hear from you soon  
all well and send kind regards. Horton  
Calary a man you enlisted is dead. [Horatio Clarey of Sheldon who died Nov. 23, 1861,  
of disease] Black  
measles making the 4<sup>th</sup> and two Regt others dangerous  
With love to all I am as ever your affect son.  
Horton  
No butter or cheese

Camp Griffin Virginia  
Friday Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 1861

Alfred Keith Esq

Dear Sir

Horton is some Sick. He was taken down with the measles about 4 weeks since as he has no doubt informed you. He was sick about 2 weeks and about a week after he was well. He went out on a reconnaissance with all of us and it was rather to much for him as he was still quite weak. He has been now for five days that he has not been able to be about much. He has had a very hard Diareah and some pain in the Bowels and but a little cough. I have had quite a long talk with the Surgeon about him today he sais that the Diarah is checked now but that he is very weak. Having so hard pain in the Bowels has left him very much prostrated. The Dr. thinks that he will now continue to get better, although he sais that it will be a month before will be fit for duty. We have a very comfortable place and Horton has a good bed. I have two boys right here that take good care of him when myself & Lieut. Green are on duty. I have though best to write to you

(pg. 2)

And tell you how he is for perhaps You might think strange in not hearing from him. He dont know that I am writing to you. I presume any Doctor can tell you just about his situation from what I have written you. If he should be any worse I will let you know. I shall try and get him into a house if it is a possible thing if he does not improve for Of course he would be mor comfortable in a house. There is a good deal of sickness In camp. 34 excused from duty in my company this morning.

Yours Truly

E. L. Barney [Elisha L. Barney]

Capt Co K