

Camp Griffin Va Feb 5th 1862

Dear Harriet

I received your worthy letter (bearing date Jan 19th) last eve. it is a very good letter I enjoyed the perusal of it very much. but I dont understand why so much time elapsed between the writing & mailing of it. the latter being done Jan 31st I have a good mind to give you a good scolding for being so slack about it but as it is the first offence of the kind I will refrain from doing so. but remember what out pourings of wrath awaits you if you are not more prompt in future. I am well & contented. I like camp life very well & why shouldnt I it is so muddy that I dont have to drill but very little I have not been on guard duty for a number of weeks. a great many days we have nothing to do but eat read write play chequers practice on my Bugle. & have a good time generally. Perhaps you will think to your self I'll bet he plays cards if so you will not think right for I

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have not played a game of cards since I enlisted no not for 2 or 3 years previous I see a great deal of card playing & gambling on a small scale in the Regt. many foolish boys lose their entire wages in this way or if not all in this manner the Suttler gets the remainder for little dainties which are very injurious to their health. & these articles at an outrageous price. I have seen enough to convince me that if one plays for the sport of it in camp lilfe he will soon be tempted to play for small sums of money. I shall not play a game of cards while I am in the army. the Glover boys are all well except Elbert Nye he is having a run of the jaunders he has been sick about a fortnight he is now gaining. Perhaps you would like to hear a short explanation in regard to the Bugle refered to on the first page. A little more than 2 weeks since our Col sent to Washington for a new Bugle. the next question was who should play it. one of our tent boys from Brownington happened to be Cols orderly (as he is

called) & heard the conversation he told the Col

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that he knew a fellow in Co D that had played on the Alt Horn considerable in a Band. the Col said he thought the one mentioned was the one he wanted. I happened to be the chap. I got Lieut Dwinell to intercede for me & I got the Bugle with orders to go to my tent & practice the calls for skirmishing. I practice on it every day. it has been so muddy for several weeks that we have had no drill to amount to much. some afternoons the Regt is taken out on the Parade ground to fire 10 or 15 rounds of blank cartridges or perhaps to fire ball cartridges at target aside from this we have but little drill I expect to be Regimental Bugler. I don't know how much pay I will get. some say I shall get more than I now do & some say I get the same. Lieut Dwinell thinks I shall get \$27.00 per month if so well & good. if I get no more I shall get clear of all guard duty both Picket & Home which is the most tedious duty that we have to perform. I shall also be exempt from all drill. When the mud dries up which is very deep we

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shall drill in skirmishing & then I shall find out how much pay a bugler gets. at all events it is considered quite an honor to be Bugler for a regt. When an army is advancing through an enemies country it is frequently necessary to send out a portion or a whole Reg to search the woods a little in advance of the main army so as not to meet with a sudden surprise from the enemy. in skirmishing the Capts & Lieut stand several paces behind their Cos the Col stands or rather sits on his horse on an eminence where he has a fair view of the men perhaps 50 or 100 rods behind them. the Bugler stands near him. he gives orders to the Bugler & the Bugler sounds the call used to represent the command. the Capts have to be familiar enough with the calls so

they can tell one from an other. they give the command to their Cos. some of the calls are short & some are quite tunes I have learned to play nearly all of them. I wrote to Arabel Cutler a long time since. I have received no answer when you see her just put her in mind of me I guess that Geo Ballou & Anna are courting rather strong. Emily wrote me that he was coming up again in about 4 weeks.

For my part I think this courting is poor paying business I have not been courting for as much as 4 mos I calculate to go about next fall in Vt. Remember me to all the friends & Receive this from your sincere lover Dan

Topics include: camp life, card playing, role of Regimental bugler

Transcribed by Gemma Philcox

Camp Griffin Va Feb 22 1862

Dear Harriet. I take this opportunity to answer your worthy letter bearing date Feb 12th. as usual it was a welcome visitor. I experienced much pleasure in perusing its contents. Judging from your letter you thought I was in earnest about the date & mailing of your previous letter. I supposed that you knew my way of joking & blackguarding better than to think that I meant half what I said. I was only gassing. To tell the truth I have no action against you I consider you about perfect or as near to it as any one. I know you to be the possessor of true Patriotism. this you have proved by your

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actions. I honor & admire you more yes love you more if possible than I did previous to your being brought to the test. I am afraid that you are staying at home this winter from parties & social gatherings on my account. if so you are not doing right I want you should go every chance that you can get to go with likely fellows & I know you to be to pure to accompany any that were not. I am not afraid to trust you. I have perfect confidence in you. I believe your love to be as pure & lasting as ever kindled in womans heart. I long for the time to arrive when peace shall be declared throughout the land & the frant army of the Potomac & all the union forces shall be disbanded & return to their respective homes. I long to grasp your loving hand & steal a kiss from your loving lips. I want you to make preparations to go some where with me to celebrate next 4th of July. I honestly expect to go to

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Vermont before 4 months shall pass away.

One month has wrought a great change. our army has been successful at every point. many Forts & important places with thousands of rebel prisoners have been taken by our gallant troops. As you will get the news in the papers long before this reaches you I will not give the particulars here. The daily newspapers (which are brought from Washington every day by little news boys) are filled with cheering news. Our arms are crowned with success at every point. Camp Griffin is often made wild with joy on receiving the glorious news loud hurahs rend the air. it is deafening to hear the shouts of the excited soldiers. the wildest enthusiasm prevails. I dont see much prospect of our advancing at present it is so very muddy now (& has been for the last 6 or 8 weeks) that it is impossible to move heavy artillery & the baggage waggons which must nessesarily

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attend the advance of an army. Some think that we shall never see any fighting It is reported in the news papers that Manassas Junction is being evacuated by the rebels according to all accounts the rebels feel very much disheartened they think their case a doubtful one. This Afternoon I went over to Gen Smiths head quarters to see 7 rebel prisoners that the Penn Cavelry captured & brought in this morning. I saw 3 of them they were dark complexioned long hair dirty inferior looking chaps. they had no uniformity of dress one had on an over coat that was taken from the Maine 7th Reg at the Bull run fight last July. In regard to Bugling I am not prepared to say much about it. Our Col has been to Boston to visit his friends he returned night before last he was gone 15 days. it has been so muddy

for several weeks that we have not
drilled any to speak of except in firing
blanks or target shooting. I expect
the mud will dry up before long
& then we shall drill in skirmishing
& then I shall be able to tell you something
about it I have got the calls all learned
I will now close by wishing you health &
happiness receive this from Dan

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I am well the
rest of the Glover
boys ditto. except
Hobart Bliss he is sick in
the Hospital with the fever. I learn that
J. Bean is courting E Clark please write about it

Topics include: prospect of peace, rebel prisoners, mud

Transcribed by Gemma Philcox