

1861
Camp Smith Oct 11th

Dear Hattie

It is with pleasure that
I seat myself pen in hand for the
purpose of writing you a few lines.

I am enjoying good
health at the present time the rest of the
Glover boys ditto This is truly a great blessing
& I hope these few imperfect lines will find
you enjoying the same blessing. I dont
feel just right about leaving you in the manner
that I did but it hardly seemed possible
for us to do differently under the existing
circumstances Friday we were full of business
all day we had to be inspected by the
Surgeon Dr Skinner of Barton to ascertain
if we were sound and healthy quite a number

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were declared unfit for service some appeared
very much disappointed so much so as to shed
tears We then elected our Officers which
was quite a delicate piece of business to do
& suit all We at last succeeded in electing
the following list of Officers viz Capt
O A Hale 1st Lieut Geo H Phelps
2d Carlos W Dwinell I will not name
all the non commissioned officers Fred M
Kimball is 1 of the Sergeants E H Nye
Alex Davis & myself Corporals from
Glover We did not get away from Barton
untill quite late Friday evening so you see
it was almost impossible for me to visit
you But I trust that the noble disposition
which I know you to be possessed of will
cause you to forgive me There is scarcely
an hour passes but what I think of you
& long to be with you but this we
Know to be impossible at present
But we can converse with each other

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by aid of the pen which is a source

Of great enjoyment to me
Perhaps a short sketch
of our journey from Barton to this
place will be interesting to you We left
Barton Saturday morning at 8 oclock
We arrived at White River Junction
at noon marched to the Hotel &
took dinner at 2 Oclock we took the
cars for Montpelier we arrived here
at 6 Oclock took supper at
Burnhams Hotel we then marched
to the Fair Ground a distance of half
mile up two or three clay hills made
muddy by recent rains We arrived'
at the encampment about 9 Oclock
we there received two blankets each
1 oil cloth & 1 wool blanket we found
87 tents pitched to protect us from
the storm these tents are large enough
to accomodate from 12 to 20 men

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the bottom of each tent is covered with
straw this with our blankets makes a
good place of rest I rest well nights
feel well in good spirits during the
day Our rations though not of the
finest quality consists of good substantial
food such as Beans Bread & Beef
Pork Tea or Coffee with trimmings
my appetite never was better
We have received our uniforms
mostly we have received 2 coats
each 1 over & 1 dress coat 1 hat
our hats are ornamented with a
small piece of brass in front in
the form of a bugle on the
left side with an eagle we
expect the rest of our uniforms
tomorrow It is quite doubtful
about my going to Glover before
leaving for Washington the
Capt has no power to give us
permission to go home some
of the boys are mad about it

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but we must submit to the rules & orders
of military discipline We have some fine boys
in our Co & some that are not so fine
Nearly all the boys that enlisted from the
towns of Glover Albany Barton & Brownington
have signed a pledge thereby pledging
themselves to abstain from
the use of all intoxicating liquors as
a beverage also not to indulge in
the use of profane language this I
think is a fine thing I tent with Glover
boys except two & they are good likely
fellows Before leaving Glover Mr Perkins
gave each of us a Testament & we make
a practice of using them every evening
before retiring to rest We expect to
leave for Washington some time next
week cant tell the day In regard to
me being Corporal it is no great
honor but I shall not have to
stand out on guard this I should

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not like to do I get 22 dolls per month
a private gets but 20 dolls per month
The Regimental Band is full so I shall
have to go to fight for my country

I will now draw this scroll to a close
by wishing you peace and happiness
Hattie please excuses all mistakes for
I have written this on a rudely constructed
table in my tent surrounded by 8 or 10
jolly boys & all the noise & confusion
of the tented field

Yours in haste from
Your affectionate lover Dan Mason

PS. Please write all the news
you can get on receiving this

Direct to Dan Mason
Camp Smith Montpelier
Vermont

Care of Capt O A Hale 6th Regt
of V..V..M then if
I should leave before receiving it it would
be forwarded to Washington

Topics include: organization of the company, journey to camp in Montpelier, issuance of
uniform, camp life, temperance

Transcribed by Gemma Philcox

Washington Oct 25th 1861

Dear Harriet

It is with pleasure that
I seize the pen of correspondence to converse
with the object of my affections for a few
moments though hundreds of miles stretch
between us we can communicate by aid
of the pen this I deem a great privilege
But it would be a much greater one
to converse face to face but this is
impossible.

I am now in the city of
Washington enjoying good health happy as a
fish in high water I have not seen
a sick hour since I enlisted The rest of
the Glover boys ditto Our reg't left
Montpelier Saturday morn Oct 19th 9 oclock
we arrived at Springfield Mass at 10 in

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the evening we were there furnished with a good
supper by citizens of that place free of charge
thanks to them we arrived at New Haven
Conn Sunday morn at 4 oclock we were detained
there two hours at 6 we took the steamboat
Elm City bound for Jersey City I enjoyed
riding on the salt water very much we
sailed up through Long Island Sound
the day was pleasant the water was dotted here
and there with vessels of all shapes and sizes the sea
fowls were flying in every direction the Steam Boats
blew their shrill whistles men and boys were
cheering as we sailed near the shore the ladies
waved their handkerchiefs everyone seemed filled
with excessive joy We sailed through what
is called Hells Gate this is a narrow channel
between New York City & Brooklin we sailed
within a stones throw of each city the shore was lined
with masts & sails I saw some of the most
beautiful farms & houses surrounded by the most
beautiful grooves on Long Island that I ever saw

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The Steamer Elm City is a first class steamer

of the largest size I should judge it to be more than 20 rods in length finished & furnished nice as any parlor Our regt of a thousand men looked rather scattering on her I rode on the upper deck most of the time where I had a fair view of the surrounding country the scenery was beautiful words fail to describe my feelings at that time It did not seem much like Sunday I assure you We arrived at Jersey City at 1 o'clock P M We then took the cars for Philadelphia We arrived there at 10 in the evening We were there marched to an eating saloon & furnished with a good supper free of charge every reg't that passes through that city is fed in like manner this saloon is supported by donations We were detained here some time We arrived at Havre de Grace about 8 o'clock Monday morn the cars that we were on were run on to a ferry boat 12 at a time 3 tracks 4 on each track this seemed rather odd to me

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We arrived at Baltimore about noon We marched through the city to change cars we met with no opposition we took dinner there we then left for Washington We arrived here at 9 o'clock Monday evening Tuesday we were removed 3/4ths of a mile from the city on Wednesday rather Tuesday we remained in the city I visited the Capitol buildings I went up on to the marble steps in front the doors were locked but there was a great deal to be seen on the veranda and outside It is made of marble carved & worked in the most beautiful manner there are quite a number of beautiful marble statues standing in front which look as natural as life Since I commenced writing our regt has been marched into Virginia a distance of 11 miles from W I have to write by odd jobs a few lines at a time I commenced this letter in Wash I am now finishing it in Virginia seated on a rock using my portfolio for a table Yesterday which was Thursday we were marched to this place after 2 o'clock P M we arrived here about 8 in the evening We were much fatigued we came by this way of Chain bridge this is a bridge across the Potomac river we are located about 4 miles

west of this bridge near by the rest of the Vt
reg'ts we meet with a good many old acquaintances
This morning as I was preparing to finish this letter
our Capt handed me a letter which proved to be
from you I was much pleased to hear from you
V.V. M stands for Vermont Volunteer Militia
Virginia is a rougher colder place than I expected to
find it we had a very heavy frost last night
though I have seen but a small portion of it
Our friends tell us there is no rebel encampment
within ten miles of us

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There are a good many Federal troops encamped
in sight of us as I write there is a Brass
Band playing the nicest music but a few
rods from me Soldiers are practicing target
shooting others are pitching tents some are
killing oxen for food that have been taken
from the rebels Yesterday a Company of
Cavelry brought in 8 rebels 7 hogs & 1 horse
I must now close by asking you to excuse
all mistakes and accept my best wishes
from Dan

Direct to Dan Mason
Washington
D C
Company D 6th Reg Vermont Volunteers

When I was at Mont I sent you
A daily paper please let me know if you received

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it Direct as I tell you &
your letters will be forwarded to our Camp
Write seen & oblige Dan

Topics include: traveling to Virginia, sightseeing, camp life

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