Dear Son, Lewis [illegible],

Dec. 11th, 1862

Dear Sister: We received orders this morning at 7 o'clock for a very fine day before however a tremendous snowfall had been going on at night. By our bellman, 3 of us on the right side of the house. I think it has continued with more or less snow. It is now quite a snowstorm except that it is not fighting. As such an artillery duel as I never heard before. The folks are running to cross the river, our artillery is going to protect them. I don’t dare with what we had to do, it all worked up until now. It is very pleasant to day we had quite a snowstorm last night at last it has melted a little quite cloudy today. The Cope forces are all around us are laying on their arms. They marched out about a half mile from camp and after lying round the court the mud. I am sitting on the snow and made of my piece of tent rubber & woolen blankets that being all we can carry. Our blankets were left behind. I am not sure if you care, but I am writing it on my teardrop it being all I could
Near Fredericksburg Vir. Dec. 11th 1862

Dear Sister: We received orders this morning to march at sunrise for an hour before however a tremendous canade had been going on at Fredericksburg mostly by our batteries on this side it has continued with morning vigor until now (11 am) it reminds me of an heavy thunder storm except that it is one continual rumble. It is such an artillery duel as I never heard before. I suppose our folks are trying to cross the river & our artillery is trying to protect them I don’t hear with what success

It is very pleasant today we had quite a snowstorm last week it has been so cold until yesterday & to-day it has not melted it is quite mudy today

We (The forces all around us are laying on their arms) have marched out about a half mile from camp and are laying round in the mud. I am sitting on the roll made of my piece of tent, rubber & woolen blankets that being all we can carry our knapsacks left piled up in camp don’t know as you can read this I am writing it on my tin dopper at being all I could
find one o'clock. The forenoon was pretty much pleased, person shall more soon receive these drawers with a letter containing a missive for which am much obliged have receive these letters with the stamps all right but want of send one letter & inolves soon as I can't write an almost out of space running if can't buy any boots are all right sent for these things to be prepared haven't bid my drawers left them in my basket. Bars will not write any more now will wait for events Thursday Dec. 12th. The wind last night's started early this morning went right along across the river & the waters bridge not more occupying the west part of the city being city the kids frequently throw shills on to the pedestrian bridge to the opposite bank where we lay on the rich bank of the river when they come to land. The rest of the time we spent today in pilaging the city we find anything to be found in any deserted city. Haven't seen any inhabitant of city except a negro woman. We been on to see a good many houses. We find the most of islandit
find (One o’clock The firing has pretty much ceased guess we shall move soon. Received those drawers with a letter containing cinnamon for which am much obliged have received those letters with the stamps all right be sure & send me paper & envelopes soon or I can’t write am almost out we are moveing cant buy; my boots are all right I sent for those things to be prepared Hav’n’t my drawers, left them in my knapsack Guess I will not write any more now will wait for events

Friday Dec. 12th We went to camp last night & started early this morning went right along across the river on the pontoon bridge & are now occupying the west part of Fredericksburg city the Rebels frequently throu shells on to the pontoon bridge & the opposite bank we lay on the high bank of the river when they come to fast The rest of the time we spent to-day in pilaging the city we find everything to be found in any deserted city. Hav’n’t seen any inhabitance of the city except a negrow woman Ive been in to a good many houses We find the most splendid
Furnitures, frames, windows, glass were badly shattered, the victuals had been flown of. The month quality meat Lord our boys are getting filled with doughnuts in any quantity. The rifles of all kinds are collected by the boys. I did not get much because I knew we are going into battle room if they will only be an encumbrance. Dec. 13th. We slept in careers last night. We took possession of some kitchens, cellars, & garrets; had a good supper last night & breakfast this morning. Well, ordered to march the hell has opened firing line command. We marched down the city but I will play these here with the shells flying over us from both our & the rebel batteries some hole paces & bouldering. Hands free are our line. I don't wish to brag any but I don't feel much better Dec. 14th. A deeper, thicker bloody battle was fought yesterday. At about one o'clock we were ordered on to the battle field. We pushed on the keen sun over faces through mud holes in full view of the
furniture piannas crockery & glass ware. Tables all set & the victuals half eaten Flour of the nicest quality nice land & our boys are frying flitters & doughnuts in any quantity The relics of all kinds are collected by the boys I did not get much because I knew we are going into battle soon & they will only be an incoburance. Dec 18th We left in houses last night We took possession of parlors kitchens cellars & garrets had a good supper last night & breakfast this morning of doughnuts. 9 AM. ordered to march the ball has opened firing has commenced We have marched down the city east 1 mile & lay here with the shells flying over us from both our & the rebels batteries some pale faces & trembling hands I see in our Reg. I don’t wish to brag any but I don’t feel much alar-med. Dec 14th AM. A desperate bloody battle was fought yesterd-ay At about one o’clock we were ordered on to the battle field we rushed on the keen run over fences through mud holes in full view of the
Rebel batteries and rebel guns were pouring a perfect hurricane of shot and shell amongst us. We advanced under this terrific fire for nearly a mile. It seemed to me we got near that half a mile almost instantly. We got dreadfully cut up going across the field. What made it worse for us just as we were pouring and showering down upon us was the yell of them. We wanted to shout them. This lifted the rebel fire to be wholly directed at us but we did not falter for an instant. This was the most critical part of the battle for us when we saw that they seemed to be broke, but the 11th Va. advancing and confused my heart almost failed me but my blood at this time the cheers of our gallant Major Advance boys to give it to them. They quickly advanced and filled up the almost deserted line. The way we pressed the rebels for the first fifteen minutes went slow for half an hour. The rest of our brigade came to our support. I fired my last round of cartridges and then lay down in the midst of the other regts take the front. I played on the field over 4 shots. The musket balls and shells flying like hailstone all around one did receive a stretch across a piece of a shell. A shell struck one across on the shoulder while advancing on to the field.
Rebel batteries and rifle pits which pored a perfect hurricane of shot and shell amongst us. We advanced under this terrify-fire for nearly ¾ of a mile. It seems to me we got over that ¾ of a mile almost instantly. We got dreadfully cut up going across the field. What made it worse for us just as we were going on a Penn Reg. broke their line & ran passed us for dear life. (Ah; the miserable cowards I wanted to shoot them) This left the rebel fire to be wholly directed at us but we did not falter for an instant. This was the most critical part of the battle for us, when we saw that Reg running & no troops but the 11th NH. Advancing I confess my heart almost failed me but we heard at this time the clear voice of out gallent Major. Advance boys! give it to them. We quickly advanced and filled up the almost desereted line & the way we peppered the rebels for the first fifteen minutes went slow. In half an hour the rest of our brigade came to our support. I fired my sixty round of cartridges & then lay down in the mud & let the other regs take the front. I stayed on the field over 4 hours the musket balls & shells flying like hailstones all around me & did not receive a scratch except a piece of a shell struck me a smart blow on the shoulder while advancing on to the field.