

## CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF STEWART ALLEN

The following is a compilation of letters by Stewart Allen (1840-1914) of Hammond, New York, which he received during the Civil War; most of them are from his father, Robert, and his cousin, William, and a few from friends of Stewart: Frank Dana, George E. Elderkin, and William Wright.

In 1932 some of these letters were in the possession of David Roger Allen (1877-1939) who loaned them to the Hammond Advertiser, which ran a series they called "Interesting Letters of Local Men in the Civil War." These letters and the newspaper extracts are now in the possession of David Russell Allen (b. 1918, son of Robert T. Allen) who is making this transcript of the letters arranged chronologically by dates.

I started using the format of the Hammond Advertiser, and had quite a few copied besides the ones that had appeared there, when I was advised by my grandson, Nathaniel Allen, that I should stay with the form of the original letters and not correct spellings, punctuations, or structures in order to maintain their expressions and idiosyncrasies; this did seem to keep them interesting. To compensate for the lack of punctuation, I spaced sentences apart. I found they often didn't start sentences with a capital letter, but often used capitals throughout the text. In Stewart's letters I found his use of capital S's interesting; he usually used a capital when a word started with an S anywhere in the text; he also, in a word containing a double S, would capitalize the first S even in the middle of a word.

Allen Armstrong, son of Bess Allen Armstrong, told me that Robert could not write, and that was why William wrote most of his letters for him. While working on the letters I often wondered about this since his letters were consistent in the use of his expressions and thoughts, but as time went on I concluded this could be so, since those letters not written by William seemed to mostly be in different handwritings although not indicating who wrote them, except a couple by Ethan Hammond. Considering that Robert was born in Scotland, coming to Hammond as a baby, it's possible he might have missed early years of schooling before they got any schools built around Hammond. Also, Allen might have known this because his mother, Bess, was Stewart's daughter and a school teacher herself, as was her sister, Anna, with whom she and Allen lived. His letters, however, display an astute mind as well as a more mature mind than the letters written by the younger men.

Another point of interest from the letters; of the boys involved, three died. William Wright died of fever in camp, and William Allen, Robert's nephew and letter writer, was killed in action near the end of the war, and John Allen of Hammond was also killed in action. Since the boys indicate no kinship to John Allen, we can assume that there were Allens in Hammond other than Peter Allen's family. I also am intrigued as to who William was, as our genealogy does not mention him and since he is Robert's nephew and Stewart's cousin. We can assume he is either another son of

William (not listed) or of Roger, of whom we learn more from the letters than we know otherwise.

A student of the Civil War, or as they called it the rebellion, could perhaps identify some of the actions with the historically listed battles. For my own part, I found that having visited the Petersburg and Fredericksburg battle grounds, now parks, and also having visited Folly Island in Charleston, it was interesting reading their accounts of their presence there.

Cousin Allen Armstrong had told me that the 142nd had been at Petersburg when the fort was blown and were camped adjacent to the Pennsylvania Regiment of coal miners who had tunneled under the fort to plant the explosives. Having heard this made it very interesting to visit there and read about the affair as well as reading Robert and William's account of it. I also found it very interesting following their camps on the map, but found that although many of the places mentioned still exist, some of the places could not be found on today's maps. Smithville and Andersonville, occupied by Robert's regiment, seem not to exist today, but Fort Fisher, where William was killed, is above Cape Fear, North Carolina, and south of Wilmington. Andersonville was the location of the infamous Confederate prison camp and was probably destroyed.

I am including a copy of Robert's Honorable Discharge courtesy of Gail Allen Waterman. I find it interesting that his discharge lists him as 44 years of age, yet he celebrated his 45th birthday just before enlisting. Now for the letters.

*The Spirit of Seventy Six (in red, white and blue on letter head)*

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Baltimore  
Camden Station  
Dec. 14, 1861

It is with pleasure to me this evening, that I am spared and able to pen a few broken lines to you, to inform you that I am well at this present time, and I hope that these few lines will find you in the same blessing.

Dear Friend, I received yours of the 29th, on this 6th inst. and you may believe that I am glad to get a letter from one that I can call a friend to my poor family that is so far from me. Oh, how I would like to see them, but I cannot until this war is all over. That would not be long if they would let us go at it, for we have 600,000 men in the field. I think that body of men would clean out the South in two weeks if we were let into the field. We are waiting for the word to march, but I am afraid that we will stay here in Baltimore this winter, but I hope not.

The weather is as warm here now as I ever saw there in the month of May. We have first rate quarters here in the city. How long we will stay here I can not tell at present, but I hope that it will not be long, for I long to cross the Potomac and face the enemy, there to conquer or die in the field. I have come here to fight and hope the war will soon end, but I am willing to stay for five years if required, but I would like to see it all over by next May.

Gen. McClellan says that if the people will have patience, he will close the war by that time. God grant it:

Dear friend, for I do believe that I can call you so, at present as well as ever since I became acquainted with you, and also your father and mother, I have found them friends.

I hope and pray that you, your father and mother will go and see my loving family, and comfort them, for I know that their poor hearts are almost broken by this time. I dream pretty much about them and sometimes I feel almost that I must shed tears but try to keep up good courage, for I am bound to stem the storm for perhaps three years.

It is just twelve o'clock in the night, and must close by requesting you to write as soon as you get this. Wish you would see my wife and let me know how they all are. Tell Sarah to write as often as she can. Please do the same yourself. Tell the boys and all the folks to write and I will answer all of them. Every time I get a letter from there, it seems as if I am at home.

Give my love to all my friends and tell them to write to me.

I remain

As ever,

George E. Elderkin to Stewart Allen

Co. C 60th Regt. N.Y. State Volunteers Care of J.O.

Reddington, Capt.

Headquarters Co. C, 60th Regt. N.Y. Vols. Camp Loane  
Baltimore, Md., March 19, 1862

Dear Friend:

It is with pleasure to me that I am spared to answer your last letter, which came safe to hand Saturday. In reading it I found that you had been sick, but I was happy to hear that you were smart again. This leaves me in first rate good health, which I have been blessed with ever since I left there, and I hope this will find you all enjoying the same blessing.

I think that this war will not last long, for our troops are doing great work at present. General Burnside fought the 16th took 100 pieces of rifle cannon, captured 200 prisoners. This is not all. Look at the Battle of Pea Ridge. See what our boys did there. Also look at Island No. 10. See what our troops has accomplished there. Every thing is in our favor every time. All that we want is the word, "Forward: March:" and the work will soon be done, for we can do it nice every time.

I hope that if we live to get back home, that England will give us a try. We can do the job for her on short notice if let.

I must say that we have not drawn our pay yet, but I hope that you will go and see if my family stands in need of anything. If they do, I hope that you will not see them suffer for anything, and I will send money as soon as I get my pay, for I know that they must stand in need of all that I can send to them. We should have drawn our pay the first of March, and here it is the 25th of March and not got it yet, and the Captain told me this morning that we would get paid before the 10th of April. That seems very hard for our families, that are far from us. It is hard but we cannot help it. We expect our pay every two months, but there are three months pay behind now, or will be the first of April. The reason is there is no money in the treasury now.

I cannot write much for I am Corporal of the guard and I have to go and post the guards and be out all night. So I shall have to close for the present, but, for the love of God, don't let my family suffer, and you shall have your pay as soon as I can get it.

Please write as soon as you get this, and don't fail.

My love to all.

G. E. Elderkin

To S. Allen: - Direct as before. Don't forget my family, if you please.

Camp Hopkins Co. C  
100th Regt. N.Y.V.  
Apr. 5th, 1862

Friend Stewart:

Yours of March 25th came to hand in due time, and it was with pleasure that I opened and read it. This finds me well and it is with hopes for this to find you the same.

Since I last wrote you, we have moved from where we were across the railroad to a new camp ground distance from the other lot is inside 100 rods; our new camp is situated on a rise of ground a live oak opening. The camp ground is laid out in streets and some of the streets are as nice as any in Ogdensburgh.

We have to drill very hard now; our roll call is at 5 a.m., breakfast at 5 1/2 a.m., street cleaning until we drill at 8 until eleven, dinner at twelve. Battalion Drill at 2 1/2 p.m. until 4 o'clock. Roll call at sunset and again at 9 in the evening, it all amounting to about 6 1/2 hours really and this on a double quick. We have had old Preston King from Ogdensburgh to visit us, then we had to take the drilling while he was here.

We have been having very fine weather long back all month, like summer until last night we had a very sudden change; cold this morning when we awoke we found about five inches of snow and still a snowing.

There was one of our pickets shot on the morning of the 3rd; he tried to play up sharp and was to get his discharge, he said he was shot by a Rebel or a citizen but come to find out he shot himself to get his discharge, the ball went through the thick of his leg. We lost one of our boys out of Co. C, he died after having fever, his name was Henry M. Brooks.

I sent my woman a letter the other day. I first put in 30 dollars in the express office and he gave me a check and I put the check to her so she can draw the money; I told her to go and get you to go with her to the burg to get it; if you would go with her to get it I would be obliged to you, and have her pay you for your trouble. Write as soon as you get this and let me know whether she got the money or not. I can't think of anything more to write this time. Good bye. Give my love to your folks and accept this from a friend.

William Wright

American Camp, New York City  
Oct. 8, 1862

Dear Aunt and Cousins; -

We arrived here this morning at 2 o'clock and I wrote to father this morning early and in a hurry and seeing we had time Uncle Robt. thought I had better write another to you and tell you how we enjoyed ourselves on the road.

Well, we got to Rouses Point about 6 o'clock that night and went on board the steamer. We got to White Hall about 4 o'clock in the morning and stayed on board the steamer until about 7 o'clock. We then got onto the cars and started in about half an hour and did not stop but twice until we arrived here.

All the country after we left R. Point was very mountainous that I noticed we crossed over a great many bridges and through under a great many ridges.

We were used very well along the road. The village of White Hall is a very nice place, but rough, what we saw of it. We went through a tunnel about half a mile long. The next place we came to of much importance was Saratoga Springs, where we were treated to crackers and cheese, also apples. We stopped at West Troy and East Troy, crossing the Hudson at West Troy. We crossed the Mohawk twice at East Troy. Troy is a very nice place only we went through where the great fire was once. We did not stop at Albany, on account of being on the opposite side of the river. The railroad runs right along the side of the Hudson, all the way to New York. Some times it was as much as 20 rods from the shore of the river, on account of crooks in the river.

The next place we stopped any length of time was at Poughkeepsie on account of it being dark, but we were told by the folks there that the 152nd Regt. was there and was going to leave Saturday.

We were cheered by everybody as we passed and as far as we could see there were handkerchiefs waving. At every station there were crowds ready waiting to bid us goodby and shake hands.

The camp is in the heart of the city. The buildings are all five stories high around here. The offices of World, Scientific American and Independant are right across the street from us. There is an iron fence all around the campground and the guard is on the outside. The barracks are the very best, all lighted by gas and good water and good food.

The word is we are going to leave this afternoon. There are three other regiments here besides us. It is very warm here. All the soldiers are stripped and are sweating at that.

I have just seen Abram and Charley Wooster. They are not going home in a week. It is not a very good place to write on account of the noise in camp, and the rolling on the streets of the omnibuses and street cars.

We are called on for dinner and I must close. I could write all day if I had time. We feel well for all the want of sleep. We did not sleep much on the lake nor on the cars.

Let my folks read this as I did not tell anything about the route. No more at present.

From your cousin,  
W. Allen

Co. I, 142nd Regt. N.Y.V.  
Upten Hill, Fairfax County Va.  
Oct. 9th, 1862

Dear Ones at Home:

We have moved our camp twice since we wrote last; we got orders last Tuesday night after dark to be in rediness for an alarm, we were provided with 20 rounds of cartridges and slept on our arms; the next day came and no alarm. We went to Brigade inspection the next day, and the next day we went and cleaned up a knoll in the edge of the woods and moved that afternoon and piched our tents and a nicer place could not be found in all dixey. The next morning we got up and got orders to pack up and be ready to leave in half an hour; there was nothing but a hurry to pack up and move, the tents were tore down and once we started of without any breakfast except half a loaf of bread and we marched to this hill and stoped and there was a guard for picket duty detailed and sent forward about 2 miles, long ones, too, some were left in the woods but we had the luck to be left at the edge of the woods, and we did not get any more to eat until the next night; only some apples and grapes. We got to camp today about 11 o'clock and got a good dinner of fresh beef and rice soup and fresh bread, and went out to look around. We are on a high hill about 20 rods from a fort, which I have not learned the name. We are still in sight of the Capitol and of Fairfax Seminary. We are about 10 miles from Washington. To go by the road our picket line extends from Falls Church on towards Fairfax Cort House; we were about 12 miles from the Cort House and about 1 mile from the Church. We passed the church; it is not much of a place. We have not learned where the 106th Regt. is yet. If you write to Frank Dany, tell him where we are and to write to us. We have no more to say at present but we are all well; we have not heard from home yet but we expect to hear this week. Adress to Washington and we will get anything sent there. Let my folks know you have heard from us.

William Good bye.

Adress Washington, D.C.  
Co. I, 142nd Regt. New York Vols.

*This letter is written on military stationery with a picture of the Capitol Building and immediately underneath printed Headquarters 142nd Regt. New York Vols. Col. Judson*

Oak Point Oct. 18th 1862

Dear Father

I now take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well hoping this will find you the same

we are getting along well at present we have got the potatoes dug and I have started the plow I think I have about 42 acres plowed I think we have had Robt Elliott to help us this week we have not sold a stick of wood since you left Ogdensburgh there is considerable stir on the river but wood seems to be plenty I received your Town bounty from Uncle William Allen uncle Wm Shields was over day before yesterday he said that he thought that he could get to Camp Wheeler time enough to see you but could not on acct of Some delay he said that he would have liked to have seen you before you left I received a letter from William last Saturday night he Said in a letter to uncle that you were not very well but uncle got a letter tonight Saying you are all well he did not Say any thing about you or any thing for me in it and I expected a letter or Some word from you tonight William Said that you were encamped on the Arlington hights in Sight of the Capitol I would like to know what you think of the place since you got there what kind of tents do you have and have you Seen any body that you know that does not blong to your Regt I have been Buisey Since you left I have not had much time to do great deal towards getting in the little debts I have not got a cent on John Turnbolls acct yet but I think I can get it when She Sells the horses if Millinkton Soper gets the horses I think by waiting a while on him saw him to day and he Said that he would come good by doing so if he got the horses when I write again I will try and inform you of it & other transactions that you want to know about I suppose you have wrote or will write before this reaches you but I will answer it when I get it there is Some more news in to night General Grant has cleaned the rebbles out near Corinth and has taken about 2000 Rebbles PriSoners and have compelled them to Spike 15 guns and captured all their baggage and some guns there has been a great battle in Kentuckey between Buel and the rebble Brag we have not got the particulars of it yet but they took from the rebbles 150 wagons and about 1000 priSoners I suppose you will get the news before this I must close by requesting you to write when you get this

From your Son I e

Stewart Allen

P S we have about over 100 bush Potatoes 5 loads

## Camp Jesse 1862

Dear Friend;

I now take the opportunity to answer yours which I received two days ago, but could not get time to right the same day, as I would like to have done. We are all well and I hope these few lines will find all of you the same.

There was one of our boys died last night. He had just come in off picket duty. We are going to bury him with the honors of war at half past three this afternoon. I haven't much time to write for we have got to be all present. He was in Co. K.

We took 17 head of fat cattle and a span of horses, and two prisoners that was a going to the rebel army.

There was Col. Mulligans battery and about 200 cavalry left here yesterday to intercept Stonewall Jacksons reinforcements. We heard there was fighting, but I don't know how they came out.

I don't know as there is any more news that I can tell you at this time. I wish your father was in our regiment with us and I want you to tell him so. When they leave the 'Burg I wish you would write where they are a going to so that I can write to him. You must tell the old man that I think that he is true blue and I think he will make right kind of soldier, but I think he might have stayed at home and let some of the young men go.

I have no more time for I am a going to the funeral, and it is almost time.

You must direct your letters as you did before. I send my love to all of you. Write as soon as you get this.

This is to Stewart Allen

Francis Dana

Camp Jessie  
New Creek  
Oct. 18th, 1862

Friend Allen;

It is with pleasure that I seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along here at present.

We are having good times now and Co. C stands no. 1 in everything that is in drilling, scouting, and steeling and that seems to be the three principal objects that a soldier tries to excel in.

We have got nicest store here in this place and whatever the boys want they go in and take, let it be what it will and not even ask the price of it but that excess did not satisfy them, the other night there was about two hundred of them got together and made up their minds to go in take all they had; well, they went to the store and smashed the window in and then the Officers made such a fuss about it that they stopped at that and so the matter stands yet.

So you see that we are right among the Rebels, we take from three to four prisoners a day; some of them are fine looking men but as a general thing they are pretty hard specimens of human nature, they are half starved, ragged, lowly wretches.

We have had three deaths in our Regt. since we came here, but they were strangers to me.

The health of the Regt. is very good at present, we have only one man in the hospital out of our Company; as for me, I never felt better in my life than I do at present.

I have written eight or ten letters to my wife and she says that she has not received only three of them.

She says that my Father has written to her to come over and live with him; you can say to her that I think she had better do it. I have left my bounty money with your Father and I suppose you have the handling of it now and if she wants it, let her have it if she moves away, and whatever trouble you are to take it out of it; but if she does not want it, then you can use it and let her have it when she does want it. I would have written to you of this but I did not know where she would be.

My wife has written to me that my corn and potatoes are very good; if she moves away and wants to exchange corn for wheat, I wish that you would exchange with her; I think it would be better for her to do so.

Francis Dana has been sick some, but's better now; the rest of our boys are well:

I have written one letter about two weeks ago but have not received any answer. I would like to know how my family is as often as convenient.

Remember me to all who may enquire after me.

Yours in best  
William Wright  
to Stewart Allen

While I am writing there has been a man died in Co. A; What ailed him I do not know

Upton Hill Camp Bliss, Fairfax Co., Va.

Nov. 7, 1862

Dear Ones at home: I received your letter Monday night and was glad to hear that you were all well. We are on the same old camp ground yet and think there is a prospect of us staying here awhile. The officers are getting their tents floored and chimneys put in them. It is snowing this morning and blowing good. We have got our tents rigged with a tent stove, so that it is quite comfortable.

This morning we did not have to drill because it storms so. You wanted to know how often and how long we had to drill in a day. We have to drill between 2 and 3 hours in the forenoon and have battalion drill in the afternoon, about two hours. We have brigade drill once a week. We had the brigade drill last Tuesday afternoon. We have not drilled regularly until this week. Lieut. Col. Curtis takes great pains in drilling us.

He is a queer fellow. Sometimes he goes on horseback and sometimes on foot. He can see every little mistake that is made, he is so tall. He is a tall slim man, long thin face, heavy whiskers and mustache, dark hair, big teeth and black eyes and not very good looking.

You wanted to know about the brigade and division we are in. You will see in the last Republican nearer than I can tell.

You talked about the price of things in Hammond but things are a great deal higher here. Butter is from 30 to 40 cents per pound and cheese 16 to 20 cents. Small apples are 1 cent apiece, bacon 25 cents a pound, sugar 13 cents a pound.

I received the Republican and Advance last night and expected a letter but did not get one, but expect one tonight.

We have heard from the election. When you write tell us the opinion about it and the war, when you think they will settle it.

We should like to hear from some of the rest of the family for we like to get letters from home. I must close for can't tell you any news. Only write as soon as you get this one and let us have the news from home. It is snowing yet and it is noon. The snow is two or three inches deep. No more at present from the Soldiers Allens -

Robert and Wm.

Oak Point Nov. 7th 1862

Dear Father

I received yours of the 29th Oct Saying that you are all well but have moved considerable from one place to another and back again I suppose all of it does not amount to much after all or accomplish little or nothing we are having a cold Snap just now the water holes are froze so that it will bear my heft I have Stopped plowing altogether the wind has blown north east all day very hard but we have plowed about 12 acres and I think we will get all the plowing dun on the Jackson place this fall yet we lost all of last week at the plow on acct of the Snow Storm I took the Butter down to Ogdb last week & Mr. Barker went down with some I got for ours 20 cts for two tubs and 21 cts for the rest and Mr. Barker helped me to Sell it I paid Mr. Davis for the plow we got last spring and took up the note I will Straiten up all the rest of the debts and accts as Soon as I can but when the ground is So that I can plow I want to stick to it and get all the plowing done this fall that I can

John Rodgers came and got the harness that he had last Spring he Says that he will rather pay for the use of it or buy it from you if you would Sell it he got the new lines & headstalls & harness no collars or martingills I herd you Say you would sell it but did not hear you Say what you wanted for it let me no the least you will take for the harness & pull straps with anything else and I will try and get all I can for it I will find out by Mr. Glinn how much the lines & headstalls cost

Mr. Rosegrant came and got the Sheep and paid what was due on them \$90 and took them away we have not sold any wood since I wrote last there is not many boats on acct of havey winds this few days I have not got any word from Frank Dana since I wrote to you we had elections on Tuesday I understand the town went nay for Wadsworth and I saw Wednesday dailey which Says the State has gone 15000 nay for Wadsworth but the democrats here Say that Seymour is elected but you will probably hear before this reaches you how do you think your Reg would go Rep or Democratic or do they have much to Say about politics there is very little war news here now the papers Say the army is on the move

I do not know as I can let you know of much more at present but will let you know all I can about things at home if you want to know of any thing in perticular you must let us know we are all well at present and hope this will find you the Same  
no more at present

from your Son I e

Stewart

to William

P S do you ever See harpers weekly if you do not I will Send you occasionally if you will So let me know & write Soon

Nov 8 1862

we have had our Second Snow Storm this fall it fell last night & this morning to the depth of 5 inches I should think and is Snowing again tonight I was over to Mr. Barkers today and Settled I paid up our Store acct up to date and I will try and Straiten all the accts as Soon as I can I saw Uncle Wm Allen this afternoon he was up to Barkers after the mail I have wrote to hollis about the cloth as he has not sent it to us yet have you got any news from Frank Dana or Wm Wright I sent them your adreSs and you must let me know when you hear from them I have just received a letter from Frank since I commenced to write this Saying that he was well he says the rebble cavalry came and Stole 180 fat Cattle from and they Sent their Cavalry & Battery after them & took them all back again & 25 horses and 16 prisoners he Says they are a hard lot of looking men he says there is another regiment arrived at New Creek he calls it the 15 V a I do not know what that means he says there is about 1100 rebble Cavalry about 60 miles from them he said their Friend Said they were going after them but he could not tell till they Started

I have Wroat about all I can think of at present except there has been a great Blow on the lakes and the Propeller Bay State is founded and lost all hands 6 passengers & 16 of a crew and Several Schooners have gone a Shore and are total loSses

no more at present

Stewart

Rowels Burgh, Nov. the 17th , 1862

Dear Friend Stewart ;

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you; it found me well at that time but I don't feel very well now. I received your letter the day we left Camp Jessie, and we left there 7 days ago to Imboden ; Took 31 of the 5 V a that was stationed 20 miles from here and they expected him to come to this place to burn the railroad brig and they telegraphed to New Crick for reinforcements; so our Co. and Co. A and Co. F was the three was sent; we expected a fight but we have not seen Imboden yet.

They expect a fight at Camp Jessie; old Stonewall is coming that way; he was 11 miles from Camp Jessie last night and Burnside is close in his rear, he says he only wants enough men at New Crick to check Stonewall so he can catch up with him. I guess they must have enough by this time for they have been going by here for 2 days, soldiers and artillery and they were all on board cars and I hope we will join our Regiment before old Stonewall gets to New Crick so we can have a chance to do our share of it; about 52 miles from Camp Jessie to this place.

The Clear River runs through this place and the mountains are on all sides and very high. The citizens say there is frost on the mountains the year round and, well, I don't know as I can write any more now for it is all I can do to write what I have.

I commenced a letter 2 days before yesterday to you but I was so sick could not finish it.

I was out on picket and caught a bad cold and ached all over me. I hope this will find you all well, if I am not.

Direct your letters to Camp Jessie for we don't know what minute we will go back there, so write soon.

This is from your friend

Francis Dana to

Stewart Allen

Camp Bliss, Upton Hill  
Fairfax Co. , Va.  
Nov 17 1862

Dear Ones at Home :

I received your letter last Friday night, when on picket, and was glad to hear from you; we have been on picket duty two days coming on Saturday about noon, and have just found time to answer you. There is nothing new since the last letter; the weather here is quite nice, yet cool at night but pleasant in the daytime. I suppose it is all frozen up north by this time. We have now regular drill the first thing in the morning; so roll call at 6 o'clock and breakfast right after and at 8 o'clock Inspection of arms and drill on the manual of arms, guard mounting at half past 8 and after that there is two hours of company drill and by that time it is noon, and at 1 o'clock we regiments form in the battalion drill and drills all afternoon including dress parade and we get our supper and then it is sundown when the drums beat the retreat for roll call and we go to our tents until half past eight when the drums beat again for roll call and half an hour the drummer goes around and raps 3 times on his drum on the street of every company for all lights to be put out and all noise to be stopped; this is all about one day's work. We do not know how long we may stay here as there is a report that the picket line is extended, and if that is so we may perhaps move, but I do not believe it. We went out on picket duty Thursday and came in on Saturday. Yesterday was rather cold and there was not any preaching, but they had what they call Sunday morning inspection. All our guns inspected by the Lieut. Col. and also our knapsacks and their contents. The place where we were on picket was at Falls Church about a mile and a half from here; it is a small southern village looking rather desolate like all the places on account of the army. There is a railroad running just about 100 rods north of it; the cars run when they have any army stores to carry to the army. The country is rolling hills here but I should think a very good soil so far as I have seen. There is a great deal of wood cut down around here, there only being woods of small pitch pine groves near here. There is plenty of water and spring brooks around here but the water is not quite so good here as it is in the north.

I am getting the sheet about full and must close soon. I want Janett to write to me and tell about the school and any other thing else interesting since; also the rest of the family for I think they have all forgot me as I have not heard one word from any but Stewart since I left home. This afternoon it is raining, we have not had drill today. We have been cutting timber for a cook house and guard house. I think things are as high priced here as in the north and you are as well off as any one can be here in the south now.

Postage stamps are scarcest thing we want. No news at present time. I have not heard from Frank Dana but Frank buss has.

R. Allen  
per W. Allen

P.S. I wrote to our folks yesterday, and you can let them know when you get this. Give my respects to all.  
W. Allen

Camp Jessie, New creek, Va.  
Nov 30 1862

Friend Allen :

I received yours of the 18th yesterday morning and now embrace this the first opportunity to answer. I am still in the enjoyment of earth's greatest blessings, good health, and am in hopes that these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessings.

You speak of the weather being very changeable in your part of the country. I think we can match you in that respect. The 27th was a mild and rather warm day for this season and you can judge of the character of the weather from the following circumstances. In the course of the day of the 27th, some of the boys set fire to the dry leaves on the mountains and in the evening the scene was beautiful beyond description. The fire would start in small bright circles and gradually expand and stretch away across the mountains till they would run together and cross and recross each other and wind about like so many firey serpents. Then stretch away in one long line and move up the side of the mountain, now like an army in line of battle and now a line of skirmishers cautiously advancing along the brow of the mountain to feel of the enemy they expected to find concealed in the mountain forest.

You say that my wife wants me to send any money that I may intend for her to you. That I would have no particular objection to doing so, but when I will be able to do so no one here can tell. There is no more appearance of getting our pay than there was two months ago.

In regard to the repairing that house for my wife I would be very thankful to you for anything you may do for her, but at the same time I think she had better go to Macomb.

As far as the way in which you dispose of my money I am well aware that you will do nothing but what is right. Therefore, I am perfectly easy on that score.

There is no war news here than can be depended on. You get the particulars in the papers long before we do. We know nothing but what goes on in our own camp and that does not affect the conduct of the war much.

We had two fellows desert out of our company the other day. Their names were Chauncy Covey and William H. Wright. Both enlisted from the town of Depeyster. We hope they will meet with the reception that their act has entitled them.

Today is a sunny, summerlike day, a genuine Indian summer day, without any snow on the ground, altho this morning the mountains on all sides of us looked white and wintery. But the snow has all disappeared and it is all fine weather for today. Tonight it may snow a little just for variety.

We have got our winter tents. Each tent has a squad of from ten to twelve or sixteen in all. We had a cold and blustery day to pull down and set up. It blowed all day from the west, cold and chilly, and sometimes there would be a little snow drifting along with the cold wind that made it very disagreeable. It took us all day to move. Our new tents are so arranged that we can have a fire in the center to keep us warm and cook by. It looks now as though we would stay all winter at Camp Jessie. There are now about fifteen thousand men encamped at this

camp. We have been brigaded with Mulligan's Irish regiment, a battery of Illinois artillery, a squadron of the Ringgold cavalry and the 14th and 15th Virginia regiments, and we are to be known by the name of the First Railroad Brigade. Our duty is to guard the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, from Cumberland in Maryland to Oakland in Virginia. So you see we will have no long marches to perform as we will be sent from point to point along the road, but the cars. We have a little over 70 miles of the road to guard. As long as we remain on the road we will have no fighting to do as the guerrilla bands that may assemble along the road always skedaddle when they hear of any of Uncle Sam's boys coming.

So this winter will slip away without us having much excitement but lie here, idling away our time as has been too much the case with the army at large, but we expect to see things go a little livelier now. The weather so far this season has been very favorable as there has been very little rain, consequently not much mud. So they cannot have the same excuse this fall they had for last for lying still. Last fall the cry was, "can't move on account of the mud". The Mud General has been removed and the Nubern General put in his place. So we hope to see things move as they should. We hope and God grant that we may not be disappointed.

Yours respectfully,

William R. Wright

To: Stewart Allen

Camp at Brandy Station  
 106th Regt. N.Y. Vols.  
 December 3rd , 1862

Stewart Allen , Dear Sir -----

I now take the pleasure of letting you know that I am well right yet and hope this will find you the same.

Well, Stewart, we have seen one week of very hard marching and some fighting. We have had a devil of a fight with the Gray Backs over the river and have just got back this morning. We have been gone just a week this morning, and I have not had a whole night's sleep since we have been gone. You can make up your mind I and all the rest of the boys are pretty tired.

We have got back to our old camp but there are a few of our boys missing. That is the worst of it and I am a little afraid we wont see them very soon. There were three wounded in our company. The Captain got a Blue Pill through his arm, but did not break it. Frank Pickens was shot through the arm and another boy by the name of John Williams was hit in the hip. One by the name of John Rowe was hit in the leg - four in all, and one is missing entirely. Co. K lost a few - ten or twelve - that they can't account for.

Co. K and our Co. C were deployed out as skirmishers and we had the worst of the fight, but we came out very well; I came pretty near getting a clip for the Rebs shot four at me and one hit the tree I was behind and three others just missed me. So they missed their mark that time. But there was one Reb color sergeant got a Yankee pill through his jacket to pay for some of those four bullets, and I know that for certain.

Stewart, we had a devil of a fight. Our whole corps was in it at once in a small field. We had to fight Stonewall Jackson's old corps, and they did fight bully. They drove us a little, but we gained it back just at dark, and the Rebs left in the night, so there was nothing to fight in the morning.

We have come back over the river, I saw 200 or 300 Rebs this morning that our boys had taken and were bringing them along. I think we had a pretty good raid and got back all right.

Frank Pickens is just here. His arm is doing well, but the doctor says he will not be able to do any more service. He is going to Washington tomorrow morning.

Stewart, it is getting dark and I will have to close. I will give you the details of the fight in my next letter. I will send you a poem about our Culpepper Scadaddle. No more at present. This is from a friend

Frank Dana        to Stewart Allen

Camp Jessie , Decem the 4th 1862

Dear Friend :

I now take pleasure write to you to let you know that I am a little better than I was when I wrote to you before; when we was at Rawls Burgh. I wrote to you then and I suppose you have received that before this time, but I have been very sick since I wrote then, and I think I am on the gain a little but I am in the hospital yet; I have been in here most of two weeks and I have to get my own washing done and I have no money and won't get no pay til the first of January and then we will get 4 months pay and there is a number of small necessaries and I can't get them. I will have to leave the hospital in a few days and I will want to have a little butter and a number of other things, a little paper and stamps and I will have to get my clothes washed and I can't get it done without money and I would like to have you send me two or three dollars; I would like 3 dollars if you have it to spare and I will give you good interest on it if you will send it. I would like to have you send as quick as possible after you get this if you can send it, for I am in great want of it; you mustn't think you will lose it for you have enough in your hands to pay for it and when I get my money I will send it to you for you to take care of. So, would like to have you send it to me if you possibly can, for it would do me a great deal of good at this present time.

So, write soon as you get this without delay.

It is nice weather here now as you need to see.

There is 12 thousand men in camp here; there was 13 yesterday but one regiment went away yesterday, and it left 12 thousand now and 3 batteries, we are in Mulligan's Brigade and there is Regts. to the Brigade.

So, I will stop scribbling right now. I heard the rebels want to make peace, but I don't believe it yet.

This is from your friend Francis Dana

to Stewart Allen

Camp Bliss , Va.  
Dec. 8th, 1862

Respected Son :

I received your letter dated the 16th, last Thursday, and I was very pleased to hear from you once more. I received the things you sent me this morning with pleasure. The weather is very pleasant now, we have not had any rain in some time.

I am well and rugged as usual. I was off with the ambulance a few days ago around the Chain Bridge and around Washington and George town; saw some pretty rough country up by the Chain Bridge : I saw some of the wounded soldiers that were in the last battle ; there is different reports of the number of killed and wounded, but we can get nothing correct as yet concerning it.

I like the place I now have in the Corps better than I did in the ranks, for I have a chance to go around and see more of what is going on and that is what I like.

There was a continual roar of cannon all day yesterday in the direction of Fredericksburg, and it is thought here that they are fighting there again.

There is a number of our boys sick and some in the hospital. There is a funeral in the Regt. today; there has been two before; there is many sick with the jaunders.

There is a Fort near us in our Brigade, mostly Brass Rifle Cannons; the forts are nicely fitted up and the horses look well: We are in a very pleasant place about 9 miles from Washington; we can see the Belfry head of the old Capitol rearing above the forests, which is all we can see of the city. We expect to stay here all winter and the Regt. has mostly all got neatly fitted up with comfortable quarters for the winter.

We have not drawn any pay yet, but expect it soon.

I wish you would see Uncle Roger about coming down here this winter, but if he does I should like it if you could come with him if you can leave home conveniently.

If you come, you will have to get a pass in Washington to cross the Bridge, you can easily get one of most any General, as you cannot go across one in the city.

I should be glad to see any of my Allen members if they should come, but they would get well paid to come see the country and then they would get a better idea of things than I can give them.

I cannot think of any more news to write, so I will bid you good bye for the present. Give my respects to all. Write when convenient.

Yours with Respect,  
Robert Allen

Oak Point Dec 8th 1862

My Dear Father

I now take time to answer your kind letter Informing me that you are well and that few of your men on the Side list & those not dangerously ill I got a letter Theodore for Francis Dana he is very sick & Theodore is in dout of his Nees very he Says the doctors in their regiment have not Saved a man yet that was very sick & is afraid that Francis will not get over it

he wished that Some of us could come and See him I just mailed a letter for him before I went to Kingston you wanted to know about the horses & cattle

well I have had no chance to sell any of them yet at near their value there was men buying horses for the cavalry but they did not pay over \$80.00 & \$90.00 for them but I think horses will sell well in the Spring the horses are all doing well at present & the cattle the same I neglected to tell you about how I came out with the cow I sold the fellow would not take her and threatened to Sue me for the \$5.00 he paid on her I thought that better than lose time with him & make more out of her than I would if I had Stood him a suit & beet him & So I did I Sold 3 quarters & hide & had a gr left & made about \$15.00 besides we are fatting old Moll She look very well at present we have been threshing to day we threshed 600 Bushels this after noon & had about 8 Bush of Wheat rather poor & Mike Forister has got his threshed & had only 240 bush from 70 bush Sown I will let you know how much we have when we get it threshed There was but 3 of us threshed this after noon Bob Jonithan & myself we got considerable Straw & the Wheat was badly cut with the rats on top of the mow but not so bad after we got down a little I have bought 9 Sheep

I got them from John Brown over the river & got them home I paid him \$28.00 American money for them & he helped me over with them that was as cheap as I could get them but I could get them from him \$2 1/2 a piece if I got Canada money from Breck I did not see Mr Calvin he had gone to Boston the day I got there the men that were acquainted with you on Garden Island wonder at you enlisting & John Donnelly Said if he herd when you came back he would come and see you you must answer him & write to Capt Miller & let him know where & how you are I did not see the Capt he went down with the hercules with a tow of Schones I was Sory that I did not see him as this sheet is getting filled up & I want to answer F Dana to night I must close for the present I shall inclose in this a \$5.00 Treasury Note for you and will send you more if you want it you must let me know when you want any more Whatever you Stand in need of worst you must let us know & we will Send it to you then we will not send you any thing you do not want

Mother has a pare of mittons knit for you & Bandages & Socks and some other little things ready to send you

we are all well & hope this will find you all the same

Grandmother is well & tell Eathon Hammond that his folks are the last to hear from them.

Stewart

Ambulance Corps  
Camp Bliss, Va.  
Dec. 10, 1862

Dear Son :

I received your letter this evening but was very glad to hear from you again. This evening finds me well as usual and enjoying soldiers life as usual.

Our Regiment was paid off last Wednesday; we were paid up to Nov. 1st, two months pay. I sent enclosed in this a check to your Mother twenty one dollars; she will have to take the check the Burgh to draw the money on it. She will have to go, herself as no one else can draw the money but her. I want you to write instantly and let me know if you have received the check.

I am glad to hear that you are getting along with the work so well.

I have sent a letter to Jenett today and I want you to let me know whether she has received it or not.

We are under Marching orders again, the orders has just come to Camp. But I do not much expect to move this time; yet the boys are packing up so as to be ready.

There has been six deaths in the Regiment and many that are quite low now; I have been unwell as you have heard before but I am now better, and have been serving today.

The weather is very nice; the last three or four days has been as pleasant as spring, almost; the winter has been very open and one could plow now or do most any kind of work.

The Penn Regiment have been coming in to Alexandria for the last week by the hundreds. I think I should like their climate here very much.

I expect if we have to move from here that we shall go on farther to the front; there is not much news here now from the War Department.

Tell Robert to write to me regular as often as he can. I can not think of much news to write this time. So, you must excuse my briefness and perhaps there will be more news to write next time.

I like to forget to say that I received 9 stamps in your letter this eve.

I have not heard anything from Frank Dana as yet. I suppose he is to Martinsburgh; the word I hear was by other sources he had the measles.

Give my love to all R. Allen

Hammond Dec 14 1862

Robert Allen

Dear Brother

It is with love and gratitude that I write you a few lines To let you know that we are all well hoping you the same and that wife and your children are all well I saw them the other day and Stewart wanted me To write To you I Looked Long for a letter from you But I was glad to hear That you was well Alex got a letter from William but he did not Say aney Thing about you Whether you was well or not But we hope the time will come when you all will be home again Sow as To enjoy the blessings of home for you must feal It verey inconvenient besides a good home but the boys is getting along verey well Robert told me That flu has got Steiford But was getting better

They had been Threshing but Our grain is all poor this year and for yeald it is nothing Sum gets 3 after 1 and Sum gets 5 after 1 of Wheat but Ots and Barley is verey Good Wheat is \$1.25 a Bushel and Ots 40 and 50 and Barley \$1.25 There is not as much Wheat in Hammond as with Bred Our Roger and James Dinnen is Selling Corn for 75 cents a Bushel They Brought 1000 Bushels from Oswego abought 3 weaks agow and it is almost gown every wane has got Sum Almost for to make Bred we have got verey wet wether at present it has Rained for 3 days Stidey and before we had as Cold wet des as we had Last winter and as good Slaying But it is all mud again You must write to me how you Like to Sholdering and Tell me all about the Country and be Shure To Tell me about your helth for I saw your mother the other day and She Told me To be Shur and write To you for she Longs To hear from you for she feals bad about you but Dear brother it dose aney person good To hear from a friend from a far Country it is all the way we can hear by riteing and we all hope That God will give you Strength in whatever place you may be Cald in Battel

George Clink has Diserted i suspose he was home on a furlow and Started To come back and got To Wattertown and Came back home and sais he is Sick

But will have To Draw to a Close But will Rite more to you when i rite again  
Best Remains Brother in Love Till Death

John Wilson

Oak Point Dec 14th 1862

Dear Father

I now take the pleasure in answering yours of the 3rd Saying you were well & had pleasant weather where you are

we had a cold Snap and very good Sleighing for a few days but the Snow has most all gone again & yesterday we had a Storm of Sleet & froze as it fell but it is raining now but not freezing and is More Milder you wanted to know if I had Sold any of the horses I have not yet horses are very low here now but I think will bring a better price next Spring or before winter is out

we have not got out the wood for next Summer yet but will as Soon as we can get at it when we get some more Sleighing

we have been threshing the most of this week & ondy threshed 43 bushels of wheat from 3600 Sheaves where if it had been a good crop we would have had or ought to have had 180 or 200 bushels from that amount of Straw we have been threshing ourselves we have Jonithan Smith the old pensioner that Uncle Roger had

the way the wheat turns out we ondy thresh from 12 to 13 bush a day Uncle Roger was over here last friday he thinks he will go down & See you after the 1st of January but is not Sertin wheather he will or not we have not got the cloth from Theresa yet Mother wants to make you a pair of Shirts & Send with the rest of the things She has got ready but we do not know when we will get the cloth I will try to write this week again we are all well No More at present

Yours Oc Stewart Allen

you must give us the direction if any different

Oak Point Dec 16th 1862

My Dear Father

I received yours of the 7th & was Happy to hear from you and that you are well & contented in your mind althoug I Should like to See you home again you Said not to Send the clothing with we got a good chance or Someone Directly where you are

there is to be a box of things to be Sent Mr Barberee to  
Co I by Uncle Wm & Mr Darwin & Mother wants to Send them that way I will write the articles next time & let you know when they leave I was going to take the things over to morrow morning & mail this letter I Rec a letter from Frank Dana

he is Sick & in the Hospital & is out of money & I sent him \$3.00 what he wanted  
you wanted me to be carefull of the Fodder as it is scarce

I think we will have enough for this winter but I will take as good care of it as PoSuble & See that there is none wasted & make it go as far as it will you wanted to know what I was going to do this winter when we get the threshing & Buchering & fire wood up I think by that time we will have good Sleighing & I intend to get the wood that is already cut at Crooked Creek out & if I have any time I think it profitable I will cut & get out what I can but at present there is a rather poor prospect for a nother year as there is So much old wood on hand you wanted to know how the Wheat turns out Well we have threshed all that grew on the Jackson place & what grew on the 11 acres & ondy got 60 busehels but I think what grew on the 12 acres will turn out better as we have not got that threshed yet I do not know but our Wheat turns out as well if not better than our neighbors Mike Forister Sowed about 70 bush & ondy had 240 bush as it came from Machien when we get the rest of it threshed I will let you know how much there is all together if we have no bad luck I think we can thresh it in 3 days you wanted to know how much we have plowed well we have as near as I can Judg 14 acres the field the oats was in & whar the Wheat was back of Mikes woods I Should have liked to have got more Plowed but it froze up very quick & did not get a chance to get any more done you wanted to hear about or from the neighbors

Well Capt Royal I Whitney is home now he says that General Teak Sent him to Albany to take charge of 500 drafted men to fill in the old Reg and when he got there there was not a man drafted & did not know when there would be I will close for the present

from your Son Stewart

*Separate note enclosed with letter*

Mr. Hammond was over with the letter but I was not at home then But I was at his house on Tuesday last & they were all well

tell William Bob was at uncles Saturday night & they were all well I do not know as I can tell you anything more at present but hope this will find you all well and in good spirits and

write as often as you can I think our government is going to work in earnest now & Strike at Rebellion in different parts of the country or make them abandon it to our armies Some of their Strongholds God Grant that it may be so & the war will Soon be over & I hope you will all return back to your home Safe & Sound again & Soon for I think they have men enough to do it if they make a proper mes of them & all Strike together

you must excuse me at present

I remain yours ever true P c

Stewart Allen

P. S.

I think we will send those things by expreSs unleSs we can send them with someone that is a going where you are

No more at present

Dec. 23, 1862  
Camp Bliss, Upton Mill

Dear Son :

I received your kind letter last Friday, also the money that you sent all correct and was very happy to hear from Home. My health is still, I am enjoying myself as well as could be expected under the circumstances. There is considerable sickness in the regiment just now.

We are having mild pleasant weather for the last day or two. We have some rumors in camp to the effect that Jef Davis had made propositions of peace but we have learned not to believe these stories unless we can see something that makes it certain.

You spoke about the wheat being light; all I can say is that you must not sell yourself short, but keep enough for the use of the family and for seed. In relation to the Grumbell debt, I would say perhaps you can turn it with more saws so as to get something out of it.

I had quite a walk the other day out in the country and saw where there had been more or less fighting; could see where the balls had struck trees, found large shells, some whole ones and some had exploded. The roads is mostly second growth and a man can see the wild turkeys almost any distance and I am thinking that I should have found fun with them but we are not allowed to be shooting around near the picket line.

You said that you had been lazy this winter; now, I think that you had better be stirring about and get up the road before the winter is gone. I want to know whether you are going to get up any more steamboat wood or not. I want you to try to get the wood drawn which was cut last winter up in the crick. You must be sure that the ice is good before you commence teaming. There is some of the neighbors boys who are sick but they are well cared for.

I want you to write as often as you can.

Your Father,

Robert Allen

Oak Point 28th Dec 1862

Dear Father

I now write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well hoping this will find you the Same we have not received a letter from you in two weeks & should like to hear from you now soon I would like to know if you received the Money I Sent you Nearly 19 days ago I think you have had time to Rec it & and an answer we have got our Wheat threshed we have 142 boxes I think it will hold out & over run Some

We have Butchered the hogs it was the lightest pork we have had in a good while Weight was as following 228 & 288 & 330 lbs we Sent in a box to you Sent to Co I 142nd Reg the following articles 2 bandages 4 Pr Socks 1 Pr Mittons 1 towel 3 lbs dried apples 6 lbs butter you must let us know when you get them or wheather you do at all the box was directed to Mr Darwin I have paid the taxes the amt was \$29.78 including the dog tax no comute this year we have no Sleighing this winter got ondy about 1 week that was about the first of Dec we have Since that time rain & Slet Mud and hard weather without any Snow this 3 weeks back it was very Mudy yesterday but froze a little last night I Rec a letter from Capt A Marshall wednesday night directed to you to take the buoys up this fall & wanting you to take stock in a propeller he proposes to build this winter to aply between Cape Vincent & Ogdensburgh touching at all places to any advantage on the river Chippewa Bay included the boat to be 100 ft long 17 ft beam & 8 ft hold with an engine of 35 horse power with acommodations for freight & paSsengers that is all of amt in his letter & you can write what you think about it in your next letter & write Soon as you poSsibly can let me know what you think about it

No more at present

from Stewart Allen

*Separate note enclosed*

P S Postage Stamps are Scarce here & will be till P M gets a new Suply after the first of January but I will try and get Some to morrow & Send you if I can When you write you must give the directions if diferent directions is Required and if you See the boys that you are acquainted with very often & how they get along

Oak Point Jan 6th 1863

Dear Father

I Received yours of the 28th ult and was glad to hear from you & that you are well & that you had received the things that we sent in the box that was Sent to the 142nd Reg

we would have Sent more to you then if we had been Shure that you would get them as Safe as you have We are having very mild weather here for January & have rather a muddy time of it at present there was a propeller went up the first day of the year New Years day and She came down the 3rd

on Saturday the first of Dec there had been some axidents and deaths since I wrote to you Wm Laidlow of Rossie died on the 31st of Dec & Henry Stirling was killed the Same day I Suppose by his horses runing away & throwing him out of the wagon I Supose you knew him he lived on the same road Wm Tilton lives on & Simon Marden Had his arm put out of joint the Same day the trouble all came in one day you See You Spoke about Seeing Uncle Roger about coming to see you I Saw him New Years day & he said he did not know whether he would have money enough left to go he has Bought widow Smiths place on the new road that is Isec Smith widow place but I will See him again & See what he Says about it & as for Coming Myself I do not know as I can very well but I will if I can get away as long

you Say you have not no reliable acct of the union boys at the resent Battle of Fredericksburgh the acct we get is 1100 killed 7 or 8000 wounded & Severl are a miSsing the number I forget at present & there is a rumer here that our forces have taken Vixburgh but we have nothing definite about it but I Supose you will hear about it before this reaches you if they have taken Vixburgh it will open the miSsippi and make it more convenient to transport men & other Munisions much quicker to New Orleans & Atlantic ocean & gulf I can give you little more news at present than we are well & hear no complaints from any of the folks about I will close for the present by requesting you to write as Soon as convenient & if you want more Postage Stamps I will Send you Some write in your next & let me know I will close for to night

Respectfully yours

Stewart Allen

Jan 7th 1863 we have had a change since last night it was windy at dark & we had Some Snow since and froze Some we will get Some Sleighing I think we had Some wood cut for fire wood for next Sumer I think if the weather remains doe not Steady that most of the folks will employ the time in getting up their wood as most of them are nearly out of fire wood Some have had to draw their wood with the wagon

I will close for the present

Stewart

*A separate piece as follows*

I Sent you 9 Postage Stamps in a letter I would have Sent you more now if I had them  
So, I will get Some more & Send you next time they have been Scarce here as there Seems to  
be a great demand for them

Stewart

I think I sent you 12 Stamps you Say 9 in your last

Camp Davis , Jan 16th, '63

Dear Son :

I received your kind letter in due season and was very glad to hear from home.

I have been sick since I wrote you last and I am not well yet. I have a low fever but am able to be up and about more or less throughout the day. There are now near 250 of the men who are not able to do duty. I have not seen William for this week and do not know how he is. I have not heard a word from Frank Dana and I wish you would write me if you know anything of him.

You speak of drawing cord wood now; I want you to be very careful and try the ice before you venture to go onto it. I want you to send me Jennett's photograph as soon as you can, conveniently. We have not very much war news just now but what we do get is not very encouraging; Still, we all hope for the best and are looking with great anxiety towards the Army of the North. It appears as though something must be done immediately else all is lost and that very soon. I shall write you again very soon unless I get better for this is a very desolate place for a sick person and I find it very different from home, I assure you. I wish you to write me as soon as you get this for I shall be quite anxious to hear from home. I expect to receive some pay soon but do not know how much nor when.

Your Father

R. Allen

Upton Mills, Va.  
Jan. 24, 1863

My Dear Son :

Your kind letter of the 17th came to hand in due season and has been read with much interest for I was very happy to hear from home once more.

My health is improving and my throat is well or nearly so but I have not got quite well yet for I still have some cough. I have as yet received no letter from John Donnelly; perhaps you can get James Hill to secure the debt, it will do no harm to try.

We have had a very severe rainstorm but it has come off very pleasant, indeed almost like summer.

I want to know the reason why the rest of the family do not write and let me know what they are doing. You must know that I am always anxious to know what you are all about. We expect to be paid as soon as the last of next week. I shall send the \$10.00 per month which was allotted to Mother in the form of a check by the express and she must go and attend to getting money herself. The remainder of my wages I shall keep which will be \$3.00 per month in addition however to this is 25 cents extra which will make a little more than I expected to receive at first.

I have never heard a word from Frank Dana.

I should like to have all of you send me your photographs as soon as you can send them one or two at a time in a letter. I would like to have Uncle Robert Shields write to me. I saw George Morrison yesterday, he has been discharged and is going home.

I want you to remember about sending me Jennett's picture in your next letter for I want to see how they look. I wish you to write me as soon as possible.

There is a rumor in camp with a day or two that the war is to be settled within thirty days. I have not seen any of our Company for two or three weeks. It is report that Burnside has crossed the river and is fighting.

I remain Father

Robert Allen

Martinsburg  
Jan. 31, 1863

Dear Friend :

I now take the pleasure to write a few lines to you to let you know that I am a little better than when I wrote you before. I am yet in the private house but the doctor says I have got to go to camp Monday. But I am not well enough to sleep in the cold tents yet. We are used worse than a dog by the doctors and not much better by our company officers. When we are sick they don't care whether we live or die.

They have sent to St. Lawrence County to get recruits for the 106th regiment, and I don't think they would get a great many men if they knew the style. If we had good doctors we could get along. He would not ex xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx when the meas  
xx  
xxxxxxxxxxxxout on me , I xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx but I was xxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxx drill and our major came by and wanted to know what was the matter with me I told him and he said for me to go to my tent and keep there. So you see someone in the regiment has some feelings for the men more than the doctors. He is the best officer in our regiment. With God's help I am getting better, but not with the doctor's help.

Stewart, what is the fuss with Bill Wright, or his wife, and money? He says she is so saving of his money. She wrote to him she had \$16 of his money, and then when you wrote how much it was he could not believe it. He said he would send the rest of his money to his wife. I told the boys I knew you had told the truth for his wife had no learning, and she would take up more than she had any thought of. The \$70 looked so big that it had no end, nor ever would have. But the account you sent to him he could not doubt. He said it must be true. I told the boys I did not think you would cheat him a bit. For I had lived with you and you had some of my notes now and I thought they were as safe as if they were in a bank.

You need not let Bill's wife know of this for she would write to him and it would make a fuss. But I thought I would let you know his feelings about it.

Well, Stewart, we have not had no pay yet and I don't know when we will have any. I am all of out patience and so are all the rest of the boys.

Frank Dana

*Note*

*These transcripts are being copied from the newspaper accounts which were pasted in a scrap book by the elder David and the sections x'd were destroyed by paste when the book was closed and the illegible letters were substituted with x's, since we were unable to find the copy of the original letter in our possession.*

Oak Point Feb 19th 63

Dear Father

Yours of the 10th ins was Received last night alSo the draft Song I liked all right & was very happy to hear from you again & that you are in better helth & Spirits than when you last wrote.

there is very little news at present from the war though things look more favorable than they did acording to the accts in the papers CongreSs has paSsed a bill to muster the emancipated slaves & all men of color in the U S Servis to be governed by the rules & regulations of the U S Army to garreson the forts in the most Southern States Some accts Says 300,000 men but they will have to do Something more than they have this winter.

So far the news about the destruction of the first Florida has proved to be fals although it was credited by the paper

we are having quite an open winter so far we have had merly two weeks Sleighing this last fall we had it

It has been raining to day and is Still raining to night Still I have got the wood out at the creek & at Duck Rowe place & the wood in the woods before the wharf but there is Some to draw from the point & I would have had it all out if the ice had been good but will not be long getting it if the weather will permit

I have to got to Mill I want to got to morerow if I can & to getb Soon when Mother gets home She went over to the Bay Road on Monday last & has not got back yet but expect her to morrow you Say you have not herd from Francis Dana he has been Sick with the meaSels & So has Theodore but he was getting better when he wrote last to me & I expect one Soon again from him

I would Say to you that Rutherford Rogers on town meeting day & Said you agreed to work half your road work on the Main road & I never herd you Say So & told him So & he Said that he would return me & let me work it next year

I told him that I would not without you Said So & I want you to let me know what I Shall do he Said they would have to Sue me if I did not pay it they would have to levy I told them to go ahead that they would have to do it & told them he could not scare me So easy as that as I Suposed that was what he wanted to do I do not think that they can compel us to go out on the main road without give us Some right of a road out acroSs the hill & atatch us to the beet as they agreed to do before & I told Rogers that I understood that was what you wanted last spring I wish you was to home and make them a proposition about it and if they did not comply with your request I should Stand them a law Suit on it & See wheather they could compel eniwon to go out on the highway & work without giving them a privilege of Some kind of a road more than we have & let us make our own road to the bargin you can let me know what you think about it & what is best for me to do

no more at present

from Stewart Allen

Feb 20th 1863

I thought I would write you a few lines to night as I did not mail what I wrote last night as it was storming when I got up this morning & I did not go to Mill to day

I was over to the bay road to day the folks there are all well & uncle Roger had rec a letter from you & your likeneSs also Janet has got the one you Sent her & the bone ring you Sent her it is a very cold night & freezing hard it quit Snowing about noon to day it was very soft in the morning there is a great deal of water on the ground & I think it will froze hard enough to bear a horse in the morning I will mail this letter to morow if it is so that I can go to Mill & Robt has mailed one to day I want you to let me know which you receive first he Sent his likeneSs in it to you I think the one you Sent home looks better than the one uncle got Grandmother She wants the one you Sent uncle & claims it I was talking to uncle Roger about the road work he thought it was not right to make us do our work on the main road & make all our own private roads to the bargin to get to the main road what do you have to do do you drive a team or what is your occupation in the Ambulance Corps I can think of no more at present to write

So Good by for the present

Stewart Allen

Oak Point Mar 2nd 1863

Dear Father

I now take the opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all very well except bad colds that prevails in this part of the country this time of year as we have not Received a letter from you since the one we got containing the draft & your likeneSs I have Sent two that you have had time to get if you have not already got them that I have not got any answer from yet the weather is rather rough & disagreeable at present March came in yesterday with a Snow Storm & it has Snowed Some all day to day with a prospect of 6 weeks Sleighing yet and it is bad getting about with a team as there is a great deal of ice on the ground & roads and the Soft snow it balls the horses feet So they can hardly Stand on the ice without Slipping I do not know when I ever Saw So much ice on the fields & roads as we have had thaws once & twice a week through out Jan & Feb & freez right up the fields below the barn was a Solid Sheet of ice before this Snow came I Supose 2 or three feet in some places & the horse pasture beyond the well is about half the same there is very little news from the war but there is talk of the President calling for 600,000 or 800,000 More men and the conscription act has paSsed both Houses at Washington So the papers Say if they do it will drain the men out of the country prety close I think Most of the news in the papers is about the Copperheads and traitors at the north denouncing the administration more than they do Jeff Davis and his traitors but the western officers in the Army are writing home to them & demounting their acts & Sustaining the Administration & threatening them that themselves opose the government So that it makes them act a little more care fuller what they say & do than before I will not write any more to night probably I can give you Some more news to Morow night

Mar 6th

I now take time to finish this and let you know that Robt received yours of the 24th and you Say you have not rec any in 2 weeks before I have wrote 2 that I have had no answer from yet one the 9th & the other 19th of Feb they must be miScaried there is not much news in this weeks paper and by constant Rebukes to the Copperheads from the Army that is rather Shaming them So that they do not have So much to Say about the Administration as they did & begin to make up their minds to try & help to Save the union as Jeff Davis will Settle on no other terms than disunion

there is rumers that Vixburgh is taken but nothing definite as yet from all acoints if it is not it Soon will be with most of the rebbles that is in it as PriSenors with it as they are nearly surrounded if the new canal is a SucSes which they Say is nerely completed

we have had very Stormy weather it has Stormed every day this week So far but 2 days I have not done much work this week So far I have a very bad coald but am Some better the rest are well at present

No more at present

from you son P c Stewart Allen

Headquarters 106th Regt.  
North Mountain  
March 8 , 1863

Dear Friend ---- I now take this opportunity of answering your welcome letter which I received last week; it found me in very good health for me. Frank is pretty smart, he got a letter the same day from Stewart with five dollars in it. We have got our pay, at last; we got our pay up to the first of January. the 22nd of this month will make eight months for me, and it seems to be a year since I saw you all at home.

I suppose you have great times going to school this winter; How does homer like his and all the rest of the boys get along ? Do you have Singing School as often as ever ? We are staying North Mountain in Va. ; Last week we were ordered to pack up and leave for North Mountain. It is rather a lonesome place where the mud is up to your knees. We are encamped right along side the railroad so we are ready for use if we are needed. There is not much new here at present worth mentioning. Have you heard from Frank Buss lately ? The last time I heard from him he want expected to live; I am very sorry to hear he is sick for Frank is a good boy and so is Gus Buss. Tell Stewart he must not forget me and not write to me a tall, if he will write to me, I will write to him but I must draw my letter to a close for it is dinner time. you must wright to me often direct to so good by for 106th Regt. The present Co. C North Mountain, Va. care Capt. W. B. Parker

Theodore F. H. Dana

to Robert Allen

Ambulance Corps  
March 12 , 1863

Dear Son :

Again I have the opportunity of writing to you. Yours of the 2nd was gladly received last night, and answered.

When I receive a letter from any of you I answer as soon as I can. Today is a regular March day, probably not as cold as you have in old St. Lawrence. The wind blows as hard if not harder than it would at home. The snow is flying by spells today. Night before last the snow fell about an inch, but soon went off. I think we have had about snow enough for the present for the sunny south. We have had as much snow here I think as you have had in the north, but our snow does not stay long here.

You speak about the drafting. If you are likely to be drafted let me know. If you can find out anything about it, do so, and let me know when you write again. As near as I can find out, the drafting is about the same as it was last fall.

I was over to see Dr. McFalls today. He has been sick, and is going home. He expects to start about next Monday. His wife has been with him for most of his sickness. If there is anything you want to send to me, you can do so when he comes back. The 142nd regiment has orders to move and are going to start to morrow morning for Fort Ethan Allen, toward Washington, about 3 miles from the city. I do not know for certain whether all the boys in the corps will go with them or not, but likely will.

I saw William Allen last night and all the boys from Hammond. They are all in as good health as could be expected. I showed your letter to Dr. McFalls where you spoke of Fola. He did not seem to like it much. He said he had abused his furlough. The rights of others who might deserve a discharge. I was down to Alexandria the other day with a corpse. He died in Fairfax seminary. His body was sent home. It is a mean lowlived, God forsaken, hell-deserving, black, ignorant, Secesh hole. The inhabitants are all black in a sense of the word or another either black in color or black in heart. I saw the slave pens, where the poor negros are brought and sold, the same as our cattle and sheep. The best wish I could wish the place, is that some night the Potomac might rise and sweep it away.

The roads are very muddy. It has rained almost every day since we have been here in this camp. It will be warm and pleasant in the morning, rain before noon, turn around and snow before night, all sorts of weather. We have had one quite heavy thunderstorm. It was on the 3rd of March.

I saw a place near the seminary where a large number of soldiers had been buried. They were buried in rows, 25 in each row. The rows covered about an acre square. I tell you it was a hard sight. They are here from all over the northern and western states. A great number of men died about the tenth of October.

The last letter I wrote to you, I mentioned that I had written to John Donnelly. I don't know if he received it. I received your mothers likeness all safe, and was glad to get it. I would

like it much if you would send me yours and Margaret's. I wrote to Margaret some days ago. Did she receive it? I received your Uncle William's letter and answered it. He does not seem to have received it. A good many of my letters I think must go astray somewhere. I hope they do someone some good.

The Rebels made a raid into Fairfax a few days ago and took 150 horses and about 40 men besides one general and his whole staff. One of his staff was Capt. Wheeler's brother. They took him off 50 miles and he got away from them and is now in our regiment. I saw him last night and he looked as if he had been to Richmond and back. I guess he has seen about all the rebels he wants to.

You say the 1st day of March was stormy where you are, but it was not so here. It was the most like summer of any day this spring, with hardly a cloud to be seen. I received yours of the 19th.

When we came here, our Lieut. got us right in a mud hole, and now for a few days we have been carting sand to make it dry. Now we are going to leave it. That's the way the war goes.

Write soon, from your father

Robert Allen

Ambulance Corps  
Mar. 18, 1863

Dear Son :

Your letter of the 5th came to hand alright and I now take the first opportunity to answer. I am well at present and hope this will find you all the same.

I have just returned from Chain Bridge. Have been over after the mail for the boys. We have been having stormy weather now for a month back - full as cold and stormy as any month we have had this winter. This week we have had about two inches of snow, but it is all gone now. It has been such damp weather since we moved that a good many of the boys are sick.

I went over to see Ethan Hammond about sending his brother, Isaac, home. He died Monday night in the Fairfax Seminary Hospital. When I got there I found Ethan sick and in the hospital, too, I am going tomorrow to the city with the corpse to get it embalmed to send home. I have been pretty busy going to the regiment and back. They are dieing off very fast. The regiment only registers about 600 men ready for duty. I saw William Allen today. He is well. I was up to the Seminary last Sunday and saw Frank Buss and Erastus Forrester. They were on the gain.

About the timber you asked my advice about, I am far away and may never see the place again, so you must use your own judgement and ask the advice of your uncle. My advice would be, that if he will settle it satisfactorally, to settle with him, as it costs a good deal to law it. You need not send me any shirts. I have more now than I can carry. You can see your uncle Roger about the timber, and see what he thinks of it.

I received John Donnally's letter and answered it, but have not heard from him since. Perhaps he did not receive it. A man in the 143rd regiment shot himself today. He had been sick for some time, and was probably a little deranged. He fastened the butt of his gun to the ridge pole, tied a string to the trigger and shot himself through the breast.

He lived about an hour and a half. One of our boys died yesterday and one last night in the Seminary. I have been in the Seminary a good deal and have seen a good many sick and wounded. One man that was wounded in the battle of Bull Run. The doctors were operating on him again. We are not yet taken prisoners, but might as well as to have them all die doing nothing and lying around dying in the mud.

I will give you an account of Hammond's sickness some other time. Dr. McFalls is not much better, not able to go home. I must bid you goodnight for it is time to go to bed.

R. Allen

Headquarters of the  
106th Regt. N. Y. V.  
Co. C North Mountain  
March 20th, 1863

Dear Friend Stewart

I now the pleasure of answering your welcome letter witch I received the 18th witch was in closed in Robert letter to me saying the folks wair all well and that I was happy to hear but I doant feal very well for I have a cold and a coald makes me down sick , since I have had the Mesals. Now, Stewart, I suppose you have got a letter from before this and so you will no that we have moved and I am glad of it.

You say, Stewart, that Albert Renelds is a getting in a swets a bout his pay and he will make it cost me \$25 ; wal, if he does before my money gets their I will take the interest out of his hide if I live to come home if not the principel ; but you say you thought it as well to pay him , wal, it may be as well to pay him before he makes every cost but if I was to home I would have a little fair with him and I must fool him out of it if I was a mind to do it, but I doant want to be so mean as that and Stewart I roat you a letter a bout to week ago and put \$10 in it to sea if it would go threw and I was wating to get answer from that.

Wal, Stewart, we have had a great shifting of officers lately in the regt. ; our Capt. is transfured in to Co. E and our first Lutenant is our Capt. and the secant is first and the orderly files his place and it is so thorou all the rest of the compeneys seems they thought Ralf Ridel wold get secant lutenants' place but I doant think he will.

The Boyes air all well that come from our part of the town and thair is not much sickness in the regt. at present.

Stewart write as soon as you get this so I can send some moar money home. So good by for this time. This is from

Francis Dana

Direct to North Mountain Station  
Berklet Co. , Va.

Excuse all bad writing  
Stewart  
Francis Dana

Ambulance Corps  
March 23d, 1863

Dear Son :

I received your letter and Maggie's and will answer so you can get them Saturday. We are having warm, pleasant weather now for a few days. Yesterday was about as warm a day as we have had this spring. It is about time to have another storm. Since we have been in this camp, it has rained or snowed almost every other day. There is no truth in the report that the 142nd regiment was taken prisoners. In fact, we have not so much as seen a rebel, but I wish they would come close enough to stir us up a little. There was a report that old Steward was in Fairfax Saturday night, But I hardly believe that it was so.

I am a little scarce of stamps just now, so I will answer you both in one.

There was quite an accident happened on the railroad near here, a few days ago. It seems there was a fellow driving a team across the tracks and the engine did not give alarm, so he did not get out of the way in time. So the cars struck one of the mules, which threw three of them off, and killed three instantly and wounded a number of others, three of which have since died. They were all buried at once last night, about 40 rods from our camp. It was a solemn night. There was another boy of our regiment died in the seminary last night. There are about 22 dead now in the 142nd. I took Isaac Hammond down to Alexandria to get him embalmed. We are expecting his father here soon to take him home. His brother Ethan is very low with the same disease. I was down to see him yesterday. It is about 12 miles from here and a terrible rough road and mud almost knee deep. I was talking to one of the doctors in the Seminary and he says that the fever here is the hardest kind he has ever met with. You spoke about my coming home, but I guess it is rather doubtful. Margaret, I expected you were going to send me your likeness, but I see you did not send it. I would like it. You must keep your eye on Marsaw, and let me know if he cuts any more wood. You need not look for me until after sugar time is over. You May send me a cake or two on the telegraph if you have a mind to.

Frank Buss and Erastus Forrester are getting better. I go up to see them quite often.  
Write soon.

Your Father  
Robert Allen

We hear heavy firing, but it may be practicing.

Ambulance Corps  
March 29th, 1863

My Dear Son :

Your welcome letter has been received and now will answer. This finds me well and hope it may find you all the same. The wind is blowing hard the day has been more like a regular March day. I have seen a great many days in St. Lawrence Co. not any rain more than it has been here today. It is pouring quite hard tonight. There were a good many days in January that were as warm as some we have had within a few weeks. It has stormed a good deal of the time since we have been in this camp. It has been so stormy and damp that a good many have been sick and quite a number have died. Almost every day we hear of the death of someone either in our Regt. or in some of the others. When will the time come when this war will be over so we can again return to our homes and friends ?

Two long years have been spent since the rebellion broke out and what have we accomplished ? Millions of treasure has been squandered, thousands of precious lives have been sacrificed, and yet the dark cloud of war hangs over us.

It would seem that this war was a judgement on the earth. It is almost enough to turn one against his country, even here, to see the way things are carried on.

When we started from home, we were told by the officers that if we would only enlist they would stick by us, but now when we have come down here they will resign and go home.

Those that do stay use their men more like brutes than like men, some of them are nice men. It is hard to see the way the sick and dead are cared for. Some of the poor men in the 144th are left to die in their tents, and when they die, they are laid out with nothing over them except two crutches put in the ground and are protected with only their rubber blankets over them.

To be sure, it makes no difference to one after he is dead how his body is cared for, yet it makes one feel bad to see his fellow soldiers as we see them. You had better get medicine of the island from Mr. Lunn.

Yesterday the orders came to the 144th and 107th to pack up and leave and in a few hours they were off. They were expecting to see some fighting. The 142nd had marching orders again

*(Note : This letter has faded a great deal and many words and phrases are illegible; the following 11 lines were unfathomable except for an occasional word.)*

please write soon. Your Father

Robert Allen

Camp of the 14th Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
near Chain Bridge  
April 12, 1863

My dear Wife and Family : - I take this pleasant time to answer your kind letter and chat a little with you all. We are having very nice weather at the present time. It is very warm and pleasant here today.

I was up to Fort Ethan Allen this morning to see the fort. It is quite a sight to see the fort and men on inspection. They had a splendid brass band and played well.

We got orders last night to move to the front. I expect we will have to go soon.

Those boots are just the fit. I think they are a good pair of boots. The spring has been very backward but vegetation is growing very rapidly now. Here is a sample of the grass I will send to you. I wrote to William Shields and sent him a sample of grass, too. There is a good bit for stock in the fields now.

I was down to Georgetown and Washington yesterday. The gardens looked very forward and I see vegetables in the market for sale.

Your cousin William's health has been tip top. He is fat and as tough as a bear. The health of our regiment is good at present. We have lost only about 25 men. Our regiment is out on inspection today.

Stewart, I want you to charge the going price for the rest of the hay. You have to spare mine and not sell yourself short. The reason I want the going price is this ; our crops were rather poor last summer, and we must make it up on our hay in order to keep on an even footing. I think that is the best way. Stewart, you can do the best you can about that island and make Lew pay for the cutting of that timber smartly.

The price of hay is \$50 a ton and everything else accordingly.

The telegraph dispatch came in to Washington yesterday that Charleston and Fort Sumpter were taken. We are going out near Fredericksburgh. The guns we have have been poor things. Our Colonel has gone to Washington to get us some new ones. Those we had were the Austrian rifle musket.

Bat and F. Buss are pretty smart and the rest of the boys also. Tell father and mother that Mr. Allen has stayed with me three or four days and nights. I can't think of much more to write, but write often whether I write or not.

R. Allen

(This poor writing you must excuse. Written by Ethan Hammond.)

Suffolk, Va. , Apr. 21, 1863

Dear Son :

It has been a long time since I have written you but I have a good excuse.

You see we have been moving again. I will give you a description. At three o'clock in the morning of the 15th, we heard the bugle blow and in a few hours we were off. Went to Alexandria but could not go aboard till the next day. We then went aboard and about night they took us out in the river and stayed until morning. Started at about 8 o'clock down the Potomac. Saw Mt. Vernon and tomb of Washington. Thursday it was quite pleasant, but for three days before, it rained so much that I had not any dry clothes on me in all that time.

We saw nothing of importance that day, except a balloon on the Virginia shore. Sailed all day and at night anchored at the mouth of the Potomac until next morning about sunrise. Had a very nice time all day, most all the time the water was as calm as could be. Passed the Rappahannock about noon and had a big time shooting ducks.

Arrived at Ft. Munroe about sundown. It is a very nice place there. We could not see much of it on account of the gun boats. We saw the rip-raps as we came along. We then came on to Norfolk got there about 10 p.m. Laid at anchor until morning and then unloaded and got aboard the cars to come here. It is 23 miles. We came through the edge of the Dismal Swamp. It is a straight road. We are expecting to see some big fighting here. In fact they are fighting all around us all the time.

Our forces went out one night since we came here and took 130 prisoners and five pieces. I saw them. We only lost two killed and five or six wounded. Now, while I am writing, I can hear the shells whistling and see them firing. They are firing night and day, most all the time. We expect to be called out at any moment. We have a strong force here, and no doubt the rebs have too.

Some of the prisoners told me they have about 30,000 men under Longstreet. We have lots of siege guns and field pieces. I have been over to the regiment, and saw the boys. They are all well. Have received no mail since I came here. Ethan Hammond is well again.

It is flat level country, plenty of timber, mostly pine. You need not write very often, for we are so located that they may not get to me. I am not very well just now, on account of our journey. Mustard is two feet high here and in full bloom, as well as apple trees and meadows.

I saw one of the boys buried that was killed the other night. I will bid you good bye for this time.

Yours  
Robt. Allen  
per Wm.

Camp Hopkins, North  
Mountain Apr. 24, 1863

Dear Friend :

Stewart, I now take the opportunity of answering your welcome letter which I received in due time, informing me you had received the money all right and paid Albert Reynolds, and that I was glad of. I will put \$10 in this letter and see if this will go all right and I guess it will.

Stewart, your letter did not find me in very good health, for I have been sick these three weeks that I have done no duty and it is hard telling when I will do any. I went out on picket and caught a cold and it settled on my lungs. The boys in the tent think I am going to have the consumption. I know I have all the symptoms of it. I wish I could come home a little, while I could get cured up, and let them sweat. They can't do no more than let me kick the bucket here, and I won't have it to do only once, will I ?

It is dull times here now, but our colonel got a dispatch to have his men in readiness to march at any minute up the Shenandoah Valley, and then we will join the summer campaign. Then we will see hard times. We will have to throw most of our clothes away if we have to march.

But the fight at Charleston was a disgrace to all our army, I think. Don't you, Stewart ?

I feel very sick today and I can't think of anything to write today. You must excuse me for not writing a long letter, but I hope this will find you in good health, and all the rest of the folks. I would like to be home to have some warm sugar to catch, and to have a day or two a-hunting with you and Robert. I think I would enjoy it well, and don't you, Stewart ?

Stewart, the account you sent me I have not got. It was in my coat pocket and I had my coat washed, and the paper got destroyed. So when you get this, you write how you and I stand, and the amount that Wm. Cuthbert has got. So if I die I could give it to Theodore.

Now, Stewart, you will have to excuse me for today. Write soon, if you please. When you write to your father tell him how I am, and tell him to write to me. So, Stewart, I will bid you good bye for this time. This is from your friend

Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

April 25 ---- Stewart, there has been quite a disturbamce in camp since last night, at dark. Our colonel got a dispatch at 9 pm and at 12 he got another to be ready at 6 A.M. to go aboard of the cars to go to Clarksburg to meet old Imboden, who was coming there with 1500 rebel cavalry. It is 250 miles from here, and Mulligan's Brigade is a-going with the 106th when we get to New Creek, so we have heard.

The boys did not take no knapsacks; only their rubber and rolling blankets, and three days rations in their haversacks, and two days more a-going to follow them.

I think the 106th will have a chance to show what they can do this time. But I could not go. The captain would not let me go. I have to stay with some more sick boys to take care of

the tents. I have not done any duty in a long time and I couldn't march, but I did not like to see the boys go off and I couldn't go with them. But they all felt as well as if they were a-going to a ball.

Frank Dana

Suffolk , Va. May 4th, 1863

Dear Son :

I will now try to give you a description of things which have been going on here for a few days past.

Last Friday our forces had a skirmish some 3 miles from here. Quite a number of wounded, about 40 and 7 killed; the wounded are dieing all the time. I saw six buried at one time. Saturday, it was quiet till towards night and then there was some firing; I do not know the results.

Last night they were moving artillery all night and yesterday morning our boys began to go across the river, a small stream close by, not that it is deep, so their boats came up here. We could see them as soon as they went across ---- they had not gone far before the Rebs began to fire on them; our own batteries began to play, and in a few moments the fight was by now on.

I heard our tall one say he saw them when they began to fall, our own boys soon drive them back a little and then it was almost a continuous fire all day. There were some killed and a good many wounded.

All that was done the private soldiers had to do. There was only one Col. that went ahead and led his men and he near shot. There was a whole drove of them in the rear of our range of the guns and a good many of them were so drunk they could not sit on a horse. It is a shame the way our officers conduct themselves. No wonder we are so long in putting down this rebellion; so much red tape.

We have got to have different management before this war is closed. The 142nd and 127th both in our Brigade are out today. They are picketing in another direction from what they were yesterday. They are sending in some Reb prisoners. Aside from that I cannot tell how they are getting along.

The 142nd is some 2 miles from where we are. I have not seen them in some 4 days. The Col. of the 103rd was killed, also a Reb Col. came in last night.

We are situated rather strongly; there's a big swamp on two sides of us and the only way we can get out is to fight our way towards Petersburg or go back the way we came in.

There are any quantity of Niggers here. They seem to feel good too. I think we are coming to free them. Our boys brought in one Nigger prisoner this morning; he was a sharpshooter. The officer of the Rebs said we were winning.

Things are very forward here, as much as they are in June at home. Flowers in bloom. This is a very nice country for flowers.

Ethan Hammond is well again - he went on duty soon after his Father was here and has been on no raids since. About the island, you can do just as you think about it.

There seems to be a general move in the whole army, and if they will go to work right, they can soon put down this rebellion.

You better hire Robert if you can get him reasonably, for help will be scarce. Get all you can for your wood.

Give my respects to all

Yours sincerely

Robert Allen

We have got 4 months pay. I gave a check of \$40 to Dow as he was going home. If he don't go I will send it next time I write.

Camp Hopkins, North Mountain  
May 5, 1863

Stewart Allen - Dear Sir : I now take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know the truth of the scrap that part of the 109th had a hand in. Well, the boys that were taken prisoners from Co. F and Co. D got back last night to the camp of the 109th, and they feel mighty big being taken prisoners. You would think that they could not help but swing their arms off, the way they walk.

First Lieutenant Glass in Co. B was shot through the calf of the leg. Lieutenant Ridell was shot through the heel. Orderly Sargeant James Bane wounded in the forehead. Six more of the boys in Co. B wounded but only two taken prisoners. The way they got wounded they were sent to reinforce Cos. F and D, but were half an hour late. The boys were taken. They came up on the cars to Co. B and some of Mulligan's men. They got off from the cars and the Rebs let into them a heavy fire. They got onto the cars again about as quick as they knew how, and went back. One of the Co. B boys got shot through the thigh and he hid in the rocks until the Rebs got away and then came out all right. I think he did the best of any of them, don't you, Stewart ?

The best joke was on old General Jones when only two companies and a few citizens were asked to surrender to his 7000 men. Instead they filled two large holes with dead rebels and two wagon loads they threw into the river, that our boys laid out for them. The guns they took from the boys they smashed up on the rocks. So you see they had no time to lose for they were a-going on a run for some other place. The rest of the 106th was in about Grafton, expecting a fight the last we heard of them.

But, Stewart, old Hooker I think is a-making some pretty good moves now. Don't you think so, Stewart ? He will have to fish or cut bait this time. He is burning the bridges after him and tearing up the railroad. He says they will have to give him a fair open field fight and if he gets that he will clean them out blind.

Now, Stewart, there is nothing more at present worth relating. I will have to close for this time. Stewart, my health is getting a little better. I don't cough quite so much now. I hope this will find you and the rest of the folks all well.

Stewart, I thought I would write you a few lines to give you all the news we had here. I have written you three letters in ten or twelve days and you need not answer them all for I suppose you are very busy at present with your work, and have not as much time to write as I have. Write when you get ready and don't wait too long. So I will bid you good bye for this time. This is from a friend.

Frank Dana to Stewart Allen, Esq.

Ambulance Corps, West Point, Va.  
May 25, 1863

My dear Son :           Again I take my pen to inform you how I am getting along. It is looking some like a storm this morning. The wind is blowing from the east. You will be apt to have a storm at home that will blast the fruit. We have been having some very hot weather for a few days, about as warm as any you will see this morning. Citizens here say yesterday was about as warm as any day they generally have.

There was quite an excitement here Saturday night. Our mail boat was coming up and had got within about four miles of here when we heard something popping away. We ran down to the beach and could see the Rebs firing at her. They had four pieces. We could see the balls drop in the water all around her, but she was not hit but once. That hit her on the bow and struck the anchor, doing no damage. I should think there was as much as 100 guns fired. One of our gunboats ran down and fired into them but they were off before she got there. Our boys went ashore and burned everything they came to. They burned six houses and some 12 or 14 other buildings. They burnt one house filled with bacon. They seem to have plenty of corn and bacon.

They go across the river and get corn, any quantity. They got a number of mules, some sheep and any amount of fowles. They have plenty to live on in this part of Virginia.

You may look for a paper soon, for I am going to send one home.

Just now there is a funeral going by from the 40th Mass.. Someone dies most every day.

Fruit is forward here. Apples are as large as a plum. Potatoes in the gardens will soon cover the ground. They are bringing in ripe strawberries every day. Rather ahead of your time in St. Lawrence. It is a fine country around here. These counties are the ones the Richmond lives on. Some fields of grain look nice, some not as well.

We are expecting strong reinforcements now, of cavalry, infantry and artillery. There is no doubt but that we have got to see some hard fighting here before long. It may begin any time.

Let me know how things are getting along at home - the crops grain etc. . How are the cows doing, etc. ? Get as much for the wood as you can.

Just now I hear firing down the river. The Rebs are trying to cut off our supplies.

Jennette, I have not much chance to get away to see anything. Paper is high and scarce. You must excuse me if I do not answer your letters separate, for everything is so high. Tobacco is \$1.30 cheese 25 cents, and butter 40 cents a pound, poor at that. There is an old darkey going around here selling milk for 20 cents and buttermilk for 10 cents a quart.

I saw the boys in the regiment last week. They were as well as usual. Let me know if you are going to school. Do you have a good school ? and many scholars ? How are things selling, butter, cheese, wheat etc. ?

I sent a letter to Frank the other day, but have not got an answer yet. I wrote to John Donnelly in the winter but he has not answered. There is not much news at present. Write often.  
From

Robert Allen

Washington, D.C.  
July the 19th, 1863

Dear Son :

It is with much pleasure that I sit down to inform you of our whereabouts; we are now in the city of Washington about 50 rods from the capital with a part of the Corps; the rest of it has not arrived here yet from Yorktown where I left them. The Regt. has gone up to Frederick city and we are waiting for transportation to go there, too, but don't know when we shall get it. We have been up to the White house, on the peninsula, and 6 miles above since I wrote to you before, and back.

We started in the night of the 7th day of July or in the morning of the 8th at 1 o'clock A.M. and we marched down to Yorktown where we arrived on the 10th about 11 A.M. and took the boat to Washington where we arrived on the 11th at 2 P.M. and are here yet, but do not expect to stay long; we shall leave here as soon as we can get transportation to follow the Regt..

There was a smashup on the train that our Regt. and the 144th Regt. was on on the morning of the 12th ; there was about 40 wounded in all, there was about 20 of our Regt.. They came back on the cars and I helped move them from the cars to the hospital. I think that there are not any but what will live.

You say it is very dry there this summer, well, it is not dry here. We have a great deal of rain and mud here; this summer it has rained every day since we arrived here and the streets are very muddy now, but it is very warm here, if it does rain all the time. There was about 1,000 men left here this morning for the convalescent camp that was sick and lame and not able to go with their Regt., so they were sent off to create their health.

I hope that we shall see the 106th Regt. soon, for they have gone up to Frederick city where we are going. I was sorry to hear of the death of Wm. Wright but you must do as well as you can for his family. Has the government paid him up yet ? Write and let me know all the news you can learn. I have not received but two letters since I was on West Point, one from Jenny and one from you.

Write as soon as you get this and let me know how you get along with your haying and your harvesting. Give my respects to all my inquiring friends.

I have no more to write this time so good by for now.

I remain as ever,

Your affectionate Father to his Son

R. Allen, Son Stewart

The wheat crop was good on the peninsula and they cut it about 3 weeks ago.

Before Petersburg, Va.  
Saturday July 23d , 1863

Dear Cousin

Yours of the 14th came to hand this morning and found us in about our usual health, Although Uncle has not been quite so well for the last few days being troubled some with the old trouble of the heart. Although he is not left the regiment, he desired me to write and answer yours.

The weather has not been quite so warm for a few days, as we had quite a rain in Monday last which made it very muddy in the pits.

The casualties have been small compared with the week before last, although, I am sorry to mention that one of our town's boys was considered mortally wounded the day before yesterday. It was John Allen of Co. B and one wounded in Co. C yesterday. Cannonading continues at intervals quite sharp, but the rebs have to give up first, our batteries give the last shell.

Petersburgh is in short range of our guns and to annoy them greatly in the city, our fellows will throw a few shells into it; although it is against orders. The mortar battery of our Brigade threw one shell into the city with two pounds of powder in it; it did rattle some when it exploded.

I suppose there will be an exciting time for a while up north about the 100,000 men call; it is likely they will wait and have a draft to give the rebs all the encouragement they can volunteering is the way half the number of volunteers is worth twice their number of drafted men.

We are expecting good news from Sherman in a few days and a move somewhere in Virginia; although I think we will hold this position until the Rebs will either fall back or show fight, for to give up here is like giving up Richmond. But perhaps they will be taken by surprise in the direction of Richmond, as I think there is a move going on that way. The raiders seem to be making a stand in the valley; let them stay there and take them or cut off their retreat.

Well, my letter cannot be very interesting, so I will close, hoping to hear from you soon.

Good by at present from your

Father and Nephew  
R. Allen

per W. Allen

Camp of the 142d Regt. N.Y.S.V. near  
Warrenton Junction, Va.

July 27th , 1863

Dear Cousin :

I now sit down to write a few lines to let you know that we are all well and hope that this will find you all the same. Uncle is along with the company and has not been very well although better now.

The ambulance corps is broken up on account of the size and health of the regiment. I believe Uncle wrote about the beginning of the last week.

We have had some hard marching on account of it being so warm. We have had very warm weather the past week. I will name the places of our line of march. We left Berlin, Md. , Sunday morning the 19th, and marched Sunday and Monday, camped about two miles from Middleburgh. Our pickets were along Goose Creek on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday morning the march started we got to White Plains at night and ate supper and started on after dark. Arrived at New Baltimore about 1 o'clock Friday morning. Lay there all day Friday. Early Saturday we came on to this place, arriving here about noon. I went out on picket and came in last night after dark.

We got mail last night for the first time in over a week. Uncle got one from Jennett. He wrote to you when we were in Washington.

This is the poorest place we ever have been in for getting good water or much of it.

Since we left the Peninsula we are in that awful corps, the 11th. Gen. Gordon commands our division. The brigadiers name I can't remember. He is one of the Dutchmen.

We have seen some of the boys of the 60th today. Tom Fox , John Barney and one of the Tyler boys. The most of the Hammond boys were wounded. Ed Van Tassell was killed, the only one from Hammond.

They say Lyman McDade was wounded in the hand and is at home on furlough. Elwood Wilson is one of the 60th that has gone home after the drafted men. There are men gone from every regiment in this army.

It is threatening to rain tonight. I will have to close soon as I have to write some to Jannett. Send some Stamps if you can get some as we do not get a chance to get any here. I forgot to mention anything about we were up to Williamsport. It is a splendid country all through there - great wheat country. They raise a great deal of wheat and good crops. They were as busy as they knew how to work, harvesting it, when we were up there. They most all have reapers, self rakers, etc..

As to the situation of the army of the Potomac. I can't tell, only we think that we have Lee all right yet.

I will close for tonight. I expect that before long that some of the Northern chaps will be along with us enjoying the comforts of eating the hard tack and all the diferent knick knacks of

soldiering, such as sleeping on the ground out of doors. Well, they will see when they come. Write soon. From your Cousin by request of your father.

William

To Stewart Allen, Oak Point, St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

Camp near Warrenton Junction  
 106th Regt. N.Y. 3rd Army  
 Corps of the Potomac  
 Aug. 3rd , 1863

Stewart Allen , Dear Sir : -

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter which I received yesterday dated June, the 28th. It was an old date, but I was very happy to get that for it was the first one since we left North Mountain and I have written you four or five. We got our mail yesterday for the first time for about seven weeks. It found me well, also all the rest of the boys from Hammond except A. Theodore. He is sick in a Baltimore Hospital and I have not heard from him since he went there. The last time I saw him he was lying on the sidewalk in Frederick City, hardly able to lift his head. We marched away and left him there. That was a pretty hard case to leave a brother there among strangers but the doctor made preparation for him to go to the hospital and he was better there than I could do for him.

Stewart, you wanted to know how many men we had in Martinsburg well, there was the 126th Ohio S.V. with about 450 men in it and perhaps 100 cavalry and a battery of five guns. Also the 106th N.Y. Regt. with about 600 men in it was all there was there. The battery fought well but we did not have any fortifications at all. The Rebs opened 18 heavy guns on us within a half a mile and if the grape and shell did not sizz around our heads there is no use of writing. Then the time we had old Lee Baggett in Maryland was the greatest nest. Well we did have him bagged but both ends were open and he went out once while we were marching the other way but he would never have got away the way he did if the men had their way. After we found he was across the river the men were all downhearted and as mad as they could be. They cursed all the officers in the Army of the Potomac.

Then the next time the Rebs made a stand at Manassas Jct., and that was not much. We were the reserve but right in sight of the fight. There were a few dead Rebs on the ground where we laid that night. There were three in our ranks. One had some verses in his pocket which were a great takedown on the Yankees, but he got one of our blue pills through his heart and wet those verses. I think he carried them a little too long. Don't you, Stewart ?

We heard heavy cannonading day before yesterday about 10 miles from here and they say our boys cleaned them out right.

The 142 Regt. is about 2 miles from here and I am going to it tomorrow if I can get a chance to see R. Allen.

Stewart, you wanted to know if Bill Wright was sick long. He was sick about four weeks fever.

Stewart, I have just received a letter from you now, dated July the 28th, and you say you don't get no letters from me. Well, I don't know what the reason is but they must be miscarried, for I have written as I have told you. But there is nothing more to write than I have written. I will wait four or five days and see if there is anything new.

I saw the list of the drafted men in the town of Hammond, and the boys had a great laugh over it and they say it is just right, but I don't think so.

The weather is very hot now - I can write no more on this paper and it is all I have got here. You must excuse me. I hope this will find you all well at home. This is from a friend

Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Folley Island, S.C. August 31, 1863

Dear Cousins :

Stuart and Robert

I now sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and hope that this may find you all the same. I have not written to you since we were at Newport News and there I mailed Uncles check.

We embarked on the Steamship America on Wednesday morning the 12th of August and passed Cape Henry and were out of sight of land before night and had a very pleasant voyage except some seasickness and a death. A member of our Company died rather sudden on Friday night and the corpse was thrown overboard on Saturday morning. Saturday night we came in sight of land and were halted by the Guardship Wabash and lay there until morning, and then hailed the blockade fleet of Charleston and went up along with the fleet of Norris Island and lay there all day Sunday; and went aboard a smaller boat and went up to the island and then got orders to come to this island. We arrived here Monday noon and were all glad to get on land once more. Although neither of us two were seasick we wanted to get something cooked to eat; all we had on board the boat was hard tack and raw pork, there being not any chance to cook anything. The boat was a new one and had nothing convenient for cooking. I cannot tell you much about the island or the size of it as we have not any time to look around; we have all the duty we can do; it is guard and work loading and unloading supplies. All the supplies for the department are landed here and taken to where they're wanted. The island is a sand desert; there is nothing grows on it but a few bushes; there is some palmetto trees grows and a few red cedar; there is pine trees grows on the island near this.

There is considerable sickness in the regiment at present; there has been one death in the regiment, Grant Deizel of Co. C; he died of the fever, the cause of the sickness is the water we have here, it is not very good, it is mostly rain water. Our wells are a hole dug in the ground and a barrel put in it. It rains most every other day here; the weather is cool today with a north wind.

The first mail we got was yesterday morning; Uncle got two letters from you, also Jannett's and was glad to hear that you were getting along so well. There is nothing new from this place; we do not know any more what is going on than if we were in Virginia; we are about 10 miles from Charleston. We can hear the firing quite plainly; they keep it up day and night. We were in sight of Sumter and Wagner when they commenced firing on them two weeks ago today; the Monitor also the Ironside were engaged; they went up quite close and raised an awful smoke and some noise. The batteries of Morris Island also poured in an awful fire; we could see the shot strike the walls of Sumter; it was quite a sight. I think we will have Charleston some of these days.

You wanted to know about the ambulance Corps. Since we came to this island the ambulance wagon was left behind; all the men have to take the muskets, now. I cannot hardly say what the size of the regiment is now; our Company only reports 30 men fit for duty; we were mustered today for pay; two months more pay; It is now a year since we enlisted, it is doubtful

whether we will get any conscripts or not. I suppose they will fill up the Army of the Potomac first. I think those boys that enlist in the artillery do well. If I ever had to enlist again, I would go into the artillery or cavalry, for marching is no fun; it is the hardest part of soldiering, it used up more men in our regiment than any other part of our campaign since the 16th of April. I mean the march up in Virginia and Maryland. I do not think they will need to make another draft. The most the draft was for was to show foreign nations that our government had some power, not to be ruled by a copperhead mob. I should like to have been up in New York the time of the mob; I think I could put a few shots into the gang of Paddies, some of them will pay for it yet. I have written about all I can think of. Write soon as you can.

Good by at present from your Father and Cousin William

To Stuart and Robert Allen Co. I , 142 Regt. N.Y.S.V.

1st Brigade  
Gordon's Division  
Folly Island, S.C.

Oak Point

Culpepper  
Sept. 28, 1863  
106th Regt. N.Y. Vol.

Dear Sir :

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter informing me that you are all well at home, and that I am happy to hear, for it has been so sickly at home, that I am all the time expecting to hear some bad news. But thank God, you are all well and so am I. I hope these few lines will find you all right.

Stuart, the news is bad tonight from Rosecrans. He has rather got cleaned out, the last time. We did not expect anything else here. I think Meade might help him some, or do a little here. I don't like such slow moves as we make, but perhaps I am not a competent judge of horned cattle or that sort of thing. Well, Charleston is not ours yet, and I believe news is rather dull from that quarter and it is here, too. We are in possession of Culpepper and expect to move forward at any moment. We have 8 days rations in our haversacks and knapsacks and is as much as a mule ought to carry.

Well, I don't know of any news worth writing. The boys are all well from our part. Theodore is at the hospital yet, at Annapolis; but he is well. He is a ward-master, and he has got a good berth and will stay there if he knows when he is well off.

Well, the army of the Potomac is pretty well recruited up, with conscripts and parole prisoners. They have all been exchanged up to the first of September.

I will give you some of the prices of some things to be sold here. Butter, 50 cents pound; cheese, 40 cents to 45 cents; flour \$25 to \$27 per bbl.; tea, \$2.50 lb.; apples, 5 cents a piece; milk, 25 cents a canteenful, and that is about 8 and one-third cents a pint; boots at \$12 a pair; shirts, \$3 a piece, and everything else in proportion.

Well, the weather is very pleasant, with cold nights and warm days and it is not very sickly here at present. We muster about 450 men for duty. We draw rations for 54 men in our company. You can see how a regiment gets used up if it doesn't fight.

Well, I can't think of any more news at this time, so will bid you good-bye for this time.

This is from your friend, Frank Dana, to Stuart Allen

Folly Island, S.C. Oct. 1st, 1863

Dear ones at home : I write you again to let you know how we are all getting along at present. I am well. William is also well. (the writer is on guard tonight in the bargain.) John Moore was taken to the general hospital the day before yesterday. He was on the gain. Dorwin does not gain so fast these few days. All the rest of the men from Hammond are well, I believe.

I have not written in a good while as the mail has not been going through regularly. There is a boy of Co. B going home on a furlough tomorrow morning and I will send it by him. His name is James Culbertson. I have received yours of the 7th of Sept. Write as often as you can.

There is a great deal of sickness in the regiment. Two died this week from Co. B. Both of us have been complaining some for a few days, but not off duty and can't call ourselves sick.

There have been about 100 men to work out of this regiment building a fort.

I will close for the want of time. Excuse this bad writing. From yours, as ever,

R. Allen

per W.A.

P.S. - Stuart, let my folks know when you get this.

William

Folly Island, S.C.  
Tuesday Oct. 20, 1863

Dear Ones at Home

I now sit down to write you a few lines to let you know how we are all getting along; I have been off duty for over a week but commenced to do duty today. I was quite unwell but feel a great deal better; the rest of the boys are quite well.

There is nothing going on here as we know of; there is a great talk among the soldiers about a settlement. We do not get any papers whatever to hear anything from abroad so when you write, write what is the general opinion of the public on the war, and if they think it is going to be done this winter. Write also how things are around home and how you are all getting along with your work. You spoke about the wood selling. I think it is a good idea to get rid of it this fall. And you will likely be going up to Kingston this fall, and tell all my old acquaintances where I am and that I am in very good health at present; give them my best respects.

Let me know how the widow Wright is getting along on the upper place and if she has received the back pay and bounty of her deceased husband; and if you ever hear from Frank Dany and how the boys are getting along and about where they are. And have you got the revolver that I sent by Frank Buss? I suppose he is back to the hospital now. Are you going into the wood business? I do not want it to interfere with your schooling. I want Robert to go to school, anyway.

There is considerable sickness in the regiment yet; there was a man died last night of Co. E., his name was Child; one of the painters of Ogdensburgh.

Ethan Hammond is well and tough; also, oblige your humble servant (William) by letting my folks know, if convenient, that I am well.

We have drawn two months pay and I have sent my check of twenty dollars by express and I think you will get by mail directed to Mrs. Nancy Allen; perhaps you will get it as soon as this.

The weather here has been very pleasant; not any rain at all; this two or three days has been rather warm; the nights are cool.

I will close hoping this will find you all well and remember the soldiers in the south end of Folly Island. I remain yours as ever

Robert Allen

per William A.

Camp of the 106th Regt. and 3rd  
Brigade Oct. the 28th, 1863

Stewart Allen. Dear Sir: - I now take the pleasure of letting you know our place of rendezvous, But I can't give it a name, only we are encamped close to the Oregon and Alexandria railroad, about 3 miles from Bealeston Station towards Alexandria. I am well and all the rest of the boys from the town of Hammond are the same, but day before yesterday we were in a rather unhealthy place, but we got out all right without losing a man.

Our brigade was sent out four days ago to support Buford's cavalry and our main force was left back about ten miles. They came up within two miles last night. But we hold the front yet, our brigade and Buford's cavalry. The first New York Dargon lay behind us and a brigade of regular cavalry. They were not in the fight of day before yesterday but you ought to have see the "gray backs" and our cavalry skirmish. It was quite an interesting sight, but the Rebs had one old 12 - pounder which kept throwing shells into the woods where we lay and kept knocking down the trees over our heads and that made it not quite so pleasant but we had a battery of 12 - pounders which came up and soon silenced the Rebs.

The skirmishers fell back on both sides and yesterday they were fighting on our right, with the 5th Corps at Kelly's Ford. We heard that our boys gave them fits and cleaned them right out. I don't know what the next move will be.

Now Stewart I have got to close this for the mail is just going out. Write soon now. I will bid you good bye. This is from

Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Camp near Warrenton Junction - 106th Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
November 2nd, 1863

Dear Friend Stewart : - I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter, which came to hand last night and I was very happy to hear from you again to learn that you are well, at home. Your letter found me well and I hope this will find you the same.

I wrote to Robert last night and then I got yours and you say he has gone to Canada a-trapping. Well there has been a good many gone to Canada a-trapping this last year and I hope they will make it pay. Some must have trapped all summer, I think. Don't you, Stewart? But I don't mean to say that Robert is one of them, but I would not have blamed him a bit if he had, for there is not much chance for a man down here after he once gets here. Now, Stewart, you must be very busy, attending to everything. I don't hardly see how you get along, for we could find enough to do where there were four or five of us there to work but I suppose you have two or three men to work for you, but they ain't like the old man to see to things when you are away.

Well, you say that you have heard bad news from the army of the Potomac. Well, Stewart, I don't like the way things is carried on altogether, but I suppose there are men paid for thinking for me. So I will let that drop.

I heard this morning that Kilpatrick had taken the Rebel general Buell prisoner, I hope it is so. Kilpatrick is an old tiger to fight. If it had not been for him the 106th Regiment would have been to Richmond before this, or been all killed. He fought the Rebs over 12 miles on that retreat from Culpepper. We were in sight of them all the time. So you can see the Rebs kept pretty close to us all the way. Capt. Peach was killed when the Johnnies made a charge on us, as we were coming off from picket, but we turned and gave them a volley that sent them back into the valley about as quick as they came out. I noticed some had all they could do to keep in their saddles. There were three killed and eight taken prisoner out of our regiment.

You say Bill Culbert wanted to know if I wanted the interest on that money. Well, you can tell him to let it lay the same as it has and ask him if he wants \$100 more. If not I wish you would try some more of the farmers you know you would let money to if you don't want it yourself. Let me know in your next and I will send the money. Now, I guess I will have to close this letter for it is all the paper I have, and that I borrowed. But I will have some today. Now I will bid you good-bye. This is from a friend

Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Brandy Station, November the 9th , 1863 - Camp of the 106th Regiment N. Y. S. V.

Stewart Allen , Dear Sir :

I now take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along down here. Also, that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same.

Well, Stewart, we are a-making the Rebs skedaddle the last two days. Day before yesterday we drove them across the river and took about 800 prisoners. Yesterday we drove them before us all day and that was not very slow, for we were on the double quick a good deal of the time, and I think they must have been by the dust they kicked up. Our cannon stirred them up a little faster after sundown for old Meade came up with four 32 - pound Parret guns. They were too long ranged for the Rebs.

It is all quiet this morning, but the first corps take the front today and we are in the rear. We take our turns going to the front as well as to the rear, and with much good will.

It did me a good deal of good to see the Rebs scat yesterday for they gave us such a devil of a run about four weeks ago. It just paid them back in good time. We came on them all at once all along the line of the Rappahannock, at about the same hour.

Part of our men have gone to Fredericksburg. I think we will all go there before we make much of a stop if the road is clear. And if not we will clear it.

I think it has been a general movement here and on the James River, and also in Tennessee, all at once. I think the Gray Backs will get fits at Charleston about this time and you will hear some pretty stirring news before long.

We did not lose any men in this fight.

Now, Stewart, I will write again soon if I live and you must do the same. I will bid you goodbye for this time. This is from your friend Frank Dana to Stewart Allen. (the mail is just a-going out.)

Co. C 106th N.Y. Vol. Inf.  
Camp near Brandy Station  
Nov. 16 1863

Stewart Allen

Dear Sir;

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter which came to hand three days ago, dated Nov. 5th. This is the third time I have tried to answer it, but was called up to do something else every time.

This forenoon we have been in corps inspection and that would be a pretty big thing if it was in Hammond, I would once think. We had three English officers to inspect us, that rode around with Old French, and I don't know what business they had here, but I suppose they knew that I don't care much about being a show off, for any foreigners, especially an Englishman.

And Stuart, we have given the Gray Backs a devil of a run since I wrote you before and it has done me a good deal of good to see them run. For they gave us such a pretty little walk about four or five weeks ago. I think we have just paid them up, and our long 32 pound Parret Guns did the rest. Well, Stuart, It was laughable to see the Rebs at Kelly's Ford when our battery opened up on their breastworks. To have seen them cantering in the woods on all fours and our shells stirring the dirt up all around them. We run them all the next day and took a good many prisoners and we encamped at Brandy Station where we are now. There was a little bit of a brush at Raccoon's Ford this morning. The Rebs attacked old Kilpatrick. He had four 32 pound Parret guns masked, and he waited 'till the Rebs got just where he wanted them and then he opened upon them and I heard he cut them up about right and took about 220 prisoners.

The cars just came up from Rappahannock, or came across it and we went up to Culpepper, and I think we will move down there soon, perhaps tomorrow, and make a stand there.

Well I don't know what else to write. I suppose you have heard all about the last fight. Well, Stuart, I was very sorry to hear about old John Marsaw. He must have suffered a good deal. He might as well have come down here. He could not have done much worse, by the way it turned out. Theodore I suppose, is taking a good deal of pleasure, seeing all the folks at home, and I am glad of it. Tell him to kiss some pretty girl for me if he can, and if he has time, to write me a few lines.

Well, it is getting dark and I will have to close. Stuart, my health is bully, and I hope these few lines will find you the same. Write as soon as you can. No more at present. This is from your friend, from Frank Dana, to Stuart Allen.

P.S. - I have got to go on picket right now. Goodbye.

Kiawa Island , S.C.

Nov. 17 1863

Dear Son : I now take the pleasant time to drop a few lines to you all to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all enjoying the same happy blessing.

Our brigade has just come in from a raid. We went over to Seabrook Island and had a tough time of it I tell you. We traveled about 35 miles through marsh and creeks and woods and everything else. It was tedious I tell you. After we got there we were sent out as skirmishers. We went through a large piece of woods and came onto a company of the 40th Massachusetts boys and they fired a volley of bullets into us but hurt no one. They took us to be Rebs. We were in the thick brush so we could not see each other plain.

There was some quite sharp work. There were seven or eight men killed and wounded out of the Pennsylvania 54th regiment but none from ours. The Rebs shelled the woods pretty good where we lay. We just went out to kind a feel of them to see if they had much of a force on the island.

The health of our regiment is good at present. All the boys from Hammond are well. Tell Mr. Hammond's people that Eath is well and wants them to write for he says he hasn't had a letter in four weeks.

Tim Plants is coming home on furlough. He will go on Thursday.

We were to Governor Vances residence on Seabrook Island. It is a nice place.

I tell you I had a pretty close call. There were two bullets came pretty close to me. One came close to my head, the other close to my knee. They passed within a very few inches of me and cut off some twigs.

The tide rises very high here. In high tide it covers thousands of acres. The old plantations look very forsaken and desolate. Some of them used to be splended places and some look very good yet, but most of them look forsaken. The soil is tip top in places.

The islands here are very large. We went in sight of a village called Rockville, but didn't go into it.

I wrote you once before that I wanted to know how the prospects of things are and what you are going to do this winter. When you write give me all the news around there. You may send me a pair of socks by Tim Plants.

We expect to make another move on that island in a few days. Write soon.

Robert Allen

Kaiowah Island S C Dec 12th 63

Dear Son

I now take the pleasant time to answer your ever kind & welcome letter which came to hand last night it found me well & enjoying good health hoping these few lines will find you all enjoying the same happy blessing there is nothing like good health in this country for our health is worse here than to home because when a person is to home he can be cared for & nursed up & furthermore he can have a good bed to lay in & a day place also I am now detailed to help build a dock on the upper end of this island so that boats can land it rains terrible hard here today this is two or three days it has been raining as far as news is concerned there hain't much of any to speak of Eath is well & sends his best respects & love to all he is writing a letter to his folks today you can tell his folks that he got a letter last night too I suppose that it is about time that since plans was thinking about comeing back the draft will make men rather scarce in town

it will be apt to fetch some of them thick headed Democrats to their milk if they will turn out all as one man and not wait to be drafted the war would close by this next spring sure hope

I hain't much time to write this time for I have got to go to work this from your ever true & affectionate Father

Robert Allen Esq

Write as soon as you get this Good by

Kiawah Island , January 16th, 1864

Dear Nan

I now take the pleasant time to drop a few lines to you all to let you know that I am tuff and well, hoping these few lines will find you all the same. I am set to work building the dock and having pretty good time.

Well, it has been very wet and raining, but have nice weather now. The health of our regiment is tip top in general. The weather is quite warm and pleasant, too. You can tell Mr. Hammond's folks that Ethan is getting around quite smart, but don't do duty, yet and says he won't till he is perfectly well and able. Captain Wheeler and George Plumb is coming home on furlough; I am going to send some shells home by George Plumb; there are several kinds of them, one is the conch, and one is called the Key shell, beside several other kinds; there is a box full and also another small package. He will drop a line to you when he gets home. Be sure and not give any of them away for when I get home, I want them to look at, now mind and keep them. I must close now by bidding you all Good by.

Write soon

Robert Allen

Camp of the 142 Regt. N.Y.V.  
Kiawah Island , S.C.  
Friday Feb 26th , 1864

Dear Ones at Home

I now sit down to pen you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and hope that this may find you all the same. I received yours of the 23 of Jan. the 14th, the last letter I have had since you last heard from me.

We have had quite a skirmish with the Rebs on John's Island on the morning of the 9th. The expedition started from camp the night of the 7th and assembled up on the plantation and started the night or the early morning of the 9th and crept on to Seabrook; in there they found nothing and crept over on to John's Island in a very still manner. The 142nd being in advance, Co. B crept first and captured a single man seeming to be on picket; then Co. I crept and deployed as skirmishers (this being just at daylight); the Rebs soon got woke up at their reserve post and undertook to find out what was up. They came on to see and then Co. I soon got a chance to try their shooting irons.

The Rebs came out of a piece of woods yelling like fun and fired. Co. I stood their ground and let them up in distance they called handy and they commenced to send the blue pills at the Gray Co. which hid and dodged the best that they knew how, part of them being cavalry men and left their horses in the woods and some came down on foot. The skirmish lasted about twenty minutes when the Rebs were forced to retreat to the woods; our force kept after them and drove them out of the woods into another woods and killed quite a number of their horses as well as of them. It being about noon Co. I and H were relieved to get something to eat for the first for the day. The Rebs admitted a flop of 50 killed and wounded making we took 13 prisoners, 5 being wounded and 10 horses besides those that we killed. They left quite a number of their dead on the field which our boys buried; that ended that day. The next day (Wednesday) was spent in looking around; not any advance made Thursday.

They started up John's Island to find some more of the Johnnys, they came to some more pickets about noon. They skedaddled to save their bacon; we then soon came to a stopping place where they had a force with three pieces of artillery; the force was estimated to be about 6000 here. The Rebs commenced firing with their artillery first; our artillery got into position and an engagement commenced. they killed three of our horses and two men of the 41st Regt.; their loss there we did not learn; their battery was silenced and as our battery had fired away about all their ammunition, they retreated in good order. The 142nd Regt. was under the fire of the Rebs all the time the engagement lasted which was about two hours; the shells were flying over our heads and once in a while cutting a top off a tree, still, none of them was hurt. The top of listing, all that were wounded were the Sargent Major had his right arm broken and taken off, one man of the col's was struck in the leg with a spent ball which only broke the skin, did not lame him much, but there were some close calls. They shot many but rather high. They say our regiment fired well. The force came back to where they stayed the night before and about one Friday

morning they started for camp. After they crept off John's Island they set fire to the bridge also to a large house where they found the first Rebs.

They got back about noon to camp well tuckered. The whole of our force consisted of three Brigades the 1-2-3rd with a battery, one section that was in action were manned by negroes; the object of the expedition was to draw the attention of the Rebs in that direction, as Gen. Gilmore was going to make a strike somewhere else, and he did so down in Florida. The siege of Charleston continues, most of the firing is done at night; I suppose to keep the enemy from building any works, I will finish on another sheet.

With the traveling on the island I can tell you something about the land. This island has three plantations on it, two which has had most splendid buildings on them. One of the splendid premises was all laid in ashes the time of the raid, caused by the fire running in the long grass to it. It is the nicest land on John's Island ever I have seen, large level fields and most splendid buildings, all deserted; they have been occupied by the Gentility of Charleston.

I have sent two allotment checks to you and have not heard as you have received them, one dated Dec. 3rd and another Jan. 28. The first was by Capt. Bransom, the other by Ethan Hammond. When you get these be particular to let me know. I cannot get a furlough as there is none granted at present. I think I have written enough so

Good by from

Robert Allen

*( The following is an appendage on the back sheet of this letter.)*

Dear Cousin :

As I was writing for Uncle this morning, I thought I would pen you a few lines. You perhaps think you do not get many letters our mail only leaves here once in eight days and we put off our writing until about the time it leaves and sometimes it happens that we can't write their being on duty, but we will write as often as we can. You do the same.

I have told about the raid I was in Their being on picket at the time it started, the pickets were left behind on guard on Beach as all the force was gone. I wrote a description as well as I could and you will likely see the particulars in the papers.

The weather here is pleasant, clear and warm days times and nights very dry; we have not had any rain in a long time.

The Regt. is in good health and the boys feel well. We are the only regt. on the island; the 54th was here but left last night as some of them were going home as they had reenlisted and the rest, part conscripts, went to Folly as they were no good here. They can't be trusted on picket as 5 deserted one night. Excuse my short letter; I am going to write to Frank D. today.

I remain your affectionate

Cousin William Allen

Camp near Brandy Station  
Co. C, 106th Regt. N. Y. Volunteers  
Feb. the 29th, 1864

Stewart Allen , Dear Sir ;

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter of the 21st . It came to hand last night and found me well, and I hope this will find you the same.

Well, there is some stir here just now, our men are trying Lee's strength across the Rapidan. The 6th Corps went out the day before yesterday and the 1st and 2nd corps are with them, - I believe. They were a fighting last night, we could hear them plainly - they were trying to get across the river. They calculate to go to Madison Courthouse.

The 3rd Corps has been accepted I guess, for there have none of them gone out that I have heard of yet, and it is the first hard scrape it has ever missed since I have been in it, but we have orders to have everything packed, so as to move at a moments notice since yesterday, but I didn't pack anything and won't 'till I get orders to start. But there are not many here out of our brigade. They are mostly on picket. Our regiment is all on picket except a few that are sick, and those that happened to be on duty when the picket went out. I happened to be one of them so I didn't have to go on picket this time and it is no fool of a job to go 12 miles and stay 3 nights and 4 days, but by good luck I missed it this time.

Well, we have not received our pay yet and there are no signs of it that I can see. I suppose I have lost the chance to let Bill have the money and I am sorry, but it can't be helped now. It is too late, but when we get our pay, I will send it to you and it will be safer there than here with me.

Well, Stewart, I have not heard from your father yet, I guess he has not received my letter, but I will try it again, he may get the next one. I just heard that the Rebs were a falling back this morning and I guess they must be, for I don't hear any fighting this morning.

Well, I can't think of much more this time, but I will write again as soon as I hear what they are doing out in the front, and let you know all that is going on here.

Well, I guess I will close for this time. It is very pleasant weather here now, quite warm, and the roads are good and dry. They are quite dusty but one hour of rain would make them so it would be most impossible to move artillery, and I am afraid it will rain today. It looks very much like it and if it does our boys will have a bad time.

Write as soon as you can conveniently, and I will bid you Goodbye for now.

This is from your friend, Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Camp near Brandy Station  
106th Regt. N.Y.S.V.  
Mar. the 15th, 1864

Stewart Allen, Dear Sir:

I now take the pleasure of answering yours of the 6th and I was very glad to hear from you again. Also that you are well, and this leaves me the same. I received a letter from your brother a day or two ago and he was well then. I had a bully good letter from the old man and I will answer it tonight. We have just come off a Brigade inspection and they are condemning all our acoutrements and tents and giving new ones to us and by the way they are fitting us out, we will be on a move before long. But I think that we will not have old General Meade to command us this summer and I am sorry to hear about this, for I believe that he is a good man as they could get in his place.

Well, Stewart, old Hank Phillips that deserted from our company last spring has come back and they have court marshalled him and stopped all his bounty and back pay. I don't believe he will leave again very soon. I have to go on picket tomorrow and that is no fool of a job, to go 15 miles and stay out three nights and four days.

Well, we have got our pay and I will send you my money. I will send \$40 this time and after, when I come in off picket, I will send \$40 more. I want to send \$80 or \$100 this time to you and if you get a chance to let it, you can do so. You can take what you paid for old fare and the pay for your trouble. Stewart, furloughs are all played out this spring and the old man wrote me that they had stopped giving furloughs where he is.

Well, what do you think of Gen. Kilpatricks raid? I think he gave a pretty good scare to old Jeff and the rest of the leading men in Richmond. He came very near going right in.

Well, I don't know what to write. I can't think of anything for you now, as well as I know what is going on down Southwest of us. We aren't doing anything and there is very little to write.

Well, Stewart, I will close this poor letter and try to do better next time. Write as soon as you get this and let me know if you get the money. This is from Frank Dana, to Stewart Allen.

Camp of the 142nd  
Kiawah Island, S.C.  
March 20 , 1864

I now set me down to answer your letter that I received the last mail. I was glad to hear that you were all well, as this leaves me at present.

Willie is down with the measles. The Company has had a pretty good run of them. The smallpox has been in our camp too, but the doctors got it stopped before it spread.

The weather here is some like our May weather at home, but nights are sometimes rather cold. At least I find it so on picket.

There is some talk of us going back to Virginia to join the Army of the Potomac again. If we do we will see some stirring times.

I have been talking with Captain Wheeler about the box I sent with Plumb and he says he thinks I will get it yet. Plumb telegraphed to the conductor to hunt them up and forward them along, so there is a prospect of you getting them yet. I will be sorry if the shells can't be found, for they were such a nice assortment. I spent a good deal of time and labor to procure them and they were choice shells. Inquire of Eath Hammond how he lost his knapsack and let me know, for I sent a large conch shell and a lot of nice key shells in a cap that I thought a great deal of.

I spoke of going on a raid in my last letter. Well, we went up and tore down a large plantation house and returned to camp, all safe and sound.

There is some good land on Seabrook Island and Johns, but this is a sandy desert of a place. There is some of the finest pine timber I ever saw on these islands.

Well, I have not got much more to write. You wanted to know how many men we have in our regiment. Now it is sadly diminished to what it was at camp. Our Company is 42 men. The regiment numbers about 500 men. Well, I must close. Give my respect to all inquiring friends. Write as often as you can. Don't wait for me.

Robt. Allen per William

P.S. - When you write, let me know how your crops have turned out, and how things are going at home.

Camp of the 142nd, Kiawah Island, S.C. April 2nd, 1864

Dear Ones at Home : - I received yours of the 18th tonight and was glad to hear from you. We are all well and hope this may find you all the same.

I saw Captain Wheeler and he told me that George Plumb was a going to telegraph to the director and have him hunt the box up.

I would like if you would write to Frank Buss and have him hunt up the revolver. I want you to let me know how the grain has turned out through the winter and how many cows you are going to milk this summer and how much of a crop are you going to put in this spring. And I also want to know why Robt. has not written to me this winter.

I have a letter written to send you with my check in as we have just received our pay and I am going to send \$10 in this one.

The orders are at this moment that there will be no more mail leave here after sunrise tomorrow morning, so we will have to cut it short as it is dark.

Perhaps we will be in some other department when you hear from us again. Give my regards to Mr. Hammond's folks. Your humble servant has recovered from the measles and put on the harness. Good bye for the present. From yours, as ever,

Robt. Allen per William

To Mr. Stuart Allen, Oak Point

Camp  
Near Brandy Station  
Co. C 106th Regt. N.Y.V.  
April the 11th, 1864

Stewart Allen Dear Sir :

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter which came to hand last night, dated April the 3rd. I am glad to hear that you got the money all right and I will send \$20 in this letter and I am glad to hear that you are well at home and this leaves me the same. I wish I was to home to have a little fun with you and Robert this spring, but that is out of the question.

Well, Stewart, I expect that we will make a break now, in a few days, the shillers (bookies) have orders to be out of the Army of the Potomac by the 16th of this month and all preparations are being made for a big move, I think, and there has been an order come to the army that the men can box up all overcoats and blankets that they don't want to carry and send them to Alexandria and have them stored until fall. I sent one blanket today in a box that our Co. sent. I am going to carry my overcoat a spell yet, I think. I think we will make a dash at Lee the first thing, don't you, and if we have to charge his breastworks over the Rapidan, it will be a hard job to do.

Stewart, we have moved camp since I wrote to you before. We changed camps with the 1st Division; We hain't got as good quarters as we built ourselves but they will do for us as long as we want them.

Well, Stewart, I guess I was a little behind the lighthouse when I told you that French commanded this Corps. I have not seen Grant yet but that doesn't grieve me much. I have seen more such men now than I wish I had.

Well, Stewart, I shan't write a long letter for I am in a great hurry. I have got to go on duty now. You must not mind the mistakes. Write as soon as you get this and then I will send \$20 more.

This from your friend

Frank Dana

to Stewart Allen

Good by for this time.

Camp Near Brandy Station  
106th Regt. N. Y. Volunteers  
May 3rd , 1864

Friend Stewart : -

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter which came to hand in due time and it found me well, and I hope this will find you the same. I am glad that that money went through all right. I shan't send any more 'till pay day, if I live that long. I have lent what I had to spare.

Well, we are going to have a big move on, and we start tomorrow morning at 4 o'clock with three days rations. Before the 25th I expect to see some hard fighting, but let it come. If I am shot, give my money to Theodore if he lives to come home.

Well, I can't write but a few lines to you this time, but I will try to do better next time. The mail goes out in a few minutes and I must stop and get to packing up my duffle.

Write soon. This is from a friend. I have not heard from you father yet, but I will write to him as soon as I have a chance.

This is from your friend,

Frank Dana

to Stewart Allen

Good-bye for this time :

Camp of the 142nd Regt, N.Y.V.  
Thursday, May 19, 1864

*Note: (The envelope containing the following communication had a written corner card, indicating that it was sent from Fort Darling, Bermuda Hundreds, but the postmark was "Old Point Comfort, Va. May 23)*

Dear Friends: - I now pen you a few lines for Uncle to let you know that we are well and hope that this may find you all the same.

You will likely have heard that the regiment has been in a rather rough battle on Monday last. Uncle came through all right. I was not there. The regiment lost in all 79 killed, wounded, and prisoners, or missing. The regiment 34 less than it did before the fight - a share of them severely wounded and gone to the general hospital. I think there are about 20 missing and most of them killed. There are two of Co. I killed or missing, and five others wounded.

Charley Mann was shot through the leg above the knee, but he came off the field all straight. Two others slightly and two others severely - one in the neck and the other in the arm. Co. B was the only Company that had none killed.

The fight commenced that morning about daylight and the Rebs being largely reinforced, they overpowered us and drove us back clear out of the earthworks, in front of Fort Darling. They got the advantage with their artillery and the grape and cannister raked our ranks.

The 142nd regt. came near being taken prisoners. The Rebs came up on the right flank to about 6 rods of it. We poured a volley right into them. The Regt. was then ordered to retreat double quick, which they did in hot haste with a shower of grape at their heels.

Lieut. Hayes was shot in the foot. He was the only officer hurt much. The Colonel's horse was shot from under him. The whole force came inside of our earthworks before night and since then there has been nothing going on of much account.

There was considerable firing yesterday with our gunboat and the battery the Rebs are trying to plant, and some this morning. We were called out both yesterday and this morning. The gunboat is firing some now, but no reply.

It has rained more or less every day for over a week. We have not received any mail in nearly a month. The mail all stopped at Fort Munroe.

I will close for this time. So, good bye. From your friend and relative.

Robt. Allen

per William

Camp of the 142nd Regt. N.Y.V.  
near Bermuda Landing, Va.  
May 25th - 1864

Dear Cousin : - As I have a few minutes I thought I would pen you a few lines to let you know that Uncle is well and we are all so busy that there is hardly time to write or do our washing. We have to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning and stand under arms until sunrise, and then go on fatigue to be ready to go to work at 6 o'clock at night. So there is not much time to do anything but get all the rest you can. We are to work on the fortification. We have a very strong front and I think we can hold it against twice our number as there is a poor chance to attack us.

I have been in a battle since I last wrote you. It was last Friday afternoon. They made a bold attack on our picket line. Our regiment was on picket at the time and under fire nearly all the 24 hours we were out. We had to fire with all our might at night to keep them from advancing on our lines. In the afternoon they charged on our lines at all points, on our company, this being the last point they attacked. We fell back after firing two rounds after they came on our line yelling and perhaps ten times our number. We did not retreat until we had two men killed and two wounded (one died the next day of his wounds) .

We fell back to the reserve and held our own until the reinforcements came up, when we charged all in a line and drove them so they left their killed and wounded on the field, besides a good many prisoners. Their Brigadier General Walker was wounded before he would surrender.

We were relieved and went to camp at dark. The loss in the regiment was 39 in all. Co. B had two killed and eight wounded. They suffered the worst as they were in the open field.

Uncle is in the pioneer corps and helps to carry off the wounded.

I have written a short letter as I have no time to write you more.

Chas. Mann has gone to the hospital. His wound is doing well.

Uncle Robert has not received any letter since we were at Gloucester, but we do not get our mail anyway. It is stopped at Fort Munroe.

All is quiet except sharp-shooting firing, going on night and day, and once in a while the gun boat throws over a shell to the Rebs.

Write how you are getting along with your work and all the news. I will close hoping to hear from you soon.

Robert and William

Bermuda Hundreds June 19 , 1864  
Camp of the 106th Regt. N. Y. V.

Stewart Allen

Dear Sir :

I now take the pleasure of answering your welcome letter which came to hand last night, dated June 6th, and I was very happy to receive it, and it found me well and I hope this will find you and the rest of the family the same.

Theodore is sick and I don't know where he is. He was taken sick a day or two before we left Cold Harbor and he started with us, but he had to fall out and I got a pass from the doctor for him to ride in the ambulance. I don't know he went. It is a bad thing to have any relatives here and have them sick. Well, Stewart, we have got down pretty near Richmond. We are stationed here with a part of the 10th Corps, about two miles from the James River and the VS gun boats throw shells from the Apatomack and from the James rivers, and they pass each other. When they open up the Johnny Rebs have to hunt their holes in the banks double quick time, but the Rebs gave us a pretty hard shelling last night, although it did not do much damage. Two or three wounded that was all, but our batteries soon silenced the Rebs. Stewart, there is no use of my telling you of our march and where we have been, for you can see it in the papers and get it more correct than I can think of to put it down.

I suppose that you have received the letter that I wrote to you on the first of the month before this time, telling you that I had seen your father and had a good visit with him, as well as read some of the letters that he had received from you. He wanted to have me write a few words in my letter to you, for him, concerning a man in Clayton, and if you did not get it, write in your next.

You wanted me to write the names of our Commanding Generals. General Wright commands our Corps, General Rickets commands our Division and General Morris commands our brigade, but he was wounded in the leg the same day Sedgewick was killed and our brigade is now commanded by General Truax.

Stewart, the 18th Corps is at Petersburg, or was there. The Colonel of the 142nd was here to our company last night and he said the Corps was here. The 142 had a fight yesterday at Petersburg and took four pieces of artillery and two hundred prisoners. They had twenty wounded and two killed.

I expect to see your father in a day or so and I will read the letter to him that I got from you last night. I heard this morning that our forces had the most of the fortifications at Petersburg and it is thought that we will soon be in possession of the whole thing up there.

Stewart, I will have to close for this time but as soon as I see the old man I will write you again. You must write often for you don't know how good it seems to get a letter from home these times. Do write soon. Good-bye for this time. This is from a friend.

From Frank Dana to Stewart Allen, Esq.

V.A. near Petersburg  
July 3rd , 1864

Friend Stewart

It is with pleasure I seat myself to answer yours of June the 26th and though tide of war is running high yet in this part of the world as usual and tomorrow is the 4th of July and the report is that the siege of Petersburg commences tomorrow morning and no doubt there will be some big guns barking. But I don't think much of such celebrating the 4th as they have down here. I had rather hear some old anvil in Hammond but the 4th of July has played out with us soldiers, and all other celebrating, all we know is to handle our muskets and be dogged about like a lot of cattle. If I hold out a little over 13 months, I will be my own boss, Stewart.

Our Corps has been out on a raid and done the Rebs a good deal of damage. We tore up 7 or 8 miles of the W & R railroad at Reams Station and burnt the buildings belonged to it; we did not have any fighting but the cavalry had some skirmishing. I was on picket out there and went to a house a little ahead of the line to guard the house and some Graybacks crawled along in the brush and fired a few shots at me but they did not hit me and I call a miss as good as a mile, but the worst of all, I did not get a chance to return the complement; they skulked in the brush so quick, and that was all the bullets I fired while I was gone. We was gone 3 days on the raid and now we are back on our old line. We are the extreme left of Grant's army; the right rests on the James River, and that is 18 or 20 miles from here, the way the line runs. And we have got orders to fix up as comfortable as possible for we would stay here, it was likely, a good while, and I have got me a nice cool tent; my tentmate and I have got pine trees sot all around the tent and it made it very cool for this part of the world.

Well, Stewart, what do you think of this last Draft that you are having this month ? I think it is a shame to bring any more men down here to be cut to pieces all for nothing as I can see yet. It has gone just far enough to suit me and if I was home no draft would bring me here nor Bounty if I knew as much as I know about it now.

I would not blame the government of the northern states if they should not send another man; and they han't paid us for 4 months and they ought to a going to pay us this pay day, though the boys will raise the devil if they can't get their pay; there is lots of married men needs their money to send to their families that is suffering now at home. I think if they would raise our pay, once more, we would never get money at all. I have sent all my money and I am about out and I wish you would put in ten dollars greenbacks in your next letter and send it to me. I am not a going without money not knowing what minute I will have a hole through my jacket. So, Stewart, I am well and hope this will find you the same. I will bring this to a close. Write soon and give me the news of the draft. No more at present from

Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Before Petersburg, Va.  
Monday, July 4th, 1864

Dear Cousin - I now pen you a few lines to let you know that we are well. Uncle desired me to write to you today, as I had time. He received yours of the 19th and 26th in due time.

There is nothing new to write. Only we are having a rough time at the front. Uncle is on duty again, about as usual. Picket firing also artillery firing is kept up night and day. Last night there was not much sleep got as dodging the shells was enough to do. All is still today but there is time enough yet to get up a fuss.

You spoke about investing money and at what purpose. Uncle says to tell you that as the sheep are so high priced it would be as well to invest in land as it might be the safest in the end. I have not written to for Uncle in a good while as there is nothing interesting to write. We do not know any more about the situation of the army than just where we are, than you do, only what we read in the papers. The weather is very warm and dry. It looks some like rain today. We need it very much as water will be a scarce article soon. Wells are the only way we get it now. Springs are not so plenty as most places we have been.

You asked about the number of men in the regiment fit for duty. That I can't tell, Co. I is the smallest company. It has about 30 men at present, sick and well.

Charley Mann is still at Fort Munroe. He is doing well. There is another of Co. I there with a bad wound in the shoulder. Our Company has not lost any since the 17th, and he was Fisher of Madrid - a slight wound and is at home now. Uncle saw Frank at Bermuda. We have not seen the 6th Corps since we came here last. The 14th Heavy are about half a mile from us. I saw George Cooper the other day. He is tough and well. I will close as I can't think of much to write. So I will bid you good bye, for the present. We remain, as ever,

Robt. Allen per William

Co. I , 142nd regt. N. Y. Vols., Fort Munroe, Va.

Camp near Boonsborough  
July 11, 1864, on the battlefield

Dear Friend Stewart :

I now take the pleasure of writing you a few lines to let you know where we are, and that I am alive yet. We are in the 3rd Corps and we expect to march on the Rebs in a few minutes. Part of the Corps have gone now and we don't mean to let them get back to Virginia as good as they came.

Stewart, I have no time to write and I suppose you know how it is, as well as I do. I have got to go when the bugle sounds. I wish you would write as soon as you can.

We are in reserve today, that is, our Corps is. We have been giving the Rebs fits for a day or two back. I think we have taken a good many prisoners. The 50th regiment is here. Vixburg is taken. I suppose you have heard of that.

Theodore is sick in Baltimore. I am well and I hope this will find you and your folks well. I will write more next time, if I live. I wish I had more time. Excuse the haste. Write soon, and good-bye.

From Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Baltimore, Md.  
July 11, 1864

Friend Stewart :

I take this opportunity to write these few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along. My health is good, but I got wounded in the wrist with a piece of a shell and I am now in the hospital in this place, Camden Street Hospital, Ward F., Baltimore, Md. . I was wounded on the 9th of this month at the battle of Menoxie, and my wound is not a very serious one. I guess there are no broken bones. It is my right arm, and I think I will be able to rejoin my regiment in a few days again.

Stewart, we had a pretty hard fight and were forced to leave the field and retreat toward Baltimore, but we did not leave 'til we had orders from the general of our division, and a few hundred boys remained. They amounted to about 6000 men, and we fought Urley's command which was about 30,000 men. We charged them first and then they formed in three lines of battle and charged us, and we held them, but our division got badly cut up. I have not heard the particulars yet.

Well, I hope this will find you all well, and I will have to close for this time, for it hurts my arm to write.

I wrote to you for some money a few days ago and if you have not sent it yet, send me \$5 and direct it to; Francis Dana, Baltimore Camden Street Hospital, Ward F ., and if you have sent it don't send any more until I and the rest of the Corps are at Petersburg. Yet B Division is all there I hear.

Write as soon as you get this. Good-bye for the present.

From Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Baltimore, Aug. 2nd, 1864

Friend Stewart :

I received your letter this morning and I am happy to hear from you again.

I am doing very well as far as my arm is concerned, but I have not felt very well these few days back. I have had the summer complaint and have been getting very poor. I have lost 40 pounds of flesh since we started on the campaign last spring. You wanted to know if my arm was cut or bruised. Well, it was cut by a piece of a shell while I was in the act of loading my gun. The cut was across my wrist, but it has very nearly healed up. I shall go to my regiment in a few days, I think.

Stewart, I am very sorry to hear that you are so unwell. It is a bad time of the year for you to be sick, for you have so much to attend to, but I advised you not to do any more work than you are obliged to do, for now is the time to get cured if ever you. Stewart, you are able to take the world some easier than to work and not let the disease get seated in when you are not able to

Well, I suppose you have heard all about the late fight at Petersburg and the blowing up of the fort, and how our men got driven back to their old positions. The Niggers bear a good deal of blame in this. If they had kept up their end, the Rebs would have gotten badly whipped, but as it is, our men got the worst of the bargain, I think.

The Corps is in Maryland yet, and they have got their pay, and the boys will have some good times. Well, I don't care about getting my pay 'till September, and then get 6 months pay, there is enough coming to me in the company, that I can get when I get there.

Well, Stewart, there is not much left of the 106th now. Our company has 13 left in it out of 60 men that we started with last spring and all the rest of the regiment has suffered about the same.

Well, do you think the war is going to end this summer, or not? I think I can serve my time out in fighting at the last end. I doubt whether it will end in the next two years. I have been in the front and now I am to the rear, and it looks just as dark now as it did when I enlisted and more so, but it has got to come to an end sometime, and it will come when we little expect it, I think.

Well, I received the \$5 all right, and I thank you for the trouble. The \$10 I have not heard from yet, but I wrote to the Captain to send the letters to me and I think I will get it here in time. If not I don't know as I can help it. Let it rip. It is all in my three years.

I don't know as I can think of any more this time, unless it is that I hope this will find all the folks well at home. I have not heard from the "auld man" yet, unless it was what you wrote, but I expect to have a letter from him any day. Write when convenient.

This is from Frank Dana to Stewart Allen

Camp of the 142nd Regt N.Y. Vols. Bermuda Hundreds, Va.  
August 5th , 1864

Dear Cousin :

I now pen you a few lines to let you know that we are well and hope this may find you the same. Uncle received yours of last month in due time and was sorry to hear that you were not well, but hope this will find you all right again. If you do not feel like working, let the work go, and do not hurt yourself.

Perhaps you will be surprised to see that my letter is written at Bermuda. We arrived here Sabbath night after a hard days work marching from Petersburg here on account of heat. The day before was another as hard a days work supporting the 9th, on the charge after the fort was blown up. Our regiment lost two killed and 14 wounded. Co. I had 1 killed and Captain Johnson of Co. B also Osler of our company was killed early in the morning, and Capt. Johnson while trying to rally the niggers while they were retreating, when the Rebs charged. We held the line and did good execution before the Rebs got behind the works. It was a rather disasterous day to our forces, although we killed and wounded a great number of Rebs.

The day got very hot and we were relieved about noon, and went back to our old position and took dinner, and then went into the pits over night, and then came here. We have been rigging up camp this week so far and sent out one detail on picket.

Your photograph is a very nice one. The weather is very warm and dry, at present - about the warmest of the season. Uncle says also to let you know he is not out of money yet, and there are some hopes of us getting paid soon if we stay here. We have seen some of the 16th Heavy Artillery. They are here. Wm. Morris and Clarence Emerson are at Williamsburg as all the regiment is not here, and they are in a different company from the rest of the boys but I saw Lambie Webster and Nicols, also A. Schermerhorn. They all look well and seem to like it. They came here about a week ago.

I will have to close, as I have to go on picket. Good bye.

I remain, yours, as ever,

Robt. Allen  
per Wm. A.

U. S. General Hospital  
Camden St., Baltimore, Md.  
August the 17th, 1864

Friend Stewart :

Your letter came to hand in due time, but I have delayed in answering now for two days. I have not felt very well for a number of days back. The same complaint is a bothering me yet, that I wrote you about before, but my arm has healed up nicely and I could do duty if nothing bothered me but my arm. But Stewart, I am very sorry that you are so unwell, for I can imagine just how you feel. A blister is no pleasant thing. I have had a number on care about having any more, and another thing, you are sick in bed now at this time of year when you want the best of health. You can't do anything but it is not as though you were not able to pay someone for doing your work while you are sick.

Stewart, I wish I could come home on a furlough, but there is no such a thing in the book. I would like to see about twenty of these doctors hung up by the neck. I would pull on their halters so they would not slip them, I know. But never mind. I am on the last year.

Grant has been playing the Rebs another trick at Petersburg, worth two of blowing them up, and still getting nearer Richmond, but he has got to walk over a good meny dead Rebs yet, but I guess he means to take the city or lose all of his men, and that is just the grit for me. I like to fight under such a man.

Expect the 6th Corps will have another brush with Urley before long in the Shenandoah Valley and I am in hopes that part of the Rebel Army will get badly whipped. I think it would do a good deal towards taking Richmond for they get a great deal of supplies from that part into Lee's Army.

Well Stewart, I shan't try to write any more this time, for my hand trembles pretty bad and I don't feel much like sitting up. I have not heard anything from that \$10 yet and I don't know if I ever will, and I guess I will have to have you send me \$5 more in your next letter for I shan't get to the regiment to get what the boys owe me, till the next payday, and I can't go without a little butter and other things when I am sick and butter is 40 cents a pound. I am not out on money yet, but I don't want to wait till I am, and then suffer before I can get any.

Well Stewart, I guess I will close for this time and I hope this will find you on the best of health. Please write as soon as convenient. Good bye for the present.

From Frank Dana to Stewart Allen. Address as before, to this Hospital.

Camp of the 142 Regt. N.Y.V.  
 Bermuda Hundred, Va.  
 Monday August 22nd , 1864

Dear Cousin :

I now pen you a few lines to let you know that we are well and hope that this may find you enjoying better health than you have been in this summer and also find all the rest well Yours of the 11 was received in due time I was glad to hear that you had got through your haying the weather here for the past week has been rather wet with heavy wind and thunder showers the duty has been rather hard also as most of the 10th Corps or all of it but our Brigade were over the James

you will see an account of their doings and the result better than I can tell you they got back the night before last well drilled out so while they were gone we had all the picket duty to do except what little the artillery men done

we had to go on picket duty every other night and not allowed to sleep a bit or lay down your gun in the night as our line was weak we had to be very strict lookout a deserter comes in once in a while and they sometimes pull in one of our men by coaxing him over halfway in the woods and then force him in so changing papers and trading is played out the pickets are very close together some places within talking distance but there is hardly ever anything said it was the intention to attack the enemy in our front this morning and we were out to the picket line and all loaded ready to throw out our skirmishers when the order was countermanded the attack was to be made before daylight all along the line our brigade was to attack at two roads on the Appomattox and the rest of the forces on our right at points most offensive the attack was to be ordered from the Butter Signal station which has given rebs such an annoyance all summer but we came back to camp as well satisfied as if we had went in back about sunrise most of the forenoon spent in sleep by all accounts in the paper our forces are closing in around Mobile so they think it must fall the rebs think it will be as hard to take as Charleston and if so send Farrigut to Charleston and set him to talking for the rebs cannot stand gunboat fighting Gen Grant will give them a hard rule this fall yet with what few men he has left I will have to draw to a close excuse all mistakes and poor writing by request of your father I pen these few lines to you from

Your affectionate Father

R Allen

per William

Co. I 142 Regt. N.Y.Vols.

Camp of the 142nd Regt. N.Y. Vol.  
East Side Appomattox, Va.  
Thursday, Sept. 1st, 1864

Dear Ones at Home : - I now pen you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and hope that this may find you all enjoying good health. I received Stuart's of the 22nd, also Jannett's of the same date, in due time. I was glad to hear that you are all getting along so well.

We have moved since I last wrote to you and now the regiment is doing picket duty on the banks of the Appomattox. The Rebs are on the other side; this being all the connection between the Petersburg and Bermudian lines. It is a very pleasant place and the weather has been most delightful since we have been here. We came here last Saturday. The rest of the Corps is here. We are on the extreme right. The rest are in front of Petersburg.

We are having a good time, although on picket about all the time. The shells do not bother us as I write. I am on picket and can hear the cannonading going on very heavy at present, up at the front. It is about two miles up there. The cannonading continues about the same every day.

Stuart, in your letter you spoke about investing money in U. S. bonds. I think it would be as good a way as you could do. I did not receive the Tribune but government bonds are good as long as the government is good. The government needs all the money that she can scrape. At the present time it takes money and men to carry on the war and it is the duty of every man to do all he can to support the cause, although there are a great many up north that are very bad enemies to the cause at the present time.

We mustered for pay yesterday and will expect it in about a month. So, if you go into the load calculate to keep enough to meet all demands. Do not run yourself too short for means. We will soon get six months pay.

I forgot to mention that before we left Bermudian we had a skirmish with the Rebs there. They attacked our picket line before daylight and as the line was light they had to fall back. There were a hundred men out of our regiment called on to take the line back, which we did the first attempt, without the loss of but one; his right arm broken. He was from Co. I. We drove twice our number. They fired two volleys at us but it being in the woods there was not much damage done. Then they broke and ran. They did not try to take back the line again, but seemed to be satisfied that they had enough. So they kept still.

Well, I have written about all I can think of, so I will close by bidding you good bye.  
From your affectionate father.

Robt. Allen, per Wm. A.  
to Stuart Allen, Oak Point.

Camp Froal near  
Annapolis, Md.  
Sept. the 25th, 1864

Friend Stewart : - Your welcome letter came to hand this morning and my health has got fairly good and I am a going to doing duty tomorrow.

I am glad to hear that your health is improving; I was afraid you would have the consumption, but if your health is getting this time a year it will continue so for this is the worst time for a consumption person in the year.

Stewart, I heard Mother had come back to the Bay and had her right mind again and I am glad to hear of it; I am glad she is so I can take care of her. Theodore is to home on furlough; I don't know whether he is a going to get his discharge now or not.

Well, Stewart, I have not got any pay yet and I don't think I shall; they have not paid any here yet but the men that is on duty and the paroled prisoners and the regulars have signed the payroll, yesterday, and they get paid tomorrow, but I guess we won't get any and it is too bad to keep the men out of their pay so long, it is encouraging to the soldiers, I think. I don't know but I shall go on guard duty here for a few days til I get a little stronger and I hear they are going to send all the N.Y. Troops home to vote that is in the hospital but I have lost that chance. Well, Stewart, you give McC a bad settling out and what of a name would you give Grant if you call me the King of Spades for Grant has used more spades than we ever did and to some purpose, but I think Grant is enlivened to the Jack of Spades and that the right power. Stewart, our man has give old Erley the biggest flaying he ever got and they have completely demolished his army in the valley. I shan't give you the details of the battle for I know you have heard of it before this reaches you. Well, Stewart, I suppose there is all opinion men in Hammond this fall by your talk or they want to see the war fought out; well, I guess it is the only way for it to end satisfactorily on all sides by the talk. So, I guess it will be for Abe will be put in again without doubt and if I had 100 I would give them to him but I don't like all the rest of him in some respects, but as you say there is not another man we can put in to fill the place he does in my way of thinking, but there is lots of men here that will go home to vote and I wish I could go too and put in my vote to offset against some of the men and it all still down at Petersburg now. But I hear Grant is getting lots of recruits, now he will be making a raid on some of old Lee's breastworks fore long and stir up the Graybacks out of their hold and, Stewart, I don't know of anymore to write this time except as the fall, it is very pleasant weather here now and feeling healthy, and I will close for this time. Write as soon as convenient. This is from your friend

Frank Dana to

Stewart Allen, Esq.

Annapolis , Md.  
Oct. the 13th, 1864

Friend Stewart : - I received your welcome letter yesterday and it found me in good health and I hope this will find you the same.

Well, Stewart, I am a doing duty now at this place in the Provost Guard and it is a very good place at this time of year for I have a dry place to sleep and plenty of grub and that is a thing the boys can't get out to the front, but I have a plenty of duty to do. I am on duty every day but the duty is not heavy; we have to patrol the streets three times a day and 3 posts to guard in town; so it brings us on guard or on patrol every day. It is a very pleasant place here; it is the Capital of the state and it is on the back of Chesapeake Bay, though salt water comes in here and bream, yet oysters, fish, crabs, lobsters etc. ----- and it is quite an alluring place. There is 2 large hospitals here and all the prisoners come here from Richmond after they are processed and then go up to Froal Camp 2 miles from here; there was 550 came from badsland Richmond 3 days ago and they were a hard looking lot of men about half starved.

Well, Stewart, I heard Mother had come to the Bay by the way of Theodore and I wish I could come home and see her, but that is all out of the question. I don't see why Theodore doesn't come and see you; he is able to, I know, but he is not as well acquainted with you as I am and that makes a great deal of difference.

Stewart, I have got my pay, or 2 months of it, and I will send \$10 in this letter to you and then I will send 10 more in my next; and Robert has gone a sailing away; he is a foolish boy; he doesn't know when he is well off but he has got it to learn as you say and he may buy it too dear and too late; it is a wonder he doesn't enlist and come down here as a recruit; many healthy strong boys has done heard is where he would learn the worth of home, but I hope he will do well for I think a good deal of Robert; him and I was always on good terms.

Stewart, I suppose it has got to be pretty cold weather in Hammond, now; but it is nice and warm here, everything is a going nicely here yet but we have some very heavy winds and that makes it disagreeable at times, Stewart, though little McC men looks down hearted about hearing they say Abe is elected now and I guess they are about right.

Stewart, I can't write a very long letter this time; I have got to go on duty in a few minutes. Stewart, I think I shall stay here all winter if I like it and it will be better than lying out in the wet and cold and it about kills me to expect about all a man has to do is keep sober and attend to his duty if he wants to stay here and whiskey is something I have not drank since I have been in the service unless ordered by the doctor and I don't think of commencing now.

When you write, direct to the Provost Guard at Annapolis, Md. Box 360 and it will come all right.

Stewart, I will close for this time hoping to hear from you soon and that this will find you all well at home.

Stewart, the guard just brought in a 1st Lieutenant drunk as an owl; that is the way a great many of them shoulder strap devils carry soles.

Good by from a friend

from Frank Dana to

Stewart Allen

Camp of the 142nd Regt., M.Y.V.  
near Chapins Bluff, Va.  
Saturday, Oct. 15th, 1864

Dear Ones at Home: -

I now pen you a few lines to let you know that we are well and hope that this may find you all the same.

I have not had a moments time to write a word since I sent my check. That was the morning of the 7th, and only a few words, as that was the morning that the Rebs came down on our right and there was a hurry to get money and checks off that morning, for we did not know how soon we were going into action.

But as luck would have it the 1st Division held them and we were only a support. They got nicely repulsed and fell back in a hurry.

We went out that way to reconnoiter a little day before yesterday; found them strongly fortified, but did not bring on any engagements, although skirmishing was kept up all day, and we fell back at night. The 3rd Division was in advance. Our regiment had two slightly wounded.

The regiment is now filled up to it's minimum number. Our Co. I received 44 to make it full. They are from most all parts of the state. So, all the spare time will be for drill.

The weather is getting quite cool now, so we have concluded to send for our boots and socks - John Foote, William and I. William will write to his folks to send the box and you send the boots and two pairs of socks to me, in it as soon as possible. I think that will be all there is any use sending at present. If we could go into winter quarters, we will send for other things.

I am going to send some more grape seeds, also a few persimmon seeds, but I do not know that they will grow north.

I received the \$5 you sent me all right, and I will send some more money home in a letter. Write as often as you can. Let me know when you get the check, or anything else I send. I will close for the present. So, Good bye, from yours, as ever,

Robt. Allen per William

Camp of the 142nd Regt. near  
Chapin's Farm, Va., Oct. 21st  
1864

Dear Ones at Home :

I now pen you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope that this will find you all the same. Yours of the 5th, also of the 14th, were received in due time.

Regarding the voting, we had tickets and blanks plenty. I sent my vote to Dr. A. R. Gregor last Tuesday. I think the voting in the Regiment will be pretty near a tie, as most of the recruits have voted for McClellan, but other regiments are going Lincoln strong. There are only 3 McClellan men in the 92nd N.Y.

Everything is still along the line here. It has been a busy week strengthening the line. So I think some of the force will move off soon from here, as it will not take two Corps to hold the line after the forts are finished.

There was a salute fired last night in honor of some victory of Sheridan's but what it was I did not learn.

The weather has been dry for the last week and drilling the recruits has been quite brisk five hours a day. They learn fast and seem to be a good lot of men. Those from our Company are from the country and there are some in the regiment from the city, in other companies, that do well. They are well suited with the ration here as they are much better than they got before arriving at the regiment. They were enlisted for other regiments and were shoved into this regiment. Some of them don't like it but submit.

As there is not much to write I will close. I will expect to hear from my check soon. Good bye at present. From yours, etc.

Robt. Allen

per William

Camp of the 142nd Regt. N.Y. Vols.  
Near Chapin's Farm, Va.  
Friday Oct. 29th, 1864

Dear Ones at Home : - I now pen you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this may find you all the same. I received yours of the 22nd yesterday, telling me that you had received the allotment check all right, and also stating that you sent me 5 dollars, I got it all right.

We have had a busy and rough time the past two days. Tuesday night we got orders to be ready that night to march at any moment, with three days rations, in light marching order. At daylight Wednesday we were on the march, out on the right on the Darby town road. Soon got there and formed in line and advanced a short distance, our skirmish line driving in the Rebel pickets to within a short distance of their main line of works. Skirmishing was then kept up all day between the pickets and in the afternoon our brigade was formed for an advance at the edge of the woods.

About 5 o'clock the advance was ordered. We went to the rebel's slish front of their works, and as it was so rough it was impossible to go any further. The fire of the Rebs wounded a good many of our regiment, as we were right in front of a gun that threw grape and cannister into the woods which hurt a good many. Our regiment lost in killed and wounded and missing nearly a hundred, mostly wounded and a good many slightly.

We then fell back under the cover of the night and yesterday was spent in falling back. The 18th was on our right and they fell back first, then our Corps.

We came into camp yesterday afternoon and might say got the worst of it, although it was only a point made for Grant to make a move which they say he did with success, if it was only so.

Among the wounded was Capt. Wheeler, the only officer wounded in our regiment. Col. Curtis was knocked down four times with spent shots, so he was not wounded. A lieutenant of his staff was wounded while on the skirmish line.

You will perhaps get an account of it in the papers, so I will not bother to write any more.

The boys from Hammond are all right, so I will close. Good bye hoping to hear soon again, from you. I remain, as ever

Robt. Allen per William

Camp of the 142nd Regt.  
Near Chapins Farm, Va.  
Nov. 5th, 1864

Dear Ones at Home :

Yours of the 29th came to hand yesterday and I was happy to hear from you and to know that you were all in usual health; it found me in good health. Nothing of note has transpired since my last; some of the troops have been leaving here. One Regt., of our Brigade, has gone; their destination is not known. The works can now be held by a few troops and perhaps those have gone to make a strike somewhere else.

The weather for the past few days has been cold and windy with some rain.

You said the box was packed and would likely start Monday; perhaps, if it did, we may hear from it next week. There is no kind of clothing I need except socks and them you have sent; if there is another box sent, all I want is butter and cheese. I have a good towel; we will write if we want another box sent this winter; there is no use of sending for stuff at present.

Charley Ellsworth got your letter all right. Before you get this, election will be over. Write the news of the election and all other news from around home and how you are getting along with your fall work and how things are turning out. There does not seem to be much doing in the army now; the talk is that Gen. Lee has gone to help Erley out of trouble in the valley.

It is very cold today to write and we will cut this short - Hoping to hear soon again from you

I remain as ever

Robt. Allen

per Wm.

Annapolis, Md.  
Nov the 18th 1864

Friend Stewart

I now take the pleasure of pening you a few lines to inform you that I am well and hope this will find you well and I expect to go to the front in a day or so they are a going to Send all the men from this place a way that be long to Sheridan Command and I am one of them

Stewart I sent a box with my overcoat and pants in it the coat was so heavy I never could carey it and I thought I had better Send it home and the pants I have worn some but Seeing I was a goyn to send a box I would Send them to and I wish you wold have them washed for me and I will pay fore it if I ever live to cum home they will cum good then Stewart if you want to wair the coat if you want to go of in the coald put it on and it will be all right I am Shur you have not got any warmer coat in St Lawrence Co & it is what we call a felt coat I sent the box today and you will have to go to the express office to the Burgh for it I wold like to have you get it aS Soon aS posebul after you get this letter and think the Box has got there if you have no BiSneS down to the Burgh Send by Some one else that is a goyn I have pade the transportation on it hear & I sent a letter to you with \$20 in it the other day and you must of got it By this time wal thair is nothing new to write this time So, I will close fore this present hoaping to hear from you Soon you must take this Express Bill with you when you go after the box and give it to any one that goys after it if you Send if not they cant get it

Derect as Before til I write this is from your friend

Frank Dana to

Stewart Allen

Camp of the 142nd Regt.  
Near Chapens Farm, Va.  
Monday Nov. 28th, 1864

Dear Ones at Home

I now pen you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope that this may find you all the same; yours of the 12 and 16th were received and I have just found time to answer them. We have got the box all right; we got it the 25th. Boots fit good.

There is nothing new going on here; the weather is quite pleasant now, after three days rain and two very cold days after it.

I cannot give you much better descriptions of this summer's fighting than I have given in my letters all along; it would take considerable time to make out anything like a correct report, so I will not try at present.

You spoke about Robert wanting to go to school at Gouveneur; I think it would be a good thing to let him go there, if you can spare him from home, so long and steady. Do as you can make it most convenient for yourselves.

There has been great talk of a move to be made soon against Richmond; but there is no sign of it yet. They say it will be made when Dutch Gap is done. I think that Sherman will be apt to make them get wherever he goes. There is reports of a victory for him afloat in camp today, but nothing official regarding it; but I suppose he is pushing on and if he is kept reinforced he will do the most toward closing the rebellion this winter of any of our Generals. That is the place to strike, in the heart of their country.

Well, I am about out of anything to say so I will close, hoping to hear soon from you. Excuse my short letter, Good night

I remain as ever

Robt. Allen per William

Camp of the 142nd Regt. N.Y. Vols.  
 near Chapin Farm, Va.  
 Wednesday, Dec. 7th , 1864

Dear Ones at Home :

I now pen you a few lines in haste to let you know that I am well and hope that this will find you all the same. I received yours of the 30th today, and was glad to hear that you were all well as usual.

We are all packed up ready to move and tents struck. The knapsacks are to be left. We are to take overcoats, rubber blanket and shelter tent, one suit of underclothes, besides the ones we wear, three days rations and 60 rounds of cartridges. We were to have marched at 8 this morning, but it is now near noon, and we are still here. It is raining hard and whichever way we go it will be rough. It is the great move I think this time. The direction we can't imagine. Some think we are going on transports to go south on some expedition to cooperate with Sherman.

When you write to Donnelly give him my respects. Let Robert go to school all you can, and do not hurt yourself with work. Rather hire a man in your place.

You wanted a detail of the different engagements we have been in this summer. That I cannot send now, But as for those on the north side you will find a good description of it in the St. Lawrence Democrat, in A. Richardson's letter, if you have not had a better account otherwise, or a more correct account.

I have not had a letter from Jannett in a long time, nor from Robt. or Margaret. Let them write. When I write I intend it for all of you. I will close, hoping to hear soon from you. Good bye.

I remain , as ever,

Robt. Allen

P. S. - Please let my folks know that we are well and are going to move. We are the 24th A Corps now. I have not time today to write to father, so oblige, William Allen.

Smithville, North Carolina  
January the 25th , 1865

Most Kind and Absent Wife and  
Friends ,

I again take pen in hand to address a few lines to you to inform you that I still do enjoy good health and a contented mind and most sincerely hope that these few lines may find you all still well and enjoying the happiest days of life.

Well, I suppose you would like a list of the day. We left Chapens Farm on Wednesday the 3rd day of January 1865; took transports on Thursday and stayed on board transports 2 days of which time it was rough especially around Cape Hatteras; landed on Friday on the beach five miles below Fort Fisher; it was rough landing owing to the surf being so very high and lots of our boys got wet up to their necks. Then stacked arms and partly dried our clothes and got dinner, then marched and countermarched until eleven o'clock that night, then started and marched one mile and built breastworks until morning; then got breakfast, stayed around until noon Saturday then marched toward Fort Fisher, but owing to their gunboat and level ground, they threw shells and wounded one man in Company A, wounded two in my Regt., and we fell back behind a hill to hide ourselves until dark, then marched up within half a mile of the fort where they had a small battery and took it, but they had taken away the guns.

We then turned the works on them for our defense. They tried us with a skirmish line but couldn't come. We stayed there until Sunday noon, 15th, when we were ordered to fall in under light marching orders to make the charge on Fort Fisher; the Regt. marched out across the breastworks. They marched through a marsh to their army, and part of them stayed on this side, then they were ordered to lie down; then they started for the fort under a murderous fire of both shot and shell; their sharpshooters couldn't fire much owing to our gunboats firing so fast; still they laid many of our boys on the fields. We took the fort about nine o'clock in the evening; then we fell back a half mile and laid down for the night; stayed there thirty six hours then went into camp about a half mile from the fort; stayed there till the 23rd day of January at noon then struck tents and came over here where we are now doing both camp and picket duty, also garrison duty about Smithville and Fort Caswell; our Regt. controls both places.

We took, with Fort Fisher, about 25 hundred Rebel Prisoners; they lost about 150 men which comes to 2650 men. We took about 1000 prisoners over here and are daily coming in yet. We took about 100 cannons of heavy caliber, perhaps 2 hundred pounders together with 5000 stack of small arms, one Rebel Recon and all her guns. We have since took three Blockade Runners loaded principally with arms and ammunition. I went into the fort the next morning to look for the remains of friend William; remained and saw a few harder sights than the day before owing to the explosion of the magazine of which they had a wire running across the river some 3 miles distance working like a telegraph with electricity. They buried and killed about 3 hundred

men with any good besides the wounded men which was numbers to amount to. We took about 150 torpedoes around the fort.

The mouth of the river is strongly fortified with both forts and batteries of which are now in our possession. There is a middling large village where we now are, the name is Andersonville; there is perhaps 150 white citizens now left here where I can safely say this is a pleasant place; so is Fort Fisher a very pretty place. Our boys had possession of the prisoners that night; they said that they knew they were whipped and would give up if it was not for their leaders which makes them fight; this is true, they are fairly whipped now.

We layed back about two hours, then we were ordered to march to the front with our tools; we had a dreadful time while marching in, owing to both grape and shells; it was during the hottest part of the day, still, good luck being on our side, there was no man hurt but owing to it being dark when we got in we did not have to work. Then I went to look up my Company and found James McCleur and he told me that William was killed owing to the Regt. being broke up and strict orders to stay with the Regt. ; I did not find him until morning. Then I got privilege to go and look for him, also I tried to get a chance to send him home; the Colonel said I could if I had plenty of money of which I had not then. I begged the privilege to go and bury him in order to my own liking; this was granted. So I went and also James McCleur and myself went and got him and carried him to a nice dry knoll and buried him as good as circumstances would permit. He was shot with a nine ball through the head, probably done by a sharpshooter he died faithfully doing his duty fairly on the fort, right by the amount to all inquiring, my best respects; it is my sincere request that this should be kept in remembrance of the seige of Fort Fisher, rebel works and papers.

Dear Friends, I haven't had a letter since the 3rd day of January, of which bore the date of Dec. 25th.

I long for to hear from you all for I very lonesome here since William's death.

In regards to my getting a furlough, I suppose there ain't no chance now until my time is out, which will be 2 months about.

I suppose there is cold weather there now, for it's cold bleak weather here now and the chance for writing is poor so I will close for this time, by saying I shall remain your ever fine and faithful friend until death

Robert Allen

To his family yours truly

Please write often and I do the same.

Annapolis Md  
Apr the 10th 1865

Friend Stewart

Yours of the 1st came to hand yesterday and it found me in good helth and I hoape this will find you and all my friends well and I am in hoapes I can cum and See you befoar long

Stewart the gloerous nuse of Lees Surrender came hear this morning and their is to be 200 guns fired this after noon and Stewart what moar could we ask than piece now and I think we will have that in a few days hasent our Armey met with all the Sucksess that we could ask for Stewart I feel so well over this nuse that I cant hardley write or sit Still long a nuf to write & every Buddey is in the hiyest Spirets hear to day aspeShley the Soldiers I doant think their is a goyn to be any moar hard fighting Stewart I wish I was to home to day and wold have a good time I no & Stewart that you sey you did not make a verey big strike out of the Tom Dorety leaves things She is to be pittied I am Shur She does not no a nuf to chew you out a reciet but what could one expect of a person brought up as She was & you did not no how I got the nuse of you a goyn with that School Mistress that is verey easey to do but Stewart doant take any ofence of my speeking of it to you for I don't blame you a bit for Takeing pleasure while you can if I was to home I should do the same no doute but if you air a goyn to get mared I want you to wate til next Sept and I will be to home to see the fun & Stewart the wether is verey mise hear every thing is green eaven to the gurll the clover on the meddows is about 8 inches hi the trees is all a leaving out and we air a having a verey nice rane today Stewart --- I cant write aney moar to day them cannons is a commensing to roar and I cant Sit Still eney longer pleas write soon

this is from you friend - F. Dana

to Stewart Allen Goodby

Headquarters of the  
Provost Guards of Annapolis Md.  
May the 25th 1865

Friend Stewart

I now take the pleasure of answering yours of the 16th that came to hand in Dew Time and it found me in the best of helth and am in hoapes this may find you in Joying the same grate blesing Stewart - I suppose you air a looking for the 142 and the 106th Regt. home before long wal I doant suppose I shall get out til the last ones I am on duty and they cant spare us yet I expect my Discriptive list to night and then as soon as they can let us go I shal get my papers and cum home but that may not be til the first of Augest foe all I no but I think the 106 and 142 will be to home in side of 2 weaks I see the 6th Corps is on its way to Washington I wish I was with my Regt. to go home with them & Stewart there is nuthing new hear it is vey ded at present but thair was never aney niser wether than we have hear all greene and vegetebles looks Splended the Ry is all moast as hiy as my hed and you no that is pirty well up in the world at least 6 feet & chereys is a moast ripe hear and we have had Strawbeureys fo those last 2 weeks & in this part of Md the big revew has cum off and I Suppose the peopel of Washington is sattisfied to let the Soldiers go home now.....they have doged them a bout as much as they can now

I was up to Washington last Satturday and I saw Frank Buss and he is well but he is in a grate hurey to get home & Stewart it is vey strange That you doant hear from your Father I am a fraid he is sick Sum whare or he wold of writen to you it may be he has not had aney chance to write I wold like to meet the oald man once moar at home I think he will stey thare when he gets thare a gane

Stewart they have got oald Jeff fond this time and I think he will Streach hemp in a few days I wold like to be the hangman

I think I have written all the nuse a bout hear and that was not aney and I will close this give my respects to all the fameley pleas write a gane soon this is from a friend

Frank Dana

to Stewart Allen Esq

## Epilogue

Robert was discharged from the service in June 1865 at the age of 48. In the history of St. Lawrence County written in 1895 he was referred to as 78 years of age, hale and hearty, owning Allen's Park on the St. Lawrence River, and drawing a pension for his three years of service in the rebellion. He died in 1898 at the age of 80.

Stewart was 25 when his father returned home. He married Mary Boothe of Brockville, Ontario, we know not when, but their first child, Walter, was born in 1873. We could only speculate whether she was the school teacher referred to by Frank Dana in response to a letter of Stewart's to him speaking of a girl he was extremely interested in. She could possibly be, since both of her daughters turned to that field of endeavor.

I was nine years of age in 1927 when Mary passed on, but I can remember when she visited our home and my mother gave me money and sent me to the store in search of green tea, which was the only kind Gramma would drink. Mother told of a story Mary related to her. It seems that when Walter, their first born, arrived, Robert was very disappointed when he heard his name. Mary told him, Father, when the first boy arrives with blue eyes like yours, he will be named after you. Robert Thomas, my father, was born in 1875.

*(Note from Gail Allen Waterman - Frank Dana and Ethan Hammond both returned safely from the war. They spent the remainder of their lives in the Hammond area and their graves can be found in Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Hammond.)*