

From school New Castle,

Arthur K. Cleeland to his sister Maria Cleeland the Jan. 25 1861 Copy

Dear Sister

I sit down this morning to in form you that I am well at present^a and hope that these few lines will find you in the same state of health I received your letter and was glad to hear from you, I suppose you think your self mike haveing those partties, I was glad hear about them, but that is not all we have had some partties to and calculate to have more,too, tell Miss Mc clure to write me a first-rate letter and I will try and answer it. I have the best times at school the Big boys and the Big girls are pretty near wild this winter, there is some chance for a hold down here you had petter think. I amgetting along here firstrate Old Arthur and me hasa first rate times brakeing a twoyear old colt, and I have all the appels I can eat. good ones to,there is just 3 weeks week of school yet Ella sendsa poket full of love to you and she is going towrite you aletter some time, and now I want you to write in the next letter all about that mystereous act I could not make it out, tell Sarah to write me a letter, I have got into fractions in arithmetic and is taring ahead like the Devil

Write soon and let me know how our folks is and the friends and all the school mates, and how my duck Lizzy is getting along excuse all mistakes and bad spelling

I still remain your Brother

Arthur K..... Cleeland

MARIA..... Cleeland

A. K. CLEELAND TO MARIA CLEELAND

(probably 1861)

Copy

D Sister

I take my pen in hand, to inform you that I am well at
preasant. I am not gone to war yet and i think I will
not go for the coumpany i was to go with i about
broke up and there is no call for them. I think I will
come up home after I get my corn in and take a visit
i got your letter and was glad to hear from you tell
father I got his letter a friday last and was glad to
hear what he had to say tell him that the company is
about broke and I will not go i dont think i will stay
here more than a year the farming wont pay I only
sowed (180) acres of oats and that wont pay my work
will come to about \$60 dollars and that will be all
tell father and mother that I have somthing to tell
them when I go up

well you wanted to know my gals name well her name
is Mary ann and she has no other name till i get her
and then you will know her name for her name Maryann
Cleeland ella and me gets a long firstrate. i cant get
my liteness taken without going to newcastle and I
think if you wait a littel while I think you will see
something like me up there and will be as our pictures

I will tell you some news I have a new coat and a
new pair pants i had to get new pants for my old ones
got tore in the ass and

I feel all Write

i have quit going a sparking so much as i did i only
go (? 6) times a week and it keeps me busy to do that
to. my cousin give me some advice when he was here
he said for to not come home untill i had a good suit of
cloths and then if the girls would not look at me they
might go i have some fun to tell you when i go up
about him when he was here but dont say any thing to
him about it for he will a think I have been righting
to you

I heard that ad and jim Cleeland was going to
war but wheather it is so or not i dont know i dont know
any more about ant phebe than i rote gefore for i
haint heard

Nothing more at preasant but i still remain
your B

A. K. Cleeland

to

Maria Cleeland

here is a
preasant
for you

A K Cleeland to Maria Cleeland (His sister)

Sept 30, 1861

Sept ^{the} 30 1861

Dear sister

I sit down to inform you that I am well at preasant and I hope you are the same the 28 of this month our regiment crossed the Potomic River and are now in Rebels ground but they are drove back we are within 3 miles of Washington there is a balloon a bout 15 rod from our camp it is about 30 feet high and about 15 feet wide it goes up once a day with 2 men in it to view the rebels camps it went up this morning) yesterday we got 40 Cottridges apiece) we dont know the hour we may leave to have a fight) I suppose the times is good and stirring at home) i suppose they are for I have not got a letter from home yet to now

I would like you would write me a letter and tell all the news for i dont hear much here and you dont know the good itydoes/me to get a letteryfrom home there is nobody cares for me enough to write me a letter: tell father and mother that I cant get to town to get my Picture taken we have not all our uniform yet and my money is getting Scarce I only have 75 cents in change I want you to tell me how my little dear is getting along since I left) that one down the creek

write Soon and very Soon and sooner yet nothing more at preasant

I still remain your brother

A K Cleeland
Maria Cleeland

Joined the army Aug. 19, 1861 at Meadville, Pa

Arthur K Cleeland to his Sister Maria Cleeland

Copy

Oct th
17 1861

Camp Lasley

Dear sister

I received your welcome letter the 16 and was glad to hear from you. now I will give you a small history of the time and how I am getting along. the first is I am well the next is about our victuals well we have bread and crackers beef pork and beans peas and rice and hominy sugar molasses. Coffee. tea to drink and potatoes and I guess that is all now and about our sleeping it does verry well There is five sleeps in a tent together the tents is about 7 feet long and about 6 feet wide we are a little crowded be we get along and we all have a blanket a peice tell mother that I sent her a pair of socks one quilt and one good blanket and my old hat in the first box that was sent to george town and about a week after that I sent home 2 shirts and 1 pair of shoes and when you get them I want you to write and let me know wheather you got them or not. now I want you to tell me who took Sarah to the fair you said you would tell me in your next letter but you did not I expect you forgot it I would like to know tell Sarah to write me a letter too and I will send hur one and tell her all about Stephen I am glad to hear that my gal is in good spirits. I would like to be at home a few nights and help pear appels we dont see appels here for there is none grows here as I see I would like to eat a few appels now if I live to get home I tell you I will eat appels for a while. I think before a year goes around that the war will be wound up for it is the opinion of the folks here I would like to be at home this winter so you and sarah and me could have some big slayrides but I suppose the slay rides will be slim with me I expect to Slay ride the rebels down that is what I want do do before I go home. I have seen things that I never would have seen if i would stayd at home I suppose. I am about 700 miles from home but that aint far it seems to me that it is only a little peice. tell father to be shure and get that mony that is coming to me and to put it to the best use he thinks be best and when I get my money here I will send it all home only what little I need myself and if he can spare it I want him to lay it by for me well I must come to a close for this time rite soon yours truly

Write soon.
soon. soon
very soon

A. K. Cleeland
Maria Cleeland

A. K. Clelland to Maria Clelland (His sister) Nov. 30, 1861

Dear Sister

I sit down to answer your welcome letter which come to hand the 29 and perused it with much pleasure and I would not care I has about 40 more to read Maria I believe Eliza Cane beat you for writing news) well maria I have not seen Bill that bow of yours for a long time. O it tickeled to think he wrote you a letter and it is well enough you burnt it) well maria I have not got any love letters yet and I think I wont) well you wanted to know wheather I wanted a pair of gloves or mittens well I want a pair of gloves a good pair to

I was glad to hear that father got that money that was coming to me; tell him that I sent him \$10 dollars home in a letter which if it goes right it will be home before you get this letter and if it goes safe I will send some more home) we are all well at preasant and are still in the same place yet and there aint much signs of leaveing this soon we dont get much news about the war here you know more about it than we do) well maria I want you and the wrest to keep in goo hart I think I will get home some time but I think you will have to eat your Christmas dinner with the seat vacant at the table but I feel in hopes that when I go home we can have a newyears dinner at anny time we are fat and andsasy here we have plenty to eat drink and and we are drilling every day expect if I ever go home it will seem quite funy to not drill every few hours I am getting so used to drilling that when we get a hollow day it seems like sabbath day) well them animals you drawed looked verry ntural but they was in rather a queer shape than they was when I left home) well I have got my dinner and now I will finish my letters well you wrote about that party at allen hutchissen about someny boys) the poor cowards they can stay at home and go to the Partys where there is now danger but they wont turn out in defence of there country the young and able bodied men more stout and able to stand it than some that went but I hope us soldiers will all get home again and then they will feel like a sheep thief among us. well I must come to a close for I will have to drill pretty soon tell Lewis and phebe to write often and Eliza and Morrison to write often and you just write often and if you all write often it wil do first rate

Nothing more your truly

A K Clelland

to Maria Clelland
write soon soon verry soon

Arthur K. Cleeland to his father and mother, John & Elisibeth Cleeland Dec 27th 1861

Dear Parents and the rest of the dears.

I am a going to write you all a big letter so I think I can tell you all I know. but it would not take over 5 minutes for to tell all I know but I will stretch my mind so far as I can. well first in foremost I am well and so is the wrest of the Perry Boys well Christmas is gone once more.

and we are looking for new years to come. it was the driest Christmas that I ever put over. but if the Lord is willing we will have a good time. our captain told us that we would have a good time supper, we are kep so close here that we have to get leave to go to the sink that is a place to eas our selves in but we dont drill so much as we did. we have had some pretty cold weather for a few days and we stand it first rate. we keep up a good fire in our stove and it keeps the tent warm. well father we have got a new lot of springfield rifles they will Carry 500 yards. and from that to a half a mile so I think we can shoot the Rebels. now I must tell you all about our suit we have a dress Coat and a fatigue coat and a pair of dress pants and expect to get a pair of fatigue pants and caps and we have two shirts and a pair of socks and 8 pair of shoes and a pair of legins and a kanteen and a tin cup and a little tinbucket one for tow of us as they hold 3 pints. and we have got little tents one for two men we have to carry them on our backs when we go out on an expedition there is two goes and we have new knapsack and a new blanket. and we have a little poke and in the poke there is one Cloths brush one tooth brush one shoe brush and one button brush and a tin tobacco box and a tin box to keep buttons in. and a tin can to put oil in to clean our guns with and in that polk there is a little leather cution with 3 kinds of thread 5 or 6 needles a soing all and several other things more than we want well mother I like to be a soldier firstrate we get plenty to eat and drink and I would not wish for more----- I am harty and stout as ever and I weigh 170 lb good weight. and I can eat like a hog. if I was at home I would eat you out of house and home. I still feel in good spirits and hope I will get home again. I have not heard from them \$5 I sent you. and I have not heard from my picture that I sent you. in a case but it would cost \$1.50 and I thought that was too much. s I will get it taken some time again if I am spared will father it will soon be pay day again I expect we will get our money next week and I will send some more to you. but I will keep enough to keep me in wrighting utensials and will spare you all I can and if you see fit you may use if for your own benefit. It might be that I never will want it..and if I do want any I am able to ern it and you are gitting old and has more need of it than I have. you must keep in good spirits I think I will get home some time to help you. I never done you much good while I was at home. and now I cant untill I get home again. but I was not a coward to fight for my country I think if I was in Clints and aces Hutchison place I would geel like a sheep dog that day we left home ace and me was walking together and ace said he was going along and he went with us to meadvill and then he Backed out and did not come. and now I thi think he aught to marry an old maid and go to house keeping and never start to war again. I think when us Boys gets home we will spoil some of the Boys Cracker. for we are soldiers

Well it will keep my busy to fill this sheet but I will try it verry hard. there has been some talk of this regiment a going down furthut south but we are fixed for winter verry comfortable we have good times in our tent we get on the bed and get to cuting up and one will throw the other out of bed and theres the way it goes my boots is as good as ever they come verry handy in wet weather. and expeshly at night they are runing to the sink study first I will get up and use them and when I get

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through some of the wrost will take them and there the way it goes. now when you write tell me all the news that you know fur I like to hear from home. I am in 1962 well I commenced my letter in the year 1861 and now I will finish it in 1862 well father I received your letter and was glad to hear that you got the money I got them glove mittens that gou sent me and they are just the thing for work with the gun. I was on guard the evening I got them and they felt verry comfortable that night. well we have had big times last night our officers went to work last week and fixed us a big lot of paper lanterns to hang up in the s̄treets after night so last night we hung them up in our streets. and I tell you theylooked nice. and the officers had a big dance and a big supper and we all had a big time. us soldiers had a oyster supper then went to bed when we pleased. and a lot of us gathered up and had verry good music for a while

Jan th3 1862 well father this is the 3 time I have begun this letter I begun the 27th of Dec. and wrote a few lines and then had to quit and go pickett guard and was away 2 days and 2 nights and have just got back and now I will try and finish my 1 letter. well we had a good time out on picket only it was a little cold but them mittens kept me warm. this morning our guard took contribands they come to us from the Rebels and we brought them to our camp and we asked them if they would like to go back to thair masters and they said (no sir). and they was tikeled half to death when they seen our camp they thought they was safe. I am well today and hope I will continue so I hope you all had a good time at Christmas and new year. now father and mother I want you togscaresup a bigristw latterdforme I think I have done verry well. tell Maria and Sarah to write me a big and tell Eliza and Morrison to write often and tell Slemmens to write me that letter. and tell David and Lizzie send me their respects. and all the nonsense that is going on. I am as full of mischief as ever but it aint bad mischief.

Well I cant think of anything more so excuse me for not filling out this page for I am run out and it will soon be supper time.

I send my respects to all the inquiring friends and my love to you and the fallily

Your Son. a soldier

A K Cleeland

John Cleeland

Elisibeth Cleeland

=====

Good

by

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Page 1. A K Cleeland to Sarah and Maria, his sisters Jan 15 1862

the
Jan 15 1862

Dear Sister

I sit down to tell you a little the times here they are about as usual the weather is pretty cold they is about (72) inches of snow. and it freezes pretty hard these nights. but I sleep verry comfortable at nights and through the day time we keep up a good fire in our stove and it keeps us warm well. Maria you done pretty well the last letter you wrote it was pretty long but it might have been longer. well I suppose you and sarah has a good time there this winter I wish I could be there too but if I was at home I would not be contented. if all the Boys was all awat to war ----- But I hope the time will come when us soldiers will all get home again. but we must all live in hopes that the war will soon be over - The General of our brigade he said that the next time we draw our pay we will draw it to go home with. that is about 2 months from this pay day we have not drawed our pay yet but we will this week. well we have been under marching orders for about a week and we have a big load to carry when we march we have 1 pair of pants one shirt one pair of shoes one cap one pair of drawers and 2 blankets and a small tent besides the suid we ware. well Maria you said you would like to have my picture. and I would like to have yours to you said if you had money enough you would get yours taken for to send to me

well if the Lord is willing when I get my money I will send you my picture and send you money enough to get yours taken. I would like to have yours and sarah pictures both in one case and it would not cost much more money. well I suppose you had a good time at Clarks a newyear I would like to have been there. I suppose the spellings and parties is going off but us soldiers is above going to parties and spellings well I suppose the Boys is paying their respects to you and sarah a bout wright this winter. I was glad to hear that you was a going down to see my gal before long I still like to hear from her. well maria I will write a few lines to sarah on this other side and I will put in 3 or 4 stamps so you can send more letters to me

Dear sister Sarah

I will try and write you a few lines in this letter well sarah you must have a good dinner cooked up when I go home and be shure and have bockwheat cakes and lots of gravy to eat with them and then I will be satisfied but you kned not get the dinner for a few days yet for I aint shure when I will come home. well sarah you must keep in good hart untill us soldiers gets home and then you can let loose. Just wait untill I get hone and when winter comes again we can slay ride. but not this winter now sarah I will send you 2 postage stamps and i will send maria 2 and then you can write when you pleas. I believ did answer Marias letter one before but another will not hurt. I have al most gorgot to tell you that I and the wrest of the Boys is well and doing well well I must stop

I remain your Brother
write soon) A. K. Cleeland
verry so.) to Sarah Cleeland
 to Maria Cleeland

tell Morrison and Eliza to write oftener I send my love to all the folks

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A. K. Cleeland to John and Elisibeth Cleeland April 7, 1862

vacinity of Yorktown
the
April 7 1862

My Dear Parents

I received your kind letters one dated the 22 of march the other dated the 1 of April. and I got one from Lewis dated the 18 of march I got them all at once. Last knight and they pleased me verry much well father I am about 275 miles from old camp porter. we are lying on the old battle ground where Corn Wallace gave up his sword to George Washington. our Battery had been shelling the Rebbels for 2 or 3 days. and we are just waiting untill our Battery shells them out so that the infantry can make a charge on them. well father and mother you must not feel uneasy if you dont hear from me verry oftem for we are moveing every day or so. I am hearty and well and I feel as Contented as if I was at home

I hope the war will soon be over so that we can all meet again on earth. but if it is my lotto fall on the battle field I trust that we will meet in heaven. I still remember the morning that I left home it went verry hard but still I have never rhued the cause that I came for. this may be the last letter you will get from me for we are just waiting to go into a fight. I feel in good spirits and I have done my duty so far like a man I dont feel a bit afraid. I want you to keep in good hart. for we are whipping the Rebels every day and we are driving then to the see well I must stop. I will put this letter in one that william is sending home for my money is run out and we have not got our pay yet. so good By. from your son A. K. Cleeland

to John and Elisibeth Cleeland

A. K. Cleeland to Maria Cleeland

April 15, 1862

Dear Sister

Your letter came to hand the 14th of this month and I was much pleased to hear that you was all well and I was pleased to get them stamps you sent me. I could not rite home if you had not sent them we dont expect to get our pay untill the war is over. well Arthur are you well O yes I am well and harty. and I stand it lake a buck. well Maria there is a small battle thisafternoon it is just in sight of our Camp. it is our gun Boats fireing on the Rebels. we may be in it before morning and we may not I have been in one battle but did not have to fire on the Rebels. the Boys is all well and harty. we feel in hopes that we will get home before 3 years. I will soon be 18 years old thats so Well Maria it is a pitty for the old cow but if she dies you will have to let her dy I suppose. well Maria if you or sarah gets married begore I go home. you can have the old COW. you tell mother that I would like to pull that taffy out of that goose egg shell. tell her that I will fight hard to get it. well Maria this half sheet come verry good for I am out of paper to. but I will rite home as often as I can. you must not feel bad if you dont hear from me for now and then we get a chance to rite and sometimes we dont. I am on guard today and I am stealing time to rite home now Maria when you rite and send lots of news for it does me so much good to hear from home. tell father to not work to hard for fear his knees gets worse. I hope I will soon be home to help him well I must stop good By my respects to you all and all the girls. excuse me this time and the next time I will rite more Maria here is a peece of a (?cecesh?) woman dress which I found on my travels nothing more from your Broth

A. K. Cleeland

to Maria Cleeland

Apr 21

Dear Parents

I sit down to rite you a few lines to give you a small idea how we are getting along. well father I am well and harty and I feel in good spirrits. we are with in a mile or two of the Rebels and our Batteryes shells them and they shell us but these is only been a few killed with their shells. we expect to clean them out of York town before very long and if we gain the struggle. I think our fighting will be about over then the Rebels shells is flying over us every day but we dont care for that.. well father I suppose you hear pretty near all the news but you must not believe all you hear in the papers for the half is not so I got a letter from Maria some time ago and I got stamps that she sent and now I have sent two of them home again. I answered her letter and I thought I would rite again. when you rite tell me all the newes for I like to hear from home. Dear parents you must feel in good hart for I think it will not be long untill the war will be over and if I am spared you will see me slipping home some day. it will soon be the 25 of this month and then you know I will be 18 years old I am a verry young soldier but I stand it like a buck. I must stop for this is my last bit of paper rite soon from your son
give that other letter to J. C. Long

John & Elisabeth
Cleeland

A. K. Cleeland

and to his father John Cleeland

Well Slèmens

now it is your turn now what will I rite I hardly know I have rote about all that I know. well slemens there is lots of rebels down here they are as thick as the Hair on a dogs back. you have Yun up there treeing groundhogs. and I have fun down here treeing Rebels so we are both at work. well I suppose you are running the girls this summer like sam hill. you must get things fixed so when I go home we can have a big party and then we can run the girls. well slemens I will have a big story to tell you when I go home I have seen an awful sight since I left home more than I ever expected to see.. I rode on the cheesepeak Bay and I seen the atlantic eachen ocean and several other watters and while we was riding on the Boat when we come to the atlantic oacen I seen what they the sea hog they would jump up out of the water and they was 6 or 7 feet long and about a foot and a half through the shouldiers with a fish tail on well slemens I must stop pleas excuse my bad writeing and pour spelling nothing more from your Brother

A K Cleeland

J. S. Cleeland

rite soon

Dear Father

I now take my pen in hand to answer your welcome letter which came to hand the 28 of April and I was glad to hear from home. I was sorry to hear that your knees were no better but I hope they will not get worse--- well father you must not work to hard I want you to take the times as easy as posibel. I think if I ever get home I can help you along a little more than I used to. I was glad to hear that you had quit the horse whewing for it is hard work. I hope your Crops will all do well and I hope that Rail road will go on so it will make the times better. but the most I hope is that the war will come to a close. an I think it will before verry long. we will soon be ready to take york town and then I think that the secech will be prety near run out. we are busy working building roads and diging intrenchments so that we can save our men as much as posibel. we are insight of the rebels. I have seen lots of them. but I have not shot any yet. there is some talk that after the fight at yonktown if we are successful in whipping them that all the Pennsylvania volenteers will be sent home but not discharged. I hope it is so. well father I must come to a close. fron your

A. K. Cleeland

John Cleeland

rite soon

Copy: A. K. Cleeland to his mother, Elizabeth Cleeland

the
May 7 1862

Dear Mother

I sit down to give you all I know and it is likely a little more. well mother. I am well and doing as well as a soldier can. Hosea and William is well and the wrest of the Mercer Boys. well. Mother. we are lying near your town where the Rebels has their station. I have seen over a hundred rebels and I drawed sight on one. but he was to far off to hit him. I and the rest of the Boys was out the 26. of. april all day a digging intrenchments. at the start we had to crall on our hans and knees untill we got the intrenchments deep enough to stand in. all this time the rebels stood about 200 rds of with their sharps rifles trying to shoot us when our heads dodged above the ground. and our sharp shooters stood in the intrenchments & would Top them down like as many Pigeons. & then we was out the 28. of april at night and was out all knight diging in trenchments in another place where the rebels pickets and our pickets was about 15 rods apart & we had to begin on the top of the ground but the rebels did not see us. well Mother. on my Birthday I did not do anything but stay in camp. we dont drall any now for we have to take our turn a working on the forts . Our turn comes once every 2 or 4 days and then between times we take our turn on Picket so that it keeps us busy. but we are getting tough. we can soon eat hay. well mother we have got our pay once more but we only got \$26. so I guess I will not send any home this time. and I will send the next payment home. I want to pay for my watch and then a loaf of bread goes verry well now and then. well mother I got your letter the 28of April and I was glad to hear from home. well about me a getting that whipping my Birthday I guess would have been very doubtful. but I hope before another year rolls around. I will be a free man. well Mother tomorrow morning will make 9 months since that morning I left home. and I have had only had 2 letters from you and they was verry short. but I was glad to get them and I would like to get some more. now when you rite again rite me a great awful smashing big letter to pay up for this. I think I have done wonderful a riteing so big a letter as this. I think it would take me a half a day to read it. for it is so poorley done. but I hope you can make it out. well I must come to a close for I will have to rite father and slemens some. so good By. from your son.

rite soon
Ellsabeth Cleeland

A. K. Cleeland

A. K. Cleeland to John & Elisabeth Cleeland May 12, 1862

Camp near West point
May th 1862
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Dear Father and Mother

I sit down to give you a small history of times here. I am well as well as ever I did. well parents we have left york town and came about (?20) miles up york river to west point and then landed and now are in camp. last wendnesday there was a battle here and there was about 100 killed and wounded on our side and we got here in time to see them burying the dead. we did not see the fitht our regiment was out on a Reconoisance and went 2 or 3 miles in the Rebels land but did not see any Rebels. well father there is no doubt but what we will get home before Christmas next. for we are driving the Rebel back and they are avacuating there strong holds without fighting one bit. they left york town where they had 2 times the chance that we had. but we whiped them out with picks and shovels we dug right up under there noses and they was afraid that Mcclelan was under mining them and so they left and left 72 large guns on there forts and left amunition and camp kettels and almost everything. our troops is on there way to Rihmond. and we are expecting to go every day we are about 60 miles from Richmond well parents when you,rite tell me all the news and every thing that is going on. direct your letters the same as before theywill come to us. the Boys is all well. I hope you will have good luck with your Crops and stock. well mother I hope you will have good luck in keeping that goose egg for me I think it will not be long untill I can have the pleasure of picking the taffy out of it. the weather is very nice here now and I hope it will stay so we ll I believe I must come to a close and get my diner

You must excuse me for not righting more I have a poor way to rite I have rote on my knee and sit on the ground and I get very tired sitting so goodby from yourson

A. K. Cleeland

John Cleeland
Elisibath Cleeland
rite soon

I have a dollar yet just look at it

This is our Colonels picture and I want you mother to keep it untill I get home

(a small circle apparently a pencil rubbing of a coin shows after "llok at it")

Page 1. letter from A. K. Cleeland to sisters Maria & Sarah May 13 1862

Camp Near West Point the
May 13 1862

Dear Sister

This is a fine day and I thought I would have to write you a few lines to pass away the time O it may do you some good to. well Maria the first thing I will tell you is that the news is verry scarce but I think I can scare up enoughto keep you out of mischief a few minutes. I rote father two letters a short time ago. one of them is a great asful big one. o I think it will take the whole family to answer it the other one is not so big. I have not had a letter from home for some time. I believe not since that one that mother and father rote. now I want you to rite me a big letter and tell me all the news and about all the fashions that is going on. and wheather you get any beaux of not -----

Well Maria and Sarah when I get Lonesom I open my Knapsack and take a good look at you and Sarah and then I put them away and then go to soing my pants or Cleaning my gun or sonthing else well Maria we have good times here we dont have to drill much. the hardest we have is we have to eat hard crackers and Coffee and corn beef. and we get sugar to sweeten our coffee and some rice and mighty few lasses. and if we get any thing more we have to pay for it. but we are tough we can eat haye Well Maria I am well as ever and I hope I will remain so. well Maria Bill Ayers says he is well and he wants you to know it. Stephen Feather says he is well and he says it is so to..now maria when you rite you must send Bill Ayers a short letter in mine for he does not get any and he feels bad if you write him one you must tell him all the news about the girls and tell him how sarah J McCreary is getting along she is his sweet hart Bill is a good soldier he does his duty first rate well Maria I must rite sarah some so I will have to stop now rite all the news that is all I want now so good

Maria Cleeland

from

A. K. Cleeland

Dear Sister Sarah

I must rite you a few lines to you to let you know that I run off the line but I hope you will excuse my awardness this time well Sarah I have loud old times down here in old vaginia we are lying on the shore of york river but I dont know how long we will stay here it is althgeather likely that we will soo go to richmond-----our old chaplain said that he he was agoing to preach a full sermon in richmond next sunday but I guess he is mistaken for it will be im-
posibel to go there this week for we are about 60 miles froom there we sarah you must keep in good spiri
ts untill we get home.....

Well Sarah when you rite send me all the news and about your Beaux and about all the parties and every thing that is going on. it does me so much good to hear the news tell me who is agoingto teach our school this sumer if it a girl I will try and get home in time to hold her well sarah I must stop so good By

Sarah Cleeland

from A. K. Cleeland

rite soon verry soon

GOOD. BY. BILLEY

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A. K. Cleeland to Elisabeth Cleeland (His Mother) May (?29) 1862
and his father.

May the (?29) 1862

Dear Father

I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear from home I thought I would answer your letter right off before we go any furthur. Well father we are within 9 miles of Richmond it is likely we will be in Richmond before you get this letter from me well father our regiment has come in off Picket guard and we have had a hard time of it it rained pretty near lll the time that we was out but I only had to stand one trick just two hours I and one of our company stood together on post and one of us stood and one of us stood the furthust out of any of the rest. it made me feel for my country but I took it very easy I can go almost any place where there is danger and not feel afraid. I am getting used to it. I am as stout as a horse and I feel well and harty. I can eat 5 or 6 hardees for one meal and a nice chunk of fresh beef about 3 lbs.

It is so enough about the Merimac it was sent higher than kite. and that is the way the Rebels will go pretty soon. there was a contry band come to our regiment from the Rebels. and ther was a cap captain asked him if the Rebels was afraid of the yankies from the north a says he O my Lord if they was as affraid of .god.as they are of the yankies they would all have joined the church long ago. it mad quite a laugh among the Boys. well father I am glad that you are getting along so well. and that the Railroad is going along shure I hope I will be at home to help do something to..well Father you must keep in good hart for I think it will not be verry many months until we will all be home well I must stop

I still remain your soldier Boy

A. K. Cleeland
to
John Cleeland

rite soon

Now I must rite mother some My Dear Mother I will not write any more untill I get my dinner and then I can rite you a big letter. well Mother I have ate my dinner and I feel first rate. well mother your letter done me so much good. I was glad to hear from you. times herø is about as usual we still warring away and I supose will for a while. but I hope how soon it will be over with. well I supose Mr. Simon small is at home once more. and there is several of our company been discharged but I hope I will not get sick. I would rather put with all the hard ships than to be sick. I supose Om McNickel will break up now on the account of looseing his house. well mother I would like to be a pulling that taffy out of that goose egg shell but I suppose I will have to wait untill I am home. Well mother you must keep in good spirits and dont feel oneasy if you dont hear from me. verry often. I will write as often as I can wheather you rite or not but I want you to rite some in all letters that is sent from father. you can take time and rite a big one well Mother I think when we get to richmond our marching will be over for a while. but we dont march verry far in one day we dont go over 9 miles in one day for it is so warm that we cant stand it. some days it is hot

enough to schorch the hair off a negro ventch. they are all the weman that we see and some of them is as ugly as a mud fence stake and (2red) with bull frogs and chuncked with Pole cats well mother I must come to a close for my paper is not long enough so good by

from your Son
A. K. Cleeland

rite soon

Elisabeth Cleeland

Arthur K. Cleeland to his parents John and Elisabeth Cleeland

May the 1862

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Dear Parents

I sit down to answer your welcome letter which I received today well father I will tell you all about that (?note) it is all writht enough I have sent the money to her and it has had time to get home by this time. it was sent in a package with Hoseas and Wm and I directed it to Geroge smith that is -- her son and so if he has not got it yet. I think you had better see to it a little whenever Hosea and Williams mondy gets home smiths money will be along. it was sent to Old squire Phillips in one package and he is to distribute it to the owners. you just tell George Smith about it so when it comes he can get it. it is in an envellope so you must not feel sorry about it. it will all go wright. so nothing more about that. but something else of some importance

Dear father and mother I have had the luck to come safe through one battle which came off on Wednesday about (6)? oclock in the evening we did face them first from about 2 oclock that afternoon untill about dark and our regiment did not get a chance to fire on them untill about 6 oclock in the evening and then we seen the rebels marching in line of battle and at the same time we was marching in line of battle toward them and we had to go across the railroad and as soon as our regiment clum the bank the rebels about faced and shot one volley at us but we seen the flash of the guns and we all fell to the ground and there bullets done us no harm. then we all sprunt up and and poured a volly in to them and they run like the Devil. and we advanced after them as quick as possibel and they retreated in to the woods 'so fast and us so tired that we could not catch them we was about 8000 yards from them when we shot at them. well father I just shot 4 times at them while thay stood and had the fifth load in my gun just ready to do it. again. after the battle was over it was said that our brigade sent back ll hundred prisoners besides them that was killed the next day after the fight the rebels sent up a train of cares loaded with sugar and tobacko and salt and lots of everything and we captured them I got about 6 lbses of sugar and our regiment got all they wanted and I and one of our boys in our company caught a nice yearland sheep and it was fat and we killed it and I have all the mutton I want the rest of our company killed a two year old bull and yearland bull and they were pretty fat and so we all had plenty. we dont eat all that we draw from Uncle sam Well father and mother I feel well and harty and I feel bulley after the fight. I never felt better in my life than I did while we was in the fight. I though we was pretty tired we had walked about 20 miles before we fought any well I must come to a close saying that our company did not loose a man. well father I just gave you a small sketch about the battle I suppose you will hear all about it in the papers noting more I believe tell slemens I will rite to him the next time well mother I will put in 2 stamps of the cecesh states. I got a rebels knapsack and I got a good pair of socks and alot of stamps and a lot of letters. I will put in one rebel stamp envellope so fare well father and mother from your son

rite soon
verry soon

A K Cleeland

John and Elisabeth
Cleeland

I have put in a rebel stamp

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A. K. Cleeland to John and Elisabeth Cleeland July 14 1862

July 14 1862

Dear Parents

I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that i an still gaining slowly. but I still keep so weak that that I can hardly walk around Hosea is gitting better and william is not so well this morning it will take a long while for his wound to get well it looks worse now than it did before. the rest of the Boys is getting a long about as usual. well father our Colonel was killed on the field and so was our magor. our Captain was not killed but got a slight wound on the hip. he is gone home well father I could tell you a gread eal more but I dont feel like writeing much now. I hope I will soon be at home and them I can tell you a great eal more but I suppose I wont see home yet a while well father our regiment numbers 200 men sick and wounded and all together. there is about one hundred sick and so that leaves about 100 fit for duty. I dont think they will take us in annothe battle until we get alot of recruits I hope that we will never have to go in to action again. for we are all satisfied - at leasst I am. but if I have to fight again I will fight till i dy before I will surrender that is my principal. we father I got your letters that was mailed July the 5 I was glad to hear from you. Well mother I want you to take good care of our Colonel Picture so if I ever get home I can see him again. well father I wish you would stick 3 or 4 stamps in your next letter for I have not got any. that day of the fight we lost our knapsacks and all that was in them I lost 30 stamps one quire of writing paper 25 envelopes 2 good shirts 1 tent 1 blanket 1 rubber and what makes me feel so bad I lost Sarahs and Marias Pictures if I only had a got the pictures I would not have cared so much well father & mother I want you to not feel bad about me for I think we will get a rest a while now nothing more from your

Son

A K Cleeland

John & Elisabeth Cleeland

*Record from National Archives received death Aug 5, 1862
at Harrison Landing, Virginia
[unclear]*