

Camp Seward November 23rd 1862

Dear wife I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all. The same we are still here in the same place but we do not know how long we shall stay here we may be ordered to the front party soon but we all believe that if Burnside takes Richmond that the war will soon end. The news here is that he is now in Richmond and lost 60 thousand men. Tell Louisa that James Marvel is in our company he has been sick in the hospital but is well and is going to stay with us until he can go to his regiment. Fred Tanager was here too we had a first rate dinner to day on opossum. There is plenty game here but we do not get much I have been around in the country and it is all laid waste the woods are all cut down and houses torne down and land laid waste it is horabel to think that so many lives and so much property is all ready destroyed by this wicked rebellion and it is more so to see it a person has no idea at the destruction there is 7 forts in

sight of our camp and there is earth works
thrown up in front 40 miles long so that
if Jackson was to give up the hope of keeping
burnsides out of richmond it would not be
any use for him to come this way some
thinks that it will make him mad and
he would try to take washington i would
like to know what is the reason you do not
answer my letters i have sent 2 before this
i expect you have got one letter from the
relief society it is to send you so much
money every week i do not know when
we shall get paid off i want to know how
you are getting ~~along~~ along and how much
you get from the society if you do not
want to answer my letters let me know it
as i am in the enemys land and parted from
you one whoo i prize more than life and
may neve see anymore on earth i would
like to here from you but i feel that god is
my strength and i believe that we i shal
get home if i do not weap not for mee for
i intend by the grace of god to meet you
in heaven try and let me know what
is going on tell Johnny that i do not
forget him no more at presant but
Still remane your
Husband Stephen J. Buckson
I have an Loving

Camp Seward, November 23, 1862.

Dear wife:

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all the same. We are still here in the same place but we do not know how long we shall stay here. We may be ordered to the front pretty soon but we all believe that if Burnside takes Richmond that the war will soon end. The news here is that he is now in Richmond and lost 60 thousand men. Tell Loviana that James Marvel is in our company. He has been sick in the hospital but is well and is going to stay with us until he can go to his regiment. Fred Waganer was here too -- we had a first rate dinner today on opossum. There is plenty game here but we do not get much. I have been around in the country and it is all laid waste. The woods are all cut down and houses torn down and land laid waste. It is horrible to think that so many lives and so much property is all ready destroyed by this wicked rebellion and it is more so to see it. A person has no idea at the destruction. ~~There is 7 first~~ There is 7 first forts in sight of our camp and there is earth works thrown up in front 40 miles long so that if Jackson was to give up the hope of keeping Burnside out of Richmond it would not be any use for him to come this way. Some thinks that it will make him ~~mad~~ mad and he would try to take Washington. I would like to know what is the reason you do not answer my letters. I have sent 2 before this. I expect you have got one letter from the relief society. It is to send you so much money every week. I do not know when we shall get paid off. I want to know how you are getting along and how much you get from the society. If you do not want to answer my letters let me know it, as I am in the enemy's land and parted from you, one who I prize more than life and may never see anymore on earth. I would like to hear from you but I feel that God is my strength and I believe that I shall get home if I do not weep--not for me for I intend by the grace of God to meet you in Heaven. Try and let me know what is going on tell Johnny that I do not forget him. No more at present, but still remain your true and loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson

directions, Camp Seward, Virginia, Near Washington, D. C.
4th regt. Del. Vol. Company G

Camp Vermont Virginia

December 17th 1862

Dear Wife i take this oportunit
to inform you that i am well
and i hope that these few
lines will find you the same
we left camp seaward last
friday and marched down to
camp vermont and staid all
knight and next day we went
on picket and returned to day
all safe yesterday i went to
mount vernon and seen the
place where gen Washington
lived and died and seen the
coffin of washington and his wife
i am sorry that i cannot get
some money but i cannot
and you must not think hard
of me if i was your phace
i would try to stay with

with mother and when we get some
money you can pay them for
their trouble tel mother muncy
tht i have not forgotten her nor
her daughter i hope to see
beter days and i trust in god
that i shall be ^{able} to spend my
last days with those i love
it greive my heart that i no money
but if you can make out it will
be good when it comes we must trust
in god and we shall not be forsaken
i sent a coat and pants and filler
base and some little things from camp
Dupont by burnett Direct your
leter to camp vermont near
Hunting Creek Head Quarters
Washington no more at presant
but still remain your true
and loving husband give my
love to Johnny and all the rest
write soon tell avry ^{to tell me all} to write and

Camp Vermont, Virginia.
December 17th. 1862.

Dear wife:

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and I hope that these few lines will find you the same. We left cap Seward last Friday and marched down to Camp Vermont and staid all night and next day we went on picket and returned today all safe. Yesterday I went to Mount Vernon and see the place where Gen. Washington lived and died and seen the coffin of Washington and his wife. I am sorry that I cannot get some money but I cannot and you must not think hard of me. If I was in your place I would try to stay with mother and when we get some money you can pay them for their trouble. Tell mother Muncey that I have not forgotten her nor her daughter. I hope to see better days and I trust in God that I shall be able to spend my last days with those I love. It grieves my heart that I have no money but if you can make out it will be good when it comes. We must trust in God and we shall not be forsaken. I sent a coat and pants and pillow case and some little things from camp Dupont by Burnett. Direct your letter to Camp Vermont near Hunting Creek Headquarters, Washington. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband. Give my love to Johnny and all the rest. Write soon. Tell Avery to write and tell me all.

(end of letter.)

Camp Gilpin January 11th 1865

Dear Wife i take this opportunity of informing you that i am well at presant an hope that these few lines will find you all the same i recieved your letter from dover and was glad to hear from you i have sent annother letter before this that you have not answered and now i send annother and you will get no more untill you answer this you say you felt uneasy about me you get more letters from me than i do from you i am allways glad to hear from you and to answer your letters i hope that you will not see any troublil about my wellfare for as i have said before we are well provided for i am glad that you are geting along so well we expect to get payd of this month i have every thing that i need but post stamps and evry thing to make me hapy except the presance of those i love and some of your grumbling letters you know as well as i do that i did not leave you with the intention of leting you suffer i think more of my self than that and you know it i felt it my duty to serve my country and you will see the day that you

will be glad of it i told you in the last letter that i recieved your present i do not believe that you have to live allone long after you move for i believe that the war will soon be over the negroes are all free and they puting them in the servise and making them do all the hard work cutting wood and building fortifycations there is already several regaments in the field and they are coming over fast it is going to waken the south more than any els that could be done they will have to till their land their selves and their soldiers are deserting and coming in to our lines evorday and they look very hard half clothed and half starved the troops on the other side of the river made a recoincoince within 12 miles of richmond last week and captured about 10 thousand dollers worth of rell property you say you have no desire to live but i do i hope to see batter days but if it should be the wil of god that we should never meet on earth let us live so that we may meet in heven where there is no more parting you say that you have no one to care for you you ought not to talk that way for i assure you that i do care for you and i think it is enough for me to be parted from

you without your talking so cold to me i did not think that one like you could serve me so while i am trying to uphold the free institutions which our fore fathers fought and side to uphold you know that i had rather bee at home with you but my cuntry calls me away it to our credit not to desert if we never get any pay we are not fighting for negroes but our country and if you are a mind to listen to peace men like samuel moor do it Just such men are worse than the Devil himself now i do not want to hear such stuff tel mrs burnet that Jimmy is well we are all well i caught a lot of ~~sisters~~ yesterday we had preaching here this morning we have a regamented church here and we ~~she~~ have all joined it and i am still striving to serve the lord and i feel the benefit of religion more than ever it often gives me more enpleasure than any thing els i have a hope of meeting with those that have gone before let us put our trust in god he has been our friend and never will forsake us we think it likely that we shall stay here all the time if we do we ought to be thankful if we never see no worse times than we have we shall be blesed i believe the

Camp Gilpin, Jan. 11th, 1863.

Dear wife:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well at present and hope that these few lines will find you all the same. I received your letter from Dover and was glad to hear from you. I have sent another letter before this that you have not answered and now I send another and you will get no more until you answer this. You say you felt uneasy about me. You get more letters from me than I do from you. ~~and I always answer your letters~~ I am always glad to hear from you and to answer your letters. I hope that you will not see any trouble about my welfare for as I have said before we are well provided for. I am glad that you are getting along so well. We expect to get paid off this month. I have everything that I need but post stamps and everything to make me happy except the presence of those I love and some of your grumbling letters. You know as well as I do that I did not leave you with the intention of letting you suffer. I think more of myself than that and you know it. I felt it my duty to serve my country and you will see the day that you will be glad of it. I told you in the last letter that I received your presents. I do not believe that you have to live alone long after you move for I believe that the war will soon be over. The negroes are all free and they are putting them in the service and making them do all the hard work cutting wood and building fortifications. There is already several regiments in the field and they are coming over fast. It is going to weaken the south more than any thing else that could be done. They will have to till their land themselves and their soldiers are deserting and coming in to our lines every day, and they look very hard, half clothed and half starved. The troops on the other side of the river made a reconnoissance within 12 miles of Richmond last week and captured about 10 thousand dollars worth of rebel property. You say you have no desire to live but I do hope to see better days, but if it should be the will of God that we should never meet on earth let us live so that we may meet in Heaven where there is no more parting. You say that you have no one to care for you. You ought not to talk that way for I assure you that I do care for you and I think it is enough for me to be parted from you without your talking so cold to me. I did not think that one like you could serve me so while I am trying to uphold the free institutions which our forefathers fought and died to uphold. You know that I had rather be at home with you but my country calls me away. It is to our credit not to desert if we never get any pay. We are not fighting for negroes but our country and if you are a mind to listen to peace men like Samuel Moore do it, just such men are worse than the devil himself. Now I do not want to hear such stuff. Tell Mrs. Burnet that Jimmy is well. We are all well. I caught a lot of oysters yesterday. We had preaching here this morn-

Camp Gilpin January 31th 1865

Dear Wife I take this
Opportunity to inform you that
I am well and hope these
few lines will find you the
same I received your
kind letter of the 24th and
was glad to hear from you
and all the rest it dose
me good to hear from one
so dear to me as you are I
was sorry to hear that you
was sick we have had 3 dead
in the regiment we are all
doing well as can be the
weather is moderate down
here you are having a miting
going on and I am glad I
hope that it will be a good
one i belive i can say

with a truth that I am
going in grace I try to
offer you and Johnny to
the savior in prayer try to
to put your trust in god
and in his own time he
will make all wright we
have good metings here and
wash has joined the the
the church and alex
harper has stoped swaring
and drinking and him
and voshel has stoped playing
cards I think there has
been some good done here
I think we shall soon
get some money but if
I do not and if the union
men lets Fox sell your things
From you i shall think
it verry hard but let us

Trust in god^{as} we have done
before many times he has never
forsaken us and never will
he sticketh closer than a brother
you say you thank god for my
safty we have great reason
to thank him for i never had
my health beter in the world
and never knew the benifit
of religion as i do now if i
live to get home i shall
be a differant man in many
respects my disposition is
becomming changed I like
to hear from home i hope that
the bord will preserve our health
I belive there will bee 3 or 4
hundred dollers raised for
mrs fowler to buy a house
and lot for her I said I
would answer your letters

try to enjoy your self the
best you can and trust in
god and i believe i shall soon
be home man love Kasel
sends his respects to you
give my love to Johnny
and tel him to be a good
boy give my respects to all
my friends and tell them
to rite to me i have no
money to get paper with
i do not believe that we shall
ever move from here untill the
ware is over nomore at present
write soon I still remain
your true and loving husband
untill Death

Stephen J. Buckson
Let us try to meet in
heaven

Camp Gilpin, January 31, 1863.

Dear Wife:

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I received your kind letter of the 24th and was glad to hear from you and all the rest. It does me good to hear from one so dear to me as you are. I was sorry to hear that you was sick. We have had 3 die in the regiment. We are all doing well as can be. The weather is moderate down here. You are having a meeting going on and I am glad. I hope that it will be a good one. I believe I can say with a truth that I am ~~gai~~ growing in grace. I try to offer you and Johnny to the Savior in prayer, try to put your trust in God, and in his own time he will make all right. We have good meetings here and Wash has joined the church and Alex Harper has stopped swearing and drinking, and him and Voshel has stopped playing cards. I think there has been some good done here. I think we shall soon get some money, but if I do not and if the Union men lets Fox sell your things from you I shall think it very hard, but let us trust in God as we have done before many times. He has never forsaken us and never will. He sticketh closer than a brother. You say you thank God for my safety. We have great reason to thank him for I never had my health better in the world and never knew the benefit of religion as I do now. If I live to get home I shall be a different man in many respects. My disposition is becoming changed. I like to hear from home. I hope that the Lord will preserve our health. I believe there will be 3 ~~or~~ 4 hundred dollars raised for Mrs. Fowler to buy a house and a lot for her. I said I would answer your letters. Try to enjoy yourself the best you can and trust in God and I believe I shall soon be home. Manlove Hazel sends his respects to you. Give my love to Johnny and tell him to be a good boy. Give my respects to all my friends, and tell them to write to me. I have no money to get paper with. I do not believe that we shall ever move from here until the war is over. No more at present. Write soon. I still remain your true and loving husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson

Let us try to meet in Heaven.

Camp Gilpin January 11th 1863

Dear Wife i take this opportunity of informing you that i am well at presant an hope that these few lines will find you all the same i recieved your letter from dover and was glad to hear from you i have sent annother letter before this that you have not answered and now i send annotha and you will get no more untill you answer this you say you felt uneasy about me you get more letters from me than i do from you i am allways glad to hear from you and to answer your letters i hope that you will not see any troubbel about my wellfare for as i have said before we are well provided for i am glad that you are geting along so well we expect to get payd of this month i have every thing that i need but post stamps and every thing to make me hapy except the presance of those i love and some of your grumbling letters you know as well as i do that i did not leave you with the intention of leting you suffer i think more of my self than that and you know it i felt it my duty to serve my country and you will see the day that you

will be glad of it i told you in the last letter that i recieved your present's i do not believe that you have to live allone long after you move for i believe that the war will soon be over the negroes are all free and they puting them in the servise and making them do all the hard work cutting wood and building fortifycations there is already several regaments in the field and they are coming over fast it is going to weaken the south more than any els that could bee done they will have to till their land their selves and their soldiers are deserting and coming in to our lines everday and they look verry hard half clothed and half starved the troops on the other side of the river made a recoincoince within 12 miles of richmond last week and captured about 10 thousand dollers worth of rebel property you say you have no desire to live but i do i hope to see better days but if it should be the wil of god that we should never meet on earth let us live so that we may meet in heven where there is no more parting you say that you have no one to care for you you ought not to talk that way for i assure you that i do care for you and i think it is enough for me to be parted from

you without your talking so cold to me i did not think that one like you could serve me so while i am trying to uphold the free institutions which our fore fathers fought and died to uphold you know that i had rather be at home with you but my country calls me away it to our credit not to desert if we never get any pay we are not fighting for negroes but our country and if you are a mind to listen to peace men like samuel moor do it Just such men are worse than the Devil himself now i do not want to hear such stuff tel mrs burnet that Jimmy is well we are all well i caught a lot of ~~asters~~ yesterday we had preaching here this morning we have a regamentel church here and we ~~she~~ have all joined it and i am still striving to serve the lord and i feel the benefit of religion more than ever it often gives me more enpleasure than any thing els i have a hope of meeting with those that have gone before let us put our trust in god he has been our friend and never will forsake us we think it likely that we shall stay here all the time if we do we ought to be thankful if we never see no worse times than we have we shall be blesed i believe the

provide let us therefore trust him i have taking
some verses from the smyrna times that i
believe were written by brother chatham
on the death of sally if he did not i
think it verry appoate i want you to write
soon and let me know all about how you are getting
along and the times are i have just been taking
a walk along the river and aout in the
country and it is the nicest place that
i have ever seen and i was thinking
that while i was enjoying my self you
was greiving over me for fear that i
was suffering now do not troubel yourself
if i could know that you was happy
i should be perfectly happy i hope the
next letter i get from you that you
will be betw contented i hope you will
try to be Direct your letter as before
no more at presant but still
remane yours truly and ever
faithful husband untill Death

Stephen. G. Buckson

Camp Gilpin, Jan. 11th, 1863.

Dear wife:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well at present and hope that these few lines will find you all the same. I received your letter from Dover and was glad to hear from you. I have sent another letter before this that you have not answered and now I send another and you will get no more until you answer this. You say you felt uneasy about me. You get more letters from me than I do from you. ~~and I answer your letters as fast as I can~~ I am always glad to hear from you and to answer your letters. I hope that you will not see any trouble about my welfare for as I have said before we are well provided for. I am glad that you are getting along so well. We expect to get paid off this month. I have everything that I need but post stamps and everything to make me happy except the presence of those I love and some of your grumbling letters. You know as well as I do that I did not leave you with the intention of letting you suffer. I think more of myself than that and you know it. I felt it my duty to serve my country and you will see the day that you will be glad of it. I told you in the last letter that I received your presents. I do not believe that you have to live alone long after you move for I believe that the war will soon be over. The negroes are all free and they are putting them in the service and making them do all the hard work cutting wood and building fortifications. There is already several regiments in the field and they are coming over fast. It is going to weaken the south more than any thing else that could be done. They will have to till their land themselves and their soldiers are deserting and coming in to our lines every day, and they look very hard, half clothed and half starved. The troops on the other side of the river made a reconnoissance within 12 miles of Richmond last week and captured about 10 thousand dollars worth of rebel property. You say you have no desire to live but I do hope to see better days, but if it should be the will of God that we should never meet on earth let us live so that we may meet in Heaven where there is no more parting. You say that you have no one to care for you. You ought not to talk that way for I assure you that I do care for you and I think it is enough for me to be parted from you without your talking so cold to me. I did not think that one like you could serve me so while I am trying to uphold the free institutions which our forefathers fought and died to uphold. You know that I had rather be at home with you but my country calls me away. It is to our credit not to desert if we never get any pay. We are not fighting for negroes but our country and if you are a mind to listen to peace men like Samuel Moore do it, just such men are worse than the devil himself. Now I do not want to hear such stuff. Tell Mrs. Burnet that Jimmy is well. We are all well. I caught a lot of oysters yesterday. We had preaching here this morn-

Camp Gilpin February 7th 1863
Dear wife I recieved your letter
of the 3rd and was glad to hear
from you I am well at present
and hope these few lines will
find you the same i have
Just riter to you and sent
you 45 dollars by our preacher
to wilmingtion and then Sally
Maclary is to bring it to you
i want you to let me know
if you get it you say you
have a greatdeal to tel me but
you are afraid i do not think you
mead not fear you need not
write any thing that would
get us in troubel Ted Johnny
that i have not shaved yet
and i am as fat as a hog
i never had my helth beter in
my life

you would laugh to hear the
women talk down here they
say dat are niga caud me
alia and when they get
ready to do any thing they
say i got right I am ready
to ~~go~~ ^{to go to} de ^{cornel} conny to git a pas to go
ofer dare but i had no ^{canoe} runner
no more at presant but still
remane your true and loving
husband until death

Stephen. Y. Buckson

we have just heard that
Thomas Reaves is Dead.

Camp Hilpin, Feb. 7th. 1863.

Dear wife:

I received your letter of the 3rd, and was glad to hear from you. I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have just written to you and sent you 45 dollars by our preacher to Wilmington and then Sally Maclary is to bring it to you. I want you to let me know if you get it. You say you have a great deal to tell me but you are afraid. I do not think you need not fear. You need not write anything that would get us in trouble. Tell Johnny that I have not shaved yet, and I am as fat as a hog. I never had my health better in my life. You would laugh to hear the women talk down here. They say dat are niga caud me a lia and when they get ready to do anything they say I got right dam reddy to to to de cornel (colonel) to git a pas to go ober dare but I had no cunner (canoe).

No more at present, but still remain, your true and loving husband, until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.

We have just heard that Thomas Reeves is dead.

March 17th 1863

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point
Dear wife i take pleasure of
answering yours of the 9th
i am sorry you are sick and in
trouble i am well and i hope
these few lines will find you
the same you spoke of Sally
i was on picket last night
and as i lay at the shanty door
looking at the waves wash on
the river shore i thought of
you and longed to see this
war over and see with you
but we must trust in god and
he will mak all things right
in his own good time and i
saw a bright star and i
thought that Sally was
a bright star to lead us to
god and i felt pappy to know

that it was our privelige to
meet our children and friends
in heaven and iff we never
meet on earth that ~~tho~~ will
make our meating in heaven
much happyer and every troubel
will make our crown brighter
and brighter you know i am always
willing to forgive and i hope
that you will bee better contented
when you get this letter i hope
you will always have grace
for your day and trials i am
glad that you can trust in god
we can always find comfort in
Christ i do forgive you with all
my heart and i must say that
you are nearer and dearer to me
than ever for you have proven
your self a true wife and
a christian and i can hardly
forgive my self but continue

to pray for me and i will pray
for you and the lord will answer
our prayers you must not be broken
hearted but be lively and
trust in god give my love
to Johnny and tell him i
often think of him and i
want him to tell me about
his dog and you must learn
him his book for i see here
the fruits of ignorance you can
not imagine how dumb these
peopel are give my love to
all your peopel and all inquiring
friends there is no news here
only we expect to stay here all
summer and i want you to
hunt up my drum hooks and
get me some trout hooks and a line
but do not send them untill
i let you know we expect
the pay master tomorow

Tell my friends i want
them to write to me and let me
know the news and to send me
some papers something to read
nomore at presant but still
Remane yur Rver true and
loving husband untill
Death

Stephen J. Buckson

Camp Gvilpin, Gloucester Pt.

March 12, 1863.

Dear wife:

I take pleasure of answering yours of the 9th. I am sorry you are sick and in trouble. I am well and I hope these few lines will find you the same. You spoke of Sally. I was on picket last night and as I lay at the shanty door looking at the waves wash on the river shore I thought of you and longed to see this war over and be with you, but we must trust in God and he will make all things right in His own good time, and I saw a bright star and I thought that Sally was a bright star to lead us to God and I felt happy to know that it was our privilege to meet our children and friends in Heaven and if we never meet on earth that we will make our meeting in Heaven much happier and every trouble will make our crown brighter and brighter. You know I am always willing to forgive and I hope that you will be better contented when you get this letter. I hope you will always have grace for your day and trials. I am glad that you can trust in God. We can always find comfort in Christ. I do forgive you with all my heart and I must say that you are nearer and dearer to me than ever for you have proven yourself a true wife and a Christian, and I can hardly forgive myself, but continue to pray for me and I will pray for you and the Lord will answer our prayers. You must not be broken hearted but be lively and trust in God. Give my love to Johnny and tell him I often think of him and I want him to tell me about his dog and you must learn him his book for I see here the fruits of ignorance. You cannot imagine how dumb these people are. Give my love to all your people and all inquiring friends. There is no news here only we expect to stay here all summer and I want you to hunt up my drum hooks and get me some trout hocks and a line, but do not send them until I let you know. We expect the paymaster tomorrow. Tell my friends I want them to write to me and let know the news and to send me some papers, something to read. No more at present but still remain your ever true and loving husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.

March 16th 1865

Gloucester Point Camp Gilpin

Dear wife i take this opportunity of informing you that i am well and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your letter of the 15th and was glad to hear from you we have a gooddeal of rain here but it is not verry cold and we have the nicest place here i ever seen it's dry as soon as it is done raning we have good dry tents with floors in them and are fixed up verry nice there is verry few sick there is but 3 or 4 in the hospital some have colds from being on picket that dose not take care of themselves i am glad that you are allways so willing to forgive and to put your trust in god i do pray for you so let

us still put our trust in god and
he will never leave nor forsake
us he has kept us this long and will
keep us to the end you must see
mr Buck and tell him he must
fix up the house and fence or
let you have ^{it} done if you have
got no hen house you had better
get some one to fix up one i
with you believe with you that
the war will be over before next
winter for the rebs has got nothing
hardly to live on and i feare
that they are fighting with
one another and that there is
a peace commetty in richmond
and is kept secret but it
will soon be published in the
papers now i pray to god it
may be so give my best respects
to your mother and father and

all the rest of our friends
and to Johnny and tel him
to be a good boy i have not
shaved nor do not intend to
intill i come home it is naturall
that we should want to see
each other but let us make
the sacrafice with a willing
mind for god will make all
things right if ther is no ~~school~~
school you must not let Johnny
run about to much and learn
him at home the name of our
fort is fort Keeses and it is strongly
fortyfied there is about 2.000 men
on this side of the river and 2
batterys and on york side there
is 6 or 8.000 men The whole
town is a fort by the name of
york town and is strongly
fortyfied some 3.00 large cannon

and there is 3 gun boats here
the rebs has a bad show here
our fort is rite along sid our
camp so we have to strike tents so
they can shot over them we
was called out last knight but
went back to bed with out a
fight it is reported that there
is some rebs out side the lines
to stop our men from cutting
wood but we have sent 3
companys out to guard them
and we have got some
cavelry scouts out and you
need not be alarmed for they
cannot take us by surprise and
there is not force enough to
do anything els for we can
drive back a fild full of them
withe that fort and by gods
help which i believe we have
and it is better than cannons

March 16th. 1863.

Gloucester Point, Camp Gilpin.

Dear Wife:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I received your letter of the 13th and was glad to hear from you. We have a good deal of rain here but it is not very cold and we have the nicest place here I ever ~~xiix~~ seen. It is dry as soon as it is done raining. We have good dry tents with ~~six~~ floors in them and are fixed up very nice. There is very few sick. There is but 3 or 4 in the hospital. Some have colds from being on picket that does not take care of themselves. I am glad that you are always so willing to forgive and to put your trust in God. I do pray for you so let us still put our trust in God and he will never leave nor forsake us. He has kept us this long and will keep us to the end. You must see Mr. Buck and tell him he must fix up the house and fence or let you have it done if you have got no hen house you had better get some one to fix up one. I with you believe with you that the war will be over before next winter for the rebs has got nothing hardly to live on and I hear that they are fighting with one another and that there is a peace committee in Richmond, and is kept secret but it will soon be published in the papers. Now I pray to God it may be, so give my best respects to your mother and father and all the rest of our friends, and to Johnny and tell him to be a good boy. I have not shaved nor do not intend to until I come home. It is natural that we should want to see each other, but let us make the sacrifice with a willing mind for God will make all things right. ~~if~~ If there is no school you must not let Johnny run about too much and learn him at home. The name of our Fort is Fort Keyes, and it is strongly fortified. There is about 2000 men on this side of the river and 2 batterys and on York side there is 6 or 8000 men. The whole town is a fort by the name of Yorktown and is strongly fortified. some 300 large cannon and there is ~~ax~~ 3 gun boats here. The rebs has a bad show here. Our fort is right alongside our camp so we have to strike tents so they can shoot over them. We was called out last night but went back to bed without a fight. It is reported that there is some rebs outside the lines to stop our men from cutting wood, but we have sent 3 companies out to guard them and we have got some cavalry scouts out and you need not be alarmed for they cannot take us by surprise, and there is not force enough to do anything else for we can drive back a field full of them with that fort and by God's ~~hax~~ help which I believe we have, and it is better than cannons

Balance missing



March 22nd 1863

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point
Dear wife i received your kind letter
last night and was glad to hear from
you but was sorry to hear that you
was unwell but i hope you will
soon be better i am well at presant
and hope these few lines will find
you the same it commenced to snow
here on the 19th and the snow was
about 12 inches deep but it is now
clear and warm and the snow is
melting very fast we have had
very good weather generally and
there is but little mud there is
no news here i want 2 good large
trout lines so they will do to catch
drums with you ought to get the
boys to cut a ditch from the yard
to the ditch along the road so the
water will run off the pay master
has not come

and i do not know when he will
come but the money will be good
when it comes tell Johnny not
to worry himself over me for i am
doing as well as i could at home and
better but it is hard to be parted
from those we love but the lord
will provide and when we meet
it will be a happy meeting and
i believe it will be better for us
i hope you will still put your trust
in god and pray for me and i will
pray for you and the lord will
make all things wright in his own
good time give my love to all our friends
and tell mother that i would like to
see all of them lieutenant Burnet was
a Juror on some court marshels over
some men but i do not know
what they done with them for
Burnet is not allowed to tell but its

will be in the papers Capt Maclary
had nothings to do with it there
was two men hung in york town
for murder but they were tried
at fortres monroe this is sunday
morning and the sun is shining
nice this is a lovely place if
it were peacibel times i would
love to live here i believe i
could make a good living here
i rather live here than any place
i ever seen if slavery is done away
this will be as good a country as there
is in the union and will be a good
place for poor men our regament went
on picket today i shall go on next
saturday i went about 2 miles out
side the lines yesterday with a squad
of men to guard some wood chopors
and evry thing looks like starvation
they are half naked and evry thing

is so high and scarce they can hardly
get any thing they want and
i cant see how they can hold
out much longer they must give
up or starve there is meeting
here this morning but shall
not get to go as i am tired by
being out yesterday and i want
to answer your kind letter but
i do not forget that god sees me
and i pray while i write that
god will bless you and Johnny
and my self and watch over
us he has kept us thus far and
is still able to keep us to the
end if we put our trust in him
no more at presant but still
remane your faithful and loving
husband untill Death may god
Stephen ¹⁴ J. Backson

bless you

March 22, 1863.

Camp Gilpin, Gloucester Point.

Dear wife:

I received your kind letter last night and was glad to hear from you, but was sorry to hear that you was unwell, but I hope you will soon be better. I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you the same. It commenced to snow here on the 19th and the snow was about 12 inches deep but it is now clear and warm and the snow is melting very fast. We have had very good weather generally and there is but little mud. There is no news here. I want 2 good large trout lines so they will do to catch drums with. You ought to get the boys to cut a ditch ~~at~~ from the yard to the ditch along the road so the water will run off. The paymaster has not come and I do not know when he will come but the money will be ~~gitt~~ good when it comes. Tell Johnny not to worry himself over me for I am doing as well as I could at home and better, but it is hard to be parted from those we love, but the Lord will provide and when we meet it will be a happy meeting, and I believe it will be better for us. I hope you will still put your trust in God and pray for me and I will pray for you and the Lord will make all things right in his own good time. Give my love to all our friends and tell mother that I would like to see all of them. Leut. Burnet was a juror on some court martials over some men but I do not know what they done with them for Burnet is now allowed to tell, but it will be in the papers. Capt. Maclary had nothing to do with it. There was two men hung in Yorktown for murder but they were tried at Fortress Monroe. This is Sunday morning and the sun is shining nice. This is a lovely place if it were peaceable times. I would love to live here. I believe I could make a good living here. I'd rather live here than any place I ever seen if slavery is done away. This will be as good a country as there is in the Union and will be a good place for poor men. Our regiment went on picket today and I shall go on next Saturday. I went about 2 miles outside the lines yesterday with a squad of men to guard some wood choppers and everything looks like starvation. They are half naked and everything is so high and scarce they can hardly get anything they want and I can't see how they can hold out much longer. They must give up or starve. There is a meeting here this morning but shall not get to go as I am tired by being out yesterday and I want to answer your kind letter but I do not forget that God sees me and I pray while I write that God will bless you and Johnny and myself and watch over us. He has kept us thus far and is still able to keep us to the end if we put our trust in Him. No more at present, but still remain your faithful and loving husband until death. May God bless you.

Stephen T. Buckson.

Camp Gilpin April 7th 1863

Dear Wife

I take this opportunity of informing you that i am well at presant and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your kind and wetcom letter last knight and was glad to hear from you it does my heart good to get long and kind letters from you i hope Johnny will soon get well tell him to be a good boy and that i expect the war will soon be over and we shall get home hooker has crossed the rappahannock and taken fredrecksburg and the cavelry from the right of his army crossed in the rear of the rebs within 6 miles of richmond and cut of their supplies and burneed the bridges and tore up the rail road as they came in and come to our camp yesterday safe they done the rebs a great amount dammage it is one of the greatets scouts ever known they taken a large amount of prisoners and horses and destroyed lots of provission there is troops going up the yook river now while i write and richmond must fall we are geting the rebs Just where we want them we have not got any orders to march yet nor do not expect to for there must be some troops here

we are doing well. I am sorry we have lost
the money i am sorry that we have no boddy
to push the matter. it seams to me that the post
master ought to be accountabel for the letter
the postage was paid and we can prove that
it was mailed in dover but if it is gone
let us put our trust in god we can say with
Job the lord giveth and the lord taketh away
blessed be the name of the lord so let us put our
trust in god i would like to be one to go into
Richmond but i will let you know if we get
orders to move the news is all good and the
rebs mus go under the lord is on our side
and let us send up our prayers in behalf of
our army that he will lead them to victory
no more at presant. give my respects to all
my friends I sill remain your true and
loving husband untill ~~the~~ death

Stephen J. Buckson

Camp Gilpin, April 7th. 1863.

Dear wife;

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you the same. I received your kind and welcome letter last night and was glad to hear from you. It does my heart good to get long and kind letters from you. I hope Johnny will soon get well. Tell him to be a good boy and that I expect the war will soon be over and we shall get home. Hooker has crossed the Rappahannock and taken Fredericksburg and the cavalry from the right of his army crossed in the rear of the rebs within 6 miles of Richmond and cut off their supplies, and burned the bridges and tore up the railroad as they came in and come to our camp yesterday safe. They done the rebs a great amount of damage. It is one of the greatest scouts ever known. They taken a large amount of prisoners and horses and destroyed lots of provisions. There is troops going up the York river now while I write and Richmond must fall. We are getting the rebs just where we want them. We have not got any orders to march yet nor do not expect to for there must be some troops here. We are doing well. I am ~~xeryx~~ sorry we have lost the money. I am sorry that we have nobody to push the matter. It seems to me that the postmaster ought to be accountable for the letter. The postage was paid and we can prove that it was mailed in Dover, but if it is gone let us put our trust in God. We can say with Job the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. So let us put our trust in God. I would like to be one to go into Richmond but I will let you know if we get orders to move. The news is all good and the rebs must go under. The Lord is on our side and let us send up our prayers in behalf of our army that he will lead them to victory. No more at present. Give my respects to all my friends. I still remain your true and loving husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.

1863

Camp Gilpin April 27th

Dear Wife

I take this opportunity to inform you that i am well at present and hope these few lines may find you the same i would like to hear from you oftener because the money is lost is no reason for your not wrighting i have not had a letter from you for some time so i thought i would not wait any longer i recieved one from mr woodel. on the 22th stating that you had not got your money and that you was as well as could be expected and that you should have any thing you wanted to make you comfortabel it is a great blessing to have friends to care for us but i feel that we

have a still better friend that is
god let us put our trust in him
i want you to let me know how many
letters you have had from me since
Hearper was home for you have told
me nothing since of any amount
you must recollect that this is no place
to delay writing the company went
out on a scout the other day and
brought in some corn and furniture
we have in our tent a bearskin
and a cane seat chair and looking
glass and we have a negro boy
to wash ^{for us} and wait on us and it
makes it lighter on us there is
a detective from washington down
there some where trying to find
our money or the man that got
it and if he finds him out it will
go pretty hard with him i
want you not to say any
thing about him for no boddy
els knows it or him and he

does not want to be found out untill
he finds the rogue the company
has gone out to burn another mill
give my love to Johnny and all
our friends we had a good time
at church yesterday the lord
was with us i would not give
my religion for all this
world let us therefore live faithful
no more at presant but still
remane your true and loving
husband untill death

Stephen. J. Duckson

Camp Gilpin, April 27th. 1863.

Dear Wife:

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well at present and hope these few lines may find you the same. I would like to hear from you oftener because the money is lost is no reason for your not writing. I have not had a letter from you for some time, so I thought I would not wait any longer. I received one from Mr. Woodel on the 22nd stating that you had not got your money and that you was as well as could be expected and that you should have anything you wanted to make you comfortable. It is a great ~~has~~ blessing to have friends to care for us but I feel that we have a still better friend, that is God. Let us put our trust in him. I want you to let me know how many letters you have had from me since Harper was home, for you have told me nothing since of any amount you must recollect that this is no place to delay writing. The company went out on a scout the other ~~ix~~ day and brought in some corn and furniture, we have in our tent a beareau and a cane seat chair and looking glass and we have a negro boy to wash for us and wait on us and it makes it lighter on us. There is a detective from Washington down there somewhere trying to find our money or the man that got it, and if he finds him out it will go pretty hard with him. I want you not to say anything about him for nobody else knows it or him, and he does not want to be found out until he finds the rogue. The company has gone out to burn another mill. Give my love to Johnny and all our friends. We had a good time at church yesterday. The Lord was with us. I would not give my religion for all this world. Let us therefore live faithful. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.

Camp Gilpin April 29th

Dear Wife,

I have just recieved your kind letter and was glad to hear from you and was glad you are doing so well I am well at presant and hope these few lines will find you the same i wrote you a letter on the 28th but i thought i would answer your letter the money was new \$20 government notes 3 in number making \$60 dollars as i have just written i have but little news to tell you i said the company was out on a scout they all returned safe and brought in 80 head of cattel and about 3 hundred sheep and a lot of store goods and destroyed 10 thousand dollers of property we have never had a fight and you need not believe any of the rebbel lies you hear the health of the men is good i believe the war will soon be over they are starving and the rust is in the wheat and the union army is moving and destroying every thing they can if you can i would like you to send the fishing hooks and lines i want trout hooks and drum hook give my love to Johnny and the boys and all your peopell and all our friends you may call the baby. Aileen. or after Mrs Woodel or her daughter Just use your own

your own pleasure but let me know which
one you choose nomore at presant but still
remane your true and loving husband untill
Death it is now raining and governer
Cannon Just arived and the boys gave
him thrie hearty cheers yours truly

Stephen J Buckson

(no year but it must be 1863)

Camp Gilpin, April 29th.

Dear Wife:

I have just received your kind letter and was glad to hear from you and was glad you are doing so well. I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you the same. I wrote you a letter on the 27th but I thought I would answer your letter. The money was new \$20. government notes 3 in number making \$60 dollars. as I have just written I have but little news to tell you. I said the company was out on a scout. They all returned safe and brought in 80 head of cattle and about 300 hundred sheep and a lot of store goods, and destroyed 10 thousand dollars of property. We have never had a fight and you need not believe any of the rebbel lies you hear. The health of the men is good. I believe the war will soon be over. They are starving and the rust is in the wheat, and the union army is moving and destroying everything they can. If you can I would like you to send the fishing hooks and lines. I want trout hooks and drum hooks. Give my love to Johnny and the boys and all your people and all our friends. You may call the baby Alleena, or after Mrs. Woodel or her daughter. Just use your own pleasure, but let me know which one you choose. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband until death. It is now raining and Governor Cannon just arrived and the boys gave him three hearty cheers. Yours truly

Stephen T. Buckson.

1st mention Harriett pregnant
Agrees on name "Alleena"

Camp Gilpin Aug 10th 1863

my Dear and loving wife i take this opportunity of informing you that i am well and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your package and letter last night and was glad to hear that you and Johnny was getting better you do not know how much good it does me to hear from you this is a nice day here the hooks and lines suits me as well as if i had bought them my self as to enjoyment if i knowd that you enjoyed your self i should be perfectly happy for i have nothing els to trouble me you need not believe half you hear there is but little danger here for the rebs have got enough to do at other places now the cavalry that i spoke of in my other letter has all come in and they done the most daring thing that has been done in the war they came across from the right of hookers army and tore up all the rail roads and destroyed every thing they could and went inside of the entrenchments at richmond 1 mile from the town and there is no force there of any amount they say they could have taken it but they could not hold it there is a great many troops gone up the york river but we have no news of much importance i see in the papers that major Daniel Woodel is wounded iam sorry for him and the

family if he comes home let me know how he
is wounded you need not trouble your self for
me for the lord will provide and the 4th
Delaware will be taken care of i hope we shall
soon hear good news let us still trust in god
and do his will as we do not know what he
intends for us to do let us do all we can in his
savis write often and as long letters as you can tel
me all that is going on at home you must
excuse me for i have nothing to write about
no more at presant but still remain your
true and loving husband untill death

Stephen J. Dickson

Camp Gilpin, May 10th 1863.

My dear and loving wife;

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I received your package and letter last night and was glad to hear that you and Johnny was getting better. You do not know how much good it does me to hear from you. This is a nice day here. The hooks and lines suits me as well as if I had bought them myself. As to enjoyment if I knew that you enjoyed yourself I should be perfectly happy for I have nothing else to trouble me. You need not believe half you hear. There is but little danger here for the rebs have got enough to do at other places now. The cavalry that I spoke of in my other letter has all come in and they done the most daring thing that has been done in the war. They came across from the right of Hooker's army and tore ~~ax~~ up all the railroads and destroyed everything they could and went inside of the entrenchments at Richmond, 1 mile from the town and there is no force there of any amount they say they could have taken it but they could not hold it. There is a great many troops gone up the York river but we have no news of much importance. I see in the papers that Major Daniel Woodel is wounded. I am very sorry for him and the family. If he comes home let me know how he is wounded. You need not trouble yourself for me for the Lord will provide and the 4th Delaware will be taken care of. I hope we shall soon hear good news. Let us still trust in God and do his will as we do not know what He intends for us to do. Let us do all we can in His service. Write often and as long letters as you can. Tell me all that is going on at home. You must excuse me for I have nothing to write about. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.

Gloucester Point May 17th 1863

Dear and loving wife
I take the pleasure of informing you that i
am well at present and hope these few lines
will find you all the same i recieved your
kind letter of the 17th and was glad to hear
from you i recieved a letter from mr woodel
of the 4th there is but little news here i recieved
the lines and books you need not go to see
Collins about the money for the colonel is
doing all he can to find it and says
it must be found out i believe harper
mailed the letter and that smithers knows
where the money went to you wrote me
that he come to see you and told you that
some man mailed a letter in dover for
you but he did not know who he was and
mr woodel wrote to me and says that
smithers told him that he knew harper
and if he had mailed a letter he would
have knowd it now he tels two tails

and one or the other is a lie so i believe
he has got the money and his friends are trying
to hide it on him but the detective says he
will do all he can to find it and i believe
we shall find it yet i hope you will
enjoy your self better after you get moved
put your trust in god. and live faithful give
my love to Johnny and tell him that i have
taken my beard of this is a nice Sabbath morning
the weather is warm i am still trying to serve the
lord i read the 13th chapter of hebrews last night
for our evening lesson and thought there was
some of best promises there and how good the
lord is to us and unfaithful we are but
i am determined to put my trust in god
give my respects to mr woodell and all the rest
of my friends tel Mrs Morris that i never
hear from Robert there is several gun boats
here there is a strong force at the white
house our pickets are about 25 miles from
richmond no more at present but still remain
your true and loving wife until death
Stephen G. Buckson

Gloucester Point, May 17th. 1863.

Dear and loving wife;

I take the pleasure of informing you that I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you all the same. I received your kind letter of the 17th and was glad to hear from you. I received a letter from Mr. Woodel of the 18th. There is but little news here. I received the lines and hooks, you need not go to see Collins about the money for the Colonel is doing all he can to find it and says it must be found out. I believe Harper mailed the letter and that Smithers knows where the money went to. You wrote me that he come to see you and told you that some man mailed a letter in Dover for you but he did not know who he was and Mr. Woodel wrote to me and says that Smithers told him that he knew Harper and if he had mailed a letter he would have knowed it. Now he tells two tales and one or the other is a lie, so I believe he has got the money and his friends are trying to hide it on him, but the detective says he will do all he can to find it and I believe we shall find it yet. I hope you will enjoy yourself better after you get moved. Put your trust in God and live faithful. Give my love to Johnny and tell him that I have taken my beard off. This is a nice Sabbath morning. The weather is warm. I am still trying to serve the Lord. I read the 13th Chapter of Hebrews last night for our evening lesson and thought there was some of the best promises there and how good the Lord is to us and unfaithful we are, but I am determined to put my trust in God. Give my respects to Mr. Woodel and all the rest of my friends. Tell Mrs. Morris that I never hear from Robert. There is several gun boats here. There is a strong force at the White House. Our pickets are about 25 miles from Richmond. No more at present, but still remain your true and loving husband until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.



Mass 23 1863

Camp Pelican Gloucester Point

Dear and loving Wife i take
this opportunity of informing you
that i am well and hope these
few lines will find you the same
i recieved your kind and welcome
letter of the 17 this morning and
was glad in my heart to hear
from one that i love above all others
on earth i have allways felt that
i was trying to do my duty but
i now fell a stronger determination
than ever since i recieved your
letter i am glad that you are
abel to give me so much encourage^{ment}
and i believe that the 4th del
will always do her duty i am
determind to put my trust in
god let what will or may
come i still believe that this
war must soon close for the rebs

we getting the worst of it we have
made another great raid and come
back without the loss of a man the
cavalry had one wounded in
the neck but they killed the rest
we left here on Tuesday night
in the gun boat and went down
to Moffack bay and up it to
north river and Wednesday went
up the river and landed about 10
miles up the river just before we
landed the farmers around there were
ploughing but took their horses
out and hid them in the woods
as soon as we could land our camp
and so I were ordered out and
did not go far before we found
34 horses and mules and then
returned to the boat and rested
this is the nicest place I ever
seen any where all along the
river after we were rested the

The boys went on the hunt of poltry and found lots of it and found a nice garden and got lots of flowers and onions and honey and after we got throu we went to loading grain we got about 4.00 bushels of wheat and then went down the river to the east river and up it and lay there all knight here the boys made another raid on the rebs and captured a lot of poltry and meat and molases and tobacco and a little of every thing the cavalry and the drafted men left the camp the same knight we did and went up by land and kept close to the gun boat the next day we came down east river and burnt 2 mills full of corn and flour and several barns and

and then went up the north
river again to meet the other
force and there they had a lot
of stock and sheep we took the
sheep on board and laid there till
knight and took the drafted men
on board and the cavalry drove
the horses and cattle to camp
where we all arrived this morning
the cavalry burnt the mill
belonging to the rebs charly
Brown and hell it done me good
to think we could burn the property
of one reb that lived in delaware
the amount of horses brought in
were 550. or 600. and 500 head of
cattel and 200 sheep and there
is no telling all that was
brought in but you may depend
all soldiers knows how to provide
for there selves it is believed
the damage done to the prebs

May 22, 1863.

Camp Gilpin, Gloucester Point.

Dear and loving wife:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I received your kind and welcome letter of the 17th this morning and was glad in my heart to hear from one that I love above all others on earth. I have always felt that I was trying to do my duty but I now feel a stronger determination than ever since I received your letter. I am glad that you are able to give me so much encouragement and I believe that the 4th Del. will always do her duty. I am determined to put my trust in God, let what will or may come I still believe that this war must soon close for the rebs are getting the worst of it. We have made another great raid and come back without the loss of a man. The cavalry had one wounded in the neck but they killed the reb. We left here on Tuesday night in the gun boat and went down to Mobjack (?) Bay and up it to North river and Wednesday ~~night~~ went up the River and landed about 10 miles up the river. Just before we landed the farmers around there were ploughing but took their horses out and hid them in the woods. As soon as we could land our company and Co. F were ordered out and did not go far before we found 34 horses and mules and then returned to the boat and rested. This is the nicest place I ever seen anywhere. All along the river. ~~front~~ After we were rested the boys went on the hunt of ploutry and found lots of it, and found a nice garden and got lots of flowers and onions and honey and after we got threw we went to loading grain. We got about 400 bushels of wheat and then went down the river to the east river and up it and lay there all night. Here the boys made another raid on the rebs and captured a lot of poultry and meat and molasses, and tobacco, and a little of everything. The cavalry and the drafted men left the camp the same night we did and went up by land and kept close to the gun boat. The next day we came down east river and burnt 2 mills full of corn and flour and several barns and then went up the north river again to meet the other force and there they had a lot of stock and sheep. We took the sheep on board and laid there till night and took the drafted men on board and the cavalry drove the horses and cattle to camp where we all arrived this morning. The cavalry burnt the mill belonging to the rebs. Charly Brown and Bell. It done me good to think we could burn the property of one reb that lived in Delaware. The amount of horses brought in were 550 or 600 and 500 head of cattle and 300 sheep and there is no telling all that was brought in but you may depend all soldiers knows how to provide for theirselves. It is believed the damage done to the rebs

*end
Missary*

Camp Gilpin June 4th 1863
Dear and loving Wife i take this
opportunity of informing you that i
am well and hope these few lines
will find you all the same i
received your letter on the 3rd and
was glad to hear from you but i
am sorry that you see so much
trouble about me for if you could
only get along as well as i do i
could enjoy myself very well
considering the circumstances being
absent from you and your not
having proper means of support
is all that troubles me for we
do not want for any thing so i
hope you will not let me trouble
you i do not say what i do to flatter
you i try to tell you what is
true for i do believe this summer
will end the war for the government.

is doing all in its power to bring it
to a close so do not be discouraged for
if i do get home we will have the
happiness of living under a free government
and no one can say of me there is a
traitor and if i fall i fall in a
good cause for god and my country
and we shall meet in heaven
for the lord has prommised that
he will take care of his peopel if
they put their trust in him so
let us be faithful the weather is nice
here i have been a fishing several
times but have caught nothing but
some flounders and trout there is no
news here give my love to johnny
and all your fathers peopel and
all the rest of my friends i am
sorry that Harper was drunk for
i did not think such a thing tell
mr. Woodel that Charley
West has been court marshaled
for theft and put down in the

ranks and had to pay for 2 ~~blank~~
blankets and to walk two tours
of extra guard duty and tell
him that if mr. William Smithers
dose not give some more satisfaction
about the money that i intend
to offer the whole 60 dollars to
the best rebel lawyer in the
state and they will be glad to
have it to work on i believe
that smithers knows all about
the money for he has told two
or thre different tales about it
i want mr Woodell to see him
for me and tell him what i
say for if men who profes to
be union men and rob a
soilders family of all the mens of
support they have they deserve
to be hung and if i can find
them out through a rebel i believe
i am justifiabel for i am afraid
that there is to many favors shown

To men who stick around home in
little petty offices when the country
needs them for soldiers i believe
that harper mailed the letter and
he is willing to swear to it and
can prove it by Robert Collins
give my best respects to ~~our~~
woodel for that is all i can
do now but i believe that i
shall be spared to repay him
but if not i believe the lord
will bless him no more ~~at present~~
but still remain your true
and loving husband untill
Death

Stephen J Buckson

Camp Gilpin, June 4th. 1863.

Dear and loving wife:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all the same. I received your letter on the 3rd and was glad to hear from you, but I am sorry that you see so much trouble about me for if you could only get along as well as I do I could enjoy myself very well, considering the circumstances being absent from you and your not having proper means of support is all that troubles me for we do not want for anything, so I hope you will not let me trouble you. I do not say what I do to flatter you. I try to tell you what is true for I do believe this summer will end the war for the government is doing all in its power to bring it to a close, so do not be discouraged for if I do get home we will have the happiness of living under a free government and no one can say of me there is a traitor, and if I fall I fall in a good cause for God and my country, and we shall meet in Heaven, for the Lord has promised that he will take care of His people if they put their trust in Him. Do let us be faithful. The weather is nice here. I have been a fishing several times but have caught nothing but some flounders and trout. There is no news here. Give my love to Johnny, and all your father's people and all the rest of my friends. I am sorry that Harper was drunk for I did not think such a thing. Tell Mr. Woodel that Charley West has been court martialed for theft and put down in the ranks and had to pay for 2 blankets and to walk two hours of extra guard duty, and tell him that if Mr. William Smithers does not give some more satisfaction about the money that I intend to offer the whole 60 dollars to the best rebel lawyer in the state, and they will be glad to have it to work on. I believe that Smithers knows all about the money for he has told two or three different tales about it. I want Mr. Woodel to see him for me and tell him what I say, for if men and rob a soldier's family of all the means of support they have they deserve to be hung, and if I can find them out through a rebel I believe I am justified, for I am afraid that there is too many favors shown to men who stick around home in little petty offices when the country needs them for soldiers. I believe that Harper mailed the letter and he is willing to swear ~~it~~ to it and can prove it by Robert Collins. Give my best respects to Mr. Woodel for that is all I can do now, but I believe that I shall be spared to repay him, but if not I believe the Lord will bless him. No more at present, but still remain your true and loving husband until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.

1863
Camp Hill Pleasant June 23rd

Dear and loving wife as i have not heard from you for some time i thought i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am well at present and hope these few lines will find you all the same you can direct your letters the same as you did before only elsewhere we expect to go to richmond or get whiped but i believe if they will give us force enough we can go there we are well provided for we have got good shelter tents i sent your money 30 dollars by express to dover in the care of Mr Cannon and i want to

to know when you get it we
go on picket every other day
there is no force of rebs here but
there is plenty of bush whackers
and they have killed several
cavalry men but there is none
of us ben hurt it seems to
me that the lord dose protect
the whole regiment i am
still willing to trust him
for all that is to come i
want you to live faithful
and pray for me for i
nead your prayers tell me
how old gum swamp comes
on and if mr woodbey
has come back to his clas yet
give my best respects to all my
friends and tell them to pray
for me tell Johnny i woul
like to see him and to be a

good boy i have been looking
at your likeness and thought
i would like to see you all
but it cannot be so now but
i hope it will not be long first
the country around here has
gone to destruction. our advanced
force is as far up as diaskin
bridge and barnhams ville
we have now 5 days rations and
we do not know what a day
may bring forth they say
there is a strong force below
here the first del. battery
is with them i want you
to give that note to mr
wooddel and ask him if he
thinks there is any chance
for me and if there is ^{to set}
me know what it is and
give him my best respects

you must not wait for me to
write for you see I have to write
with a pencil and sit on the
ground and write on my knapsack
let us be faithful no more
at present but still remain
your true and loving friends
may the lord bless you all

Stephen J. Buckson

White house June ²⁷ 1865

Dear wife I received your
kind letter and was glad
to hear from you I am
well and hope these few
lines will find you all in the same
good health I am glad you
received the money we are
now at the white house on
our way to richmond and
by the help of god we
intend to celebrate the 4th
of July there our cavalry
is within 6 miles of the
doomed city we are Gen
Keys boddy guard and
have no picket duty to
do Burnet is captain of Co
E and Comand is our first
lut and Harper is second
and I am acting orderly

but do not expect to get the
appointment for D. Stevenson
friends has been writing to
the Colonel recommending him
for promotion and i have
nobody to intercede for me
and if i can get a commission
in another regiment i shall
do it for there is so many
good men in this one with
influential friends there is
but little chance for me
give my love to Johnny
and all my friends let
us still trust in the
lord may he bless you
is my prayer now
at present but still
remain your true and
faithful husband
Stephen. J. Buckson

White House, June 27, 1863.

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter and was glad to hear from you. I am well and hope these few lines will find you all in the same good health. I am glad you received the money. We are now at the White House on our way to Richmond and by the help of God we intend to celebrate the 4th of July there. Our cavalry is within 6 miles of the doomed city. We are Jen. Keys bodyguard and have no picket duty to do. Burnet is captain of Co. E and Osmond is our first Lieut. and Harper is second, and I am acting orderly, but do not expect to get the appointment for D. Stevenson's friends has been writing to the Colonel recommending him for promotion, and I have nobody to intercede for me, and if I can get a commission in another regiment I shall do it for there is so many good men in this one with influential friends there is but little chance for me. Give my love to Johnny and all my friends. Let us still trust in the Lord. May he bless you is my prayer. No more at present, but still remain your true and faithful husband,

Stephen T. Buckson



July 4th 1863

Camp near Bottom Bridge
Kent County Virginia

Dear wife I have just
received two of your kind
letters and was glad to hear
from you I am well and
hope these few lines will find
you the same I am glad to hear
that Allena looks so well give
my love to Johnny we have
not had a man hurt yet
we had a skirmish tonight
before last with the Rebs.
They shelled our camp
but did no damage but
they lost 30 killed and
we do not know what
other damage was done
to them. The ^{reb} cavalry was
charged on our forces twice
and was driven back.

our batteries. Shelled the
rebs of and all is quiet
now i believe the fall
of richmond is now certain
The day we came to the
white house our cavetry
captured gen Jeter Hugh
Lee and 150 of the rebs and
a large lot of horses and 84
wagons our forces is on our right
and left but we do not know
what they are doing nor do
we want to for we believe
all is right and i trust in
god that we will be suc-
cessful rest contented and
trust in god and all will
be right i am still willing
to put my trust in him let
us pray for a speedy peace
the Lewis company is at
haverdy grass guarding the

The railroad i believe it
is better for us that the
rebs went into pensylvania
they will never get out
with their army give my
respects to all my friends
you must write as often
as you can you must not
wait for me when the rebs
commenced to shell us we
was laying down in line
of battel the boys was as
cool as they could and
when we fell back on the
reserve the men marched
back in god order and
formed a line of battel
and laid down to wait
for the rebs to come again
but there was but few come
but the soon began to shell
us again and then our.

Batteries opened on them
and drove them back
we are all doing well
and the Lord still blesses
the 4th Regt Regt and
while we trust him
try and make out the
best you can. I have been
promoted to orderly of the
company and will get 21

do not put
sight to my letters anymore
in fear people will think
it is done. I show they
were going to put I. B.
Incorporation. Keep Stevenson
out but the company would
not stand it they would not
be imposed on in that
way so the feeling of
the company words me no
more but still remain
Stephens J. Buckson

July 4th 1863

Camp near Bottom Bridge, Va.

Kent County, Virginia.

Dear Wife:

I have just received two of your kind letters and was glad to hear from you. I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I am glad to know that Allena looks so well. Give my love to Johnny. We have not had a man hurt yet. We had a skirmish night before last with the rebs. They shelled our camp, but did no damage, but they lost 30 killed and we do not know what other damage was done to them. The reb cavalry charged ~~in~~ on our forces twice and was driven back. Our batteries shelled the rebs off and all is quiet now. I believe the fall of Richmond is now certain. The day we came to the White House our cavalry captured Gen. FitzHugh Lee and 150 of the rebs and a large lot of horses and 84 wagons. Our forces is on our right and left but we do not know what they are doing nor do we want to for we believe all is right and I trust in God that we will be successful. Rest contented and trust in God and all will be right. I am still willing to put my trust in Him. Let us pray for a speedy peace. The Liepsic company is at HavredeGrass guarding the railroad. I believe it is better for us that the rebs went into Pennsylvania. They will never get out with their army. Give my respects to all my friends. You must write as often as you can. You must not wait for me. When the rebs commenced to shell us we was laying down in ~~in~~ line of battle. The boys was as cool as they could be and when we fell back on the reserve the men marched back in good order and formed a line of battle and laid down to wait for the rebs to come again, but there was but few come, but they soon began to shell us again and then our batterys opened on them and drove them back. We are all doing well and the Lord still blesses ~~xxx~~ the 4th Del. Regt and will while ~~xx~~ we trust him. Try and make out the best you can. I have been promoted to orderly of the company and will get 21 -----*****

Do not put sgt to my letters any more in fear people will think it is done for a show. They were going to put D. B. goy in and keep Stevanson out but the company would not stand to be imposed on in that way so as the feeling of the company towards me. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson.

Uncle Johnny has no copy of this letter.

Washington July, ²⁵/₇₇ 1869

Dear and loving wife I take this pleasant opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all the same we are in good quarters but have just received marching orders and we expect to go to Munro's hill near Camp Tom Casey where we was last winter but we do not know where we are going to but as the Lord has been our protector he will not leave nor forsake us now I am still willing to trust my life and health in his hands my health is better than

it ever was at home Mrs Bennett
said she was surprised to see me
look so well i tell you if i
could just get to see my
family i should be perfectly
happy because i think the
lord has blest me more than
i deserve and i am still
trying to serve him Mrs
Bennet said she would come
and see you and i sent your
tokens to you to have it put
in a solid case and send
it back to me if you can
get a chance but i could not
take care of it in that case
our army is very successful
now and i still believe the
war will soon be over the
riot in new york is not

much amount they cant do
much but destroy property
and that will soon be stoped
now i want you to enjoy
your self the best you can
and let us both put our trust
in the lord and pray for
each other give my love
to Johnny and kiss him
and the baby both for me
i would like to see you all
but it cannot be so now but
we will know how to live
together when we meet and
enjoy the pleasures of home
may the lord be merciful and let
that time soon come give my best
respects to your father and mother
and all the famly and tell
them i would like to see them

tell mother mauncy that iff
she hears that i am coming home
i want her to have some stewed
oysters and some pound cake for
we will have to have another
wedding give my love to all
and iff any of the young men
that are healthy enquirers for
me tell them i am no friend
to such cowards i hope we
will be home this fall time
enough to kill the copper
heads at the election you had
better direct your letters to
Washington D. C. or elsewhere
and it will follow the regamen
no more at present but still
remain your true and loving
husband untill death

Stephen J. Buckson

Washington, July 1863.

Dear and loving wife;

I take this pleasant opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all the same. We are in good quarters but have just received marching orders and we expect to go to Muncins Hill near Camp Tom Casey where we was last winter, but we do not know where we are going to but as the Lord has been our protector He will not leave nor forsake us now. I am still willing to trust my life and health in His hands. My health is better than it ever was at home. Mrs. Burnet said she was surprised to see me look so well. I tell you if I could just get to see my family I should be perfectly happy because I think the Lord has blest me more than I deserve, and I am still trying to serve him. Mrs. Burnet said she would come and see you and I sent your likeness to you to have it put in a solid case and send it back to me if you can get a chance, but I could not take care of it in that case. Our army is very successful now and I still believe the war will soon be over. The riot in New York is not much amount. They can't do much but destroy property and that will soon be stopped. Now I want you to enjoy yourself the best you can and let us both put our trust in the Lord and pray for each other. Give my love to Johnny and kiss him and the baby both for me. I would like to see you all but it cannot be so now, but we will know how to live together when we meet and enjoy the pleasures of home. May the Lord be merciful and let that time soon come. Give my best respects to your father and mother and all the family and tell them I would like to see them. Tell Mother Muncy that if she hears that I am coming home I want her to have some stewed oysters and some pound cake for we will have to have another wedding. Give my love to all and if any of the young men that are healthy inquires for me tell them I am no friend to such cowards. I hope we will be home this fall, time enough to kill the copper heads at the elction. You had better direct your letters to Washington, D. C., or elsewhere, and it will follow the regiment. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.

July 17 1863

Fort Keys Gloucester Point Va
Dear wife i take the pleasure
of informing you that i have
returned to the point in good
health i recieved your kind
letters of the 5th and 9th
and was glad to hear from
you i am glad to hear that
you are getting better and
hope you will soon get
well try to live contented
and enjoy your self the
best you can put your
trust in god and he will
protect us we was out one
month and was much
exposed we lost 3 men of
the regament 1 died of fits
and 2 strayed off and was
picked up by the rebs we left
Botimore Store on wednesday

and marched within 3 miles of
Barnhamvill which made 21 miles
that we marched through the
mud and rain and i gave
out and stoped in a store
house and stayed all night
with about 20 others of differant
regaments the men were strowed
all along the road and next
day we marched to fort
Magruder 25 miles more and
friday we came in to camp
here our home the men
love this place but we
are now ordered to washington
to report to gen Keyes and
we do not know where we
are going we are now ready
Sunday 6 O'clock Monday
3 O'clock at 5 O'clock we left
for washington this afternoon
it is raining we are on a
good boat and doing well

we arrived in Washington
at 9 o'clock last night
and do not know where
we are going but I will
write as soon as I can

no more at present
I give my love to
all I still remain
your true and loving
husband

Stephen J. Buckson

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July 17, 1863.

Fort Keys, Gloucester Point, Va.

Dear Wife:

I take the pleasure of informing you that I have returned to the point in good health. I received your kind letters of the 5th and 9th, and was glad to hear from you. I am glad to hear that you are getting better and hope you will soon get well. Try to live contented and enjoy yourself the best you can. Put your trust in God and he will protect us. We was out one month and was much exposed. We lost 3 men of the regiment. One died of fits and 2 strayed off and was picked up by the rebs. We left Baltimore store on Wednesday and marched within 3 miles of Barnhamville which made 21 mile that we marched through the mud and rain, and I gave out and stopped in a storehouse and stayed all night with about 20 others of different regiments. The men were strowed all along the road and next day we marched to Fort Magruder 25 miles more, and Friday we came in to camp here, our home. The men love this place but we are now ordered to Washington to report to Gen. Keyes and we do not know where we are going. We are now ready.

Sunday, 6 o'clock.

Monday, 3 o'clock A.M. we left for Washington. This afternoon it is raining. We are on a good boat and doing well. We arrived in Washington at 9.00 last night and do not know where we are going, but I will write as soon as I can. No more at present. Give my love to all. I still remain your true and loving husband.

Stephen T. Buckson.

Fairfax Station July 25th 1863

Dear wife i take this another opportunity
to inform you that i am well
and hope those few lines will find
you the same we are about 3 miles
above Fairfax court house on the
rail road from alexander to warrenton
and manasses Junction we have
been playing soldier untill
the last 2 months but we are
doing the thing in reality
but we are the luckiest men
i ever have seen there has
been but one man hurt by
the rebs yet and he strayed
away plundering around the
road proved for us and i believe
he always will our army is

very successful and i believe this
war will soon end and
we shall soon get home
we came of picket this
morning and now at
3 o'clock we go on the cars
to go to manassas Junction
to guard the cars we have
hard duty to do but while
we do not have to fight
we ought not to complain
may the Lord protect us
and our families in peace
at present but still
remain your true and
loving husband untill
death
Stephen J. Buckson

Fairfax station, July 23, 1863.

Dear wife:

I take this another opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. We are about 3 miles above Fairfax court house on the railroad from Alexandria to Warrenton and Manasses Junction. We have been playing soldier until the last 2 months but we are doing the thing in reality but we are the luckiest men I ever have seen. There has been but one man hurt by the rebs yet and he strayed away plundering around. The Lord provides for us and I believe he always will. Our army is very successful and I believe this war will soon end and we shall soon get home. We came off picket this morning and now at 3 o'clock we go on the cars to go to Manassas Junction to guard the cars. We have hard duty to do but while we do not have to fight we ought not to complain. May the Lord protect us and bless us. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.