Camp Seward November 23th 1862

Dear wife i take this perturnity to inform you that i am well an hope these few lines will find you all the same we are stil here in the same place but we do not know how long we shall stay here we may bee ordered to the front party soon but we all believe that if burnsides takes richmond that the war will soon end th news here is that he is now in richmond and lost 60 thowand men tell loviena that James Marvel is in our company he has ben sick in th hospiter but is well and is going to stay with us untill he can go to his regament Fred Waganer was here too we had a first rate dinner to day on opossom ther 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 an land laid waste it is horabel to think that somany lives and so much property is all ready destroyed by this wicked Rebelion and it is more so to see it a person has no idea at the distrucklion ther 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 bee
any use for him to come this way som
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 leters i have sent 2 before this
i expect you have got one leter 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 geting ~~along~~ along and how much
you get from the society if you donot
want to answer my leters let me know it
as i am in the enemys land and parted from
you one whoo i prise 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 me for
i intend by the grace of god to meet you
in heaven try and let me know what
is going on Tell Johny that i do not
forget him no more at present but

Still remane your True an Loving
Husband Stephen M Buckson

Camp Vermont Virginia

December 17th 1862

Dear Wife i take this opertunit to inform you that i am well and i hope that these few lines will find you the same we left camp seward 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 troubel tel mother munay
tht i have not forgoten 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 ponts and piller
base and some litle 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 Johny and all the rest
write soon tell me all
write soon tell avry to write and

Camp Gilpin January 11th 1863

Dear Wife i take this opertunity of informing you that i am well at presant an hope that these few lines will find you all the same i recieved your leter from dover and was glad to hear from you i have sent annother leter 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 leters 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 nead but post stamps and evry thing to make me hapy except the presance of those i love and some of your grumbling leters 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 dutry 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 cuting wood and building fortifycations there is albready several regaments in the field and they are coming over fast it is going to weken 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 evoday and tey look verry hard half clothed and holf starved the troops on the other side of the river made a reconoicence within 12 miles of richmond last weak 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 car 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 dide 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 Devel himself now i dos not wont to hear such stuf tel mrs burnet that Jimmy is well we are all well i caught a lot of oysters yesterday we had preaching here this morning we have a regamentet church here and we have all Joined it and i am still striving to serve the lord and i feel the benifit of religion more than ever it often gives me more pleasure 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 thon we have we shall be blesed i belive the

Camp Gilpin January 31th 1863

Dear Wife I take this
Opertunity to inform you that
I am well and hope these
few lines will find you the
same I recieved your
Kind leter 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 a deal
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 prayr 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
ben 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 lord will preserve our health
I belive there will bee 3 or 4
hundred dollers raised for
mrs fowler to by a house
and lot for her I said I
would answer your leters

try to enjoy your self the best you can and trust in god and i believe i shall soon be home man love Hazel sends his respects to you give my love to Johnny and tel him to bee 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 meat in heven

Camp Gilpin January 11th 1863

Dear Wife i take this opertunity of informing you that i am well at presant an hope that these few lines will find you all the same i recieved your leter from dover and was glad to hear from you i have sent annother leter before this that you have not answered and now i send annothe and you will get no more untill you answer this you say you felt uneasy about me you get more leters 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 nead but post stamps and every thing to make me hapy except the presance of those i love and some of your grumbling leters 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 dutry 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 presants 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 fre and they puting them in the servise and making them do all the hard work cuting wood and building fortifycations there is albready several regaments in the field and they are coming over fast it is going to weken 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 evreday and tey look verry hard half clothed and holf starved the troops on the other side of the river made a reconoicence within 12 miles of richmond last weak 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 car 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 dide 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 Devel himself now i dos not wont to hear such stuf tel mrs burnet that Jimmy is well we are all well i caught a lot of oysters yesterday we had preaching here this morning we have a regamentet church here and we 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 pleasure 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 thon we have we shall be blesed i belive the

provide let us therfore trust him i have taking
some veres from the smyrna times that i
believe i wore writen by brother chatham
on the death of sally if he did not si
think it verry appraate i want you to write
soon and let me know all about how you are geting
along and the times are i have just been taking
a walk along the river and out 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
wod 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 beter contented i hope you will
try to be Direct your letter as before
no more at present but still
remane yours truly and ever
faithful husband untill Death

Stephen. L. Buckson

Camp Gilpin Frebuary 7th 1863
Dear wife I recieved your leter
of the 3td and was glad to hear
from yaw I am well at pesant
and hope these few lines will
find you thes same i have
Just riten to you and sent
you 45 dollars by our preaiher
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 greatdeal to tel me but
you are afraid i do not think you
mead not fear you mead not
write any thing that would
get us in troubel tel 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 dam ready
to ~~go~~ to de corner to git a pas to go
ober dare but i had no canoe runner
no more at present but still
remane your true and loveing
husband until death

Stephen. T. Buckson

we have just heard that
thomas Reaves is Dead.

March 19th 1863

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point

Dear wife i take pleasure of
aonswering yours of the 9th
i am sorry you are sick and in
troubel 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 bee withe 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 happy to know

that it was our privelige to
meet our children and friends
in heaven and iff we never
meet on earth that it will
make our meating in heaven
much happyer and every troubel
will make are crown brighter
and brighter you know i am alwways
willing to forgive and i hope
that you will bee better contented
when you get this letter i hope
you will allways have grase
for your day and trials i am
glad that you can trust in god
we can allways 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 bee livelly 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 sll here
the fruits of ignorance you can
not immagine 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 tomorry

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 present but still
remane yur ever true and
loving husband untill
Death

Stephen T. Buckson

March 16th 1863

Glouscester Point Camp Gilpin

Dear wife i take these opertunity of informing you that i am well and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your letter of the 13th and was glad to hear from you we have a goodeal of rain here but it is not verry cold and we have the nicest place here i ever seen it is 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 theraselves 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 bette
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 heare
that they are fighting with
oneannother and that there is
a peace committy 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 bee 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 ~~schoo~~
school you must not let Johnny
run about to much and learn
him at home the name of our
fort is fort ~~Keages~~ 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 without a
fight it is reported that there
is some rebs out side the lines
to stop our men from cuting
wood but we have sent 3
companys out to guard them
and we have got some
cavelry scouts out and you
need not bee alarmed for they
cannot take us by surprise and
there is not force enough to
do anything els for we can
drive back a fidd ful of them
withe that fort and by gods
help which i bliere we have
and it is better than cannons

March 22th 1863

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point

Dear wife i received your kind letter last knight 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~~ generly 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 watter 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 bee parted
from those we love but the lord
will provide and when we meet
it will bee 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 friend
and tell mother that i would like to
see all of them Lutenant 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 it

will bee 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 lovly 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 bee 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 saturdayy i went about 2 miles out side the lines yesterday with a squad of men to guard some wood chopers and every thing looks like starvation they are half naked and every 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 wright 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 present but still
remane your faithful and loving
husband untill Death may god bless
Stephen. J. Barkson

Camp Gilpin April 7th. 1863

Dear Wife

I take this oportunity of informing you that i am well at presant and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your kind and welcom 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 bee a good boy and that i expect the war will soon bee 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 theer 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 york 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 bee 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 seames 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 Jobe 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 present give my respects to all my friends I sill remain your true and loving husband untill death

Stephen. J. Buckson

1863

Camp Gilpin April 27th

Dear Wife

I take this opertunity to inform you that i am well at presant 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 22td 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
Harper was home for you have told
me nothing since of any amount
you must recollect that this is no place
to delay wrighting the company went
out on a scout the other day and
brought in some corn and furniture
we have in our tent a bearoreau
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 lovee to Johnny and all
our friends we had a good time
at church yesterday the lord
was with us i would not give
my religeon for all this
world let us therfore live faithful
no more at present but still
remane your true and loving
husband untill death

Stephen. J. 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 wel I am well at present and hope thes 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 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 Johny and the boys and all your peopel and all our friends you may call the baby . Alleena . or after Mrs Wodel or her daughter Just use your own

your own pleasure but let me know which one you choose nomore at prevant but still remane your true and loveing husband untill Death it is now raining and governor Cannon just arived and the boys gave him three hearty cheers yours truly

Stephen I Bucksom

Camp Gilpin May 10th 1863

my Dear and loving Wife i take this opertunity of informing you that i am well and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your package and letter last knight 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 troubel 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 cavelry 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 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 sorry for him and the

family if he comes home let me know how he is wounded you need not troubel 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. Duckson

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 14th there is but little news here i recieved 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 rote 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 beter 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 Sabbeth morning
the weather is warm i am still trying to serve the
lord i read the 13th chapter of hebrews last knight
for our evning lesson and thought there was
some of best promises ther and how god the
lord is to us and unfaithful we are but
i am determend to put my trust in god
give my respects to mr woodel and all the rest
of my friends tel mrs morris that i never
hear from robat ther is Severall 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 F. Buckson

May 23rd 1863

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point

Dear and loving Wife i take this opertunity of informing you that i am well and hope these few lines will find you the same i recieved your kind and welcom 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 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 encouragement 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 reb

are geting the worst of it we have
made anoter great raid and come
back without the los of a man the
cavelry had one wounded in
the neck but they killed the reb
we left here on tuesday knight
in the gun boat and went doun
to mobjack 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 ther were
ploughing but took there horses
out and hid them in the woods
as soon as we could land our comp
and co f were ordered out and any
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 flours 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 captureed a lot
of poltry and meat and molases
and tobaco and a little of every
thing the cavlay 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 cavelry drove the horses and cattel to camp where we all arived thiss morning the cavelry 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 cattel and 300 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 rebs

Camp Gilpin June 4th 1863

Dear and loving Wife i take this
opertunity of informing you that i
am well and hope these few lines
will find you all the same i
recieved your letter on the 3d and
was glad to hear from you but i
am sorry that you see so much
troubel about me for if you could
only get along as well as i do i
could enjoy myself very well
considering the curcumstances being
abbsent from you and your not
having proper means of support
is all that troubels me for we
do not want for any thing so i
hope you will not let me troubel
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 governmt

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 hapiness 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 causs for god and my country and we shall meet in heven for the lord has promnised that he will take care of his peapel if they put their trust in him so let us be faithful the weather is nice here i have beone 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 marsheled for theft and put down in the

ranks and had to pay for 2 ~~blank~~ blankets and to walk two hours of extry guard duty and tell him that if mr. Wiliam Smithers dose not give some more satisfaction about the money that i intend to offer the whole 60 dollars to the best rebbel 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 a 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 rebbel 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 soilders i believe that harper mailed the letter and he is willing to swear to it and can prove it by Robbert 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

1863

Camp Hill Pleasant June 23d

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 9 days
there is no force of rebs here but
there is plenty of bush whackers
and they have killed several
cavelry men but there is none
of us ben hurt it seemes to
me that the lord dose protect
the whole regament 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
need 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 would
like to see him and to be a

good boy i have been looking
at your likenes 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 distruction our advance
force is as far up as Haskin
bridge and barnhams ville
we have now 5 days rations and
we do not know what a day
may bring forth they say
their is a strong force below
here the first del battery
is with them i want you
to give that note to mrs
woodell and ask him if he
thinks there is any chance
for me and if there is to let
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 pencel 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 brother
may the lord bless you all

Stephen G. Backson

White house June 27th 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 recieved 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 Jon Keys bodily guard and have no picket duty to do Burnet is captain of Co E and Osmand 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 ben writing to
the colonel recomending him
for promotion and i have
nobody to intercede for me
and if i can get a commision
in another regiment i shall
do it for ther 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 nomore
at present but still
remain your true and
faithful husband
Stephen. J. Buckson

July 4th 1863

Camp near Bottom Bridge in
Kent County Virginnia

Dar 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 this morning
before last with the Rebs
they shelled our camp
but did no dammage but
they lost 30 killed and
we do not know what
other dammage was done
to them the Rebs cavelry charged
charged on our forces twice
and was driven back

our batteries Shelled the
rebs of and all is quiet
now i believe the fal
of richmond is now certain
the day we came to the
white house our cavelry
captured gen Fitz 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 suck
sessful 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 spedy peace
the Leifsic 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 good 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

batterrys opened on them
and drove them back
we are all doing well
and the lord still blesses
the 4th Del Regt and
[illegible] 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
[illegible] do not put
sgt to my letters any more
i fear people will think
it is done for a show they
were going to put D. B.
Finegoy [illegible] keep Stevonson
out but the company would
not stand it they would not
to be imposed on in that
way so [illegible] the feeling of
the company [illegible] wards me no
more [illegible] but still [illegible]
[illegible]
Stephen Y Buckson

Washington July 15th 1863

Dear and loving wife i take this pleasant opertunity 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 recieved marching orders and we expect to go to munsins 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 beter than

it ever was at home mrs bennett
said she was surprised to see me
lok 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
tekeneb to you to have it put
in a soldid 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 sucksesful
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 destry 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 connot be so now but
we will know how to live
togather 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 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
weding give my love to all
and iff any of the young men
that are healthy engirers 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

July 11th 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 & 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 Baltimore Store on wednesday

and marched within 3 miles of
barnhamville 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 knight
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 Oclock Monday
3 Oclock at PM we left
for washington this afternoon
it is raining we are on a
good boat and doing well

we arived in washington
at 9 oc last Knight
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 & still remain
your true and loving
husband
Stephen J Buckson

Fairfax Station July 23rd 1863

Dear wife i take this another opertuny 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 warenton and manasses Junction we have been playing soilder untill the last 2 months but we are doing the thing in reality but we are the luckyest men i ever have seen there has been but one man hurt by the rebs yet and he strayed away plundering around the lord proveds for us and i believe he allways will our army is

very sucksesful and i believe this
war will soon end and
we shall soon get home
we came of picket this
morning and now at
3 oClock we go on the cars
to go to manassas Juncksion
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 untill
death
Stephen T Buckson