

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 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, 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 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, 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 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.

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. 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 ~~xxx~~ help which I believe we have, and it is better than cannons

*Balance missing*

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 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.

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.

(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, 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 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.

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 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.

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, 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 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 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 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.

\* Fairfax Station, Va., August 3, 1863.

Dear and respected wife:

I received your kind and welcome letters of the 26th and 28th both at the same time. I am glad to hear that you are better. I hope you will recover your health. I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have heard a remedy for your disease. It is raw tar put in a muslin cloth and applied to the spot as close in as you can. It is said to be a certain cure. We are in a nice place and likely to stay sometime as our regiment is scattered along the railroad. We have plenty to do and do not have as good a chance to write as you do. I think I get all your letters. I do try to let you know when we move and how we are fixed. Gen. Grant has not taken Mead's place but Mead crossed the Rappahannock and is now fighting. The rebs are getting the worst of it all the time. We have not been in a fight yet and the weather is very warm but I do feel thankful to God that we are not on the march. I believe the Lord does protect us. You need not trouble yourself about losing me for man is of but few days and full of sorrow, but my trust in God is strong and if we do not meet on earth we will meet in Heaven. Live faithful and may the Lord bless you all. I would like to have yours and the baby's photograph and Johnny's too. Mrs. Burnet will come home as soon as Burnett gets well. He has got his mouth open 1/4 of an inch. He has had the lock jaw bad. Capt Maclary has gone to the hospital today. There is not so many sick as has been but there is some yet. Louis says he does not care about Sarah Jane. You may write as long letters as you please for I love to read them. I want you to manage things at home as you please, for I do not know how you are getting along. You had better always keep enough to keep you 2 months anyhow if no more. Pay Hopkins first if anybody. There is some rebs here they made a raid near Fairfax the other night and captured 27 (sutlere ) wagons and horses loaded with (Butler) stores and next day our cavalry followed after them and taken them back and a lot of prisoners and horses. I have been over the battle ground of Bull run and Manasses Junction and to Warrington. The destruction that war produces shows itself everywhere. I have been in Virginia. I believe our men will take Charleston and Mead will destroy Lee's army yet before it can get to Richmond. The rarilroad follows the army and carries supplies to them. You must make yourself contented and do the best you can. Write often. Give my love to Johnny and all my friends. I would like to see you all but so it is. Tell mother Muncey I would like to see her and the old man and all the rest. No more at present but will remain your true and loving husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.

Fairfax Station, August 20th. 1863.

Dear Wife:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I received your kind letter of the 16th and was glad to hear from you. I am getting better. I have been very sick again. I eat some stewed apples and they made me sick but I shall be more careful and I think I shall soon get well. I have got a nice hospital tent to stay in and fixed up nice, and we have ~~plix~~ plenty to eat. You said I did not send as much money as you expected but it is well I kept as much as I did for I can buy little things that I need, and itt comes very handy, so there is good luck for good meaning people. Burnet is here now. He came yesterday. I ~~not~~ do not expect you to come here for it would cost too much and there is no convenience for ~~women~~ women and you could do me but little good, only I could see you, but you can write, Thank God for learning enough to write and the many blest institutions that we have enjoyed and as long as the Lord gives me health and strength I intend to support them, although it is a sacrifice to be parted from those we love, yet it is better than to let rebels rule if we can, but leave a free government to our children. I am glad they have drafted so many rebs. It will take some of their money, but some of them will have to go. Denny Buck will not ~~xx~~ have to go. They drafted Clay Forkum. I wish you to tell me if he is in the home guards if you write to pap tell him all about me and that I received his kind letter but have been too unwell to answer it, but I will soon. You say the baby looks so nice and favors me, so I think it must take its smartness after me too. I would like to see all of you. Give my love to Johnny. Tell him I am glad he is ~~wuch~~ such a good boy and got back from the bay safe. I am glad that you seem so lively sometimes. Your letters allmost distract me. Now do not be troubled about my being sick for I tell you just how I am. I think Ellen did say grace before supper. It is a wonder you did whip John. I think you are getting better. There is plenty of drafted men passes here for the army of the Potomac as this is the main ~~xxix~~ railroad to the army. There was a fight on the Bull Run battle ground day before yesterday with Stewart's Cavalry our men taken 60 prisoners. I do not know how many was killed. Stewart wants to tear up the railroad but he ran against a snag. I do not believe there will be much more fighting. I do not care if they do kill women if they will not go out of a town when they are ordered, but stay there to keep our men from shelling them. If I had my way I would burn Charlestown women and all if they did not go out when ordered then for they are the meanest kind of rebs not that all are men but these. You have no idea. I think there is good women. I must close. Give my respects to all. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband, until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.

Fairfax Station, August 29th. 1863.

Dear and loving wife;

I received your kind letter today and was glad to hear from you but was sorry that you was sick. I hoped the baby was better. I hope these few lines will find you in good health. I am getting better. I shall soon be able to go on duty. I can eat my allowance.

Sept. 3.

I have received your last letter but I have been waiting to get home, but ~~fail~~ having failed to get a furlough I concluded to write. I am not able to go about camp. I hope these few lines will find you all in good health. There is no news. I am still trying to put my trust in God. You must content yourself the best you can. Put your trust in God and live faithful. I wish you would not be so long before you write for it is the happiest moment when I receive a letter from home and can hear from those I love. There is some good lessons to be learned by being away from home. The enjoyment of hearing from home and as I stroll around and see the desolation war has made I often think of home and the dear ones and the prosperity of the country, and it brings joy to my heart to think that the war has not reached our homes and never will. Here we see nobody that we know but we often see some person with a downcast look their property having been destroyed and nothing to live on. I have no doubt that this war has ruined a great many innocent women from different causes some from necessity and some through fear. I do sincerely hope that this ~~brutal~~ cruel war will soon close if it is the Lord's will but I think sometimes that it will never close until every negro is set free, for I believe the Lord intends it and he will carry out his desires, but if our men can get Virginia the war will be over for North Carolina will come in herself. Do not be discouraged there is a better day coming. Give my love to Johnny and all the rest and take a large portion for yourself. No more at present, but still remain your true and loving husband until death.

Stephen T. Buckson.

May God bless you.

Fairfax Station, Sept. 23, 1863.

Dear wife:

I take this another opportunity of informing you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I can send you but 25 dollars. I received but 40 dollars 2 months pay and paid 8 that I borrowed to come home and 1 to our darky and 1 for stripes and 1 to buy a sword for the colonel and I have bought some tobacco and other little things so you see I have but little left. There is but little news. I was going to send the money home 10 dollars at a time but the Preacher was coming home and I sent it in care of Mrs. Cannon. Give my love to Johnny and all my friends and still trust in God and may his choicest blessings rest on you all is my prayer. No more at present, but still remain your true and loving husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.

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Headquarters 4th Del. Vol. Singsters Station,  
Va., via F. F. Station.

Dear wife:

It is with pleasure that I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all the same. I feel very thankful that I am as well off as I am for there has been a great many men killed in this last fight. We have missed it so far and I believe we will never be in a fight now. We came to Fairfax station yesterday and was ordered up here right away about 2 -1/2 miles so you may content yourself. I have given you all the news that I know and I would like to hear from you. This is two letters I have written to you since you went home and have not heard from you yet. The Lord has been good to us so let us be thankful. Mary Thomas is at the Court House with no money and the other women are coming out here. Our regiment is scattered from Bullrun to Accotink on the railroad. Give my love to Johnny and tell him I want to see him and kiss him and Lena for me. I would like to have hold of Lean and shake her. We have had a nice time. We had plenty of lumber up at the Rappahannock so we had good quarters and here we have a good block house to live in. General Tylor has been sent away and all the forces but our brigade and Grimshaw is in command so I think we will stay here a good while. I want you to write soon. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband.

Stephen T; Buckson.

I expect our grass is growing fast. I would like to go out there and look at it.

(no date.)

Fairfax Station, Oct. 6th.1863.

Dear wife:

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 20th and 30th. These are all the letters I have had since I left home. I was glad to hear you was well and that the children are well. I did get another letter but had forgotten it. I am getting better. I have been very sick. I never was as sick in my ~~ix~~ life as I was on last Wednesday and Thursday, but thank God he brought me out. He has a little more for me to do yet on earth and I want to make good use of the time. I am glad you have got a stove. You must see Mr. Haze and see if that house is to rent. You must forgive my short letter for I have nothing much to write about and my health is not in a condition to make me very lively. Give my love to Johnny and all my friends. Tell me if you ever get your money. I shall begin to think it is gone. Trust in God and may his blessings rest on you. No more at present.

Stephen T. Buckson.

Fairfax Station. October 15th. 1863.

Dear Wife:

I received your kind letter of the 11th yesterday, but not in time to answer it. I was glad to hear that you was all well, but you said you would write because you had nothing else to do. I am on duty again and am nearly well all only I am weak. I hope these few lines will find you all in good health. There is plenty of news here now. The Army is all falling back but in good order. The cars has all stopped running any further than here, and only supply trains run here. The wagon trains commenced to come in here yesterday, and are still coming. Everything is of a stir here. They have been fighting in front since Friday. Mead crossed the Rappidan with the left of his force and about the same time Lee crossed higher up and tried to turn Mead's right flank and out of the wagon trains, but Mead instantly changed his base of operation and commenced falling back so as to cut Lee off and done it, and the trains are all safe. At the time Beaufort's cavalry engaged the right of Lee's army and Kilpatrick the left and were both surrounded at one time but managed to cut their way out with small loss although our army is falling back it is in good order and the rebs are getting the worst of it again. Warren had a fith yesterday but we do not know the result. They expect a general engagement today ~~xxx~~ somewhere about Manassas or Bull Run. It is reported that Brag has reinforced Lee and that Rosecrans is going to reinforce Mead and make an advance and that Foster has gone up the Peninsula with a force. It does not become me to say anything about the strength of our army at this time as this might fall into some hands that we would not like to get it. We may have to move somewhere maybe to the front. It is no use to blind it but ~~xxx~~ do not trouble your self. The same hand that has protected us is still able and willing to do it now, so let us put our trust in Him who is strong to save and mighty to deliver. There is no danger while the army is in good order and good spirits. They say Mead is very cool and says he is getting the rebs right where he wants them on his own ground and that he will give them what they want a decent flogging. Our men brought in a lot of prisoners this morning and they are a hard looking heart broken set of men. They say Lee had to fight or starve, that he would not get supplies much longer and was to try to get into Pennsylvania or Maryland as Brag failed to drive Rosecrans and you see if this is true they are bad off and Mead will not let Lee get further than Bull Run. If I get any more news I will let you know as soon as possible. We can't get official news only from the papers and there is not much chance for that. I hear that the Union ticket is elected in Pennsylvania. I am glad of it. It is as good as defeat to one of the rebel armies. Give my love to

October 18th, 1863.  
Johnny and all my friends. No more at present but still remain your loving husband until death and then I hope we will meet in Heaven where there is no more parting and no sorrow. May the Lord bless you all.

Stephen T. Buckson.

I am glad Lena is so much pleasure to you and that you are fixed for the winter.

October 17th, 1863.

Fairfax Court House.

Dear Wife:

I have just received your kind and welcome letter of the 15th. and was glad to hear from you. To hear that you are all in good health and doing well. I am getting stronger all the time but I got weighed today and have lost 20 pounds since I left the Point. We received marching orders on the 15th, and marched out here on the 16th. We are yet an independent regiment. Mead has whipped the rebs bad. They were deceived. They thought the Army of the Potomac was broken up and sent to Rosecrans and Mead has outgeneraled them this time. The rebs is on the run and Mead is after them. The pontoons has gone up again and I believe that the rebel army will be broken up in Wirginia. They had a fight on the 15 at Catlet Station between Manas Station Junction and Warrington Junction. The rebs marched at a charge but our men stood firm and waited until they come within 150 yards and then fired a volley that sent many a traitor to a traitor's grave. Their intention was to turn our right flank but they run into a wall of Union soldiers and the drafted men fought like men and only complained because they could not load as fast as the drilled soldiers. Our company is on picket today, but I was left in camp. It rained

(This is on a separate sheet, but I think it follows the above.----B\*)

It rained all the time we were marching out here and we all got wet, but I feel very well to day. We got our tents up last night, and soon started a good fire. I can not tell much about the movement of the army now, but you may rest contented for the rebs are foiled in this move. The whole ~~may~~ wagon train is safe which the rebs has lost so many men in trying to capture. Our men taken 550 prisoners on the 9 days of this fight and killed 500 more, and I think we taken 30 pieces of artillery. I say we because I am in the army but I do not want the credit that belongs to more worthy soldiers, for we have not been in to it yet, but we are ready and waiting orders. I think our chance to get home is as good as ever for we are now relieved from the station and not in any brigade and will not be needed in front. You see every time we move I am short of paper but if we stay here I can soon get more. I think I will close as you can get official news out of the papers. You had better take Mrs. Jones's house but I did not want you to rent it if you could help it. I was almost heartsick on the 15th. News came that Major Woodel was killed but at night Lt. Macalester came in wounded in the

(over)

knee and said he was the only officer wounded or in the  
regiment, and I tell you it made me feel glad for his  
parents. I do hope the Lord will spare all such men  
for I hear the men of his regiment say he is all the  
field officer they have worth anything.

*John  
Mississippi*

It follows the words:----(B\*)  
(This is on a separate sheet, but I think

but I was left in camp. It returned  
dressed soldiers. One company is on duty today,  
completed because they could not load as the  
soldiers and the dressed men tonight like men and only  
one thing I think that they can find a way of doing  
to a soldier, a slave. Their intention was to make  
loads and then they a loaded that went with a soldier

Fairfax Court House, Va., Oct. 21, 1863.

Dear wife:

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 20th and was glad to hear from you that you was well and enjoying yourself. I am well and on duty. I begin to feel like myself again. I sent you a letter on Sunday to the Landing. It has nearly all the news. Our army is on the advance. Everything is still here now. The rebs is in full retreat and are whipped bad. They were deceived bad. I think we stand a good chance to get home as we have been relieved from the station and are in no brigade but are ~~an independent~~ an independent regiment. I am very ~~nervous~~ nervous yet as you can see by my writing. It is from smoking. I shall have to quit it. Give my love to Johnny and tell him I think I will get to see him in less than a month. Give my best respects to pap and all the rest of our families and friends, and tell them not to be uneasy about the fourth for whenever she has to move the Lord smiles on our army and the rebs leaves. It seems like a providential thing that we did not have to fight this time but the rebs commenced to fall back about the time we ordered out. So let us still put our trust in God for he is all in all to us. No more at present, but still remain your loving husband, until death,

Stephen T. Buckson

P.S. Give my respects to all the girls and tell them to be good girls and let me know how Mr. Johnson is.

Headquarters, 4th Del. Vol.  
Fairfax Court House.  
January 28th. 1864.

Dear wife;

It is again this beautiful morning that I am permitted to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all well. We have nice weather now and it is so still here that it seems as if there is no war here. I was just thinking if you was with me I should be perfectly happy, but I believe the time will soon come when I shall be permitted to come home to enjoy your company. Give my love to Johnny and kiss him, and my best respects to all of our friends. Mrs. Maclary sends her best respects to you and says she is coming to see you if she lives to do so. Her and Mrs. Burnet has fell out over a cup of coffee. You see Mrs. B. is getting very independent since Mr. B. has got to be captain. She has forgotten the past very soon, but it is so with the world. Past favors are soon forgotten. There is no news of importance here. We do not know yet when we will be paid, but I expect now that it will not be till the first of March, but you must try and make out the best you can, and may the Lord bless you. I still feel willing to trust him as he has been our friend. He will not leave nor forsake us. Let us put our trust in God and live faithful, so that we may live with him. Now as I have written before I have not much to say. You must write as often as you can for I love to hear from home. I have written to pap since we left home, but he has never answered my letter. I would like you to let me know how they are and what they are doing. No more at present, but still remain your devoted husband.

Stephen T. Buckson, 1st. Sergt. CO.G  
4th Regt. DelVol.

P.S. Received your letter of the 24th. I am sorry that you are crippled, but the Lord's will be done.

Headquarters, 4th Del. Vol.  
Fairfax Court House.  
Feb. 15th. 1864.

Dear Wife:

As I have had no letter since I have written to you I thought I would let you know how I was getting along. I am well and still striving to serve God, and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessings. Give my love to Johnny and all the rest of our friends. Now I am going to tell you something you will not like at first, but you will think as I do when you understand it as I do. Col. Grimshaw is going to try to get a special order for the 4th to re-enlist, so we can get the bounty, for if we do not we can get no bounty, but the \$10. dollar bounty, and as we have 18 months yet to serve I think that if we have to fight at all we will do it before our present time is out, and I believe that we will be discharged just as soon if we re-enlist as we would if we did not, for the negroes will be retained in the service with the regulars, so they will not want us but if they do keep us it will be but 18 months longer, so that will be 400 dollars for the extra 18 months, and not only that, the regiment will get 30 days furlough to home, and I would not like to be left behind to be put in any other regiment, and very likely be put in the ranks, so I think I had better go with the regiment. Now I know I promised you I would do nothing rashly, so I have thought over the matter ~~and~~ and went to see the Col. to get his advice, and he told me he would stay with us and that it was the best thing we could do for the war would be over before our time was out this time, and that he was doing this for the benefit of the men of the regt. as they have had no bounty. Now this bounty would be a great ~~help~~ help to us as we need all we can get as we are in debt, and I can not make that much in several years at home, and if I had to go to sea I should be from home, so I think I had better go in to it. Now I hope you will think over the matter justly and right putting your trust in God and answer this as soon as you can. Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Knight. No more at present, but still remain your true and devoted husband,

Stephen T. Buckson

Headquarters 4th Del. Vol.  
F.C. House, Va.,  
March 11th. 1864.

Dear wife:

I received your kind letter of the 7th and was glad to hear from you. My throat is worse this morning but do not be alarmed for it is not dangerous. It only affects my speech is all. I am well every other way and I hope these few lines will find you all in good health. Give my respects to all of our friends. Give my love to Johnny and kiss Lena for me. There is nothing new here. The women are both well. I have written to Rebecca Ann and told her all ~~xxxx~~ about how she talked about us, and I have written to Pap and Jervis and neither of them has written to me yet. We have no chaplain now. He has got his discharge and Denny Stevenson has got a commission as 1st leut. in a colored regt. We see no more prospect of being paid off than we did before, so you will have to do the best you can for I can't help you any. We could not get the order to re-enlist but it will have an influence. It is said that we are going back in the defenses of Washington. If we do we will stay there but put no confidence in this for it is just a rumor, although there may be ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ some truth in it. It is raining here. We have had some very nice weather but there is a good deal of wet weather here. Our shanty is dry and warm so we can do well. I am still striving to put my trust in God but I cannot enjoy myself as well as I used to on account of my throat. You must put your trust in God and let us live faithful so that we may meet in Heaven.

No more at present but still remain your  
loving and faithful husband,

S. T. Buckson

Headquarters 4th Del. Vol.  
Fairfax Court House, Va.  
March 17th. 1864.

Dear wife:

It is with pleasure that I sit down to write to you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. I am getting better of my sore throat. I am well every other way and I hope this will find all of you in good health and enjoying yourselves. We have some men sick in the regt, 1 case of smallpox and several of the measles, but there is good care taken of them, so that the ~~the~~ disease will not spread. James Scotten, one of our company, has been in the hospital in Alexandria ever since we left there and on the 11th of the month after he had been payed off he received a pass to go around town, and was murdered by some villain. He was knocked down and then his throat cut in three places and laid across the railroad track for the cars to run over to hide the deed, but was found before the cars came along and they have caught the man that did it, and today as the newsman was coming from Washington about three miles from our camp 10 rebs rushed out on him and 3 cavalry men and took them prisoners, but the newsman was not armed and they did not watch him very close and he picked a chance and sprung from his carriage on one of the rebs who had a double barreled gun and never let him up until he took the gun and then raised and shot him dead, and then turned and shot another and then our cavalry came up and the rest skedalled, so you see we have some fun some times down here. We were paid off yesterday. I received 80 dollars. I shall send 60 home and I want you to take care of yourself out of that. I do not know how I shall send it yet. Manlove has got a furlough in and I shall wait a little while to see if he comes home. If he does I shall send it by him. If not I shall express it to Mr. Cannon. I do not think I shall try for a furlough this spring for it costs so much and there are so many trying to come. I would like to see you all very well. I would like ~~to~~ you to come down if you can anyway, but if you cannot let us put our trust in God and he will bring us out all right for he has said so, so let us be faithful. Give my love to Johnny and all the rest of our friends. No more at present, but still remain your faithful and loving husband

S. T. Buckson

Headquarters 4th Vol. Del. F. Court House.  
March 20th, 1864.

Dear wife:

I received your letter of the 14th in due time and was glad to hear from you but did not answer it because I had just written to you and I wanted to see how I would send my money home. I shall send it ny Manlove. His furlough went in this morning and he will be home on next Saturday and will come to the Landing on Sunday or Monday and bring it to you, but do not say anything about it for he does not want his people to know anything about it. You must give him a receipt for the money. My throat is a great deal better but my mouth is sore. I am well every other way. You need not see any trouble about me for I can have good attention and my throat is not as bad as you suppose. I think now it will get well. I suppose I could get a furlough but I have had one and there is other men that has had none and I shall not try for one, and then it would cost me so much. Now you say you cannot see that the war is any nearer over than it was when it first broke out, but if you will just stop and think you cannot help but see that it is pretty near played out for there is not a state in the United states but what there is union troops in and there is but ~~xx~~ 5 states out of the Union now and when the war broke out there was 14, so you see there is less chance for them to support an army and just look around Washington. The rebels held Arlington Heights and all that part of Virginia and Alexandria and this place and so on, but now they are on the other side of the Rapidan which is about 90 miles from Washington, and then we have got plenty of Forts and a good army and plenty of arms and equipment and the rebs are getting weaker, and are getting whipped all the time. There was a fight yesterday at Bristow station just above here a few miles with rebel Stuart's & White's cavalry. White crossed the Rapidan below our army somewhere about Fredericksburg and come around in the rear of the army of the Potomac and Stewart crossed above and come on to the station and run in to the 5th corps and they whipped him and White run in to some of our cavalry and got whipped and could not get back the way he come and started to go back the other way and he run in to the 5 corps at the station about the same time that Stewart did and a general fight ensued and the rebs were cut to pieces. Our me throwed the grape and canister into them and litterly covered the ground with them so you see they run into a hornet's nest. We had to sleep with our equipments on last night but they did not come for I reckon they were glad to go back. Sally sends her respects to you. She has a very sore hand. I assure you she will do all she can for me. Her and Mrs. Burnet will never be friends any more for Mr. and Mrs. Burnet are neither of them like they were. Give my love to Johnny and kiss Lena for me. Put your trust in God. No more at present but still remain your true and loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson.

Rapahannock Bridge, Va.,  
May 5, 1864.

Dear wife:

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hope these few lines may find you all the same. We arrived here last evening time enough to get our tents up. You need not be uneasy for our regt is scattered along the railroad. I want you to write as soon as you can. Direct your letters to the Court House until further orders. I can tell you but little but the army is on the move. There will soon be some good news. Excuse my short letters for this time. Give my respects to all.

Your true and loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson

Rapahannock Bridge, Va.,  
May 8th. 1864.

Dear wife:

It is with pleasure that I write you a few lines to let you know that I am well, and hope these few lines will find you the same. I want to hear from you as soon as possible. There is no prospect of our going to the Court House for there is a regiment there in our place and Burnside's, Grant and Butler have formed a Junction and things are going on all right. I believe the rebs are retreating to Richmond and I believe they will be badly whipped. You need not be uneasy about me for we have a good place here and there is but few rebs here for they have all they can attend to in front of our army. We have good summer quarters and are doing well. There is but little news of importance. Some three of our guards done a trick I am ashamed of. Do not say anything about it. There was 3 rebs came up to the post and the guards told them who was here and how many there was and let them ride off and never fired a gun. We seen them from camp and fired several shots but they were to far off so they just rode off right before us. There is several trains here to take down the sick and wounded and prisoners, but they have not began to come in yet. I expect there is a good many for there has been some hard fighting. as there is no official news and I have but little time to write, you must excuse me. I received 3 letters, 1 from your mother  
1 from Maggy V.  
1 from Marty Wilson.

Give my love to Johnny and all our friends.  
No more at present, but still remain your loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson.

Near Alexandria, Va. May 24th. 1864.

Dear wife:

We are again on the move but we do not know where, we are going. I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. The women went home today. They are in a great way. I will write as soon as we stop. I have sent a bag of blankets and dress coats and pants. The middle ~~blanket~~ blanket is Mrs. Johnson's. The rest is mine. Give my love to all my friends and kiss Johnny and Lena for me. Do not unease yourself for the Lord will take care of me, so let us trust in Him. Excuse my short letter for ~~as~~ I am in a hurry but I still remain your loving husband,  
S. T. Buckson.

White House, Va. June 6, 1864

Dear Wife:

It is with pleasure that I write you a few lines to inform you how I am getting along. I am still unwell but not dangerous, but thank God I am yet alive, and I hope you are all well. You must put your trust in God and live faithful so that if we do not meet on earth that we may meet in Heaven. I have not been to the regiment since it left Port Royal. It has been fighting nearly (or nearby?) ever since and very hard too. There has been several killed but none that you know. Samuel Hackett of our company is killed and J. Palmer is wounded in the hand. W. H. Ruth is wounded through the right breast. The regiment has fought hard and not lost very heavy but has been dealing death and destruction to the rebs. I think I shall try to get to the regiment as soon as I can. Do not be discouraged for every thing is going on all right and Grant will soon take Richmond. Time is all he wants. I cannot hear from you but you must not stop writing for I will get the letters sometime. Give my respects to all my friends. No more at present, but still remain your husband until death,

Stephen T. Buckson.

White House, Va., June 8th, 1864.

Dear Wife:

I thought I would let you know how I was getting along. I am here detailed for nurse. I am not very well but thank God I am still alive. These are awful times here. You can hardly imagine how bad it is. The wounded cover acres of ground but the rebs are getting the worst of it all the time. There is all kinds of wounds but there is a good many kind women down here of the sanitary commission. God bless them. They are ministering angels. They can cheer the men up when nothing else will. I do not know when I will go to the regiment. I may never go any more and I may go any time, but as the Lord has brought me through thus far let us put our trust in him for he is our only strength. Sergt. Warren is killed and Sergt. Thompson is wounded, and Lt. Webb (?) is killed. Wash. Maclary is here sick but not bad. He killed the first reb when they laid in the entrenchments. Grant is going to change the base of supplies to the James River, tomorrow, and I think Richmond must fall. I think sometimes that I ought to go to the regiment but then I think I can do my duty here and if the doctor sees proper to keep me here it is all right. They brought in a lot of reb prisoners and there was a young girl that was orderly sergt. of one of the companies. Grant is whipping the rebs bad. The men lay in the rifle pits and the rebs charged on them to drive them back but our men stick and when the rebs fall back our men follow them and then stay, so you see they are scared and are losing all the time. Give my love to Johnny and all my friends. No more at present, but still remain your loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson.

Charles City Court House, Va.,

June 15th. 1864.

Dear wife:

It is with pleasure that I sit down in the open wheat field of a rebel under the shadow of my shelter tent to inform you that I am well except a little sore from the long marches, but I still feel willing to bear all that befalls me for I believe the cause is just and in God is my trust. I never knew what religion was before. It is everything that a man wants. It is good to know that we have a kind Creator who cares for us. Night before last I had to fall back on the march to the rear of the column and part of the time I was ~~alone~~ alone as far as earthly friends was concerned for we was amongst the rebs, but I felt that Jesus was more precious to me than ever before since I have been in the service. So let us still continue to put our trust in God and he will bring us out more than conqueror. I hope these few lines will find you all in good health. Give my love to Johnny and kiss him and Lena for me. I would like to see you all but that is impossible at present, but I believe this summer will end the war. I left the White House on the 9th and came to the regiment on the 10th. I felt it my duty to go to the regt. although I could have stayed there. Grant has changed the base of supplies to the south side of the James River and we are laying one mile from the river waiting to cross. We shall go up to Petersburg, I expect, but I do not know, for things are uncertain here. Keep up your spirits and trust in God. When I come to the regiment it laid at the railroad bridge on the Chickahomony river on the Richmond and West Point railroad, doing picket duty in sight of the rebs, and could talk with them. Some of them are dissatisfied and some are bitter on the Republicans for they have still got the negro on the brain. The weather is nice here today and it is pleasant in the shade. Give my respects to all our friends. You will have to borrow money of somebody for I can't help you until I am paid off, and I believe that Richmond must soon fall and then we will stop long enough to be paid. No more at present, but still remain your loving husband,

Stephen T. Buckson

Co. G, 4th Dela. Vol. 2nd Brigade,  
4th Division, 5th Corps.

June 19, 1864.

Mrs. Stephen T. Buckson:

We all have to mourn the loss of your husband Stephen T. Buckson, who was killed while charging on the enemy rifle pits June 18, 1864. His remains have been taken care of the best we could. We can offer you only our heartfelt sympathy at the loss of one who is so near to you.

Yours

Alex Harper.