

Washington Oct 18 1863

Dear Father,

I have just time enough to write a few lines to let you know that I am well and in good spirits we arrived here last night about 11 oclock and went up to some quarters for us and layed down on the floor with another regt got our blanket over us and our knapsacs under our heads we are going to march 8 miles this afternoon and going in to camp. the 10th Maine is encamped about 3 miles from here and the 14th[?] we had some salt Pork and Bread for breakfast--we had a nice time in Baltimore yesterday our little Drummer and I Played the whole Regt all over the city there is nothing but Niggers in Baltimore tobacco is 15.00[?] Pr pound and Postage Stamps are over three cts are good for nothing and if they are [sent?] they do not all I hope that you are well and I want to have you write to me just as often as you can I cant write anny thing that will interest you they are getting reddy to march so I must close up.

Your son

Algernon S.

P.S. direct to me Washington DC Co. C 25th Regt.

[Stationary letter is written on has picture of U.S. Capitol building at top, under which is printed "25th Regiment Maine Volunteers...Col. Fessenden. Company-___. Algernon inserted "C" after "Company"]

Arlington Hights Nov. 2nd 1862 [date incorrect?]

Father

your letter of the 28th received last night and was glad to hear that you was better of your cough and hope you will soon mend. Have had a cough for about a week nothing to speak of a week ago to day we started from Washington in a mighty rain storm and a wind which I never before see with my knapsack on my back and after a march of 4 hours brought us to a place called Arlington Hights and glad enough to see it for we was entirely wet through. Pitched our tents it raining like the Devil and layed down in the mud and water the water running through quite a brook and if any boddy can stand that they are tough enough for us soldiers we expect to march soon we shall either come back to Me or go to Harpers Ferry. FCJ Smith has ordered that he would pay our fare to Portland[.] I have just come in from Guard Mountain I have not got Fife Majors Birth yet but expect it every day as soon as Tom Long gets Drum Majors birth I shall have it[.] Sam Dean is a Brigadeer Drum[.] you got rid of your Mule pretty good tell mother that I shant use much of anything stronger than tobcao Rum is only 3.00 and Whiskey is but 12.00 per Gallon only 1.50 per pint[.] I wrote to grandfather last week but forgot to put on East Otisfield so it would go to Stockmans probably. it is mighty hard for me to write so you must put up with as little as you can[.] we are going to have an inspection now and I must close.

Your son

Algernon H. Scribner

Pls direct to A.H. Scribner, Washington DC, Co. C, 25th Me Reg.

[Postscript] send me 3 or 4 Postage stamps as they are a hard thing to get. Write soon. Send me 3 or 4 Postage stamps they are a hard thing to get.

25th Regiment Maine Volunteers. Col. Fessenden. Gen. Casey's Div. Company C.

Arlington Heights, Virginia Camp Tom Casy

Nov 14 1862 [date incorrect?]

My Best Father & Mother,

I thought i would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope that this may find you the same yours of the 9th recieved last night and was glad to hear from you but was sorry to here that you was not growing better instead of worse i get along tip top most of the time it is warm here now and our new Barracks are going up double quick we have got them partly done our buildings are made of logs one on top of the other and to stop up the cracks board roof i shall be glad when we got into them although it is comfortable in tents now but perhaps in 2 hours it will be cold enough to have 3 coats on i have not had anny cold to amount to anny thing since i came from Portland we are going to have Fresh Beef for dinner we live good enough for anny boddy Johnithan Smith was here this morning just returning to his Regt an[d] Josiah Maxfield of Naples of the 10th me Regt. i have got Clothes enough at present you said that you counted the days and weeks and Months till 9 of them has past away if you was here you could not count them as soon as on of the sundays is gone annother comes it does not seem as if i had ben here more than 1 week but i long for the time when the 9 months or rather seven has past. i am not sick of it yet have got to go out on Battalion Drill so i must dry up i recieved the stamps and write as often as you can you kneed not wait for me to write to you as i may not be so that i can so good by for this time.

Your son,

Algernon H. Scribner

Washington (December?) 14th 1862

Dear Father,

Yours of the 9th recieved last night and was glad to hear from you and that you was so as to be about i am well and enjoying myself tip top is warm out here no snow to ammount to annething once in awhile there is a little spot in the Shade but it is mighty muddy, so that i have to keep in doors except in the Morning there is no particula news[.] heavy Fireing was herd in diction of Fairfax and Maskitry which continued for a number of hours[.] they keep the news from us except what comes from them. I want you to lend me \$1.00 if you have it to spare i should not send for anny if i could get along without i went over to Washington Wednesday and stove my Boots all to the Devil they ripped out in the shank so that i cannot wear them till they are mended we have not been Paid off yet and may not for 9 Mts but expect it every day our men as well as common i can see them carry the boys that 3 months ago were at home and lay them in the Ground where they will rest a spell one from our Camp you may know him his name was Alonzo Smith of Windham Nat. Warren and Curtis Chute are here to night and they tell tough stories i cannot think of annything to write and it is getting late so i must close so good by for this time.

Ps When we are paid of i shall send my money home.

A. Scribner

Arlington Heights

Co. C., 25th Me Regt.

Washington, DC

Write soon

Washington Dec 1st 1862

Dear Father,

I got the box you sent to me this forenoon rather unexpected but however verry welcome but i did not dare to eat much but i have got partly well broke in. i happen to have some friends in Raymond that sent me some Bully cake and have got some of others there has been 2-Four Horse teams going to Washington since about a week before thanksgiving for this Regt we have got into our barracks last night and laid tip top i dont have a verry good chance as you see by my writing i am sitting down by the fire my paper on a drum head there is no news by rummors anny quantity of rumors we got news of the bombardment of Fort Darling near Richmond we can't get as much news here as you can at home know snow here we do not get anny Potatoes i have washed three times since I came from Portland and made out well we have Meetings Every Sunday and prayer meetings a most every evening our little drummer boys and i played the Drum and Fife for to bury some of our Regt 2 or three days ago one of them was from Casco about 11 each day dies and a great many are sick in the Hospital then from our Company. Simon Winslow and Robinson Edward[s] are in the Hospital i suppose you have Wood enough to keep warm this winter i will get clear of those North East storms this winter tell Annah to take good care of the cow it will be tough this winter to go to water i liked not to have got hold of your letter i looked it all over and could not find anny thing in the shape of a letter but I opened it to get hold of it[.] it is most time for tatto and i must leave off good Eve

Your only son A.H. Scribner, Washington DC

Arlington Heights January 1st, 1863

Dear Father & Mother,

I wish you a Happy new year I received your letter of the 25th last night and was glad to hear from you and that you was well or I suppose you was you did not write it is mighty cold here to night some signs of snow I have just been to Supper and am so full that I cannot write much I have been on inspection to Day and Mustered in for my Pay and I hope that it will come soon and so does the rest the Col is putting us right over the road we have to drill 5 hours a day 2 hours with knapsacks but I do not have to wear mine Bully for the Musicians there was a Fire in Washington last night the theatre was burnt and two of the Actresses was burnt or that is the report from there to day I was glad to hear that you was getting up Wood. I have expected that you would get out and the snow would be so deep that you could not get anny I am glad you have got rid of your Wagons and I should not get anny more of them on my hands you spoke of sending a pair of boots I can get them for \$5.00 here and Bully good ones to and it would be cheaper then to have them come from home I got the skin Plasters and Stamps you sent me I believe I have not borrowed 25 cts since I came from Portland have not gone very steep yet and I hope I shant have to. I cant think of much to write and what I can think don't ammount to much but I am going to keep on writing because I want to hear from home as often as I can it is rather dull out nothing but Camp rumors to keep up excitement there was a Swuad of Rebbel Cavelry came in to Maryland and 8 pieces of Artillery. when the 25th Maine is ordered off they will begin to scater George Gage is taking over on the hill at the Convalescent Camp he looks tough and rugged. Bill Allen was here Drum Major of the 10th on his way home I wish to God that our D- Major was on his way home and Capt Doughty who is the biggest fool in the Co. it wont be well that we get into Battle if we do there may be an accidental discharge of a gun. it is getting late and I must close up write as often as you can and I will do the same

Your only Son

Algernon H. Scribner

Musician Co. C. 25th Maine Regt.

Arlington Heights Virginia

Camp Tom Casey

Algernon H. Scribner to Emeline Scribner, 2 February 1863

Washington, Feby 2 1863

Dear Mother

(Sunday Eve) As I have an opportunity to set down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and tough and rugged I do not know but what you begin to think I am sick or something because i have not written before, but i will make it all up there is no particular so that i hardly known what to write we are building a Battery to mount eight Guns and throwing up Rifles Pits and are going to work and build a bomb proof Fort so that we shall have enough to last us 4 monts longer without going anny further south. It rains like the devil to night and our Barracks leak bad we Shall have a splendid time of it I got your letter Jany 14th and was glad to here from you and that was well and so as to be about - as I said before I do not know hardly what to write - I got a letter from Eunice the other day and she said that you was rather unwell I want you to write particular

Yours Truly

A H Scribner

Co. C, 25th Maine Regt. Washington DC

P.S. I send you my bogtype, which is as good as i can get dont you say.

Emele Scribner

[Emeline Scribner, first wife of David M. Scribner, d. 17 Dec. 1863 mother to Algernon Scribner]

Washington, Feby 14th 1863

Dear Father,

I received your letter last night dated Feb. 8th and was very glad to hear that you are well. I am well and lazy. I am busily engaged in making Bone Rings to pass away the time and learning to play by Note. Eliot is here and he shows me some. he makes out to know how to fiddle. he and Capt Doughty and Briggs the leader of the Band are playing all the time. i do not know hardly what to write there is no news of anny importance. the weather is warm and seems like Summer. I suppose you feel pretty big riding with your team what kind of a Sleigh have you got. I see by the papers that the Portland company call themselves the bullies of the 25th Maine and think that they are the best fighting Men Let them dip into Co C we can clean them out so quick that they would think that they were always Cleaned out. I hear great things about this Regt that they have got down front and that we have been in Battle I suppose you have herd of it I have got to go and Drill now and I will finish when I come back.

Your son Algernon H. Scribner

Saturday Feb. 63

I recd the few lines you wrote to me and was glad to hear that you was well and I hope you will get better I am well and right on my Fight It seems that you dont think much of my Picked Cap that is my night cap My shirt[s] are good them blue ones a wearing out round the risbonds [wristbands] my Army ones are good my stocks are all whole I guess they will last me if I do not have to march much i wear Green Boots on my feet i like them 1st rate. I have got me a new pair of Pants and they fit 1st strait we have not drilled anny for about a Month the mud is so deep that we cannot. Washington is about 4 miles from here we can look right down on to the Citty but it is no great [] of a city it is not half so pretty as Portland as for Albert Nutting we dont ask anny odds of him. I herd that Wm Holden and John Chute was coming out here i do not when how true it is we are going to [have] Beef Stake for dinner so I must dry up for it is about time to fall in for rations write soon send me some post stamps if you have anny to spare we have not been Paid off yet nor I do not know when we shall

Algernon Scribner

Company C 25th Maine

Arlington Hrights Va.

P.S. The Small Pox and the Diptheria are rageing in the Regt

Arlington Heights Va 26th Feb. 1863

Father,

I thought i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am well. Got your letter to night and was glad to hear from you there is not much going on here every thing is quiet. we had a gay old time through the Snow Storm. I do not know if you had anny in Maine but it was very tough here. you asked for me to write what the reasons was that I did not get the Chief M. birth. I would have had it so the Col. said but i could not get anny more pay there was a bill passed not to recieve anny C. Musicians anny way and i thought that I would not go anny further. the pay is the same either way our Drum Major only gets the same as a private. they like Whit F. tip top only he is mighty crabid some times the second Lieut there is no more Millitary in him than in a pig the most awkward in the line of Officers. I am getting pretty damd lazy i guess that i shant be good for anny thing when i get home but no matter if i get home all right it begins to rain and our Barracks begin to leek bad[.] John Chute was here the week but he has gone down Front down to the 17th he has got Curtis discharged and he feels pretty tickled. Samuel Wardwell is here to night just com from the 17th he has got a Subject for the grave yard his name os Cyrus Bonney his wifes Brother. the boys of the 19th are pretty much discouraged and so is the whole Army i guess or those are round here. The Queen of the West was captured day before yesterday by the Rebbs to days paper say that Fance has given the north and south 8 days to settle up this war in and if they dont do it in that time they shall step in on the Souths side. you may believe as much of it as you are a mind to. It is getting late and i must dry up so good one write soon

From your Fifer

A.H. Scribner

Camp C, 25th Maine Vols.

Arlington H Virginia

I left my Government fife with Bill Shaw

[Sheet of stationary of which letter is written is headed with rather patriotic picture of bust of George Washington surrounded by flags and an eagle and cannon balls and sword. Under this are the words: 25th Regiment Maine Vols., Colonel F. Fessenden. Company __]

Camp Tom Casey, March 1863

Dear Father,

I received your letter last night and was very glad to hear from you and that you was well. I am well all except a cold I have had about a week. I do not know hardly what to write as there is no news here. there was some fun down to Fairfax last Night in which there was about 45 Horses and Gen. Stoughton and his staff was taken if they keep on they will be in here next time. They will get all they want before they get out of it quite a number of officers have been taken by this regiment it is pretty cold here although there is no snow but mud enough to make it all up[.] we got Paid two monts pay or from the 1st[?] of Sept to the 31st of October I guess that I shant send anyything home as I want to pay up my bills I have got me a pair of boots [2 words illegible] at Alonzo Colwell have 5.00 to get home with which he will give to you if [3 words illegible].

I do not think the war is anny nearer a close than when it first began you think I do not get such Bief to eat as we have I guess or to hope you don't anny way I would like a smite of Cider. They have a great time about the temperan society they would not pay us off until we signid it but the boyes get pretty balmy I tell you I hird that Symonds had got home but it wont be anny better for him he ran away from the general Hospital at Philadelphia on a Discharge from the Hospital. I cannot think of much to write that will interest you that barel of Apples came last night but they was worse than none not more [than] 12 out of the barrel that was good all torren and froze tell Anna that I cannot send one this time a[s] I cannot get anny [one word illegible] but will soon. [two words illegible]

Your truly

Algernon Scribner

Co. C. 25th Me

Shantilla (Chantilly, VA) Mar. 27th 1863

Dear Father,

As i have an opportunity i thought i would write you a few lines to let you know that i am alive, and well all except som mighty sore feet Caused by marching with a new pair of boots[.] we started from Camp Casey rather unexpectedly to us but more unexpected to the officers and after a hard day marching arrived at Fairfax Courthouse about 13 miles and just at night it began to rain like the Devil. we pitched our tents and got down on the ground to get some sleep which was not but little when morning came it stoped raining and we had our Knapsacks and got into line and soon our Regt was on the way to Chantilla 6 miles from Fairfax we got there at last pitched our Shelter Tents and now we are in a good order ready for the rebs and pretty Damd near them i have been down to the Battle Field where McDowell fought monday after the last Bool Run Battle it is quite a hard cite some of the men lay on the ground half covered up with dirt and the arms are all round on the ground twenty nine Skulls lay in one hole[.] since i began to write i have got a letter from you and was glad to hear from you and that you was well. i hant got any small Pox yet and dont think that i will get it we have got a bully chance to Camp here have been felling trees to prevent the Cavalry raids on us you kneed not be afraid of my enlisting again it dont seem to me as though i should now but i want to see some of them Dam Rebels Come out here and Fight and i hope they will be Drafted write me how they feel about it the weather is very fine the ground in green and the Farmers are plowing some of them who pretend to be union men but they are Ddd Rebels. Sam Sawyer [?] is promoted to Capt. and the Capt. to Maj. Sargt. Morse is broke to the ranks we have got 2 Bands here and pretty good ones they are playing all the time[.] the mail is getting readdy to start so i must close up write to me soon and direct the same as before.

A.C. Scribner

Co. C 25th Maine

Algernon C. Scribner

25th Maine Regt.

Chantille, Va.

I dont know as you can read this

Camp Tom Casey, Chantilly, Apr. 11, 63

[Unknown Recipient]

Dear Aunt,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well I got your kind letter some time ago and very glad to hear from you. I am well as usual all except a Diarhea. I do not know hardly what to write - we have not had a chance to stay and some good houses covered with a cloth tent and a good Fire Place one of our own Construction it is not so good as we had at Camp Tom Casey the weather is fine and the ground is dry as in the summer time in fact it is most summer[.] last week we had a gay old Snow Storm about 14 inches it made us think of Maine I tell you[.] I have been on Review this forenoon and mustered in from 4 Months pay, and I hope it will come pretty soon. Although we [aren't] in a great hurry for it we have been building a fence round our encampment to prevent an attack or Cavalry raid we are right in the middle of the Rebs or Bush Whackers, there is no force to ammount to anything round here nothing but a few Gurillers and scouting Parties our Cavallry brought in about 700 of old Nosbys Crew last night and some Citizens from Middleburg I cannot think of much that will interest [you] I have been looking for a letter for some time but hant got anny i dont know but they are all sick or but what they have forgot me. Curtis Chute has lost his discharge and i guess he will not be able to get home if he hadnt been a Da---d fool he would go home with his Father but he wanted to get his pay and therefor he has got to stay in Uncle Sam's service a while longer have got to turn out and round the Pickets so i shall have to dry up so good by write soon

From A. Scribner Co. C, 25th Direct to Washington DC 25th Me Co. C

Chantilly, Apr. 11, 1863

Dear Father,

I got your letter to night and was verry glad to hear from you and that you was well[.] I am well as usual except for Diarheh which is rather uncomfortable[.] i cannot think of much to write i have written all the news to Grandfather. this afternoon i have been out around Centersville and out to our further Pickets it is a splendid country where we are now. although it is entirely deserted houses torn down and woods cut down and burnt up. theres been anny quantity of Officers and their aide[s] in Camp dressed in Dresses and Hats more Females then Males i do not know but you think that we are all along our Regiment[.] if the Rebs should attack us we could get 10,000 men in half an hour and 4000 Cavalry and two or three Batteries to pray upon them there is no Concentrated force anny where near here nothing but Bush Whackers and scouting parties some of our pickets made a dash on Middletown and took about 100 prisoners from Nosbys Cavalry we are getting up logs and brush round our encampment to prevent Cavalry raids on us we have to keep our Horses harnessed night and Day out[.] the Officers are more scared than hurt but dont know as my writing will interest you much but cannot think of much else[.] i herd that Levi Patch and Abe T had been to Canida and they arrested Abe as a Horse Thief they had better stay at home untill they know what they are running away for. the boys are all pretty smart and in good Fighting order but we dont see anny of right away it is getting quite late and i must close pretty soon i forgot to tell you about our Cow scrap when we started from Camp Casey we took about 1 Days rations with us which laster us the 1 day pretty well the next morning we got up with nothing in our haversack except a few crums we started and marched 6 miles through mud up to our knees and we got to where we are now about 11 in the night Came and we got nothing and Morning and no sign of anny thing and we thought best to kill some thing to eat we went over on the battle field and killed 4 Cows and 2 sheep Dressed them and brought them into Camp and made us feel better the next day some of the Secesh [derogatory shorthand for Sessionist] brought in a bill of \$104. Cant write so goodbye for this time

From you Son

Algernon Scribner

Co. C, 25th Reg.

Chantilly, VA

Washington, DC

Chantilly, June 10, 63

Father -

As i have n opportunity this evening i take this few moments to write you a few lines to let you know that i am well and trust you are the same have not had a letter from you for a long time but am in hopes to get one to night. If the mail comes we are having a good time about this time got Paid off Sunday 2 Months Pay and am in hopes the

next will come soon and the muster out with it[.] The Col. told us last Sunday that it was the last Inspection on this side of the Potomax. have been Boxing our knapsacks so that they will look in good shape to go into Portland.

The Boys are very scared of Old Mosbys Cavalry they say that he is Strolling around our Pickets and shot was fired at him last night which did not take much effect it was so dark and rainy they could not take anny aim they are now takeing in a Rebel a rusty old fellow that is so[.] well the weather is quite warm now but not so hot as it was in May i am hardly able to keep warm nights with the blanket and days warm as the Devil so to speak the Boys are all [well] but Simon and robbins we lost one of our boys last week Benjamin Bartlett from Raymond one of the best boys in the Company he was Col. orderly some getting dark and I cannot think of much more to write the mail has come and i will so and see if i have got annything - yes a letter from home - sorry that you are sick hope you will get well soon when you get my Coat look out for Creepers i want to get on a Cittizens suit soon and see it it wont stop a little scratching i suppose that Grandmam got \$1000 good thing got poor folks well I guess that i wont write much more i shall have the more to tell when i get home hoping to see you all well in a few days i will close up bidding you Good bye.

From your son Algernon Scribner

P.S. I will write again before we start for Washington i guess that you need not write again we think that we shall start from here next munday if nothing happens

A.H.S.

End of First Deployment

Camp Hays, Jany 29th [?] 64

Father,

Thinking that perhaps you would like to hear how I was. I am better than I was when I come down but not very smart there is some sad news which perhaps you will hear before you get this, that is Samie Knight died this forenoon at 11 o'clock, I was very sorry we had got a bully good chance to get Fifer in Sargt Shaws Company Benjamin Knight has been down ever since he had been sick he was taken sick last Tuesday and so goes the world Ben and Deck take the

Boddy to O tomorrow I do not know but what they will think that I was the cause of his death but I cant help it as I did notice [hard to read] that is so never so much as asked him to go untill I found that he was [words illegible] wanted him to go with me we are expecting to be paid in a few days & the 29th is expected to go [illegible] in a special train I shall expect [illegible] down next week. I want you to [illegible] at home it is getting quite dark and I must Close.

Algernon H. Scribner, etc.

Algernon H. Scribner to David M. Scribner, 18 Feb, 1864

Envelope addressed to Mr. D. M. Scribner, Otisfield, Maine. Postmark: New Orleans, Feby 19 '64

[Written in pencil]

[Dateline: Algiers LA

Feby 18th 1864]

Dear Farther,

Having arrived at New Orleans and that that you would like to hear from me thought that I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and right on. we got here last night after a delightful 10 days which we might have concluded had it not been for running on to the bar off Florida which detained us about 4 hours[.] This is a thundering nasty whole worse than Baltimore if it can be Orranges are just ripe not the trees have [full]. we are expected to leave this place to day but don't know the 29th is with us now we are in an Iron Foundry stoped here last night I expected to have seen you in Portland but we was rather to soon for you. the mail is going soon and I must not stop to write much the boys are all well we lost one coming out - Marcus Wright - was taken crazy and Cut his throat from ear to ear and making 4 different stabs in his breast - one of which entered his left lung he lived about 4 hours was thrown overboard in the Gulf of Mexico had I got time I might rite anny quantity of stuff but I cant now.

Yours truly,

Algernon H. Scribner

Direct to New Orleans, LA

Co. C, 30th Me Vet Volunteers. Excuse poor writing

Algernon Scribner to David m. Scribner, 20 Feb. 1864

Franklin [Louisiana], Feby 20th 1864

Dear Farther,

Since I wrote you we have mooved again again [sic] to this Camp where I think we shall stop a few days we are about 125 miles from New Orleans to the Bayough that runs from Brazure City It was the more uncomfortable journey that I ever had after being so hot It [the cold] took hold of us terribly. The boys are almost used up with a Cold and stiff limbs etc. we are putting right into Drilling Ten hours per day and the rest of the time devoted to scrubbing guns. I

have got a hard job to do to learn the Fifers they don't know hardly annything about playing and I have got to learn them the whole Camp Duty which I think it will take 3 years at the outside to do it. In Major Allen is agoing to take charge of the Crummers two of the best Drummers in the corps have gone into the ranks Palmer an[d] Smith Palmer was Calculating to go Drum Major but the Col. told him that Allen was going to take Charge of them so he placed out into the Ranks there is not much going on or no news we expect to go to Texas in a few days, or as soon as we get Drilled sufficient there has been one expedition gone now to join Banks and annother will go in a few Days the 19th came here to day from New Or and are going into our Brigade and probably the Cavalry will come soon to join us the 8th Maine is here the 14th they say has gone home on a Furlough and are reinlisted for three years again they think that one more year will wind the Fighting all up I hope so to we have got round Tents to sleep In and lay pretty Comfortable I feel quite at home here now but expect that I shall get sick of it in a short time. Frank Patch has gone on picket to day and a scareder boy you never see they say he cried but I do know you kneed not tell of it for he would cause the devil with me for writing to you it is getting about time for Dinner and I must dry up

Yours truly, Algernon Scribner, 30th Maine

Algernon H. Scribner to David M. Scribner

Envelope addressed to Mr. David M. Scribner, Otisfield, Me. Postmark: New Orleans, LA., Mar 30 64

Alexandria, March 27th 1864

Dear Father,

Yours of the 8th received last night and was very glad to hear from you but sorry that you were sick. I am so as to be round have got the shits like thunder and it begins to whittle me down to a peg since I wrote you before I have seen some pretty hard time that is so. [Maine 30th has been involved in the Red

River Campaign] I have Marched 172 miles and carried my hump averaging about 17 miles per day we are stoping here two days to rest then we start for some other place. God knows where but I don't it is about 90 miles from here my feet are both blistered sore as the Devil I threw my boots awat on our second days march and took some Brogues. There is about 40,000 soldiers here this place was captured about 10 days ago by our gun boates after about 2 hours fighting there was about twenty thousand rebels here when our boat came up the river but they all skedaddled carrying away every thing and burning what they could not carry they think that we are whiped and about starved out It would astonish you to see the Fleet in the river there's about 15 monitors and 43 Gun Boats and anny quantity of River Boats that are armed with heavy cannon and mortars[.] our rations are sp damed poor that anny body would almost starve rather than eat them[.] on our march 2 or 3 hard breads [hard tack] was all that we could get to eat except some Fresh Beef which Is worse than nothing it gives the boys the Diharea like thin water this morning we got some potatoes and a little pork which tasted as good as anny chicken that I ever eat. I will ask what the trouble was about Annah staying down to Patches I should not trouble them anny more I think[.] I know that I never shall if I get home. They are played out with me that is so you did not write when you was stoping but I suppose you was at Grandfathers tell Grandmam that I should like to be at home and get some Hull Corn this spring but my hull Corn will be Corn Beef we have got some Corn beefs layed down in the mud to keep us out of the Mud and glad to get that I guess that I have written as much as you will want to read as it is not verry plain.

From Algernon H. Scribner

Direct to 1st Div. 3 Brigade 30th Me Vet Vols, 19th Army Corps, New Orleans, LA

Camp of the Thirtieth Maine April 5 '64

Dear Farther

I now attempt to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well we are in Camp now for a few days again we Came here saturday night pretty near played out that is so hungry and tired and untill to day we have not had enough to keep a musquito alive, but to day we a[re] going to have some stewed Beans with some Salt Horse for Pork which if I was at home I dont hardly think that I should eat it but dont know what I might be drove to do. It is a beautiful morning this morning the sun shines bright birds are singing which makes me think of spring at home I can almost hear the sound of an axe and the murmur of

the water that the snow from the Hill would make[.] I have not much news to write nothing that will interest you much. the boys that are here are feeling pretty well though the Otisfield boys are pretty much played out the boys got a mail last night but Scribner had none we expect to start tomorrow morning but may not, we are going to Shrearsport distance about 100 miles from here i think we hve been in the camp to long as we have marched 16 and are 150 miles from Franklin City. I hope that we will get into camp sometime again but probably shant until the spring campaign is over. my Insides begin to cry cutbard and I must dry up pretty soon as i guess that I have written about enough for this time. Tell grandma that Jackson Scrib says dont you wish that you could down to Clarras table and have some Pork and Potatoes. God I do Jack says, and i say the same write often and I will Answer.

From Algernon H. Scribner

Co. C 30th Maine

excuse this dirty sheet of paper it is the last that I can get

[20 April 1864, Alexandria, New Orleans, LA]

[Dateline Grand & Cover, Apr. 20 1864]

Dear Father,

I received a letter from you yesterday which I with much Interst. Was glad you was well. I am well but do not feel very smart have got the Disentary pretty bad. we are in the same place that we were when I wrote you before but expect to move tomorrow the river is falling so that we cannot get supplies and the Pun Boat cannot get up anny further probably we shall go back to Alexandria. It is rumored that we are going into the Army of the Potomac but I hope not. I had rather stay here can get more stuff to eat down

here I mean Fruit well in regard to that Watch I intended to have stoped in Portland and to have sent Deck the money but things worked different than I expected therefore it has been delayed untill now[.] you have better pay him as I will save an extra Express bill and you shall loose nothing out of the operation and I don't think that I shall I promised to give him \$18.00 have been offered more than that for it a dozen times. About that 200 order what have you done with It[.] write me next time when we are Paid off shall send you all except when it absolutely necessary for me to keep probably shall get a part of the Bounty when paid. You spoke about the boys I supposed you meant Otisfield boys they are about all played out Jim Smith and myself are the only boys in Co. C and the only ones in the Fights Simon Greenleaf, Richie Patch and Jack Scribner are all in the Hospital Greenleaf has got the Chronic Diarhia and the rest have got Fevers I should not think you would be lonesome as long as you can get enough to eat when you are without that you can talk about being lonesome. Eli Smith is here I saw him last night it is a poor chance to skedaddle here Jim White was taken by the Rebs and several others 10 I think are missing I would like some of your cider I think it would do me good we draw Whickey when the weather is rainy and after a hard days March I am getting so that I hardly know what to write I write about once a week have received two letter from [you] since I have been out here I guess you do not mean to hurt yourselves writing I must Close.

From you Son

Algernon H. Scribner

1st Div 3rd Brigade 19th Corps

Co. C 30th Maine

Alexandria, April 27, New Orleans, LA

I wrote you this letter the 20th but have had no chance to send it but will now am pretty smart was in another fight last Saturday in which our Regiment suffered severely 140 men Killed and wounded out of the 30th Maine. Frank Tenny of Richmond was killed Meserve of Casco and Dan Murch wounded Col. Fessenden wounded.

Algernon H. Scribner

[This would be the Battle of Monett's Ferry, April 23, 1864 and this would be the last letter Algernon would be able to write himself]

[From Algernon's Grandmother, unidentified, to Algernon H. Scribner]

Otisfield, June 2nd, 1864

My dear grandson,

When I think how far you are from us it almost makes me shudder, and the many hardships you have to pass through I very often wish you were here with us, it is hard times enough here but we know but little to what you do. my health is better than it was when you went away from here, your Father and Julia is here with us and are well as usual. Grandpa received your letter and was very glad to hear from

you but very sorry your health was so poor, he says he wants you to write to him just the same as if he wrote to you for his hands are so stiff he cannot write, he works very hard.

[Inserted in right margin of this sheet] Simon and the Greenleaf fellow have got home.

I want you to write just as often as you can. I should like to hear from you evry week you wrote you should like some bod corn and we had any quantity of it and should have been very glad for you to have some with us. Eunice received your letter and wrote to you next morning, but we have not had any letter from you this some time. Mr. Henry Turner is dead he died very sudden, Elisha Rather our children all go to school. Your Father don't write as often as I want he should and I thought I would write a few lines to let you know that we had not forgotten you, write as often as you can, you had one about two weeks ago. This from Grandmother.

David M. Scribner to Algernon Scribner, 5 June 1864

Otisfield, June 5th 64

Old son

I thought I never should get any more letters from you, so I will scribble a little, we are all well. Greenlead & Simon Scribner got home 2 hard looking boys. I think Greenleaf is the worst looking man I ever saw[.] you spoke of your town orders they are right in my room in a trunk lock[ed] up the town has not called for the first [wave?] and I would hope they wont I rather it

would remain in there hands at present Anna and I have been to Bell Hill to a meeting for the first time. If you are sick as they was I want you to get away from there before you are so near... telegraph to me so I will meet you in Portland Boston or New York tell Whit that if any thing happens that you should get a ball through your heart I want him to have your Boddy embalmed You will never get out of that hole many of you alive ask Capt Sawyer. if he thinks he should see any fighting this tower [tour] I think he will [knot?] Old Grant is hovering around Richmond good I have written two or three times that you have not got I think I shant repeat we get all of yours I should think you would keep back in Battle time unless you are obliged to go in have just been eating baked suckers for dinner I feel dry bring me some water Annah I want you to write often to I will answer them if I dont scratch but one line I may get mail from you before if you get this if you wever do I cannot write any more this time so good By from your father

David M. Scribner

Otisfield Me

Joseph Knight to David M. Scribner, 13 June 1864

Envelope addressed to Mr. David M. Scribner, Windham Hill, Maine, Care of Jason Webb Esq.

Postmark is illegible

[Dateline] Morganza Bend Lea on the Mississippi River, June 13th '64

Friend David,

At the request of Algernon I will try and let you know how he is for he says he has not wrote you since he was at Alexandria and now I will come to what you want to hear the most

and that is how he is for you must think something excites him by his not writing himself. Algernon on the marches got tired out and got the diarrhea on to him and it has taken him down so that he is poor and weak so much so that he cannot set up to write but I think he looked better this morning than he has for some time but one spell I guess - he was some [illegible word] home sick and that will take a man down quicker than anything else.

He wants you to write to him as soon as you get this for it will do him a good deal of good to hear from home. I will see to him the best that I can and write as often as he wants me to till he gets so he can write for himself. My health is good and the health of most of the boys are good. We have got a pretty good chance here on the river but it is hot weather here and we have had three or four showers a day for two weeks past and such showers as you seldom see in Maine.

As the mail man is after the mail I must close.

Yours in haste

Joseph Knight

Co. G, 29th Me. Regt.

Whitman Sawyer to David Scribner, 6 July 1864

Camp of the 30th Me. Rgt. Vols.

Algiers, LA July 6, 64

Friend Scribner,

I feel it my painful duty to inform you of the death of Algernon! Yes! your son that we all worshipped has gone. He died coming down the Mississippi River from Morganza to this place.

On the morning of July 3 was at 8 o'clock. I was with him for an hour before he died. His life seemed to expire like the setting of the sun. As easy and natural as could be. At the time I wrote you before he seemed to be doing well and no one thought he would die the Drs said he would surely get well. He went to the Camp Hospital on the 13th day of June. After that I went to see him daily when I was not on duty. He seemed cheerful and was confident that he should get well. At the time he went to the hosp he was promised a furlough to go home as soon as he was able to stand the journey. Myself and the Company which I have the honor to command join with you in mourning the loss of Algernon. While you have lost an enterprising son one who seemingly had a bright future before him. The Company has lost a genial companion one who while on the march on in Camp was always cheerful. I will venture to say he had not an enemy in the Regt. "None knew him but to love him none knew him but to praise." Never have I had occasion to reprimand him either in this or the 25th Regt. The remains of Non are buried in the Grave Yard near by the place. The Drs. and the Capt of the Boat we came down on thought it was best to [illegible word] his body in the River but I would not for a moment listen to anything of the kind. I thought the least I could do was to give him a decent burial. Had it been in my power I should have his body embalmed and sent home, but the thing was all out of the question.

Algernon had \$15.00 with him in a wallet which you gave him also a diary 2 files one or two little articles of no account but still I am going to send them to you the first opportunity. Rather than to run the risk of sending the money I will write to Frank to pay it to you as I have an account with him the other things I will certainly send the first chance as I have to get them express'd.

If at any time I can give you any further information I shall be most happy to do it.

Yours Truly,

Whit

[Capt. Whitman Sawyer]

Capt. Whitman Sawyer to Daniel M. Scribner, 17 Sept. 1864 [no envelope]

HQtrs, Co. C, 30th Regt. Me Vols

Bolivar Heights Virginia

Sept. 17 1864

Friend D.M. Scribner,

Sir,

I was very glad last night at receiving from you a long looked for letter. I wrote you at Algiers La. the 6th of July giving you the particulars of Non's death etc. since that time I have heard nothing from you. Was at loss to account for the silence did not know whether you recd the letter or not, but my mind is now at ease in that respect.

In regard to the money affairs I will say that Isaac Rand is with the co. and says he borrow'd the money of Ricker but he thinks Ricker had it of Non. The Regt. has not been paid yet. When it it I will have the bill sure and send it to you by mail or express as you may direct.

The watch Ricker has got, says he bought it, gave eighteen \$18.00 dollars for it. Whether he did or not I am unable to say, I had him (Ricker) take care of Aln the last week of his life and although I used to go to the Hospital every day to see how he got along I did not enquire into his private affairs thinking he would not be sick long.

Ricker is at present away from the Co. on detached service is Hospital Guard at [?] Hook, about 4 miles from this place, has not been with the co. for 2 weeks, when he comes I will enquire into the watch affair and if he has been playing sniydom [?] I will crucify him.

The clothes you spoke of are in N.O. La. When our Regiment left Franklin last march on the Red River campaign all clothing that the boys did not want to carry was packed in boxes and sent to N.O. among the rest was a dress coat and a pair of pants for him. Whether the Regt. will ever get the Boxes or not I can't tell, but if they do I shall get the cloths and will send them to you with pleasure.

Algernon's Grave is in Algiers near the Govt. Depot, across the River from New Orleans there was a board put at the head with his named carved on it. Whether you will be able to find it or not is doubtful. I suppose you know more of travelling than I but, I will say to you that it will be more of a job to go to N.O. and get the remains than you have any idea of there will be a heap of red tap to deal with and that is the worst kind of dealing a man has. I know by experience.

Our Regt is healthy not hardly a man sick. We are situated about one mile from Harpers Ferry the only duty we have is Picket and that is not very hard.

I will send the little slip of paper back as you directed.

If at any time I can give you any further information in regard to Non's affairs, I shall be most happy to do so.

Please remember me to your Father and Mother. I often think of the good old people and should be very happy to see them.

Hoping to hear from you again soon, I am,

Yours truly,

Capt. Whitman Sawyer

Co. C, 30th Regt. Me, Vols.

Washington, DC

D.M. Scribner, Otisfield, Me