



Camp near Fredricksburg Va Dec. 19, 1862

Dear wife I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and hope that thousands of lines will find you and the children the same and all the rest of the night I will tell you about our fight in Fredricksburg we struck tents one week ago today in the morning about four o'clock in the morning and marched to the battle ground and laid there five days and nights on our arms all the time we retreated from there on the 13th day morning our army lost badly our regiment was in the first line and we were shot at and had our horses killed the rebels shot after we crossed the river they threw shells in our ranks when we tried to cross the river but did not kill any of our men but it was a narrow chance for us the mud was thrown all over us by them the balls whizzed by our heads it was very hard to see the red bay on the field so long I saw a great many men fall the rebels was behind stone walls and in houses so that we could not see them and they had rifles



pits to lay behind when we were in
I never expected to come out alive but I did and I
thank god for it it was a awful thing to hear
the men cry for help on the field on Saturday
night it was very cold we laid right in with
the dead and wounded that night and the
next day then we was relieved by acatafonia
regiment on monday night then we went
back in the town and laid there that day
with balls and shells all around us there
was a shell struck in the yard behind
us wich throwed dirt all over my company
the compny on both sides of us jumped
and were behind a church close by some of
the boys got up to run and I said them lay
down again then there was three or four more
came right over us on the other side of the road
one man was struck in the head right opisil
of us the balls struck all around us but
did not strike us I wish I could have sent
you something that I got in the town but
I cant send you much I will send you something
to remember me by and to remember fredericks
burg any way in this letter and more

in the next row this horses head
is for the children It was to bad to
see the goods distroid in that vilage chairs
soiffas panicas tables tabels dishes every thing
you could speak of flour pork whiskey
and so forth I have got too little matts and a
bible and a dish for you if I can send it
to you wich I hope I can I have got one
leter from you since I left home that was
night before last I was very glad to hear
from you but sorey to hear that Estella
was likely to have fits but glad to hear
that you was all well at present tell
Ema that she must be a good girl or I
shant like her much I am glad to hear
that thay learn so fast tell them that I
think of them very much and hope that
they will be good girls untill I come
home tell the children that I am glad to
have them pray for me and I will pray
for them and you to it is very hard for
the men here now I am sorey to hear
that your road was out for meat and that
you had to sell your dress for to get

shoes for them but I cant get my
pay yet and am sorry for that
you must try and get hector to get
you some wood I am sorry that I cant
come home this winter now I must for we
have just had some new recruits come in
and I must tend to them now do good by
for this time I saw a little girl in fredericks
burg and it put me in mind of my children
at home her father was with her but it
looked hard to see her there and the balls falling
all around her the people had all left that
you kiss the children for me tell them
that you must be good girls and mind you
now god bless you all and keep you
from harm

from John M Young to
his wife and children
Rosetta R Young & Estella young & Ida young
& my young

I must tell you that I have just
got your letter how glad I was Daniel
Decker is well and so is Read I gess this
letter is large enough this time

Mrs Rosetta R Young

Elmira Chemung

Lo N Y 10th

