

Sandy Hook Sep 4 1862

Dear Father, I sit down to write
 a few lines to you to let you
 know that I am alive well and
 in good spirits, we're at place
 called sandy hook about an mile
 from the "great bay" we are
 here last night, we have been
 all about since I wrote, I should
 have wrote before if we had not
 left our knapsacks they have
 not come yet we may not get
 them in two or three weeks
~~there is~~ I could not get any
 paper untill I had had to finish
 this sheet we left arlington lights
 last Monday after noon we got to
 Washington just dark we staid
 round the streets all night waiting
 for the cars I and Philo spread
 out a part of a tent and sleep
 we went to Fredrick city

we got there about dark
Tuesday we staid all night
there. Wednesday morning we
went out three miles west
of the city and staid there until
Thursday night we then started
for Harper's ferry but stopped
here. there is a ridge of
mountains on each side of us
they had a fight on one of
them two weeks ago. two of
our boys found some old
muskets up ^{there} and brought
them in. I and Horace got
a pass and went out on a
rebel camping ground
we picked up some letters
that was wrote to the rebel
soldiers. they wrote that
that they was anxiously
waiting for them to whip the
yankes out so they would be

at home again I think
they are waiting in vain
I took of some stamps from
some old envelopes I will send
them up when we started
from Washington we
expected to have a fight
before this time ~~but~~ they
tell us that we are on the
reserve of McClellans
army he has eighty thou
sands reserve his army is
going to sell every thing
before it we left our blank
ets and every thing but our
overcoats we can hear the
cannon when they fight
now. I suppose you have
got most through digging
potatoes we are all a come

ing up to eat a few in a few
days. in a few months at
any rate these rebels are
going under in a hurry
now I went out in a field
the other day and saw about
four hundred horses that
had been in the army
they looked hard they
had turned them out to get
in good condition again
~~the~~ you write as soon as you
get this I have not got
any letter for a week
Bro. Smith and Philo are
well. I send my love to
all the family kiss Helen
and Delia for me so.
Good Bye

From your son

Henry Welch



Mr Luther Welch
North Hebron
Washington Co
N Y