



Nashville Tennessee

Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1865

Dear Uncle & Aunt

This is three days since I received your letter but as I had written to you ~~two~~ or three days before I thought I would wait a short time before I answered it, and another thing I have not felt much like writing, to be honest about it I must say that I have been sick for the past week, I have kept around all the time but have not felt well, to use a familiar phrase I have felt more "dead than alive" but I am feeling firstrate now and by getting better so fast that by the time you are reading this I shall have forgotten that I have been sick at all. I took a rather hard ride one afternoon in the rains and it was a little to much for me I guess as I have felt a little rough since, and I guess it was a little to much for my horse to for he has looked decidedly bad ever since, but Uncle Samuel furnishes the horses so that is all right and when one fails we-



only have to get another, my business  
out that afternoon was to find a man  
whose wife had come from the north  
to sell him, I found him at last and  
brought him into town and such a time  
as they had shaking hands and all that  
was a caution to nervous folks, after they  
had shook hands, with each other about  
twenty times, then they both had to  
shake hands with me, and they both went  
at it at once they shook and kept shaking  
till I thought they would shake the  
arms off from my shoulders, all the  
time hoping that they could do as much  
for me sometime, and all the time  
hoping that I never should have another  
job. like that on my hands, the shaking  
hands part in particular, to say nothing  
about the ride in the rain, you  
may laugh when you read this but  
it was anything but laughable for me,  
I can assure you, I do believe that woman  
hurt my left hand worse than it  
did when I had the amputation  
performed on it, but I was under  
the influence of chloroform then you know  
and could not sense anything, I am  
just a thinking that I should want to



be under the effects of chloroform again.  
if I was to have another such a shaking,  
but this is nonsense enough for one letter.  
there is no news for me to write for I  
suppose you get all the news first, we  
are having a great many rumors about  
peace these days and if I hear much more  
about it I shall soon be having this  
"campaign" close the war again, but without  
joking I do think this war is about over  
and this confederacy about gone through  
our armies have had grand success  
although the last year, with such victories  
and such success another year, what would  
the rebels have left, scarcely nothing, not  
many men, and the only General would be  
"General starvation" and I think he is about  
taking command of a good part of the  
south now, I saw Lieut. Brown today and  
had a good talk with him, he is a  
military conductor on the railroad and  
runs from here to Chattanooga, the  
weather has been splendid for the  
past week warm and nice, but it's got  
to raining again today, I have a good place  
to sleep this winter a nice cot bedstead  
with plenty of cloths, and a coal fire  
burning in my room all night.



The clerks and orderlies all eat.  
 Together we have good enough living  
 for soldiers, of course, we don't get butter  
 pie and such like but we get potatoes  
 plenty of them corn and wheat bread pickles  
 cabbage onions, fresh beef twice a day plenty  
 sugar coffee and now and then soup  
 and pudding and beans, by the way I am  
 more fond of beans than I was at that  
 picnic over in Hartford, by what I hear  
 by my letters the young folks are having  
 just as much fun as ever up there,  
 that is nice for them, when next winter  
 comes around what is left of the old 123  
 regt. will be at home and then the  
 soldier's sport will come, but it will  
 be but a few that will go back to  
 what come out from camp, but I  
 must close, my regards to you, good  
 night,

Ad. horn your nephew  
 P. Henry Welch

P. O. direct to  
 Nashville Tenn  
 Lock Box - 50.



~~Official Business.~~

U. S. A. MED. DEPARTMENT.



Mr. Franklin Garner  
South Granville  
Washington Co.  
N. H.