



Camp near Staffords.
 Courthouse Feb: 7. 1863.

Dear Uncle and Aunt.

It is
 one of the pleasantest days that
 I ever saw the sun is shining
 out warm there is not a
 cloud to be seen. its just
 such a day as I should like
 to spend at your house having
 a good old visit with you but
 as I cannot exactly do that today
 I will do the next thing to it
 talk a little by the way of uncle
 Sam's mail. hoping that the
 time will soon be when
~~we~~ I shall have the pleasure
 of sitting around your fire
 and have a nice visit with you.
 I believe that I could visit

around old Washington County,
quite awhile and enjoy myself
finely for awhile I feel as
though I would like to try it
at any rate. But I like to forget
to tell you that I am well
and hearty as ever and getting
along finely; I am about the
same old sarpence that I was
when I left you some six
months ago a little more weather
beaten though I think; ~~I think~~
when we were at Fairfax
station I think we were
troubled about as much
with pine wood smoke
as ever Sam Adams was
I s'pose the smoke was awful
on him; I have received a
letter from Father since
I commenced writing this letter
and I was glad to hear that

they were all well but I suppose you want me to write some news there is nothing new to write we are getting down where they have war and rumors of war and I am most afraid that before we take Fredericksburg that we shall have war in dead earnest we are within ten miles of there now and the thought of moving nearer is not at all pleasant to the most of us I think but I had much rather that the grand army of the Potomac would move on and do what they are going to do than to lay still untill hot wet weather then have another severe repulse and have to fall back to Maryland once more

and just as shure as they
 dont whip the rebels before
 the first of May they wont
 whip at all unless they make
 a heavy draft for at the first
 of May theres a good many soldiers
 time will be out and they are
 agoin home. but I am in hopes
 that they will whip out the rebels
 by that time and then we all
 can go home. the reason that
 I did not speak about that money
 that you wrote about was because
 I had not got quite out and
 we have been paid off since
 then and so I have plenty now
 I tell you Uncle Franklin I
 have got a gay horse to take care
 of he is up and dressed every
 time round. but I will bring
 my letter to a close for I
 think of nothing more to write
 give my love to our folks and
 save a part for your selves from
 P.S Billy Wanner is sent up
 and Ed Wanner has
 deserted and Alba
 Woods

Henry



Mr Franklin Bannert
south Granville
Washington County
N Y