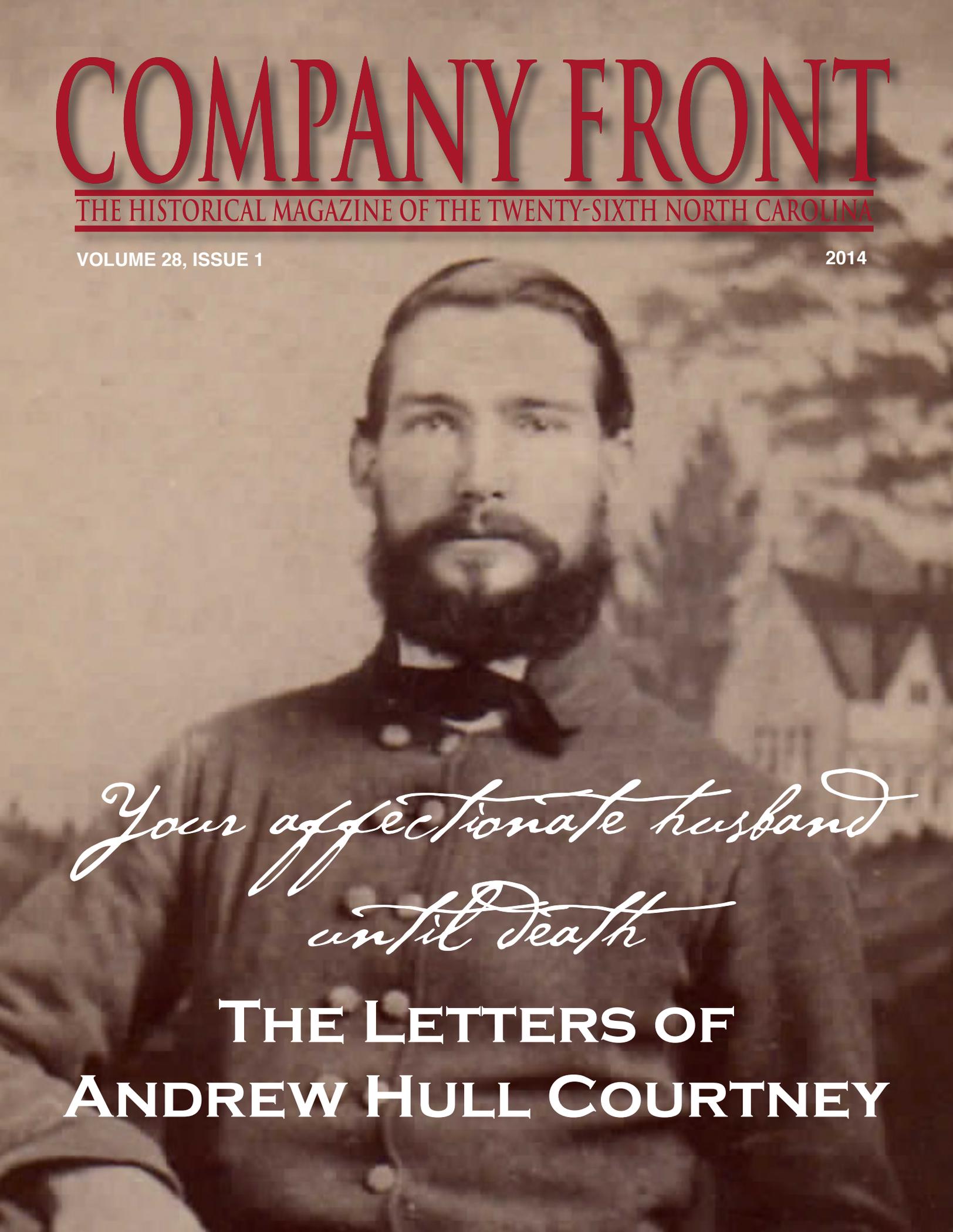


# COMPANY FRONT

THE HISTORICAL MAGAZINE OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH NORTH CAROLINA

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1

2014



*Your affectionate husband  
until Death*

**THE LETTERS OF  
ANDREW HULL COURTNEY**



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### **Front Cover**

Photo of Andrew Hull Courtney, made in Petersburg, VA in December 1862 (SEE LETTER 14)

### **Inside Front Cover**

Courtney family photo ca. 1907

Front row left to right: Andrew H. "Dan" Courtney, Mary Eveline "Polly" Courtney, Henry M. Courtney

Back row left to right: Robert M. Courtney, John A. Courtney, Fannie L. Courtney Teague, Marcus Courtney,  
Laura M. Courtney Webb, William G. Courtney

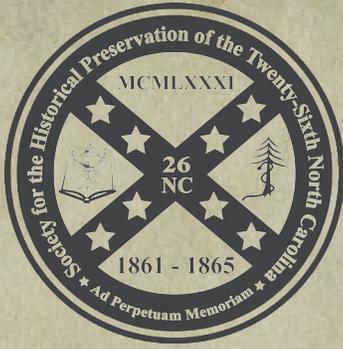
Note: Daughter Maria Isabella Courtney Smith was not pictured as she was deceased when these pictures were made.

### **Inside Back Cover**

Postwar wooden leg of Andrew Hull Courtney. He can be seen wearing this wooden leg in the ca. 1880 photo with his wife. (SEE BACK COVER)

### **Back Cover**

Photo of Andrew Hull Courtney and Mary Eveline "Polly" Courtney, ca. 1880



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The Andrew Hull Courtney Letter Collection

Co-edited by Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr. and Rebecca Tuttle Price

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### STAFF

Layout Editor  
Jason Goodnite

Historical Editor  
Greg Mast

Copy Editor  
Alan Leonard

Production Supervisor  
Skip Smith

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# Your affectionate The Andrew Hull Courtney Letter Col

Co-edited by Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr. and Rebecca Tuttle Price

## Introduction

I first heard of the Andrew H. Courtney letter collection in the early 1990s when visiting with a member of the Courtney family. Being of the older generation, he did not want the letters to be seen. In 2012, I spoke to Rebecca Tuttle Price, the great granddaughter of A. H. Courtney, and the present owner of the letters, about the possibility of publication. She agreed, and it is through Rebecca's help and generosity that the words and thoughts of Andrew Hull Courtney are now preserved.

These important letters represent the feelings and experiences of an enlisted man in the "Hibriten Guards" of Caldwell County, North Carolina. "Dan," as A. H. Courtney was called, came from the "Lower Creek" section of the county, about four miles west of the county seat of Lenoir. The rolling land of that area is traversed by the Johns and Catawba rivers, and by several small creeks. Not far to the west is the neighboring county of Burke and to the north sits Watauga County and the Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina.

When reading the letters and biographical notes one sees that the families that resided in the western section of Caldwell County at the time of the Civil War were connected in many different ways, by both blood and marriage. In 1860 the county was sparsely populated, so the residents tended to marry neighbors and cousins. The result was a unique web of relationships and connections.

## A Note of Thanks from Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr.

I would like to thank Rebecca Tuttle Price for allowing us the opportunity to preserve the words of Andrew Hull Courtney and for her invaluable assistance in providing information and double checking the original letters. Thanks also to Randal Garrison for transcribing the letters and thanks also to Dwight Joplin for his assistance in re-typing the letters. Finally to Greg Mast and Al Leonard for their always outstanding grammatical, historical and formatting advice.

## A Note of Thanks from Rebecca Tuttle Price

I am happy to be able to share Great Grandfather Courtney's letters with the readers of "Company Front". The letters do not contain any extraordinary new findings; however, they are of great importance as they vividly portray the daily life of a soldier of the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops. The letters capture the yearnings for home, the hardships of camp life, the camaraderie only soldiers can know, the feelings of loyalty toward God and Country, and the uneasiness caused by an unknown future. The letters written by Andrew "Dan" Courtney to his wife, Mary Eveline "Polly" Courtney, allow us to experience the life of an enlisted soldier in the "War between the States".

I would like to thank Skip Smith for his hard work on this project. His initiative, research, and expertise made the presentation of these letters possible.

For the Tar Heel Soldier

Locke W. (Skip) Smith, Jr., Co-Editor

Lenoir, North Carolina

Rebecca Tuttle Price, Co-Editor

Gamewell, North Carolina

*Husband until Death*  
**Collection**



## Courtney-Tuttle Genealogical Line

Editor's Note: To help the reader understand the context of the following letters, the Editor believes that it will be helpful in the following family genealogy charts to identify members who served in the American Civil War. Where possible, that information has been provided by **bold and underlined** format and by placing in parenthesis the company and regiment they served in.

### Courtney – Tuttle Family Genealogical Line

William and Elizabeth Tuttle (arrived in America in 1635)

*to*

Simon Tuttle

*to*

Timothy Tuttle

*to*

Ephraim Tuttle (b. 1710)

*to*

Capt. Lucius Tuttle (b. 1749) m. Hannah Hull (daughter of Lt. Andrew Hull)

*Their child Andrew Hull Tuttle, Sr. was the father of the Caldwell County Tuttle Family*

Andrew Hull Tuttle, Sr. (b. 1-28-1775) m. Elizabeth McCall (daughter of Robert and Elizabeth

Aiken McCall) – they had six children together;

- 1 Lucius McCall Tuttle;
- 2 Andrew Hull Tuttle, Jr.
- 3 Margaret Maria Tuttle
- 4 Robert Gaius Tuttle
- 5 Benedict Marcus Tuttle
- 6 Nancy Carolina Tuttle

1. Lucius McCall Tuttle m. Sarah Eveline Saunders

1. Victoria S. Tuttle
2. **Romulus M. Tuttle (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**
3. **Columbus A. Tuttle (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**

4. Lucius A. Tuttle
5. Robert Fillmore Tuttle
6. Preston P. Tuttle
7. William Marcus G. Tuttle
8. Unknown – died before 1 year of age
9. Unknown – died before 1 year of age
10. Unknown – died before 1 year of age
11. Mary Ella Tuttle
12. Unknown – died before 1 year of age

2. Andrew Hull Tuttle, Jr. (Did not marry)

3. Margaret Maria Tuttle m. **James Courtney (Co. B, 11<sup>th</sup> NC)**

1. **Andrew Hull Courtney (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)** m. Mary “Polly” Bowman

1. Un-named daughter who died December 16, 1861
2. Un-named son who died at birth on October 15, 1862
3. John Andrew Courtney
4. Mariah Isabella Courtney
5. William Gamewell Courtney
6. Marcus Lafayette Courtney
7. Laura Mary Courtney
8. Robert Marshall Courtney
9. Henry Marvin Courtney
10. Fannie Lou Courtney

2. Caroline E. Courtney (Died at 7 years old)

3. **Henry Clay Courtney (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**

4. **Robert Gamewell Courtney (Co. G, 3<sup>rd</sup> NC Jr. Res)**

5. Mary Alice Eveline Courtney
6. William Locke Courtney
7. Marshall Marcus Courtney

4. Robert Gaius Tuttle m. Lucinda Puett

1. **William Anson Tuttle (Co. A, 22<sup>nd</sup> NC)**
2. **John Andrew Tuttle (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**
3. **Marcus Gamewell Tuttle (Co. G, 3<sup>rd</sup> NC Jr. Res)**
4. Robert Murchison Tuttle
5. Mary Elizabeth Tuttle
6. Nancy Carolina Tuttle
7. Lucius Haywood Tuttle
8. Magruder Hill Tuttle
9. Davis Beauregard Tuttle

5. **Benedict Marcus Tuttle (Co. B, McRae's Batn. Cav. / Co. D, 1<sup>st</sup> NC Cav.)**

m. Mary Ann Elizabeth Cockerham

1. Un-Named son that died at birth
2. Daniel Tuttle
3. Lucinda Tuttle
4. William A. Tuttle
5. Mary Jane Tuttle
6. Laura Eola Tuttle
7. John Marcus Tuttle
8. Carolina Frances Tuttle
9. Robert Gamewell Tuttle
10. Lelia Judson Tuttle

2 Nancy Carolina Tuttle m. Andrew Washington Hood

**Editor's Note:** This family moved to Indiana in the 1850's and had thirteen children, with one child, John Andrew Hood, enlisting in Company D, 51<sup>st</sup> Indiana Infantry on December 14, 1861. He mustered out December 14, 1864.

# Bowman Family

- I. John Bowman (June 20, 1809) m. Isabella Kincaid (December 11, 1815)
  - a. Mary Eveline “Polly” Bowman m. **Andrew Hull Courtney (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**
  - b. Margaret Bowman
  - c. Elizabeth Ann Bowman
  - d. **John Blackwell Bowman (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**
  - e. **William Robinson Bowman (Co. F, 26<sup>th</sup> NC)**
  - f. Andrew Jackson Bowman
  - g. Frances Emeline Bowman
  - h. Nancy Caroline Bowman

**Editor’s Notes:** I have added punctuation where needed and placed within brackets information to make the reader better understand the context in which Andrew H. Courtney wrote. I have left the spelling as written but, where needed I added a missing letter within brackets. His wife’s name is Mary Eveline Bowman Courtney, but she is called “Polly.” I have also added punctuation throughout the letters as Andrew did not use any. Please note that the surnames Setzer and Suddreth are interchangeable with Setser and Sudderth, as is still the case today in Caldwell County. Finally, you will notice throughout the letters that he “learns” to spell the names of certain people as the war progresses.

*Letter 1*

Sept the 17 1862

Camp french near petersburg, Vir.

Dear wife I take this opportunity writing you a few lines to in form you that I am well and hope these lines will find you are well. The Regt [26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] is gone 35 miles towards Suffolk. we got to the Camps yesterday evening about sun down. the sick and disabled are here. washington holloway stayed at Weldon to Bring on the Boxes. I got my Box on to petersburg. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is gone with the Regt. I dont know when we will get with the boys. some say they will be back in a day or so [and] some think we will go down there. they are leying down the Rail Road. we heard they was gone to Suffolk as we came a long I did not sleep any on monday night. I slept pretty well last night. Me and hedgepett [Robert N. Hudspeth] got to the Camps last night. we find Wm. Barber [William Barber], John littleJohn [John Littlejohn] and several others here that we know. we are going up to town this morning to meet [Washington] holloway and bring our boxes out to the Camps. We come free polly. I am very well satisfied so far I would be better pleased if the boys were all here. they are generally well. Clay and John is well. I must bring my letter to a Close. write to me as soon as you can. polly I think a good deal about you and home. I have not time to write. I will write Soon a gain so nothing more but remain your affectionate husband.

A H Courtney

To M E C

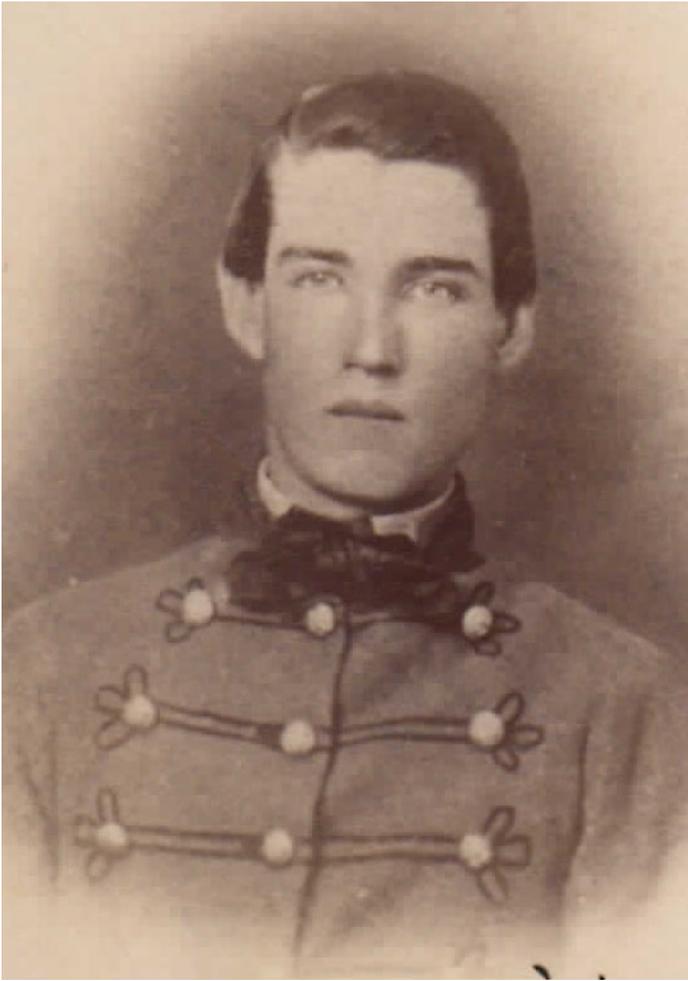
Envelope states that this letter was "in care of James Hood"

*Letter # 2*

Sept the 18 1862

Camp near petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat my self this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope when this Comes to hand it will find you and all the relations well. I wrote you a letter yesterday and sent it by male. I will tell you Something a bout the Camps. I am pretty well satisfied so far as I have seen. me and hudspeth got here tuesday evening. the Camps is four miles from petersburg. the Regt is about 35 miles from here to ward Suffolk.



**Henry Clay Courtney**



**John A. Tuttle**

they are laying down the rail road. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. the Regt left here last sunday. I heard from there tuesday evening. R Hudspeth [Robert N. Hudspeth] Come up from there. we got all of our things here safe. wash holloway [Washington Holloway] is gone down to the Regt to day. I told him to tell the boys to come up this evening if they can get off. I have faired very well since I have been here. I went up to petersburg and went in the hospitals. I saw John Kincaid he is in the first North Carolina [1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Volunteers] he is getting better. Joseph winkler is in the hospital. they think there will be a battle at suffolk. I dont know whether there will or not. polly I am in hopes you will get along very well you must do the best you can. I am in hopes peace will be made without any more fighting. William Corpening is here. I am going to send this letter by him. I have nothing more to write. I will bring my letter a Close. it is about 12 o clock. may god bless us and save us all from the enemy and return us all to our homes.

A H Courtney

to ME Courtney

PS Direct your letters to petersburg Va

Envelope states that this letter was "in Care of James White"

**Editor's Note:** The 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Volunteers was a six month regiment that disbanded in November 1861. Within three months the 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina was organized with many of the former members of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Volunteers forming the nucleus.

*Letter #3*

Sept the 27 1862

Camp near petersburg, Va

Dear wife I seat myself this evening to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope these few line Comes to hand they will find you enjoying the same. I Received your letter on thursday which gave me much satisfaction to hear that you was well. I am very well satisfied. we get plenty to eat. our Company and one more of the regiment is ordered to march at 8 o clock in the morning about 8 miles to city point on picket. I am going to send you some Candy. R. Fleminn [Robert Fleming] he is going to start home monday morning. I dont think there chance for me to come home shortly. they wont let a man with one arm. we will be gone on picket about a week. John [John A. Tuttle] and Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well. the health of the Company is better now than it ever has been. they say I just drop you a few lines in a hurry. it is geting dark in the tent. we have got a days rations to Cook to night. do the best you Can. I will write soon as we Come back. write soon to me give my respects to all the friends. so nothing more but remain your loveing husband

A H Courtney

to Mary E Courtney

Direct your letter to petersburg

*Letter #4*

Oct the 1 1862

Camp near petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat my self this morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope when this Comes to hand it will find you enjoying the same blessing. William Suddreth is going to start home day after to morrow. I will send you a hand kerchief by him. I give two dollars for it. I have Just Come up from city point about 8 miles from here. our Company and one more is down there on guard. it is on James river. the river

is about a mile wide. polly I sent you some pins in a letter by mail. I also sent you some Candy by R Fleming [Robert Fleming]. I want you to write to me whether you got these things or not. Thomas Setzer got his boxes misplaced and has not got them yet. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] and romulus [Romulus M. Tuttle] is well. there is not much sickness here now. I am tolerable well satisfied. we have plenty to eat where we are stationed. I am going back to the Company after little. we have tents down there. we left the most of our things here. I Just Come up to get some paper and other things. we have a good time down at city point. plenty aples to eat. polly I dont think I will get to Come home soon without peace is made. there is no talk of a fight Close here. write to me soon and let me know how you are. so no more but remain your affectionate husband until death.

A H Courtney

to his wife M E Courtney

*Letter # 5*

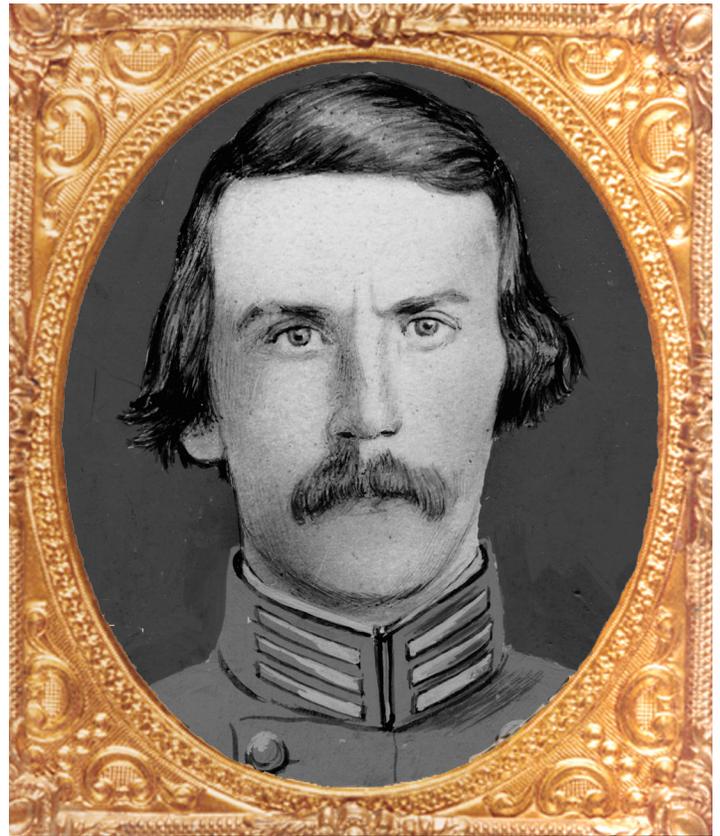
Oct the 12 1862

Camp near petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat my self this sabbath morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. I received a letter from you on friday night. I was glad to here that you was well and had your fodder pulled. I dont need any thing more. I have drawn a shirt and slips\*. we have had the prettyest weather since I have been here that ever I saw. till yesterday and last night and to day we had a Cold rain we have been throwing up breast works. last week we work half an hour and then are relieved half an hour for 8 hours. the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment [11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] passed through petersburg last tuesday. I heard they went on down to towards Suffolk. I heard father was well and with his Company. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. John says for me to slip in a word for him that he is well. tell mother and the rest of the family howdy for me. tell uncle Robbert [Robert G.



**George Washington Hood**



**Romulus M. Tuttle**

**Joseph R. Ballew**

Tuttle] and aunt Cindy [Lucinda Tuttle] and my Cozins that I have not forgot them and I wish to be remembered by them. I often think of home and of days that is past and gone and wish for the time to come when peace will be restored to our Country. may god be with us and enable us to protect our Country and live for god. Dear wife you did not want me to forget my prayers. I try to do my duty as well as I can there is a heap of wickedness in Camps but I take no hand in it. John Bowman [cousin to Polly], Theodore Hood [J. T. C. Hood] , G. W. Hood [George Washington Hood], John littleJohn [John Littlejohn] and all the boys is well. John Kincaid is in the hospital yet. I hant heard from him 2 or 3 days. I dont think he will ever be fit for service again. Dear polly I want you to do the best you can there is no chance for a furlough here now. they may give some this winter if peace is not made. I am very well satisfied so far as my self is Concerned but I know you are in a bad fix and that troubles me. but we will all have to do the best we Can. I think romulus Tuttle [Romulus M. Tuttle] will be our captain if Ballew [Joseph R. Ballew] is Competent for Major. I sent you a letter by peggy barber [Margaret "Peggy" Barber]. I have received three letters from you. I will write a few lines to your fathers people. so no more but I remain your affectionate Husband until death.

Written at the top of the page: "polly I send you a sheet of paper"

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Write as soon as you Can

*Letter 5b (a continuation of Letter 5)*

Oct 12 1862

Mr John Bowman [Polly's father]

Camp Near petersburg Va

Dear father and mother sisters and brothers. I take this opportunity you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgotten you. as I have written to polly it is not worth while for me to write much to you. polly wrote that you was all well. I am as well satisfied as could be expected. I get a long with the boys first rate. I can not tell you much about the war. there has been some hard fighting in Maryland. I Cant tell whether there will be any fighting here or not. I hope peace will be made shortly and we will all get safe home. may god bless us and save us all in heaven is my prayer. write to me as soon as you Can. so no more but remain yours.

A H Courtney

J Bowman

\* Slips or lindey slips (see Letter 9 for this spelling) is most likely a undershirt or possibly a pillow case. If it is a pillow case this would ideally be of linen material, that would be stuffed with straw, leaves, pine needles or other available stuffing

*Letter #6*

**Editor's Note:** Both Letter #6 and #6b were written by Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney, Andrew Courtney's mother. In the 1860 Federal Census for Caldwell County, it is recorded that Mary Eveline Bowman could not read or write. These two letters are a rarity in that they are from home and somehow survived the war.

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Lower Creek Caldwell County NC

Dear husband I take the oportunity this morning of informing you that I have been delivered of my child and am as well at this time as I could expect to be but it becomes my painful duty to inform you that our babe was dead born. I think it had been dead about 10 days before it was born. I felt a quivering and a anxious feeling last Sunday was a week and never felt my child move afterwards. but didnt think about it being dead until friday night but felt as well as common until I was taken to have the child. I was taken Tuesday night about 1 o clock and had the child the next day about one o clock. I was fortunate in having company when I was taken. mother [Isabella Kincaid Bowman] and sister Margaret [Margaret "Mag" Bowman] were both here and we got old



**The hand tracing of A.H Courtney's child**

Mrs Bean here in good time. I had it very good time and got off light to what I did when I did when I had my other child. I had no fainty, bad spells like I had before but felt weak and bad for an hour or two after the child was born. we would have written to you that evening but had hardly time to write and send by that mail and thought it would be best to delay writing as long as I could and see how I would be so I could send by the next mail. our babe was a boy and was a fine large Child. mother has cut a pattern of its hand and I will send it to you. Oh that I could write to you that it was alive and well but it has been the will of god to take it and we must try to be submissive. do not Grive yourself about our dear child nor be uneasy about me. mother is here and expects to stay with me until I get about. if it should be the Lords will that I should and I hope I will soon be about. my dear Andrew I am looking for you home. I looked some last night and will look to night but I am afraid I will not see you. I wish you could come home and stay a week or two. if you dont come now try and come a soon as you can. I have not recieved any letter from you since

I wrote last Monday. write as soon as you receive this letter and I will try to write to you as soon as I can and let you know how I am doing. if you cannot get a furlough to come home do not make yourself uneasy. we will try to do the best we can and do try and take good care of yourself now. the weather is getting cold. it right cold here this morning. write to me whether you got your tobacco or not. so no more at present but remain your affectionate wife until death

Mary E Courtney

A H Courtney

*Letter 6b (a continuation of Letter 6)*

Dear Son, Misses Bowman and I are both here and feel sorry for your and Marys misfortune in loosing your Child but feel humbly submissive to the will of providence and wish you protection for the future. we wish you to try to Remember your prayers and put your trust in your Maker and hope he will preserve you and you will be permitted to Return safe home to us all. I left home yesterday evening. they were all well locke [William Locke Courtney] has had the mumps. he and Robert [Robert Gamewell Courtney] hasent had the measles yet. I received a letter from your Father [James Courtney] and Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] by last mail [illegible]. he

wrote he was well and they had got orders to March to Virginia. he said he hoped he would get where his sons were. I have been thinking he was there in this time. if he is give he and Clay my respects and except my best wishes yourself. tell Clay I received the letter he sent by Margaret Barber and pins and needles and was very glad to get them. misses Bowman send her respects. her family are all well.

Margaret M Courtney

Andrew H Courtney

*Letter # 7*

Oct the 19 1862

Camp french near petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat my self this sabbath morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. H. C. [Clay] Courtney and J. [John] A. Tuttle and R. [Romulus] M. Tuttle are all well. we have just Come in from inspection. I received a letter from you on thursday evening and some tobacco you sent by S. P. dula [Sidney Patterson Dula]. you said you had killed a fat shoat and would like for me to Come home and help to eat it. I would like to be there but it is so I Can not now. but I hope it will not be long till we can when all get to Come home to stay. I don't need my Clothes now. I have got more than I Could Carry on a march. I have got my bed filled with good straw. me and Clay and John, E. Setzer [Eli Setzer] all bed together. I will write to you when I need any thing. I am out of brandy but I can do very well with out. if any of the neighbors or uncle R. [Robert] G. Tuttle Comes out here you Can send me some tobacco. I Can buy here. I was glad to here that you was all well and you had your Corn gathered. I am in hopes there will be some way provided for you and all the rest of the people to get a long. I tell you the Camps is a good place to spend money. when a fellow is a little hungry he will give money for little nie nuls\*. we draw our rations twice a week. they will not hold out but a meal or two. we draw beef, bacon, meal, flour, rice. we have plenty. the best part of the time our Chief occupation is drilling and throwing up breast works. we are kept pretty busy Capt Ballew [Joseph R. Ballew] has resigned. Rom [Romulus M. Tuttle] is our Captain. Capt. Jones [John T. Jones] is Major. S P dula [Sidney Patterson Dula] is going to start home wednesday. I have drawn my bounty and \$19.00 of my wages which makes \$69.00. I am going to send sixty dollars to you by Sidney dula and six rows of pins and my old pocket Book. I want you to keep what you need of it and pay R. G. Tuttle what I owe him, and get the notes and pay D. M. Puett, and get that litter due bill that will take about twenty dollars, and pay your father [John Bowman] some if he needs it or you can pay that note. I owe Clay, and get the note you can tell better about what to do than I can. polly I Can get paper and envelopes here as cheap as they can be bought there.

\* nie nuls – According to Webster’s 1912 Dictionary, “nie” is an old English variation of “nye” which means “nigh or near to”. “Nul” is also old English and is a variation of “null”, which means little or no value. Thus, “nie nuls” means “near to or no value.”

**Editor’s Note:** The family feels that Andrew Courtney received the letter informing him of infant son’s death at this point of his writing as his tone changes in the following portion of Letter # 7.

Dear wife I am anxious to hear from you more so at this time than any other. I want you to write to me as you get this if you can and let me know how you are. give my respects to your father and mother and all the family, and to my mother and family and all inquiring friends. polly keep in good heart. I hope if it is the Lords will I will get back home to enjoy the Comforts of a home once more. no person knows how sweet a home is till they try the army a while. So no more at this time my dear but I remain your affectionate husband until death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 8*

Saturday Nov the 15 1862

Camp french near petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat myself this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am a live and well and I thank God for it. I hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well and doing well. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. I wrote you a letter last saturday. we stayed saturday and sunday and monday at the end of the railroad three miles below tarboro. tuesday morning we started towards williamston and marched hard all day. wednesday morning we started back to the Rail road thursday. we took the Cars for petersburg. we got to weldon about dark. we stayed there till one o clock that night. we was on an old flat with no top to it. the wind cut us very keen.. I didnt sleep any that night. we had a hard time in North Carolina marching pretty much all the time. rain and snow and mud shoe mouth deep. we never stayed in a tent the whole time we was out. we was gone three weeks to a day. we faired pretty rough. we was glad to take a piece of raw bacon and hard Crackers for breakfast and thought it very good. we have got back to our tents now. I

hope we will not have to leave them this winter again but there is no telling what minute we will be ordered to march. we have had plenty of bacon and flour since Come back to Camps. we will draw beef to day. I received a letter from you yesterday was a week ago. it was wrote the 26 of oct. I am looking for another now. you wrote that you had socks and drawers for me. I lost one pair of my and I have wore another pair pretty near out. I want you to get my boots fixed and send them and the socks and drawers and some tobacco. I am not in a hurry about them. tell uncle R. [Robert] G. Tuttle I would like for him to Come and bring them. John says he would like to see him. fonso Setzer [William Alphonso Setzer] is Coming and James Hood before long. give my respects to all my relations. I am glad to hear that your mother [Isabella Kincaid Bowman] stayed with you. tell your father [John Bowman] and mother and all the family howdy for me. tell Marth [Martha Courtney, slave of James Courtney, who came to live with Polly] to be a good girl. so no more but remain your affectionate husband.

Written in the margin at the top of the page: "if uncle Robert [Robert G. Tuttle] Comes tell him to bring us a little Brandy. he had better fetch a trunk. Direct your letters to petersburg."

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Envelope state that this letter was "in care of Rufus Bradford"

*Letter 9*

Thursday Nov the 28 1862

Camp French petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat myself this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and hope those few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. I have nothing of interest to write at this time. we are still at our old Camp. I expect we will stay here this winter. we are still Drilling and throwing up breastworks. our Company is in very good health. philip icenhour [Philip Icenhour] is very low in the hospital. polly, H C Courtney wants a pair of pants if you have got the Cloth to spair. you or mother can make them and send them when you send my things. I dont need any pants now. I have writen in the letters for what I needed. it may be you did not get them. tell uncle R [Robert] G Tuttle that I would like for him to Come and bring our things betwixt now and christmas. you Can send me the lindey slips and socks and some tobacco and my boots if you Can get them fixed. I have not received but one letter from you since we went to North C. it was dated the 26 of oct. I want you to write soon give my respects to all my friends so no more.



**Charles M. Suddreth**

[Henry Crump, James M. Crump and Thomas Crump] stays in one tent we buy bacon and flour and turnips and Cabbage and what we draw we Can make out on. we draw loaf bread it dont hold out. there is a heap of our soldiers barefooted and they Can not get shoes. do the best you can be saving of every thing. turnips is worth \$3.00 per bushel. every thing is awful high. send Clay a pair of pants if you Can.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

In the margin he wrote: "I write a letter every week. I wrote one last Sunday. write soon and let me know and let us know whether R. G. Tuttle is coming or not."

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

I have just now heard that C. M. suddreth [Charles McDowell Suddreth] is going to start home in the morning. I had my letter ready to start by mail but I will send it by him. he is going home to bring Clothing for the soldiers. me and John and Clay wants R. G. tuttle to Come with Charley [C. M. Suddreth] and bring our things. if he can not Come you can send the things to town and suddreth [C. M. Suddreth] will bring them. John suddreth got here monday evening. he said he saw R. G. Tuttle and he said you was all well. I was glad to hear it for I got no letters scarcely. if uncle robert Comes you Can send me something to eat. we are living tollerable well now. me, Clay, and John, and the three Crumps

## *Letter 10*

Thursday night Nov the 28 1862

(This letter was in the same envelope as Letter 9)

Dear wife I have first received a letter from you. you had better believe I was glad to get it for I have not got one in so long. I went every night to see if they was any letter but always failed. I was glad to hear that you was tollerable well but I would like to hear that you was stout and hearty. I wrote a letter to day and had it sealed up and then heard suddreth [Charles M. Suddreth] was going to start and I broke it open and wrote the other half sheet and give it to him. I am now writing to let you know that I received your letter and I also received one from your father and mother and was glad to hear that they was well except the mumps. polly if mother dont get Cloth to make pants for Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] you Can let her have it. you Can send me the things you wrote you was going to send. I have been writing for Crumps [Henry Crump, James M. Crump and Thomas Crump] tonight. take good Care of your self and do the best you Can. so no more at present but remain your affectionate husband.until death

A H Courtney

to Mary E Courtney

Envelope states that this letter "in care of C. M. Suddreth"

## *Letter 11*

Sunday Nov the 30 1862

Camp near petersburg Va

Dear Wife as O. C. Collett [Orlando Columbus Collett] is going to start Home in the morning. I will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well at this time and hope these lines will find you well. we have just eat diner. we had a good mess of turnips and beef. me and Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] and the three Crumps [Henry Crump, James M. Crump, and Thomas Crump] Cooks for our selves. we drewed our money yesterday but I will have to keep it to buy something to eat. we have Commenced puting up winter quarters. I hope we will get to stay here this winter. Clay wants his pants Cut fully as large as mine I would like for you to send me some soap by some person. James Hood will be started before you get this. write to me

whether you made any molasses or not and whether your turnups is any account or not. I would like to be at home to enjoy some of the Comforts of life with you but it is so that I Can not now. I am very well satisfied. I think I would be better satisfied if it was not for you but I know that you are loan some there by yourself. I hope the war will not last long but I dont see much chance for it to stop now. I hope I will be spared to go home when it does end. I was glad to hear that you was going to send me some things. you may keep Cloth enough for me a pair of pants. tell uncle Robbert [Robert G. Tuttle] I would like for him to Come about christmas if he can and see us and bring us something good to eat. we can do very well as long as our money lasts. tell him I will pay a part of the expense and bring us a peck of things. polly I would like to see you. I dreamed of being at home last night. I was well pleased but it was a mistake when I a woke I was not there. take good Care of your self till I Come home. so no more at present but remain your affectionate husband until death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

write to me often and let me know how you are. I write one a week and sometimes twice. when this you see remember me though many miles a part we be

*Letter 12*

Sunday December the 7 1862

Camp near petersburg Va

Dear wife I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well and doing well. James Hood and W. A. Setzer [William Alphonso Setzer] has not got here yet. thomas Crumps wife got here friday morning. she left them at salisbury. they Could not get their boxes on. we are looking for them every minute. I am looking for some things. I went to town yesterday to meet them but they did not Come. I had my likeness taken. I will send it by James Hood to you. I will send you some paper and envelopes. last night was the Coldest night we have had. it is very Cold to day. we dont suffer much with Cold if we can get to stay in our tents by the fire. I got a letter last monday night that you send to tarboro. it was on the road a while. if you Can not get stamps write to me and I will send you some. salt is selling at \$1.50 cts a pound, pork 40 cts, a rabbit \$1.00. every thing is out of all reason. I will wait till to night to see if the boxes Come. I heard from father [James Courtney] the other day. he is getting better. S. P. Dula [Sidney Patterson Dula] has got here. he left the rest of them at Raleigh yesterday with the boxes. he thinks they will be here to morrow or next day. Mr. Dula told me there was a box for me and John [John A.

Tuttle]. I am glad to hear it. John and Clay is well. John is on guard to day and to night. he will have have a Cold night of it. Dear wife do the best you Can and I will do the same. give my respects to all my relations and friends. I hope we will all meet again in a short time if it is the will of god.

Mary E. Courtney

A H Courtney

*Letter 13*

December the 14 1862

Camp French petersburg Va

Dear wife I seat my self this sabboth morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well. we have got our box. every thing was good. I was afraid something would be spoiled they was so long geting here. the over Coat you sent me was too small it would not meet by a half a foot. I sold it for three dollars. we got orders Friday night to be ready to march at a minutes notice. I thought we would have to go and leave all our things but we are here yet. I got every thing that you wrote you sent but the eggs and boots. I look for my boots when suddreth [Charles M. Suddreth] Comes I will send some Jugs by W. A. Setzer [William A. Setzer] he will bring them. I will send my type in two Cases. I had one taken and didn't like it and went back to have it taken over and he asked me three dollars to take over and I went to another place and give five Dollars and had it taken rite. they both Cost \$9.00 you Can keep the best one and give mother the other. I sent you some paper by James Hood and the types. also 4 of the braswells [James J. Braswell, Marcus DeLafayette Braswell, Ryan Wesley Braswell, and Thomas N. Braswell] and thos barber [Thomas Barber] run away friday night after they heard marching orders. Dear polly you wrote that you did not want me to play Cards. I have never had a Card in my hand since I have been in the service. you need not be a fraid of me play Cards nor any thing else that is bad. I was very proud of my blanket other things you sent me. I dont need a vest nor any thing else more. if I had a got my boots I would of sent my shoes home.

Mrs Mary E Courtney

Lenoir PO

Caldwell Co NC

Envelope states that this letter "in care of Carroll Moore"

*Letter 14*

December 14 1862

**Editor's Note:** there were a few "loose" notes within this letter.

Note 1: this was taken the sixth day of December eighteen hundred and sixty two I send it  
to my wife Mary E. Courtney

A. H. Courtney

December the 6<sup>th</sup> 1862

Note 2: When this you see remember me though many miles a part we be

A. H. Courtney

Note 3: this was taken December the 10<sup>th</sup> 1862 I send it to my wife Mary E. Courtney

A. H. Courtney

Dear wife I hope it will not be long till we all get home. I dont expect to Come home till peace is made. I do hope that this war will Come to a Close betwixt now and spring. I expect we will have to march before long. if we dont are well get in our houses next week. if we have to leave we will loose a heap of our things. I hope we will not have to go. you must do the best you Can till I come home. I will write to you soon and let you know what we are doing. I want you to write to me soon give my respects to all so no more but remain your affectionate husband until death.

A H Courtney to M E Courtney

Envelope states this letter "in care of Wm. Corpening [William Corpening]"

*Letter 15*

December the 25 1862

Camp french petersburg Va 25 1862

Dear wife I seat my self this christmas day to drop you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and back at our old Camps. we left goldsborough tuesday. we got to petersburg yesterday morning at day light. we got

our boxes yesterday evening they Come in good time for christmas. the Chickens was a little mouldy every thing [else] was good. this is a pretty day. I Recollect where I was last christmas day. I wrote you a letter last friday and saturday. I sent you my type in two Cases and some paper by James Hood. I sent three Jugs and a bottle by W. A. setzer [William Alphonso Setzer]. he said he would leave them at station. I hope this will find you well. you wrote you had the mumps but you thought you was well by taking good Care of you self. tell Marth [Martha Courtney – slave of James Courtney, who came to live with Polly] to plow in a hurry and try to make something to eat. I dont need any Clothing now. I am as stout now as ever I was in my life. it looks like the Cold weather and lying out in it hurt us but we dont mind it. I am satisfied any where. I know there is no use in troubling myself about home [as] I will get there some time if I live it. if I should get killed or die it will only be a debt I owe. we all have to die but I would like to get home and see you all once more. we cant tell long we will stay here. we may stay a good while and we may have to march in a week or two. you need not send my any thing more except tobacco. I got every thing you sent. so no more at present but remain you affectionate husband

A H Courtney

to M E Courtney

write soon and let me know how you are

*Letter 16*

new years morning Jan the 1 1863

Camp french petersburg Va 1863

Dear wife I seat my self this morning to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope when this Comes to hand it will find you enjoying the same blessing. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. I wrote a letter last saturday to send by G. W. Hood [George Washington Hood] but he has not got his furlough yet. I will send my shoes by him. if you have any tobacco you can send me some by him. if you have not got it you need not mind it [as] I can buy here but its not fit to Chew. we have drawed pants and shirts and slips and Caps and 36 over Coats. they was put up to the highest bider. they brought from 25 to 30 dollars. I got one \$27.50 cts. we have to pay two thirds of the money to them that gets none. John got one and Clay got one. we have got as much Clothing as we have any use for. polly I am as stout as a buck I weigh 175 one hundred and seventy five pounds. I dont hear much talk of war nor peace now I hope and pray to god that there will not be any more fighting done and peace will Come speedily and we will all get home soon. we have got a Cake and some butter and molasses yet. we live very well now so no more farewell.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 17*

January the 22 1863

Camp near magnolia NC

Dear wife I take this oppoutunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. we are all well. we got orders to leave gayliesburg [Garysburg] last Sunday. we marched out to the cars Monday and half of our regiment got on and left the other part of us included marched back and stayed till 9 o'clock and then we got on the train and went to weldon 3 miles and got off the train and stayed till Tuesday morning and took the cars again. we traveled all day and Tuesday night. we got to magnolia Wednesday morning it rained Tuesday and Tuesday night. we was in a good car. it is cloudy and raining a little yet we get a long first rate. we Can buy potatoes here. we didnt

draw any thing from Sunday till Wednesday but four crackers and a little piece of pork. I borrowed some money from John Suddreth and bought something to eat. We will draw our money shortly. I think the 11<sup>th</sup> regiment [11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] is here. I have been to see father [James Courtney] to day he is well. I dont hear of the yankeys making any movement. I dont know what they are going to do. I am writing this letter by fire light. Captain Bradfords [Nero Guy Bradford, commander of Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] son [Rufus Bradford] is going to start home in the morning. it is bad cold writing to night. the last letter I received was dated the 6<sup>th</sup>. I got the letter yesterday you sent to Goldsborough. I think peace will be made before spring I hope it will. polly we fare very well we stretch up our blankets and keep dry. direct your letters to magnolia NC. write on the envelop if the regiment has removed please forward. I am looking for a letter now. I mailed a letter last Sunday. take good care of your self I will write soon so no more but remain your loving husband.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Envelopes states this letter was "in care of G. W. Hood [George Washington Hood]"

*Letter 18*

January 25 1863

Camp near magnolia NC

Duplin Co

Dear wife I take this opportunity of dropping you a few lines this sabbath morning to let you know that I am well and I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. we are three miles from magnolia and 25 miles from goldsborough on the wilmington railroad. we are about 20 miles from willmington. we are here in the long leaf pine. it makes a black smoke. I dont no but I dont think there will be any fight here. we have near one hundred thousand troops scattered along here. if the yankeys comes out here we will be apt to give them a pretty good thrashing. I hope the fighting is pretty well done.

polly there is a man to be shot in our regiment to morrow. he is from Wilkes county. he started to run a way and was Caught. his name is Wyett [Andrew Wyatt]. we live very well now. we can buy sweet potatoes and fresh pork. we draw flour and meal and bacon. we had to wash us a shirt a piece yesterday in cold water and a little soap. we washed in a branch. some thinks we will go back to petersburg before long. i dont no what we will do. we have no tents. it has been cloudy all week but very little rain and not very cold. father [James Courtney] was here last night. he is well and look well. he says he wants to go home next month.

polly the last letter I got was dated the 6<sup>th</sup>. I no there is a letter on the road somewhere. letters dont come straight to us. I sent a letter by nero Bradfords little boy [Rufus Bradford]. I write a letter every week and very often three. I have heard that uncle Robert [Robert G. Tuttle] was going to start to our regiment last monday. I have been looking a little for him. polly dont send no more fruit. we have got a bushel at our Camps now. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well and hearty. I am very hearty now polly. I am in better hopes of peace now than I ever have been before. I hope peace will be made before spring and we will all get home. polly you wrote that it looked I had been gone twelve months. time slips off fast here. you must do the best you Can and take every thing easy. all things will Come right some day. Lieutenant Holloway [John B. Holloway] sends his respects to you. give my respects to your father and mother and family and my mother and family and to all my relations. if R. G. Tuttle Comes send me some tobacco. I will bring my letter to a Close. rite as often as you can. so no more but remain your affectionate husband

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Envelope states that this letter was “by the [illegible] of G. W. Hood [George Washington Hood]”

*Letter 19*

February the 8 1863

Camp near magnolia N C



**John B. Holloway**

Dear wife I embrace this opportunity this sabbath morning to let you know that I am well. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. the last letter I received from you was dated the 18 of January. I received your fathers [John Bowman] dated the 28. I was glad to hear you was all well. we have had snow and rain last week. yesterday and to day is pretty days. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. Dear polly I hope the time will soon Come when we will all get home. there is a good deel of talk about peace but I would rather see it. some say it will be made in less than three months. polly I wish I was at home to day to go to preaching with you. your father wanted

to know what to do about that note if Uncle Mark [Benedict Marcus Tuttle] wont keep the money. tell your father to take it and keep it and you use what you want and him too but if B. M. Tuttle will keep it I would rather he would. you can do what you think best. I wish we had our clothes from petersburg. if I had known what I know now I would a brought my other blanket and some other clothes but we had orders to bring light nap sacks. I think we will draw our money in a few days. we need it to get our clothes washed and get paper and so on but I will have to pay \$18 eighteen Dollars for my over coat. I will not have much left. we are going to move to morrow about a mile to a better place. Direct your letters to magnolia. we get letters from goldsborough or petersburg. I dont know what is the reason I havent got one. I think I will get one soon. send me some tobacco. so no more at present but remain you loving husband until death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Dear father and mother [John and Isabella Bowman] I drop you a few lines to let you know that I received your letter and was glad to get it and hear you was all well. you can do what you think best about that money and I will be satisfied. tell all the Children howdy for me. I would like to see you all but I will have to wait till I get a chance. if I ever get foot loose I will Come in a hurry for I want to see polly the worst sort. I would be as proud a chap as ever you saw if peace was made and we was all started home. so no more but remain your affectionate son till death.

To John Bowman isabella Bowman

*Letter 20*

February the 21 1863

Camp near goldsborough NC

Dear wife I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. George [Washington] Hood and Elie [Eli] Setzer has just got back. I received a letter from you. I was glad to get it and to hear that you and all the rest of the family was well. I also got one from Andrew J. Bowman. George Brought me two plugs of tobacco. he said he couldnt bring the other three. he brought me six apples and some sausage. the apples is very good [and] I havent tried the meat yet but I no that it is good for your mother has nothing but what is good. polly you said from what you Could find out the boys plagued me but they dont make any thing off of me. george told you that I would dream and hug Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] I own to the Corn. you wrote that you had been vaxinated and had a very sore arm. I hope it will not be sore long. you said you was going to make garden this week and plant some potatoes. I would like to be there to help you to help you to work and eat. you said your mare was fat and looked like a filly. polly me and Clay and J. A. Tuttle John Tuttle [*Editor's note: Andrew mistakenly wrote John Tuttle's name twice here*] and John Sudderth messes together. you said you would like for me and John Bowman and [illegible] to mess together but it there is too many in a mess.

polly we are two miles from goldsbourough. I dont no how long we will stay here. I went out to a house last thursday and got a good dinner for 50 cts. george arney, Wm. Bradford and John Crump Come to us yesterday. polly if I knew we would stay here long enough for your to Come and stay a while I would say Come. you can do as you pleas. if you see a Chance to Come, you Can Come. Mut Crump [*Editor's Note: It is not known which of the Crump men had this nickname*] is looking for his wife to Come. you Can Come if you want to. I would like to see you but maybe it would be best not to Come. I dont no what to say. tell Andy [Andrew Jackson Bowman] I would like to have been home [and] helped him Catch his rabbits and his possum. J. B. little-

john [John B. Littlejohn] is going to start home in the morning if he gets his furlow to night. as we dont have to pay for our over Coats till next draw I will send ten Dollars by John littleJohn. polly I subscribed for the *Spirit of the Age* [Raleigh newspaper] to send to for you for 12 months at \$1.50 cts. it is a good paper. this is saturday night I am writing. I have got paper. you need not buy any tobacco. I can get here at 75 cts a plug. send me the other three plugs. tell Robbert [Robert G. Tuttle] to Come and see us and you Can Come with him if you come bring money.

A. H. Courtney

M. E. Courtney

Written in the margin a the top of page 2: Polly give my respects to all the Connexions. I would write more but havent time. tell M. A. Tuttle [*Editor's Note: We are unsure who he is referring to with M. A. Tuttle*] to Come by and see us.

*Letter 21*

February 25, 1863

Camp near goldsborough NC

Dear wife I take this oppportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty. I have nothing or interest to write. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well and doing well. we had a wet bad night last saturday night and sunday but it is warm now. george hood said your father [John Bowman] didnt want you to come down here. he said if you Come in the fix you was in it would hurt you. I dont want you to Come if you think it will hurt you. you Can do as you please. write to me in your next letter [if] you are Comeing or not and if you are write when you are Comeing. I Cant tell when would be the best time. if we stay here it would be the best to come soon. we are in two miles of goldsborough. I will be satisfied any way if you Come you will have to get uncle R. [Robert] G. Tuttle to come with you. I sent ten Dollars by J. B. littleJohn [John Littljohn]. you can put it to any use you please. we are going to send to petersburg after our clothes. we will have more than we have any use for. I would like to send a blanket and my over coat and some other things home after while. write to me whether you got the money or not and the news paper. I am glad Robinson [William Robinson Bowman] is staying with you [as] he can read for you and help you a heep. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] paid me for the pants \$8.50 cts. him and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. I havent heard from father [James Courtney] since he got back. they are at hamilton about sixty miles from here. tell mother and all the family howdy for me. tell your father and mother and the family that I havent forgot them and I wish to be re-

membered by them. tell R. G. Tuttle I would like for him to come down and see us and take some of our things home.

Dear polly it seems to me like I wouldnt mind the war and staying from home if it wasent for you but I am as well satisfied as any of the men. I take every thing easy. I wish this war would Come to a Close soon but I am a fraid it will not. old abe lincoln has ordered out three million more men but thats no sign of the war lasting. so no more but remain your affectionate Husband until death write soon.

A. H. Courtney

M. E. Courtney

*Letter 22*

March the 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Camp near goldsborough NC

Dear wife I take this opportunity this sabbath morning of dropping you a few lines in answer

of your kind letter dated the 24 of february. I received it yesterday and was glad to hear that you was well. I am well and hearty [and] Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. I did not sleep any last night [as] I was on guard. I had to put on a relief every two hours. it rained all night but I could stay under my blanket shelter only when I had to post the sentinels. we have to go at 12 o clock on a funeral escort of Doctor [illegible] [*Editor's Note: We are unable to identify who this is, as no one matches this description in the NC Troops Roster books*] of the 52 Regiment [52<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina] he died yesterday. there is four Companies out of our regiment to go. our company is one. we have to go to goldsborough. you wrote you would give out Co-meing and you wanted me to Come home. I Cant Come till my time Comes and that will be a long time without peace is made. I expect it will be the best for you not to Come [as] it might lay you up to Come on the train and expose your self in the Cold and drink this water. you wrote that some person had stolen your plow. you said you had an idea who took it. if I am spared to get home and knowed who it was I will give them something else to do. we will have to start to the burial directly I will write some in the morning. sunday evening we have just got back from the burying [and] it was a solemn scene. our band played a solemn tune as we marched out. we fired three rounds of blank cartridg a piece. I sent you a letter by John littlejohn and ten dollars. you hadent got it when you wrote. I sent one last wednesday. I wrote in that for you to Come to see me but you Can do as you please. you had better give it out perhaps. I would like to see you but we would both hate to part and feel worse afterwards than we do now. I hope it will not be long till we all get home but it looks gloomy now. I look for a



**William A. Tuttle and Lucinda Harshaw Tuttle**



**William A. Tuttle**

letter when B. M. Tuttle [Benedict Marcus Tuttle] Comes. may god bless us and protect and keep us in the way of our duty is my prayer so good night Dear wife.

A. H. Courtney

M. E. Courtney

write whether you got your news paper or not and ten Dollars

Envelope states that this letter was “in care of Wm. Suddreth [William Suddreth] ”

*Letter 23*

Friday, march 27 1863

pitt Co Camp near greenville, NC

Dear wife I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you

well this is fast day. we are keeping it as such. we have had preaching today it looks like Sunday. I expect you are all at the church today. I hope the prayers that has been offered up to day will be heard and answered and peace will Come soon. polly I got your letter dated the 14. I have wrote three since then this is 4. J. A. Tuttle [John A. Tuttle] has Come to us. he brought the tobacco. some person stoled the other things one day while John was gone to town. he hated it and I did too. I wouldent of taken money for them the boys said it was a good Cake they knowed I was sorry to lose it as long as it came from you. John Tuttle is not very stout he is puny but does duty. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and all the neighbor boys is well I dont no how long we will stay here nor where we will go from here. the mail wont leave here till monday. it will come in to morrow. I hope I will get a letter from you. I write this while I have time. if I get a letter from you tomorrow I will write some on sunday if we dont leave here. we have cool nights. This is a beautiful day. polly if you have any wool to spare I wish you would have me a hat made. my hat is geting rather thin. I want it dyed black. [William Wallace Dickson] Dicksons negro is a good hand. you need not be in a hurry about it. polly dont be uneasy about me. we may not be in a battle soon. I expect it will be a long time before I get to Come home there is no chance now.

I have received two letters

from just now

I was glad to here that you was well

A H. Courtney

*Letter 24*

Sunday march the 29 1863

Pitt Co NC, Camp near greenville

Dear wife I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. I received 2 letters from you friday one dated 21 the other 22. I was glad to hear that you was well. was sorry to hear you was so uneasy and troubled about me. I wrote a letter friday before I got yours and I had a Chance to send my letter and our Company was ordered out on picket and I didnt have time hardly to tell you that I got your letter. we come off of picket yesterday evening. we had a thunder shower yesterday evening. it is raining now. we have a power of rain. it is thought that provisions is going to get scarce in the army. we get as much as we have been getting. I see in the newspaper that they think if the war holds on we will have to eat mule and horse meat yet but I think if it comes to that the war will stop soon.

polly you need not mind sending me any soap I Can get here. we are looking for our napsacks but I have nothing in mine but some dirty underclothing. I have got a new pair of pants at goldsborough. I begin to need them I hope we will soon got our things. polly I dreamed last night that you had Come to see me and I thought I was

walking by your side but I think you had better not Come. I may get to come home this summer but I dont no what time. I wrote in the other letter that I didnt get the things you sent only the tobacco. I cant tell you what we are going to do. Three regiments of our brigade [the 44<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, and 52<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina] is gone down in the direction of Washington. I expect for the purpose of geting provisions. our regt and the 11<sup>th</sup> [11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] is here. father [James Courtney] is well. Direct your letters to goldsborough. give my respects to all the relations and neighbors. so no more but remain your affectionate husband until death.

A H. Courtney

To my dearest M. E. Courtney

*Letter 25*

easter April the 5 1863

Sunday the 5 1863

11 miles below washington

Dear wife I embrace this sabbath evening to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I hope when this comes to hand it well find you well. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. we left greenville last monday. our men run in the picket of the enemy monday. there has been Cannonading every day and at it still to day. we sunk one of their gunboats. we have had a rough time it has been some of the Coldest rainy weather that we have had. it is warm to day. we have had to wade through water and stand picket all night without fire. I have heard Cannons so much I Can ly down and sleep and them a fireing. polly dont be uneasy. I think we will Come out safe. I dont think we will be in an engagement here. we had preaching to day. I hante got no letter from you since dated the 22 of march. we will get the mail next tuesday. polly give my respects to all. I hope this war will stop soon so we can get home. polly do the best you can and dont think too much about me. so farewell my dear.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 26*

april the 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

beaufort County

Camp 26th near washington NC

Dear wife I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well except a bad Cold. the last letter I got was dated 22 of March. I am anxious to hear from you. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well and John Bowman [cousin]. our artilery is all around Washington and on the river to keep the gunboats from passing up. this is 11 days we have been here and the Cannons has been roaring every day. there has been 3 men killed on our side. I dont no the enemys loss. our men has sliped up after night and planted batteries Close to washington. it was reported that there was a land force Comeing from new bern but I dont think there is. we are not on the side of the river that washington is. general garnett [Richard B. Garnett] is on that side. general Hill [Daniel Harvey Hill] and pettigrew [James Johnston Pettigrew] is on this side. I dont no what is going to be done but I expect we will get washington. we are seeing a very good time for 2 or 3 days considering we are just lying here in the woods resting. it is pretty weather the night is Cold. polly we have a bad way of sending letters from here or geting them. this is the last bit of paper I have got here. I wrote a letter last sunday. I write every week. we are looking for our furloughed men to day. I think I will get a letter. it is 50 miles from here to the rail road. I wish this trip was over so we could get stationed a little while. our knapsacks is at greenville. I dont want any thing from home. I have plenty of Clothes. when I can get them. I saw father [James Courtney] yesterday he is well.  
(no ending)

*Letter 27*

April the 11th 1863

beaufort County near washington NC

Dear wife I seat my self to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well. I received your letter yesterday dated march the 29. I was glad to hear that you was well. I started a letter last sunday and one a thursday. Just as I finished my letter thursday we got orders to march in 15 minutes. we started and went 9 miles to wards newbern. our regiment and the 11 [11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] we met 12 thousand yankeys with 12 pieces of artilery. we had an excellent position. they fought with artillery an hour. one man on our side get his leg shot off he died that night. we got two horses killed. the enemy lost a Colonel and 15 killed and 17 wounded. they took a scare and Cut back for newbern. some of our men followed them

in 9 miles of newbern. we Come back last night. we are throwing up batteris on the river today. I can see the gun boats lying down the river. they dont see us. they Cant get up the river to washington by our forts. the river is a mile wide. I think we will perish the yankeys out in washington before long. we are 4 miles below there line. I can hear cannons up there now. polly you said Crumps claimed them Jugs. I got one of the Jugs from Mut Crump. they are mine three Jugs and 1 bottle I sent them by alphonsa Setser [William Alphonso Setzer]. Crumps didnt send any polly I didnt get the things you sent by John taylor. he set them down in salisbury and a hog got holed of them and tore them up and he eat the rest. I expect he eat it all. I have bad luck. we get tollerable plenty to eat. I wish I had a been at home to helped you to eat eggs and plant Corn. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. george and Abel and Robbert Hudspeth [George Hudspeth, Abel Hudspeth and Robert N. Hudspeth] are well and all the neighbor boys. we are tollerable dirty and our pants is nearly worn out but we have Clothes if we Can get them. I dont want any from home. polly I dont think we will get in a fight here. I think I will get a letter the first of next week. tell uncle R. G. Tuttle to pay William Bristol 4 dollars for me and get a receipt he wrote to me for it. so no more your affectionate husband.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 28*

Sunday morning April 12

this is a beautiful morning. I dont hear any Cannons. every thing is still. we are all well. just eat brek fast sweet potatoes and bacon. the wagons is gone to greenville after our nap sacks. we will get them to morrow. I will have paper to write if it hant been taken. we have nothing to do to day. there is 8 men gone out of our Company to work to day. the mail went off last night before I Come from work. it will be tuesday before my letter starts. we will have preaching to day I would like to be at home to go to preaching with you to day but I have to be contented here. we enjoy our selves fuller than you think we would here.

Direct your letters to goldsboro. I will stop. may god grant us the privilege of meeting on earth if not I hope we will meet in heaven where we will be at rest for ever so farewell.

Mrs Mary E. Courtney

Lenoir

Caldwell Co

NC

## *Letter 29*

April the 19 1863

green Co. NC

Camp near hookertown

Dear Wife I seat myself this sabbath evening to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am as well as I could expect to be considering what we have went through. my head hurts and I have got an Aching all over me. I think it is a Cold. I dont think it will last long I hope not any how. I am well to travel I got my napsack [illegible] to day. I wrote a letter last wednesday to send by Sim pillyaw [Simeon Philyaw] and R. Hudspeth [Robert N. Hudspeth] but they havent got there furloughs yet. if I get a chance I will send it by mail if they dont soon get off. I will tell you a little what we have went through since wednesday. wednesday evening late we got orders to march. the yankeys had gone up the river with there gunboats and was landing and they was comeing by land from newbern but I dont no the partiaculars of it. we then started about dark to wards washington it rained powerfull hard and thundered. we marched 10 miles up close to washington. the whole Brigade and Artillery and wagons all went before us. the mud and water was nee deep we stoped at 2 oclock. we stayed there and throwed up breastworks till friday night. we started towards greenville we traveled till 12 oclock and then drew meal and cut blocks out of trees to bake it on. we started yesterday morning at sun up we came through greenville. we came 23 miles yesterday it was very hot. we have come about 10 miles to day. we started to Kinston but we are stoped. they think we will stay here several days. it has been six weeks since we left golds borough we have not had our shirts washed but once. I will have mine washed to morrow. I got a letter yesterday from you dated 5 and 8 April. I was sorry to hear that you had been troubled so and was not very well. I wrote as often as I Could I wrote once a week. I am glad you have got your corn planted. if I send my over coat it may be left at Joseph Corpenings or some where in the settlement. paper is worth \$1.50 to \$3.00 per quire\* envelopes are 75cts pack, pen stock 50 to 75 cts a piece, I have just bought me some. I hope this will find you well and hearty. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well and father [James Courtney]. george Arney is not well he is pretty much as I am. young Wm. Fleming [James William Fleming] is dead. he died the 15 at greenvlle. he was sick a bout a week. it was Cold that caused his death the doctor said. may god bless us and save us all in heaven is my prayer. Direct letters to goldsborough

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

\* “quire” is a notebook of loose paper originally of four sheets, folded in half to make eight leaves.

*Letter 30*

April the 20 1863

green Co NC Camp near hookertown



**Simeon P. Philyaw**

Dear wife I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am only tolerable well. I feel better to day then I did yesterday. I took a dose of Calomel\* this morning. I think I will be well in a day or two. I wrote a letter yesterday and sent it by mail. Robbert Hudspeth was gone with the letter that I wrote to send by him and I didnt get it to send. I got a letter last night in John Tuttlles dated 12 April. I was glad to hear that you was well and had your Corn and potatoes planted. I want you to send me a pair of pants and a pair of socks. I have got pants in the boxes at goldsborough but I dont no when I will get them. if them fellows dont get there furloughs I will send this to morrow. you wanted to no if we had the itch. some of us have what they Call the Camp itch. I havent got it much. it breaks out some times and then goes

away. I wish I could be at home to eat eggs and other things. I can do very well on what I get to eat if they will give us a half pound of meat but they say we will get only a quarter of a pound when we get stoped. I am a fraid our Confederacy will fall short of provisions for men and horses it is very hard to get more. so no more

S P philyaw [Simeon Phlyaw] cant take my coat it is so hot.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

\* calomel [camomile] is a plant used for coughs and also a diaphoretic which increases perspiration

## *Letter 31*

April the 21 1863

Camp ten miles from greenville NC

Dear wife I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am tolerable well. I took medicine yesterday. there is nothing the matter with me now only my legs hurt some. we have come 10 miles back towards greenville to day. I dont no when we will leave here nor which way we will go. I sent a letter yesterday by philyaw [Simeon Philyaw] . I wrote for a pair of pants and socks. I dont think you need send the pants yet. they say they are going to send to goldsborough after our pants and shirts and slips. you may send a pair of socks and a little sewing thread. I hope this will find you well. I have nothing more to write and not much time. R. Hudspeth [Robert N. Hudspeth] is just going to start home. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] and father [James Courtney] is well. so no more at present direct you letters to goldsborough.

polly dont be uneasy about me. it is traveling and cold that is the matter with my legs. if I get a day or too rest I will be all rite I think. tell all the relations howdy and give them my respects. if they dont send after our pants I will write in time for you to send them

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

## *Letter 32*

may the 3 1863

north anner Creek Va

Dear wife I drop you a few lines this Sabbath morning to let you know that I am well. I have not got a letter from you since the 19 of April. we are now a bout half way between richmond and fredericksburg. we got here last night at midnight. I dont know when we will leave here. they have been fighting friday and yesterday and we heard some Cannons to wards fredericksburg this morning but I dont no how the fight is going. some say the yankeys is falling back. I dont no whether we will be in the fight or not. I hope not but if we are I hope we will get out safe by the help of god. polly I left my over coat and liney slips and shirt in the boxes at goldsboro. it was too warm to carry them direct you letters to richmond Va. Polly dont be uneasy for we must put our trust in god and he will protect us. give my love and respects to all and take a large portion yourself. I dreamed of

seeing you last night. I hope I will get to see you some of these times. we hant drawed our money yet. we draw a half a pound of meat on a march a day. do the best you can and I will do the same. I expect we will stay in Virginia a good while. the water is better here than it is in eastern NC in them swamps. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well so no more but farewell.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 33*

may 6 1863

Hanover Junction

Dear wife I take this opportunity to let you know that I am well I hope when this reaches you it will find you well. We left here yesterday evening at 5 oclock and went down the river 10 miles. it was late when we stoped. we got orders before day to go back to our Camp and get ready to march as quick as possible. it is 12 oclock we are waiting for the cars to come to carry us to Fredericksburg. they say the yankeys is crossing the Rapahamock. Polly dont be uneasy I think god will protect us. I feel resigned to the will of god Polly. we have just drawed new coat and pants. we are well fixed for clothing. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. father [James Courtney] is sick, they think he has got the fever. I hante had the chance to go to see him lately. he was in camp yesterday. there was six men \* run away out of Bradfords company [Capt. Nero Bradford, Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] this week. give my respects to all the friends and do the best you can. I hope I will be at home before long to see you if this miserable war would stop. I think if we can give them a thrashing this time it will do the yankeys a while. Direct your letters to Richmond

polly I am going to write a letter to Newton Suddreth to day. he wrote in Josephs [Suddreth] letter for me to write to him. Polly it is very dry here but it looks like rain to day. we drawed flour and bacon we got plenty such as it is and as the fellow said it is good enough what is of it. polly our preacher has left us I wish we had a good preacher. Tell mother [Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney] and the children howdy and to do the best they can. tell Robinson [William Robinson Bowman] if he has to go to the army to come to this company but I am in hopes he will not have to come. give my respects to all the friends may God save us all is my prayer.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

A H Courtney to his loveing wife M E Courtney

\* *Volume VII of North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster* does not support this statement. Only one soldier was recorded as deserting from Company I (Caldwell Guards) during this time frame. Private John W. Rabey was listed as being a deserter on May 8, 1863. A year earlier, on March 14, 1862, he had been captured at the Battle of New Bern, North Carolina. He was paroled on May 1, 1862, but failed to return to his company.

*Letter 34*

may the 8 63

Dear wife we are all well this morning. There is a man here from the 22 Regt [22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina] of the first company he says the Regt is cut up very bad. his name is Crigers [Michael Crieger] he has got one finger shot off. he says W A Tuttle and Burge Allen got run over by general Jacksons staff last saturday night. he said Billy went to the Regt Monday morning. he says there is several of there Company wounded and some killed. Logan Sudderth was with the sick, he thinks they was taken prisoners. and Joe Gains also he says our men run the yankeys out of 3 lines of breastworks and a cross the river. he says there was more men killed there than there was at the richmond and sharpsburg fight and the yanks lost ten to one of us. I mus stop

A H Courtney

Dear polly I dont want you to be uneasy nor troubled for the Lord will protect us if we put our trust in him. I do hope this war will Come to an end soon. you must do the best you can and I will do the same. I hope you and mother and her family will be provided for and get a long well and not suffer. tell all of my relations to write to me, your father [John Bowman] and uncle Robbert [Robert G. Tuttle] especially.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 35*

may the 10 1863

Hanover County, north Anner river Virginia near hanover Junction



**Michael Crieger**

Dear wife I embrace this sabbath evening to inform you that I am well. I just received a letter by Harstin [Green Harstin]. I am glad to hear that you was well. I received one yesterday that you had sent to Goldsboro. the cake you sent was broke up but it is very good. I have eat the apples they were mashed up. I got the socks and the little bottle of liquor and the beef and the thread. John got his things. I expect you have heard bad news before this time but we have not been in any fight since we Come to Va. we are 36 miles from fredericksburg and 30 miles from richmond. there was 3500 yankey prisoners passes on to richmond and 6000 more to Come. there has a sight of our men been taken along on the train wounded. I dont think they are fighting now nor I dont no whether the fight will be renewed or not.

it is thought that it has been the bloodiest battle that has been fought. our loss the fight killed wounded and missing ten

thousand the enemys loss was twenty five to thirty five thousand that is the report I know there is a power killed for there has been four trains runing all week halling the wounded to Richmond. I hear that the 58<sup>th</sup> regiment [58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] has been in a fight write to me whether newton suddreth is well or not.

polly the yankey prisoners said they was in there breastworks fighting and they thought the bullets come mighty low and they looked round and there was the rebels in two rods of them. they said if they hadent to a surrendered just when they did they would every one been killed.

polly we have good water here we draw a quarter of a pound of bacon and the same of sugar and a pound of flour a day. I can do very well on it but some grumble rite smart. a fellow has to eat scanty to make it reach. we draw three days rations at a time. I hope the war will soon end so we can get home where we will not be allowed.

polly I dont want you to be troubled and distressed for we have to put up with it till god sees propper to release us. I am a heep better satisfied now that I was a month after I left home but I dont forget you nor never expect to

as long as I live so fare well.

polly I have got more shirts and slips than I Can Carry. we just drew shirts and slips. I have 4 shirts and 3 slips with me. I dont want any pants now nor no other Clothing. polly you must not believe every thing you hear for you will hear of us being in a fight and all killed and taken prisoners often when it is not so. I hope you will not hear such tales. you can hear more about the fight in the news papers than I can tell. polly there is no chance to get a furlough till my time Comes. I am afraid furloughs will stop here. this makes four letters I have wrote since we left kinston 10 days ago. John [John A. Tuttle] and Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well. give my respects to all the friends. tell mother [Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney] I read the letter she sent to me and Clay and John was glad to hear that they was all well so no more but remain your loveing husband untill death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

polly we had preaching yesterday by a private soldier by the name of Matney [Thomas W. Matney] he belongs to Company I [Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina was from Caldwell County]. he is from our County. he preached very well. we have prayer pretty near every night. our Chaplain has not been with us since we come here. I think he is going to leave us. I hope we will all get home before long where we can enjoy our selves. I hope that peace will soon be made and we can get to enjoy our liberties write soon I think I will get a letter this week tell Lizzie [Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bowman Suddreth] I cant get any person off to go in Newtons [James Newton Suddreth] place. the officers wont let them off

A H Courtney

to his loveing wife M E Courtney

Inserted in the margin: "Direct letters to Richmond I am glad to hear that your wheat looks well"

*Letter 36*

May the 12 1863

Hanner county Va north aner river near Hanover Junction

Dear wife I seat my self to let you know that I am well. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. I have wrote this makes 5 letters since I left kinston. I have got two from you. general Stonewall Jackson is dead. his body passed here yesterday going on to richmond. we have lost a great friend to our Country. you will see the particulars in the papers the yankeys is all on the other side of the rapahanock. I think the fight is over here for a while. polly I got all the things you sent by G H Harstion [Green Hariston]. I was glad to get them. I think I will get a letter when S. P. Philyaw [Simeon Philyaw] comes back. we are looking for him soon. polly write to me whether you get milk or not and how may hogs and pigs you have and write whether you think your mare is with fold or not and whether you have plenty to feed on or not and plenty to eat and all these things. I am glad we was not in this fight for it has been terrible Dear polly do the best you can and dont be uneasy nor look for me home soon for I Cant Come home till I get a Chance. I hope I will get home some of these times so no more but remain your affectionate husband until death.

A H Courtney

To His loveing wife

M E Courtney

This part of letter that was written up-side down at the top of the second page: “polly write who you think took your plow”

*Letter 37*

may th 17 1863

Camp near hanover Junction Va

Dear wife I embrace this oppportunity this beautiful Sabbath evening of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty. I hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well and doing well. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] and Rom [Romulus M. Tuttle] and Lum [Columbus A. Tuttle] is well. the 11<sup>th</sup> regt [11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina] is 2 miles from here. I went over to see father yesterday he has had the chills

since we Come to Virginia. he is better now. we draw a half pound of meat per day now but I dont know how long it will last. we drew peas yesterday we are cooking some now. we get very good flour. we live tollerable well just now. I hope it will Continue to hold out. polly tell your sister Mag [Margaret Bowman] I have sent on to the editor of the *Spirit of the age* [Raleigh newspaper] to send her a paper for 12 months at \$2.00 two dollars. tell her to write whether she gets it or not. tell her if she gets married before 12 months she must leave the paper with her father and mother. I think her and the rest of the children will like to read it. she Can send by Hoods [Editor's Note: unsure which home he is referring to] to town and it wont be much trouble to get it. polly I am sitting in the shade of a large pine tree. I have got on Clean Clothes. we had inspection and review to day. the days is warm the night is a little cool. we have excellent water here as good as we have at home. the Climate and Country here puts me in mind of home. I would rather be here as in the eastern part of north Carolina in them swamps and ponds. we come here in the night I havent been more than 2 miles from here. what few wheat fields I have seen looks fine it is Comeing out in head. it is a fine looking Country there is six houses in sight here. we have commenced throwing up entrenchments on this side of the river. we are in the side next to richmond. if the yankeys tries to make a Cavalry dash through here they will be apt to be halted. I dont think they will Come here. they say we have gained a great victory but as general Stonewall Jackson got killed I expect the yankeys will try again somewhere but I hope we will be able to thrash them every time. polly I am a heap better now than I was 2 or 3 months after I left home. I have got used to staying a way from home prety near. I hope you have got better satisfied I would like to be at home with you but I cant now. if the war holds on till old lincolns [Abe Lincoln] time is out and I live I dont Care about Comeing till next winter if furloughing keeps on. it is so slow my time wont Come till then but I hope the war will stop before then and we will all get home. may god in his mercy bless us and save us all in heaven is my prayer

A H Courtney

*Letter 38*

may the 19/ 63

Dear polly we are all well this morning. I have nothing now to write. I wrote Sunday to send by Mr. Dula [Editor's Note: unsure who he is referring to] and heelan [J. L. Healan] but they passed on yesterday evening and did not stop. we got a letter from W. A. Tuttle he is well. polly I have got stamps if I Could send them home I would send to you and let left the letters. then if a letter didnt go it wouldnt be paid. I will look for a letter this week. I will write every week but it costs a heap 30 cts a letter so no more but your loveing husband

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

## Letter 39

may the 20 1863

Camp near Hanover Junction

Dear wife I take the opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty. I hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well. I received the letters you sent by Harstin [Green Harstin] and Hudspeth [Robert N. Hudspeth] and philyaw [Simeon Philyaw]. I got all the things you sent by them. J M Gains started home yesterday. he is going to stop in salisbury. I sent a letter by him to mail on the way. I want you to write whether you get it or not. I wrote some to Mag [Margaret Bowman] and Elisabeth [Elizabeth Bowman Suddreth]. in it some of our fellows will start home this evening or in the morning on furlough. none of them lives in our settlement. george holloways John [John M. Holloway] is going. John Tuttle dont go till next time. John is not very well he is puny. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well. polly I will send fifty cents worth of stamps in this letter to pay postage. I would send more but you might not get them. tell Mag I have sent on for her a paper [Editor's Note: *Spirit of the Age*] for 12 months to write whether she got it or not. polly we have a very good time here. a good Cool place and good water and drill 4 hours a day. we have 40 men out of our company throwing up breastworks. I am on guard to day. I am siting at a good spring in a cool shade. so no more.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

## Letter 40

May the 22 1863

Camp near Hanover Junction VA

Dear wife I take this opportunity of writeing you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well. I first received your letter dated the 15 and 16 which gave me great satisfaction to hear than you was well and had heard that we was all safe. you wrote that you Could go any place Briskly when you thought you Could hear any thing from me. you wrote that you was about half over your corn you said you hoped I could get home to eat beans and roasten ears with you. I hope I will. I no you miss me a great deal in the field but you must do the best you Can till I get home if it is gods will that I should ever get there. I wrote a letter to send by the boys on furlough. some of them got there furloughs and went to the Cars but they couldnt get on till they are signed by general lee [Robert E. Lee]. I dont expect he will sign them I

expect furloughing is done for a while any how. polly I wish you could write. I am glad you can read the letters that I send you. polly we have orders to be ready to march at a half an hours notice. I dont know where we will go to fredericksburg or gordonsville. we may not go soon. I send sixty Cents worth of stamps to you. polly I shaved off my beard yesterday for the first time sine I left home so no more.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Direct your letters to Richmond Va

*Letter 41*

may 22 1863

friday evening

polly it is a mistake we have no orders to march some of the boys made it up. but we are expecting to before long. Jim Sudderth was taken prisoner he is paroled he is here now. father [James Courtney] is well he is Coming over to see us this evening.

William Suddreth is gone to lynchburg to see Logan [Logan Suddreth] he is in the hospital. polly we got flour and a half pound of bacon per day and sugar and peas. polly I will write when I need any thing. give my love and respects to all the relations especially your self.

A H Courtney

write if you get this letter

## Letter 42

may the 30 1863

Hanover Junction

Dear wife I gladly embrace this opportunity to inform you that I am well and hearty. I hope when this comes to hand it will find you well and doing well. the last letter I received was dated 15 16. I looked anxiously for one to day but in vain. I may get one to morrow. I no you have writen or else I wouldnt look so earnest. the furloughs has just come for the boys to start home. polly I sent sixty cents worth of stamps in one letter and forty cents in an other. I will send sixty cents more in this one and send my letters without stamps. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well J. A. Tuttle is not very stout he is puny. we buy butter milk at 25cts a quart. me and Clay gives John our sugar and rice. John lost his pocket book and all his money. he wll come home next time. we have no marching orders but it is thought that we will move toward fredericks burg before long. but we may stay here some time we Cant tell what we are going to do.

polly I am as hearty and stout now as ever I was and I feel thankful to god for his blessings towards me. polly we was plagueing george Arney this morning about geting up so soon. he said he used to ly up of a morning and hug and Cuss the old woman [*Editor's Note: George's wife, Elizabeth Arney, who was six years older than her husband, died in March of 1860*]. we have a heap of Jokes and fun here. tell Elizabeth [Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bowman Suddreth] that I cant get no person off in newtons [James Newton Suddreth] place. they wont transfer any person. I dont want any thing in the way of Clothing. dont put yourself to any trouble to send me any thing to eat for I can do very well without. I understand the deserters is stealing up there. they had better be at there posts a doing there duty for when peace is made them that lives to get home will show them where they stand. Jacob Canon they say is the ring leader. he is not too good for any thing. dont say any thing about them for they might do some thing to you. give my respect to all the relations I remain your loveing husband.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

Direct your letters to richmond

Co F 26 regt NC Troops

in Care of Col Burgyn [Col. Henry King Burgwyn, Jr.]

Pettigrew Brigade [General James Johnston Pettigrew]

*Letter 43*

may 31 1863

Hanover Junction

Dear wife I embrace this sabbath evening to answer your kind and loveing letter dated 24. I got it to day. I sent a letter by John Holloway [John B. Holloway] and sixty cents in stamps. I have sent one Dollar and sixty Cents in ten cent stamps. I was glad to hear that you was well. I hope when this reaches you it will find you well. I am well Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well John is puny. polly I cant tell you what to do about that plow but if I ever get home he will wish he had never stolen a plow. if uncle Robbert [Robert G. Tuttle] would take out a search warrant and take Daniel Arney to prove the plow he might get it. I thought of old spivy [Editor's Note: she was probably a slave of James Courtney] when I first heard the plow was gone. you can do what you think best about it. I am glad to hear they are hunting up the deserters and Catching them they ought not to be allowed to stay about there. I would rather stay here two years longer than to go home Dishon-ally. I wont desert as long as I fare as well as I do now although it is rough here. polly you wrote you intended to come to see me after you get your corn laid by if we both lived and you could get any body to Come with you if I Couldent Come home before then. polly I would like to see you but it is a bad chance for a woman to get here. the Cars is Crowded so but I hope I will get home against that time I dont want you to work too hard to make money to Come to see me. I am glad to hear you have plenty to eat milk and butter and hams. I would like to be there to take supper with you to night but I cant tell marth [Martha Courtney, slave of James Courtney who came to live with Polly] to be a smart girl and to do what you tell her. we had preaching here to day. I hope this war will soon come to a close so I can get home to stay with you. give my respects to all. I write once a week any how if not oftener. so nothing more but remain your loving husband until death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

*Letter 44*

June 3 1863

Hanover Junction Va

Dear wife I seat my self this evening to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hearty. I hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well and doing well. I received your letter last Sunday dated 24 of

may which gave me great satisfaction to hear from you and to hear that you was well and geting a long as well as you are. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well J A Tuttle is tolerable well. we dont eat hearty. there is several of our men complaining but none very bad off. the Doctor says Caleb estus [Caleb Estes] has the fever, george powell is sick they are here in Camps. polly we got orders this morning to be ready to march at 7 oclock we fixed up and was ready to start but I dont know where we was going. the order was countermanded and we didnt go. we may have to march soon or we may not. we belong to the old stonewall Corps it is now under Command of General ewell [Richard S. Ewell] we are in Heathes [Henry Heth] division Pettigrews [James Johnston Pettigrew] Brigade.

Dear polly I do hope this war will soon come to an end and we can all get home. I want to get home worse on your account than any thing else. I know you are lonesome and see a heap of trouble but you must do the best you can. I hope and pray to god if it his will to spare my life to get home but if I should die or get killed I dont want you to weep for me for I have a hope of a better world than this and if we never meet on earth again I hope will meet in heaven where there is no wars and where we will part no more is my prayers. give my respects to all the relations tell mother and the children howdy for me and your fathers people. also tell uncle Robbert [Robert G. Tuttle] aunt Lucinda [Lucinda Puett Tuttle] and my Cosins that I havent forgotten them. tell them to rite to us. I will write again in 3 or 4 days and let you know what we are doing so no more but remain your loveing husband until death.

polly if I thought furloughs wouldnt be stoped I wouldnt send for my hat if it is made and John Holloway [John B. Holloway] will bring it. you can send it I hant in a hurry. John will go home next time if he gets a furlough.  
*[Editor's Note: John B. Holloway did not receive his furlough and was killed on July 1, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg]*

A H Courtney

to his loveing wife

M E Courtney

*Letter 45*

June 8 1863

Hamiltons Crossing, Va

Dear wife through the mercies of god I again seat my self to let you know that I am well I hope when this Comes to hand it will find you well. we are in sight of fredericksburg. we Can see the yankeys on the other side of the river. I dont know whether there will be a fight here soon or not. our army is in line of battle we are lying

behind breast works. the 22 regt [22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina] is here but W. A. Tuttle is gone to richmond, he is sick I dont no what is the matter with him. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and John [John A. Tuttle] is well. father [James Courtney] is here he is better than he has been. I have seen lots of the boys that I no here, Cass Corpening [*Editor's Note: This is apparently a nickname for one of the Corpening soldiers but at this time we are unsure who this is*] and several others. purk miller [Elisha Perkins Miller] and slight Shell [Slighter Shell] has left there company we are on the old battle field. I dont like this place very well but I am satisfied any where. I no I have to stay and it is not worth while to be dis satisfied or troubled about it. it is a broken Country, the hills is all striped Clean of timber.

polly father wants mother to send him a pair of suspenders by ben Clark. Caleb Estus [Claeb Estes], logan teague, george powell and Ausmon graig [Osman Gragg] is all gone to the hospital. the last letter I got was 24 of may. I no there is one on the way I have just now got a letter from you wrote last sunday. I was sorry to hear that you was not very well but was better I am glad to hear that wheat looks well and Corn and you are geting a long as well as you are. give my respects to all may god bless us and save us all in heaven is my prayer. Direct your letters to richmond or Hamilton Crossing Va So no more but remain your affectionate husband.

A H Courtney to my loveing wife M E Courtney

**Editor's Note:** Both Perk Miller and Slight Shell apparently returned to their company as they both were wounded during the Gettysburg Campaign

*Letter 46*

June the 11 1863

Fredericks burg Va

Dear wife I embrace this opportunity of leting you know that I am well at this time. I hope when this reaches you it will find you well. I received your kind letter last monday dated 31 may. I wrote one monday and sent it. I was sorry to hear that you was not well, I am in hopes you have got well before this time. we moved 8 miles down the river monday evening. our Brigade is here. we can see the yankeys a cross the river. I dont see any more. I cant tell any thing about the movements. there has been a few cannons fired up the river since we have been here but no damage done. our Company went out on picket night before last, we just got in this morning. I got some good butter milk and corn bread yesterday. we have nothing to do here yet but guard. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well. I havent seen father [James Courtney] since monday, he was tolerable well then. J. A. Tuttle and six others went back to guineas station monday. they was not able to march. John was just puny he wasent sick. it was 8 miles from hamiltons Crossing to guinea station. hamiltons crossing is a little place on

the rail road 3 miles from fredericksburg. it is a bad place to Camp here on the river. there is not wood enough to Cook with. we detail cooks and send them back to bake our bread. polly I look for a letter to morrow or next day. I am very anxious to hear from you. I dont think it is as warm here as it is at home. we have cool nights and the air is always stiring here. I dont think it is a healthy here as it was at hanover Junction. I hope we will all have our health and get a long well. polly dont be uneasy we are as safe here as any where. give my respects to all the friends. may god bless us and save us all in heaven is my prayer for Christs sake. Direct your letters to guineas station or richmond. I remain your loveing husband.

A H Courtney

to

M E Courtney

polly do the best you Can. dont be uneasy for I hope god will be mercifull to us and spare us through this war so we can get home to see our dear wives and relations and live with them awhile.

J A Tuttle went back to guineas station last monday. tell Aunt Lucinda that John is Just puny. I dont no as it any disease. he is weakly. so no more but remain your loving husband.

A H Courtney    M E Courtney



**Logan Teague and wife**

*Letter 47*

June the 14 1863

Fredericksburg Va

Dear wife I embrace this Sabbath morning to let you know that I am well. I hope these few lines will find you well and doing well. I received you letter of 31 of may. I am looking for one to day. we are

about 8 miles below fredericksburg on the Rappahanock we have pickets on one side of the river and the yankeys on the other. the yankeys crossed and got in rear of our men at Culpepper Court house last thursday and surprised our men. I supposed they captured fifteen hundred of our men and six hundred horses but we repulsed them and ran them back. we can see yankey Cavalry moving up the river this morning. I dont hear of any more as to fighting here soon. I hear that the yankeys is going to try richmond under Mclelands [George B. McClellan] old plan through the chickahomony swamps. it is a going to take hard fighting to keep the yankeys back this summer. I think they are going to do there best now and there is so many of them. polly I was 26 years old yesterday and it will be nine months to morrow since I left home. I hope it will not be that long till I get to go home. furloughing is stoped. I dont no whether it will Commence again or not. if they dont I am afraid there will be a heap of deserters. I dont think I can stay here longer than till Christmas without I get to see you if I live and keep my health I will stay as long as I can. I take spells some times of wanting to see you and it seems like I would give any thing in the world to see you. if I dont get to Come home before winter I think you will have to come to see me in the fall if we both live. I have been looking for Braswells [James J. Braswell, Marcus DeLafayette Braswell, Ryan Wesley Braswell, and Thomas N. Braswell] and I heard they was to start last Monday and I heard Wm. Estes [William Estes] was to start last thursday but none of them has come yet. H. C. Courtney is well. I havent heard from J. A. Tuttle since he went to guineas station. father is well as Common.



**George L. Powell**

A H Courtney

*Letter 48*

June 15 1863

Fredricks burg Va

Dear wife I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I received 2 letters from you yesterday and one from your father [John Bowman]. I was glad to hear that you was well and geting a long so well and had plenty to eat and your corn and wheat looked so well and you had potatoes large enough to eat. I got the honey and sweet bread and the pieces of meat. I was glad to get it and

I got the plat of hair. I was a proud boy to get such things. I wrote a letter yesterday. we got orders to march before I finished it I sent it. we are now rite at fredericksburg. we marched 12 miles yesterday it was hot. we did not rest at all. our shirts was wet with sweat. the yankeys is falling back. I dont no whether we are going to cross the river or not. polly you said you weighed a hundred and six pounds but you was peurt. I am afraid you work too hard. you said you kept up with the plow. I dont want you to hurt your self a working. I want you to be some account when I come home. polly if you dont get letters for we may get off some where so we cant send letters. they say we are going to Culpepper. I was glad to hear that your fathers and my mothers people was all well and uncle Robbert [Robert G. Tuttle] was well. your father said Mag was seting reading her newspaper [*Editor's Note: Spirit of the Age*] like Conrod [Conrad Rader].

A H Courtney

*Letter 49*

Wednesday evening June 17 1863

Culpeper Va

Dear wife I seat myself to let you know that I am well. I hope when this reaches you it will find you enjoying the same great blessing. I wrote a letter sunday morning and sunday evening. I got the letters and things you sent by John Kincaid. he got with us at Hamiltons Crossing and I wrote another letter monday. we left fredericksburg monday evening. we Come by Chancelorsville and stephensburg and through Culpeper. we are about a mile from Culpeper. it is one o clock we will stay here till morning. it is very hot dry and dusty marching. we come a long the road where there was dead men and horses and they smelt so bad it seemed like we could hardly stand it. they was all along the road from fredericksburg to Chancelorsville 10 miles. we crossed the rapidan river yesterday. the bridge had been destroyed and we had to wade it. it is thought that we will cross the rapohannock and potomoch over in to maryland. I hear that general ewell [Richard S. Ewell] has Captured eleven thousand yankeys at Chesterville. our whole Division [Heth's] is along it would be a sight for you to see the men in these long lanes as far as you Could see all in a work with men. Red Church and thomas [Barber] and Davis Barbers and David Danner left us yesterday. they have cut out for home. I guess they are not much loss. only if there was furloughs granted it would nock Company out. polly I eat the last of my cake to day. I have got some of my honey and ham yet. I tell the boys that my honey is the next sweetest to. polly I saw father [James Courtney] yesterday he is well. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] is well. I havent heard from John [John A. Tuttle] since he left us. polly dont be uneasy if you dont get letters often we may get some where so I cant send them so often. I dont no as there is any probability of geting in to a fight soon although we may. if we do I hope we will all come out safe. give my respects to all the friends so no more but remain your loveing husband untill death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

This part of the letter was written in a margin: "I will write as often as I Can. you do so to.

Direct your letters to richmond. I will ly down and take a nap of sleep good by"

*Letter 50*

June 21 1863

Valey of Virginia

Dear wife I embrace this sabbath evening to let you know that I am well I hope this letter will reach you and find you well. I received a letter last sunday. I have wrote two since sunday. We left fredericksburg last mon-day. we have been marching every day since. we are now in the valey of Virginia 22 miles from Harpers ferry. we will reach there to morrow. we crossed the blue ridge at Chesters gap. we lay too nights where there was plenty of rattle snakes. we killed several. I thought last wednesday and thursday was the hottest days I ever saw. the sides of the road was thick with men that was give out. it is reported that some died on the road but I didnt see any. I never saw the like of the clothing and blankets that was throwed away. I had two pair of pants and throwed away one pair. I have got a good pair of new Jeans pants. polly we have plenty to eat. we draw flour we stop of an evening at 4 o clock and send out Cooks to bake our bread. I was up all last night Cooking and seeing to it we start soon of a morning. we waded the rapidan river and two prongs of the rapahanock and two of the shenando river. it was waist deep. it is a beautiful country but is is rough about the mountain. the yankeys is pulling back. our men took winchester and 4 or 6 thousand prisoners from the yankes. I expect we are going in to maryland we have got pontoons a long with us to Cross the potomack. we are going to cook three days rations to night. John McCarver and Larkin Coffey left us the other night. two aimed to leave night before last but we put them under arrest. polly write and let me know if you get this letter. I am afraid we will get off where we cant send letters nor get any. our furloughed men has not got back yet nor I dont know when they will get to us. I am looking for a letter by them. Dear polly if you dont get letters from me it will be because I cant send them. I Cant tell you any thing about whether there well be any fight about here or not. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and father [James Courtney] is well. the neighbor boys is all well. I havent heard from J. A. Tuttle since he left us. direct your letters to richmond. I will stop writing by wishing this may reach you and that it wont be long till I will get home. may god bless us and save us all in heaven is my prayer. so no more but remain your loveing husband untill death.

A H Courtney

M E Courtney



June 24 1863

Shepards town Va

Dear wife it is with much pleasure that I seat myself to let you know that I am well. I hope when this reaches you it will find you well. Clay [Henry Clay Courtney] and father [James Courtney] is well. the men of our Company is generally well. we have plenty of lime stone water and beef and wheat bread. polly we will Cross the potomac to morrow in to maryland. we will cross above harpers ferry at shepardstown. I dont expect there will be any chance to send a letter or get any from you. I hate that the last letter I got was dated the 7 of June. we have a large army I expect we will have some fighting to do but I hope we will all Come out safe. the 22 regt is along with us W. A. Tuttle is not along. I heard he was Comeing on behind. I heard

**Davis W. Barber**

that John [John A. Tuttle] was gone to richmond. Dear polly I hope god will spare my life to get home on your account but if it is my lot to get killed or die in this war I dont want you to grieve your self nor weep for me for I hope we will meet in heaven where parting is no more. dont be uneasy nor troubled for I cant rite to you but we must be satisfied with what Comes on us. give my respects to all the friends what letters you send direct your letters to richmond. so no more but remain your loveing husband untill death

A H Courtney

M E Courtney

I would of wrote more but I did not know whether it would go or not

*Letter 52*

U. S. A. Genl Hospital

West's Building

Balt. Md

July 24, 1863.

*Editor's Note: This note was written by someone else as it is not in Andrew H. Courtney's handwriting.*

Mary E. Courtney

Dear Wife

I was wounded on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July in the battle of Gettysburg in the left leg below the knee and on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. my leg was amputated. The Surgeons say that my leg is doing very well. I don't Suffer a great deal and I hope I shall recover and get home before very long perhaps within two months at most; but if God should otherwise decree and I should die I feel prepared for a better world my Bro' H. C. Courtney received a flesh wound thro' the thigh and was taken back across the Potomac and I haven't heard from him since. My father [James Courtney] was unhurt the last time I heard from him. Joseph Setzer was wounded in the leg and had it amputated and, he died about the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. I am treated very well in the Hospital here and have everything I need to make me comfortable. You need not write for I dont know how long I will stay here. I will write again before long and let you know how I am getting along.

Yours affectionately

A H Courtney

*Letter 53*

August 20 1863

Hospital Baltimore, Md

**Editor's Note:** This letter was written to J. T. C. Hood, of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina

Mr. J. T. C. Hood or some friend in Co. F

I drop you a few lines to let you know that I am getting along very well if I dont take a backset my leg is nearly healed over. I have a good appetite. I am not stout enough to go to Dixie. I want you to write to polly and let her know how I am getting along. I hope I will soon be exchanged and I will get home. I fare very well here give my respects to all the Company excuse my bad writing

A H Courtney

J T C Hood Co F

*Letter 54*

August the 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

Petersburg Virginia

Mrs. Mary E. Courtney

Madam Your Husband Requested Me to write to you and let you Know how he is and how he was getting along. He is now in The West Building Hospital, Baltimore Maryland. he is in a very fine Hospital a plenty to eat and plenty to [illegible]. I have been with him in that Hospital for 5 weeks. He got along very well he would have come when I did but he was to weak. I am a Paroled Prisoner. I was sent by flag of truce to City Point from Baltimore. Your husband told Me to write to you and tell you that he was well and in good Spirits and that he was getting along as well as a man could expect. I do not think it will be more than two weeks until your Husband is back in Dixie. I have given you all the Best News Theas lines are from your Husband A H Courtney Written by John Pryor Company C 42 miss Regt.

I am now at Petersburg Virginia

North Carolina Hospital

Ward 37 is My Post Office

He was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg in the left leg and he had to have it amputated. It was taken off just below the knee. He was taken Prisoner at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. so he is now nearly well when I left

**Editor's Note:** On September 7, 1863, Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney, the mother of Andrew H. and Henry Clay Courtney passed away at the age of 48. She left behind the following children at home: Robert Gamewell Courtney (age 17), William Locke Courtney (age 13), Mary Alice Eveline Courtney (age 13), and Marshall Nay Courtney (age 10). The three youngest children were taken in by their uncle Benedict Marcus Tuttle, who lived near the old Andrew Tuttle, Sr. home place in the Hartland community of Caldwell County. Robert Gamewell Courtney served in Company C, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion N. C. Junior Reserves, which became Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment N. C. Reserves.

*Letter 55*

October 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

richmond Va

North Carolina general Hospital No 24

Dear Wife I once more am permitted to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am a live and doing as well as I Could expect. I arrived here last monday. my leg pains me some it is Caused by the trip. it is nearly healed up. I will draw my money and get a furlough in 8 or 10 days and start for home if my leg gets no worse. george arney and george hudspeth is here at some other Hospital. polly you dont know how bad I want to hear from you and see you but you need not write as i expect to start home soon. I will not write any more. I hope this will

**N.C. General Hospital No. 24**



Mrs Mary E Courtney  
Caldwell Co  
NE  
in care of J M Howard  
by the politeness of  
J M Howard

find you well and I will soon get home so I can talk with you.

A H Courtney

to his loveing wife M E Courtney

Mrs Mary E Courtney  
Caldwell Co  
NE  
by the politeness of  
J M Howard

Original of M Courtney  
to Dr R E Best NE  
through  
M  
RECEIVED  
JUN 13 1864  
W  
Mrs. Mary E Courtney  
Lemoir  
Caldwell Co  
NE

Three of the original envelopes from the Andrew Hull Courtney Letter Collection.

## Biographical Index

The index provides brief sketches of the various individuals and places mentioned within the Courtney letters.

All military service record information is taken from Louis H. Manarin, Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., Matthew W. Brown, and Michael W. Coffey, comps., *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster*, 19 vols. to date (Raleigh: Office of Archives and History, 1966 - ) vols. II, V, VI, VII, XIV, XVII, XVIII.

Also provided at the end of each entry is a letter number showing what specific letters people or places are mentioned. This letter numbering index does not include the following individuals as they are mentioned in just about all of the letters:

Mary E. "Polly" Bowman Courtney (wife of Andrew H. Courtney)

Henry Clay Courtney (brother and mess mate of Andrew H. Courtney)

John A. Tuttle (first cousin and mess mate of Andrew H. Courtney)

### Andrew "Dan" Courtney and Mary "Polly" Bowman

Andrew Hull "Dan" Courtney (June 13, 1837 – March 17, 1909), the son of James and Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney, married Mary Eveline "Polly" Bowman (December 25, 1836 – August 21, 1926) on November 15, 1860. She was the daughter of John and Isabella Kincaid Bowman. Their first home was on the property of his uncle Robert Gaius Tuttle, in the "Lower Creek" section of western Caldwell County. "Dan" and "Polly" experienced heartbreak the year after they were married when they lost their first child, a daughter. The next year, following "Dan's" enlistment, they lost a second child, [see Letter 6] but eventually they were able to have eight children that reached adulthood.

"Dan" enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 7, 1862, and the first letter we have is dated September 17, 1862. He was promoted to corporal in December 1, 1862, and was wounded in the left leg and captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, resulting in the amputation of his left leg below the knee. He was exchanged on September 27, 1863, and retired to the Invalid Corps.

Both "Dan" and "Polly" suffered family losses during the war, as each lost a brother during the conflict. "Dan's" brother Henry Clay Courtney, also in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, eventually died on May 15, 1864 of a wound he received at Gettysburg. "Polly" lost two brothers during the war: John Blackwell Bowman, also of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, died of disease on May 7, 1862, and William Robinson Bowman, also of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, died of disease on November 8, 1864, after having been confined at Point Lookout, Maryland for a year. "Dan's" father, James Courtney, although over fifty years old, served in Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina until he was discharged in February 1865. Robert Gamewell Courtney, another of "Dan" Courtney's brothers, served with Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves. As you read the letters and please refer to the Biographical Index to understand the family and friend connections.

Following his return home "Dan", outfitted with a wooden leg, determined to make a career out of "tanning", in addition to his farming. He also operated a general store in the community and served as treasurer of Caldwell

County. His family has long been associated with Littlejohn Methodist Church and many of them, including “Dan” and “Polly” are buried there.

**5<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Senior Reserves.** This regiment, made up of men forty-five to fifty years old, organized in July 1864. Men from Caldwell County enlisted in both Company D (Alexander and Caldwell) and I (Burke and Caldwell).

**8<sup>th</sup> Battalion N. C. Junior Reserves / 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment N. C. Junior Reserves.** The counties of Burke and Caldwell raised a junior reserve company, known as the “Burke and Caldwell Reserves” in late spring 1864. On June 7, 1864, it was designated Company C, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion N. C. Junior Reserves. In January 1865, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions N. C. Junior Reserves consolidated into a regiment known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment N. C. Junior Reserves, and the Burke and Caldwell company became Company G of the new command.

**11<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops.** This regiment is known as the successor of the “Bethel Regiment,” which was officially called the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment N. C. Volunteers. The “Bethel Regiment” was a six-month regiment and was organized May 9 1861, and disbanded in November of that same year. In early 1862, many former members of the “Bethel Regiment” organized into a new regiment known as the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops. In December 1862, the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops was assigned to General James Johnston Pettigrew’s Brigade, which included the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops.** The first company to come from Caldwell County, known as the “Caldwell Rough and Ready Boys”, organized at Lenoir on April 30, 1861. In July 1861, the company became Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops (12<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Volunteers). The regiment served with the Pender-Scales Brigade (13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, and 38<sup>th</sup> Regiments N.C. Troops) of the Hill-Pender-Wilcox Division throughout the war. Two hundred and five men served in Company A during the course of the war.

**26<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops.** This regiment was organized on August 27, 1861 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Two of the ten companies were raised in Caldwell County. The “Hibriten Guards” organized on July 15, 1861, and the “Caldwell Guards” formed on July 31, 1861. Both companies formed in the county seat of Lenoir. The “Hibriten Guards” became Company F and the “Caldwell Guards” became Company I of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops. Company F had 242 soldiers serve during the war, while Company I had 270. In July 1862, fifty members of Company I transferred to Company H, 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops, another Caldwell County command.

**58<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops.** Two companies from Caldwell County helped form this regiment that served in the Army of Tennessee. Captain John C. Keener’s company was mustered into service on June 25, 1862, and became Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops on July 29. More than 360 men served in Company E, probably the largest number in any North Carolina infantry company. Captain T. J. Dula’s company mustered into service on May 23, 1862, and became Company H of the 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. One hundred seventy-three men enlisted in this company.

**McRae’s Battalion, N. C. Cavalry.** Authorized in September 1863 and organized at Camp Vance, Burke County, for nine months service in November of that year. McRae’s Battalion was used to hunt deserters and conscripts in western North Carolina. The battalion disbanded on June 1, 1864.

**Allen, Burgess “Burge” Gaither.** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in the Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861, at age twenty-one. He fought at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2-3, 1863, and according to Letter 34, he, along with William A. Tuttle, were run over by General Stonewall Jackson and his staff on Saturday night, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. “Burge” deserted to the enemy on or about June 9, 1863, and took the Oath of Allegiance at Washington, D. C., on or about June 24, 1863. Letters 34, 37.

**Arney, Daniel (September 4, 1818 – January 29, 1875).** Born in Burke County and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company I, 5<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Senior Reserves on May 24, 1864. He was married to Jemima Kincaid and a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney. His son, Eli Arney, was in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North



**Andrew Hull Courtney Home, people standing on the front porch, left to right...  
John A. Courtney, Laura M. Courtney Webb, Robert M. Courtney, Marcus L. Courtney, Andrew H.  
“Dan” Courtney , Fannie L. Courtney Teague, Mary E. “Polly” Courtney, Henry M. Courtney, and Wil-  
liam G. Courtney**

Carolina. Letter 43.

**Arney, George (May 2, 1824 – February 25, 1904).** Born in Burke County and resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on January 7, 1863. He was wounded in the right leg and captured at Gettysburg, resulting in an amputation. He was paroled on September 27, 1863, and discharged on December 31, 1864. Letters 29, 42, 55.

**Arney, Elizabeth.** She was the wife of George Arney and, according the 1860 Federal Census Mortality Schedule, died in March 1860, at age forty-five. Letter 42

**Ballew, Joseph Rutherford.** Born in Burke County and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted at twenty-nine in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, on July 15, 1861. He was elected first lieutenant at enlistment and was elected captain on April 1, 1862. He resigned October 12, 1862, due to “chronic diarrhea” and “chronic disease of the lung.” Letters 5, 7.

**Barber, Davis W.** He resided in Watauga County in 1860, but moved to Caldwell County, prior to his enlistment at thirty-eight in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861. He was hospitalized in Richmond, Virginia on March 29, 1864, and reported as sick or absent on detail through February 1865. Although there is nothing about it in his compiled service records, A. H. Courtney states in one of his letters that

Davis Barber deserted along with Thomas W. Barber, his brother, on the march to Gettysburg. Letter 49.

**Barber, Margaret “Peggy” McCall.** She was the wife of William M. Barber and a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney. Letters 5, 6b.

**Barber, Thomas W.** He was twenty-two and lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on June 25, 1862. He transferred to Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on October 1, 1862. He deserted on December 10, 1862, but returned to duty on February 28, 1863. He deserted on the march to Gettysburg on June 16, 1863. He was a brother of Davis W. Barber. Letters 13, 49.

**Barber, William M.** He was the husband of Margaret “Peggy” McCall Barber and a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney. Letter 1

**Bean, Mrs.** “Old” Mrs. Bean was a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney’s parents and served as a “mid-wife” to the local families. There are two possible candidates: Sarah Bean, sixty-three years old and Margaret Bean, sixty-five years old, both of whom resided in the “Lower Creek” community. Letter 6.

**Bowman, Andrew Jackson (January 12, 1847 – January 20, 1921).** Younger brother of Mary E. “Polly” Bowman Courtney. Letter 20.

**Bowman, Isabella Kincaid (December 11, 1815 – May 9, 1898).** The mother of Mary E. “Polly” Courtney and a resident of Caldwell County. Letters 6, 6b.

**Bowman, John (June 20, 1809 – August 3, 1876).** The father of Mary E. “Polly” Courtney and a resident of Caldwell County. His sons John Blackwell Bowman and William Robinson Bowman were in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, and both died of disease during the war. Letter 5b.

**Postwar photo of Caldwell County Civil War Veterans: 6 is Andrew Hull Courtney, Columbus Tuttle is kneeling on the left of the line in the bowler hat**



**Bowman, John (ca. 1828 – January 1, 1877).** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He mustered in as a private and was promoted to color corporal on October 1, 1862. He was wounded in both legs at Gettysburg and was reported “absent wounded” through February 1865. He is buried at Littlejohn Methodist Church and a cousin of Mary E. “Polly” Courtney. Letters 5, 20, 26.

**Bowman, John Blackwell (July 20, 1842 – May 7, 1862).** A brother of Mary E. “Polly” Courtney and a resident of Caldwell County. He enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina at Camp Wilkes on October 18, 1861. He died of disease in a Kinston hospital on May 9, 1862. (*Editor’s Note: The family and his gravestone state May 7, 1862 as his death date.*) His younger brother William Robinson Bowman served with him in Company F. He is buried at Littlejohn Methodist Church, near Lenoir, North Carolina. (*Editor’s Note: He is not mentioned in the letter collection.*)

**Bowman, Margaret “Mag” (born January 7, 1838).** A sister of Mary E. “Polly” Courtney. Letters 6, 37, 39, 48.

**Bowman, William Robinson (July 1, 1844 – November 8, 1865).** A brother of Mary E. “Polly” Courtney. On August 20, 1863, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He was captured at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863, and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until received for exchange on October 15, 1864. He died November 6, 1864. (*Editor’s Note: The family and his gravestone show November 8, 1865 as his death date.*) Letters 21, 33.

**Bradford, Nero Guy (1825 – September 22, 1889).** He was a mechanic who lived in the Collettsville section of Caldwell County with his wife Jane and three children. He enlisted in Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 31, 1861, and was mustered in as first sergeant. He was elected and promoted to second lieutenant, first lieutenant and captain of Company I. He was severely wounded in the left lung and arm on July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg. He was captured and hospitalized on July 5, 1863, after the Army of Northern Virginia had retreated. After being imprisoned at David’s Island, New York Harbor, he was received his first tour of northern prisons. Those that he was sent to included Fort Wood, and Bedloe’s Island, New York Harbor. It was at this time that he was sent to South Carolina where he became one of the “Immortal 600” Confederate Officers, who were forced



to face the fire of their comrades when they were placed in a stockade at Charleston Harbor from August until October 1864. Following this he was sent on what amounted to a second tour of northern prisons that included, Johnson's Island, Ohio; Point Lookout, Maryland; Fort Delaware, Delaware; Fort Pulaski, Georgia; and finally back to Fort Delaware, Delaware, where he was released on June 12, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Following his return to Caldwell County, he would eventually move to Florida, where he died. He is buried in Lone Oak Cemetery, at Leesburg, Florida. Letters 17, 18, 33.

**Bradford, Rufus.** A young son of N. G. and Jane Bradford. Letters 8, 17, 18.

**Bradford, William.** He was the son of Hosea (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and Mary Bradford. He resided in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on January 7, 1863, at age eighteen. He was wounded at Gettysburg but returned to duty prior to May 5, 1864. He was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness on that date. He returned to the ranks on or about July 1, 1864, but was captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia on April 2, 1865. He was confined at Harts Island, New York Harbor until he took the Oath of Allegiance on June 18, 1865. Letter 20.

**Braswell, James J.** The son of Wylie and Bedia Barber Braswell, he was a brother of Ryan Wesley Braswell and Thomas N. Braswell. He was a first cousin to Marcus D. Braswell. A resident of Caldwell County, he was twenty-four when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 29, 1862. He deserted on December 10, 1862. Letters 13,47.

**Braswell, Marcus DeLafayette "Fate".** The son of William B. and Margaret "Peggy" Shell Braswell and a first cousin of James J. Braswell, Ryan Wesley Braswell, and Thomas N. Braswell, he resided in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on August 9, 1862, at age twenty-four. He deserted on December 10, 1862. His brother Robert McCall Braswell was also in the same company. Letters 13, 47.

**Braswell, Ryan Wesley.** The son of Wylie and Bedia Barber Braswell, he was a brother of James J. and Thomas N. Braswell. He was also a first cousin to Marcus D. Braswell, and a resident of Caldwell County. He enlisted in Wake County into Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on October 15, 1862. He deserted on December 10, 1862 but, was "apprehended and brought to camp" on January 28, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and hospitalized at Danville, Virginia. He deserted from the hospital on or about August 21, 1863. Letters 13, 47.

**Braswell, Thomas N.** The son of Wylie and Bedia Barber Braswell, he was a brother of James J. Braswell and Ryan Wesley Braswell. He was also a first cousin of Marcus D. Braswell and a resident of Caldwell County. He enlisted in Wake County in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on October 15, 1862 at age twenty-two. He deserted on December 10, 1862. Letters 13, 47.

**Bristol, William Henry.** He was the son of Benedict Bristol who came to North Carolina from Connecticut with his cousin Andrew Hull Tuttle, Sr. in 1810. He and Andrew Tuttle married sisters of the Robert McCall family. A Burke County resident, on April 10, 1862, he was elected Captain in the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Militia. He represented the "Lower Creek" section of the county. That section bordered a part of Caldwell County that bore the same name. Three of his brothers, Elam Bristol (Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> N. C. Volunteers and Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina), John Bristol (Company F, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Cavalry) and Augustus Bristol (Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, and Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves) served in the Confederate Army, with Elam and John dying. William survived and later moved to Texas. His sister Victoria married John B. Holloway, who served in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 27.

**Burgwyn, Jr., Henry King. (October 3, 1841 – July 1, 1863)** Born in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, Henry lived in eastern North Carolina throughout his life. He was an 1861 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and attended the University of North Carolina prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. He was commandant of the Camp Carolina (also known as Camp Crabtree) when the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina was organized on August 26, 1861. He was elected lieutenant colonel of the Regiment on that date and was later promoted to colonel on August 19, 1862. He was killed on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg while gallantly carrying the colors

of the regiment. He was buried in Gettysburg later that evening and in 1867 his body was returned to North Carolina when he was re-buried in Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery. Colonel Burgwyn shared a common ancestor with the Tuttle family. William Tuttle came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635 and settled in New Haven, Connecticut in 1638. Andrew Hull Tuttle, Sr., Andrew H. Courtney's grandfather moved from Connecticut to North Carolina in 1810. However, it is doubtful that the Caldwell County Tuttle's knew of the connection with Col. Burgwyn. Letter 42.

**Cannon, Jacob.** A resident of Caldwell County and a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney. He lived in the "Lower Creek" section of the county and was listed as being twenty-four in the 1860 Federal Census. However, there is no record of military service. Letter 42.

**Church, Redman.** A resident of Caldwell County and a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney, he enlisted at age twenty-nine in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He deserted on the march to Gettysburg on June 16, 1863, but the Raleigh *Register* states that he was wounded in the foot at the Battle of Gettysburg. Letter 49.

**Clark, Ben.** There are two possibilities as to who this is. The first possibility is R. B. Clarke who lived at House # 41 in the 1860 Federal Census of Caldwell County or Benjamin Clarke who lived at House # 191 in the 1860 Federal Census of Caldwell County. Letter 45.

**Coffey, Larkin.** The son of Isaac and Sarah Coffey, he was one of more than forty members of the Coffey family from Caldwell County to fight in the Civil War, with seventeen serving in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He enlisted at age eighteen in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on February 4, 1863. He deserted on the march to Gettysburg on June 19, 1863, but returned to duty and was captured at the Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863. He was released from Point Lookout Prison, Maryland on October 27, 1863, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. He then enlisted in Company I, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment U. S. Volunteers, a regiment of "Galvanized Yankees" that went west to protect against Indian attack from Minnesota to the Missouri River. Letter 50.

**Collett, Orlando Columbus.** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in the Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861 at age twenty-four. He mustered in as a sergeant and transferred to Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina in November 1862 – February 1863. Letter 11.

**Corpening, Cass.** This is a nickname for one of the Corpening soldiers but, which one is uncertain. Letter 45.

**Corpening, Joseph.** A neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney who was listed at fifty-one in the 1860 Federal Census of Caldwell County. He was married to Elinor and they had five young children. Letter 29.

**Corpening, William.** A resident of Burke County and a father of Lawson Corpening who fought with Company E, 16<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and Daniel Corpening who served with Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. His daughter Elizabeth Corpening married George Powell, of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina soldier. Letters 2, 14.

**Courtney, Henry Clay (November 7, 1842 – May 15, 1864).** A resident of Caldwell County and the son of James (Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and Margaret Tuttle Courtney and a brother of Andrew Hull Courtney (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and Robert Gamewell Courtney (Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves), Clay enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861. He was wounded in the right thigh at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1863. He died at Parker's Store, Spotsylvania County, Virginia on May 15, 1864, of this wound. He is mentioned in about all of the letters.

**Courtney, James (August 11, 1811 – November 19, 1883).** A resident of Caldwell County and the father of three sons, Andrew Hull Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney (both in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and Robert G. Courtney (Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves). James enlisted on February 1, 1862, in Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. That company was primarily raised in neighboring Burke County. He was captured at Falling Waters, Maryland, on July 14, 1863, and sent to Point Lookout, Maryland. He was exchanged on March 9, 1864, and rejoined his company on May – June 1864. He was discharged from the army on February 3, 1865. Following his wife's death and his return home in early 1865, James re-married. He and his new wife, Amanda

Fleming Barber, had three children born to this marriage following the war. His younger children with Margaret Tuttle Courtney moved in with their uncle B. M. Tuttle following Margaret's death and continued to live with their uncle for several years. Letters 5, 6b, 17, 18, 21, 24, 26, 29, 31, 33, 37, 41, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52.

**Courtney, Margaret Maria(h) Tuttle (August 2, 1815 – September 7, 1863).** The daughter of Andrew Hull and Elizabeth McCall, she was the mother of seven children of whom three, Andrew H. Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney and Robert G. Courtney, served in the Confederate Army. She was married to James Courtney, who served in Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. After her death, the younger children went to live with her brother, B. M. Tuttle and continued to do so following the war, when their father returned home and remarried. Letters 6, 6b.

**Courtney, Marth (born ca. 1850).** "Marth", short for Martha, was a slave of James Courtney, father of Andrew H. Courtney. She was the daughter of George Suddreth and Sylvia Courtney. She appears in the 1860 U. S. Slave Schedule for Caldwell County, as a ten year old female, one of five slaves belonging to James Courtney. "Marth" came to live with Mary E. "Polly" Courtney in 1862. Following the death of Margaret Mariah Tuttle Courtney in 1863, "Marth" went to live with the Andrew H. Courtney's uncle Benedict Marcus Tuttle, along with Margaret and James Courtney's younger children. After Emancipation she continued her long time close association with the Courtney family, as she appears in the 1870 [as a 20 year old domestic servant] and 1880 [as a thirty year old domestic servant] U. S. Censuses for Caldwell County, still residing in the Benedict Marcus Tuttle household. "Marth" married Waightstell Corpening, the son of Jeff and Je. Corpening on November 21, 1880. Their marriage certificate shows that she was thirty and the service was performed by Benedict Marcus Tuttle at "Widow" Bowman's. Letters 8, 15, 43.

**Courtney, Robert Gamewell (October 27, 1846 – January 16, 1922).** The son of James (Company B, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and Margaret Tuttle Courtney, he was a brother of Andrew H. Courtney and Henry Clay Courtney, both of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company C, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion N. C. Junior Reserves at Camp Vance, Burke County, on May 25, 1864. He was captured near Fort Fisher, North Carolina, on December 25, 1864, and sent to Fort Monroe, Virginia. He was exchanged at Point Lookout Prison, Maryland, on January 26, 1865, after which date there are no military records of him. Letter 6b.

**Courtney, William Locke (December 20, 1849 – November 17, 1897).** A brother of Andrew H. Courtney, the writer of these letters. Letter 6b.

**Crieger, Mike.** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861, at age twenty-five. He was wounded at Seven Pines, Virginia on May 31, 1862, and on June 13, 1864, he was mortally wounded at Riddell's Shops, near Richmond, Virginia. He died June 27, 1864. Letter 34.

**Crump, Henry C.** The son of John (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and a cousin of James M. Crump and Thomas Crump. He was a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney. He was seventeen when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, on March 20, 1862. He was wounded at Gettysburg and deserted from the hospital in Danville, Virginia, on or about August 14, 1863. He was one of the "three Crumps" listed mentioned in the letters. Letters 9, 10, 11, 27.

**Crump, James Madison "Mat".** He was the son of Elizabeth Crump and a cousin of Henry C. Crump and Thomas Crump. Nicknamed "Mat" in Letter 20, he was a neighbor of Andrew H. Courtney, and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at age twenty-five. He mustered in as a private and was wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863. He returned to duty on or about May 12, 1864, and was promoted to corporal. He was captured at Burgess Mill, Virginia, on October 27, 1864, and was confined at Pt. Lookout Prison, Maryland until he took the Oath of Allegiance on June 3, 1865. He is one of the "three Crumps" mentioned in the letters. Letter 9, 10, 11, 20, 27.

**Crump, John.** He resided in Caldwell County and on January 7, 1863, at age forty, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He was mortally wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and died two days later. He was the father of Henry C. Crump (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina). Letter 20.

**Crump, Thomas.** The son of Daniel and Susan Setzer Crump, he was a cousin to Henry C. Crump and James M. Crump and a neighbor to Andrew H. Courtney. He enlisted at age twenty in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and died at Martinsburg, Virginia between July 8-10, 1863. He was one of the “three Crumps” listed in the letters. Letters 9, 10, 11, 12, 27.

**Crump, Jane M. Sherrill.** Wife of Thomas Crump. Letter 12.

**Danner, David.** A native of Watauga County but resided in Caldwell County after he married Isabella Calloway. He enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862 at age twenty-five. He deserted on or about June 16, 1863, but was eventually apprehended and shot for desertion at Orange Court House, Virginia on March 24, 1864. [*Editor’s Note: He was a brother in law to Giles Calloway, who served in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina.*] Letter 49.

**Dickson’s negro.** A slave that belonged to William Wallace Dickson of Caldwell County. W. W. Dickson served in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina. His father, Charles McDowell Dickson, was one of the larger slave owners of Caldwell County as he owned twenty-six slaves according to the 1860 Slave Schedule for Caldwell County. Letter 23

**Dula, Mr.** It is not known who this refers to. Letter 38.

**Dula, Sidney Patterson.** Resided in Caldwell County and enlisted at Camp Vance, Burke County in Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on November 30, 1861, at age thirty-five. He mustered in as a private, was elected first lieutenant on April 21, 1862, and resigned on August 18, 1862. His reason for resignation was “my health has been declining since the recent engagements before Richmond...by continuing in the service I fear my constitution will be entirely broken, a misfortune I am not willing to undergo, having a wife and eight small children dependent on my exertions for support.” For some reason he was still at camp when letters 6 and 12 were written. He later served as a first lieutenant in Company A, Major A. A. Hill’s Battalion N. C. Sr. Reserves on May 26, 1864. Letters 7, 12.

**Estes, Caleb.** He resided in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-one. He mustered in as a corporal and was promoted to first sergeant on September 1, 1862. He was captured at Falling Waters, Maryland, on July 14, 1863, and sent to Point Lookout, Maryland. He was exchanged on March 6, 1864, and returned to duty. He was captured at Burgess Mill, Virginia, on October 27, 1864, and sent back to Point Lookout, Maryland where he remained until he was exchanged on March 30, 1865. He had two brothers, Henry Estes and Lance E. Estes, who served in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 44, 45.

**Estes, William.** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted on July 15, 1861, in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina at age twenty-five. He was wounded Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862, and returned to duty on or before November 1, 1862. He transferred to Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina between November 1863 and February 1864. He was furloughed for forty days on April 19, 1864, and had not returned to the ranks on August 31, 1864. There were no further records of him with the 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 47.

**Ewell, Richard Stoddert. (February 8, 1817 – January 25, 1872).** Born in Georgetown, District of Columbia and an 1840 graduate of West Point. Ewell, served in the U. S. Army prior to the Civil War. When he resigned and offered his services to the Confederate government, he was promoted to Brigadier General on June 17, 1861. He was later promoted to Major General on January 24, 1862, and following the death of Lieutenant General Stonewall Jackson, he was promoted to Lieutenant General in command of Jackson’s Second Corps. Word had apparently not reached the troops in the ranks, as Andrew H. Courtney mistakenly thought that the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops was under Ewell’s command on June 3, 1863. Letters 44, 49.

**Fleming, Robert E.** A resident of Caldwell County and the father of James W. Fleming, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on November 30, 1863. He deserted on April 12, 1864, but returned prior to June 30, 1864. He was captured at Harrisonburg, Virginia, on September 25-26, 1864, and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland. He was released on May 12-14, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Letters 3, 4.

**Fleming, James W.** The son of Robert E. Fleming, he lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862 at age seventeen. He died of disease at Greenville, North Carolina on April 20, 1863. [*Editor's Note: The letter mentioning his death was written April 19, 1862.*] Letter 29.

**Gaines, Joseph B.** He lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on March 19, 1862, at age forty-two. His fragmentary military records reveal that he was wounded in September 1862, and his company muster roll for July-October 1864, reports that he had been captured at Gettysburg. However, Federal Provost Records do not substantiate that. Letters 34, 39.

**Garnett, Richard B. (November 21, 1817 – July 3, 1863).** Born at “Rose Hill” in Essex County, Virginia, he was an 1841 West Point graduate. He served in the pre-war U. S. Army until he resigned and joined the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. He was promoted to Brigadier General on November 14, 1861, when he took over command of the famed “Stonewall Brigade” following Stonewall Jackson’s promotion. Later, he took over command of George Pickett’s Virginia Brigade when Pickett was promoted to Major General. He was killed on July 3, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. Letter 26.

**Gragg, James Osmond.** A resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on August 29, 1862, at age twenty-nine. He transferred to Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on February 1, 1863, but deserted on October 1, 1863. Letter 45.

**Harstin, Green Harden (4-6-1837 – ca. 1915)** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861. He mustered in as a private and was promoted to corporal in September – October 1862. He was wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia, on October 14, 1863. He was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. Letters 35, 36, 39.

**Healan, J. L.** A resident of Caldwell County who lived in the “Town of Lenoir” he was reported as being forty-five in the 1860 Federal Census. He had three sons who served during the war: Matthew Healan and John R. Healan (both in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina), and William Healan (Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves). Letter 38.

**Heth, Henry (December 16, 1825 – September 27, 1899).** Born in Chesterfield County, Virginia, he was an 1847 West Point graduate. He served in the pre-war U. S. Army prior to being elected colonel of the 45<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry and promoted to Brigadier General on June 1, 1862. He was later promoted to Major General on May 24, 1863, as part of General Robert E. Lee’s re-organization of the Army of Northern Virginia, following the death of Stonewall Jackson. The 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, as part of James Johnston Pettigrew’s North Carolina Brigade, was placed in Heth’s newly formed division, a position it would retain throughout the war. Letter 44.

**Hill, Daniel Harvey (July 12, 1821 – September 24, 1889).** Born in York District, South Carolina, he was an 1842 West Point graduate. Prior to the Civil War, he was a professor at the Virginia Military Institute and later on at Davidson College near Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1859 he was named as Superintendent of the newly formed North Carolina Military Institute. He was named as colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment N. C. Volunteers, and on July 10, 1861 this regiment received its baptism of fire at the Battle of Big Bethel. Hill was promoted to Brigadier General following the battle and was later promoted to Major General on March 26, 1862, and given command of the Department of North Carolina. It was here that the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina came under him command in his attempt to re-take New Bern and Washington, North Carolina in the spring of 1863. Letter 26.

**Holloway, George.** He resided in Caldwell County and lost two sons in the war: Nelson Holloway (Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina) and John M. Holloway (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina). He was an uncle of John B. Holloway, George Washington Holloway and James P. Holloway, all of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 39.

**Holloway, George Washington “Wash”.** The son of Robert and Catherine Hood Holloway and a resident of Caldwell County. He married Mary A. Collett on April 20, 1859, and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-seven. He was wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862 and again at Gettysburg a year later. He returned to duty and was promoted to sergeant in March-June 1864. He was cap-

tered at Hatcher's Run, Virginia on April 2, 1865 and confined at Hart's Island, New York Harbor until he took the Oath of Allegiance on June 18, 1865. He was a brother of John B. Holloway and James P. Holloway and a cousin of Nelson Holloway, John M. Holloway, and all of the Hood family. Letters 1, 2.

**Holloway, John Burton.** The son of Robert and Catherine Hood Holloway and a resident of Caldwell County. He was married to Victoria Bristol when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-seven. He was elected second lieutenant on the enlistment date but was defeated for re-election on April 12, 1862. He was elected third lieutenant on November 1, 1862, and was killed in action on July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was a brother of George Washington Holloway and James P. Holloway, both of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, and a cousin of Nelson Holloway, and John M. Holloway, and a cousin of the Hoods. His only child, John B. Holloway, Jr. was born on July 8, 1863, seven days after his death at Gettysburg. Letters 18, 43, 44.

**Holloway, John M.** The son of George and Patsy Holloway and a resident of Caldwell County. He enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-one. Andrew H. Courtney mentions in Letter 39 that Holloway was going home on furlough but, evidently he did not receive this as he was wounded at Gettysburg and captured at Williamsport, Maryland on July 14, 1863. He died of disease at Point Lookout, Maryland on October 18, 1863. He was a brother of Nelson Holloway and a cousin of John B. Holloway, George Washington Holloway, and James P. Holloway, and all of the Hoods. Letter 39.

**Hood, George Washington.** The son of David and Emaline Hood, he lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, on July 15, 1861, at age twenty. He was wounded at Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862 and a year later at Gettysburg. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and died on November 26, 1863. He was a cousin of John Theodore C. Hood, Gaston Hood and the Holloways. Letters 16, 17, 18, 20, 21.

**Hood, James (October 9, 1804 – October 9, 1894).** A Caldwell County resident, he was married to Docia Hood. He was elected captain in the 95<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Militia on September 13, 1861, in Puett's District which was located in the southwestern portion of Caldwell County. He was the father of John Theodore C. Hood (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and Gaston Hood (Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina). He is buried at Littlejohn Methodist Church. Letters 1, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15.

**Hood, John Theodore C. (born 1837).** The son of James and Docia Hood, and a brother of Gaston Hood (Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina), Theodore married W. E. B. Chambers on February 13, 1859, and resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861. He was mustered in as a sergeant but was reduced to the ranks in September/October 1861. He was promoted to sergeant on April 20, 1863, and was wounded and captured at Gettysburg. He was confined at David's Island, New York Harbor, until exchanged on September 8, 1863. He was wounded in the fall of 1864, but returned to duty and surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. He was a first cousin of the Holloways and George Washington Hood. Letters 5, 53.

**Hudspeth, Abel M. (1841 – October 14, 1863).** Son of Meshach and Mary Hudspeth and brother of George W. Hudspeth and Robert Newton Hudspeth, both of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Abel was a resident of Caldwell County when enlisted in the same company on July 15, 1861. He was wounded at Gettysburg, returned to duty, and was killed in action at Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. A fourth brother, John T. Hudspeth, served in Company I, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 27.

**Hudspeth, George W. (June 5, 1840 – December 11, 1915).** Son of Meshach and Mary Hudspeth and brother of Abel M. Hudspeth and Robert Newton Hudspeth, both of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. George, a resident of Caldwell County, enlisted in the same company on July 17, 1862. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg and confined at David's Island, New York Harbor. He was exchanged on September 27, 1863, and detailed for light duty at Salisbury, North Carolina in January-February 1864. He rejoined the company on July 1, 1864, and retired to the Invalid Corps on October 6, 1864. A fourth brother, John T. Hudspeth, served in Company I, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 27, 55.

**Hudspeth, Robert Newton. (1837 – November 15, 1864).** Son of Meshach and Mary Hudspeth and brother of Abel M. Hudspeth and George W. Hudspeth, both of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Robert, a resident of Caldwell County, enlisted in the same company on July 15, 1861. He was mustered in as a private and was promoted to corporal on November 1, 1862. He was promoted to sergeant on December 1, 1862, and was mentioned in dispatches for “good conduct” in the Battle of Blount’s Creek, North Carolina on April 9, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 but, returned to duty two days later to take part in the famous charge on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was appointed third lieutenant to rank from July 1, 1863. He died in a hospital in Richmond, Virginia on November 13-15, 1863. A fourth brother, John T. Hudspeth, served in Company I, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 1, 2, 27, 29, 30, 31, 39.

**Isenhour, Phillip.** He lived in Caldwell County, and had married Elvira Jones on May 21, 1861. He enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862, at age thirty-five. He died of typhoid fever in a Petersburg, Virginia hospital on December 11-12, 1862. Letter 9.

**Jackson, Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” (January 21, 1824 – May 10, 1863).** Born in Clarksburg, (West) Virginia, he was an 1846 West Point graduate and a veteran of the Mexican War. Prior to the Civil War he served as a professor at the Virginia Military Institute, and upon Virginia’s secession was appointed colonel in the state militia. He was promoted to Brigadier General on June 17, 1861, and following the Confederate victory at the Battle of First Manassas, he was promoted to Major General on October 7, 1861. He further embellished his reputation with his stirring victories in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862, and followed up with solid performances at Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg. Jackson was severally wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863, while scouting between the lines he was accidentally fired on by his troops. He died seven days later of pneumonia. Letters 34, 36, 37.

**Jones, John Thomas (January 21, 1841 – May 5, 1864).** Nicknamed “Knock”, he was the son of Edmund Walter Jones and Sophia Caroline Davenport. Although a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted on April 6, 1861, in the “Orange Light Infantry” while a student at the University of North Carolina. This company became Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment N. C. Volunteers. He transferred to Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, upon appointment as second lieutenant, to rank from July 26, 1861. He was elected captain of this company on April 21, 1862, and appointed major of the regiment on September 27, 1862. He was wounded on July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg but, assumed command of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina after the death of Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn, Jr. and the serious wounding of Lieutenant Colonel John R. Lane the same day. Jones lead the remnants of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina during the fighting on July 3, 1863, during which he was wounded again. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel to rank from July 1, 1863, and was mortally wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia on May 6, 1864. He was a brother to Walter Lenoir Jones (Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina and Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina) and William Davenport Jones (Adjutant, 34<sup>th</sup> North Carolina). He, along with his brother Walter Lenoir Jones, are buried at the Chapel of Rest in the Patterson area of Caldwell County. Letter 7.

**Kincaid, William John (September 16, 1841 – May 27, 1904).** He was the son of Enoch and Barbary Kincaid and a cousin of Mary E. “Polly” Bowman Courtney, through her maternal side. A veteran of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment N. C. Volunteers, Kincaid was appointed first lieutenant of Company D, 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg and confined at various prisons until placed at Johnson’s Island, Ohio on October 31, 1863. He was promoted to captain while in prison on January 7, 1864, and transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland on March 31, 1865, and to Fort Delaware, Delaware on April 28, 1865. He was released on June 12, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Letters 2, 5, 49.

**Lee, Robert Edward (January 19, 1807 – October 12, 1870).** Born at Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County, Virginia, he was an 1829 West Point graduate and a career officer in the U. S. Army. He resigned on April 20, 1861, and accepted the command of Virginia’s military when he was promoted to Brigadier General on May 14, 1861. Following General Joseph E. Johnston’s severe wounding at the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862, Lee was appointed to command of the Army of Northern Virginia, which he lead until Appomattox Court

House on April 9, 1865. Letter 40.

**Lincoln, Abe (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865).** The 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Letters 21, 37.

**Littlejohn, John B.** He lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty. He was mortally wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and died two days later. Letters 5, 21, 22.

**Matney, Thomas W.** He was born in Caldwell County but, resided in Chatham County, where he was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church prior to the war. He returned to Caldwell County and enlisted in Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on the July 31, 1861, at age thirty. He was discharged on December 18, 1863, by reason of disability. Letter 35

**McCarver, John.** A resident of Caldwell County who married Caroline Teague on December 27, 1860, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty. He deserted on or about June 19, 1863. Letter 50.

**McClellan, George B. (December 3, 1826 – October 29, 1885).** Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and an 1846 West Point graduate, McClellan served as the commander of the Union Army of the Potomac during 1862. Andrew H. Courtney is referring the McClellan's Peninsula Campaign in the spring and summer of 1862, when he attempted to capture Richmond from the east, taking his army through the swamps of the tidewater region of Virginia. Letter 47.

**Miller, Jr., Elisha Perkins "Perk."** He was a resident of Caldwell County and enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861, at age nineteen. He was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, on May 31, 1862, and was listed as absent without leave in September 1862, but returned to duty. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland. He was received for exchange on February 18, 1865. Apparently Andrew H. Courtney was misinformed when he stated that Perk Miller deserted. Letter 45.

**Moore, Carroll. (born January 25, 1815).** The son of Daniel and Rachel Carroll Moore and a Caldwell County resident, he was married (to Sarah Mast) and the father of four children. His wife's relative, Harrison Mast lived with them for many years, and he served in Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Cavalry (*Editor's Note: This regiment was officially known as the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment North Carolina State Troops.*) during the war. Letter 13.

**North Carolina General Hospital 24, Richmond, Virginia.** The building used as this hospital was a tobacco factory owned by George Harwood. In the summer of 1861, the building was converted to be used as a prison but soon thereafter became General Hospital 24. According to the August 10, 1863 edition of the *Richmond Sentinel*, this hospital was located on the corner of Main St. and 26<sup>th</sup> Street It was also known as Harwood Hospital and Moore Hospital during the war. Letter 55.

**North Carolina Hospital Ward No. 137, Petersburg, Virginia.** This hospital was situated on Perry St., close to the Southern Railroad. Letter 54.

**Pettigrew, James Johnston (July 4, 1828 – July 17, 1863).** Born in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, he graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina in 1847. He later moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where he was elected to the South Carolina Legislature in 1856. During the months leading up to the Civil War, Pettigrew served as a colonel of the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Rifles and was involved in the firing on Fort Sumter. After the surrender of Fort Sumter, he enlisted as a private in Hampton's Legion, but was soon thereafter called back to North Carolina to assume command of the 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina. He was severely wounded and captured at the battle of Seven Pines, Virginia, on May 31, 1862. After his exchange he was promoted to brigadier general and commanded a brigade comprised of the 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Troops. When General Robert E. Lee reorganized his Army of Northern Virginia in May 1863, Pettigrew's Brigade was ordered to Richmond to become part of Major General Henry Heth's Division and Lieutenant General A. P. Hill's Third Corps. Letters 26, 42, 44.

**Philyaw, Simeon P.** A resident of Caldwell County, he and his twin brother Gideon Philyaw, enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861. Simeon was twenty-one when he enlisted. He mustered in as a corporal and was wounded and captured at Gettysburg. He was confined at David's Island, New York Harbor until exchanged on October 28, 1863. He was absent on detail in January – February 1864, through June 1864. He was reported as absent without leave in September 1864, and listed as a deserter on October 1, 1864. Simeon died before the end of the war due to a gun accident at home. *[Editor's Note: Gideon Philyaw was wounded at Gettysburg but deserted from a hospital in Danville, Virginia on August 14, 1863. He was later returned to duty and was present or accounted for until he was listed as a deserter on February 27, 1865. He later enlisted in Company D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment N. C. Mounted Infantry (US) on April 15, 1865.]* Letters 29, 30, 31, 36, 39.

**Powell, George L.** A resident of Caldwell County, who married Jane E. Corpening on March 27, 1859. He enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-four. He mustered in as a corporal and was present or accounted for until he was wounded at an unspecified battle in early May 1864. *[Editor's Note: This is likely the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864.]* He died in a Staunton, Virginia, hospital on May 12, 1864. His widow later married Wesley Cannon, who also served in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 44, 45.

**Pryor, John.** He enlisted in "Nelson's Avengers", from Yalobusha County, Mississippi. This company became Company C, 42<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi was organized in Oxford, Mississippi on May 14, 1862. The regiment was sent to Virginia in July 1862, and became a part of Joseph R. Davis' Brigade later that year. This brigade became a part of Major General Henry Heth's Division, Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill's Third Corps when the army was re-organized following Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's death on May 10, 1863. Letter 54.

**Puett, D. M.** A resident of Caldwell County, who married Rebecca Corpening on February 27, 1855. He enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age thirty-two. He was discharged at an unspecified date after providing a substitute. He was a brother in law of Robert Gaius Tuttle and, was known as "Uncle Merk" throughout the community. Letter 7.

**Rader, Conrad.** He was a colorful character who lived in western Caldwell County. His stories, and antidotes about him, were repeated for many years after his death. He could not read but, would make a great show of pretending to. He married Christine Keller and is buried at Littlejohn Methodist Church. The 1860 Federal Census for Caldwell County shows him to be seventy. Letter 48.

**Setzer, Joseph.** Son of Tilmon and Elizabeth Setzer, he lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on October 19, 1862, at age nineteen. He was wounded and captured at the Battle of Gettysburg where he had a leg amputated. He died of his wounds on July 17, 1863, while still at Gettysburg. He was a first cousin of Thomas W. Setzer and William Eli Setzer and a nephew of William Alphonso Setzer. Letter 51.

**Setzer, Thomas W.** Son of William A. and Jane Tipps Setzer and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on August 9, 1861, at age twenty-one. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, and returned to duty. He was promoted to sergeant prior to January 1, 1864, and reported absent and wounded in May-June 1864. He returned to duty on or about July 1, 1864 and was reduced to the ranks before February 28, 1865. He deserted on or about March 29, 1865 and was released on April 4, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. He was a cousin to Joseph Setzer and William Eli Setzer. He was married to Harriet R. Setzer, the daughter of William Alphonso and Eliza Jane Corpening Setzer. *[Editor's Note: The letters of cousins Thomas W. Setzer and William Eli Setzer were published in Company Front in 1998-1999.]* Letter 4.

**Setzer, W. Alphonso "Fonso".** Son of Daniel and Jane Holloway Setzer and married to Eliza Jane Corpening. They were the parents of several children. Three of them were: 1) William Eli Setzer, of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North

Carolina, 2) Daniel Columbus Setzer (Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves) and 3) Harriet Setzer, the wife of Thomas W. Setzer, also of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 8, 12, 13, 15, 27.

**Setzer, William Eli.** Son of William Alphonso and Eliza J. Corpening Setzer, he lived in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age seventeen. He was mortally wounded and captured at Gettysburg and died on July 4, 1863. His brother Daniel Columbus Setzer served in Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves, and his sister Harriet married their first cousin Thomas W. Setzer, also of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 7, 20.

**Shell, Slighter.** The son of Robert and Frances Shell, he resided in Caldwell County, when he enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861, at age twenty. He was captured at Falling Waters, Maryland on July 14, 1863 and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland, where he died on December 24, 1863. Letter 45.

***Spirit of the Age.*** A Raleigh, North Carolina newspaper. Letters 37, 39, 48.

**Spivey.** An older slave of James Courtney. Letter 43.

**Stonewall's Corps.** Prior to the reorganization of the Army of Northern Virginia, following Lieutenant General Stonewall Jackson's death, Andrew H. Courtney mistakenly thought that the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina would be placed in Jackson's Second Corps. Letter 44.

**Suddreth, Charles McDowell (October 18, 1833 – May 30, 1914).** Son of Thomas and Catherine Suddreth, he had married Margaret E. Spainhour on September 3, 1856. He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862. He was elected second lieutenant on April 21, 1862, and promoted to first lieutenant on October 16, 1862. He was wounded at Gettysburg and returned to duty prior to January 1, 1864. He resigned on January 1, 1865 and was captured in Lenoir, North Carolina by Stoneman's Raiders on April 15, 1865. He was confined at Camp Chase, Ohio and was released on June 14, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. Three of his brothers, William P. Suddreth, James Wilborn Suddreth, and Lloyd J. Suddreth served in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina, while two others, John Marshall Suddreth and Toliver Suddreth both served initially in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and then transferred to Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 9, 10, 13.

**Suddreth, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bowman.** Married to James Newton Suddreth on May 21, 1861. Lizzie was a younger sister of Mary E. "Polly" Bowman Courtney. Letters 35, 39, 42.

**Suddreth, James Newton.** Son of Abraham and Thursa Sherrill Suddreth and a resident of Caldwell County, he married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bowman on May 21, 1861. He enlisted in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 21, 1862, at age twenty-two. He was wounded at Chickamauga, Georgia on September 19-20, 1863 and died in an Atlanta, Georgia, hospital on or about October 6, 1863. Letters 35, 42, 45.

**Suddreth, James Webb.** Son of James and Jane Suddreth and a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861, at age twenty-three. He was absent wounded in October 1862, and returned to duty prior to his capture at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. He was exchanged on or about May 13, 1863, returned to duty and was captured again at Jericho Mills, Virginia on May 22-24, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until exchanged on March 14, 1865. He had three brothers who served, William Sydney Suddreth of Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina; Joseph G. Suddreth and George Suddreth, both who served in Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 41.

**Suddreth, John Marshall.** Son of Thomas and Catherine Suddreth and a resident of Caldwell County but, resided in neighboring Watauga County when he enlisted in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 5, 1862. He transferred to Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on January 15, 1863. He was wounded and captured at Gettysburg but was received for exchange on September 23, 1863. He returned to duty in January-February 1864, and was promoted to corporal in March-June 1864. He was wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864, and returned to duty prior to July 1, 1864. He was captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia on April 2,

1865, and confined at Hart's Island, New York Harbor until released June 17-18, 1865, after taking the Oath of Allegiance. He had five brothers who served in the war, with William P. Suddreth, James Wilborn Suddreth, and Lloyd J. Suddreth, all serving in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina. One, Charles McDowell Suddreth served in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and Toliver Suddreth served in both Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 9, 17, 20.

**Suddreth, Joseph G.** Son of James and Jane Suddreth and a resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 15, 1862, at age twenty. He mustered in as a private and was elected third lieutenant on September 27, 1862, and promoted to second lieutenant on July 18, 1863. He died on October 15-18, 1863, but the place and cause of death was not reported. He was a brother to William Sydney Suddreth and James Webb Suddreth, both of whom served in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina and, to George Suddreth who served in Company I, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 33.

**Suddreth, Lloyd J.** Resided in Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on March 19, 1862, at age nineteen. He was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia on December 13, 1862, and returned to duty. He was captured at Beaver Dam Creek, Virginia on May 24-28, 1864, and confined at Point Lookout, Maryland. He was received for exchange on October 15, 1864. He had five brothers who served in the war, with William P. Suddreth, and James Wilborn Suddreth, served in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina. One, Charles McDowell Suddreth served in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and two brothers, John Marshall Suddreth and Toliver Suddreth served in both Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 34, 41.

**Suddreth, William P.** Son of Thomas and Catherine Suddreth and a resident of Caldwell County he enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861, at age thirty-one. He was discharged on April 7, 1862, but the reason was not reported. He had five brothers who served in the war, with two, James Wilborn Suddreth and Lloyd J. Suddreth serving in the same company as William. One brother, Charles McDowell Suddreth, served in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, while two others, John Marshall Suddreth and Toliver Suddreth both initially enlisted in Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, but later transfer to Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letters 4, 22, 41.

**Taylor, A. John.** He lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age eighteen. He was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He was a brother to James Sylvanus Taylor, who was also in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. Letter 27.

**Teague, Logan Columbus (October 27, 1823 – May 27, 1902).** The son of James and Rebecca Whitehead Teague, he was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861. He was discharged, but re-enlisted on February 14, 1863. He was wounded at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and returned to duty in January-February 1864. He was present and accounted for through February 29, 1864. No further records. His brothers Gilbrite Teague and Nathan A. Teague both served in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina. Letter 45.

**Tuttle, Benedict Marcus "Mark". (January 29, 1821 – January 6, 1904).** An uncle of Andrew H. Courtney. James and Margaret Tuttle Courtney's younger children came to live with him and his wife Elizabeth, following his sister Margaret's death in 1863. They continued living with him following the war. He appears on the rosters of both Company B, McRae's Battalion and Company D, 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. State Troops (*Editor's Note: This regiment was also known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment N. C. Cavalry*). Letters 19, 22.

**Tuttle, Columbus A. "Lum". (1846 – 1930).** Son of Lucius and Sarah Sanders Tuttle and brother of Captain Romulus M. Tuttle of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He was a first cousin of Andrew Hull Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney, and John A. Tuttle, also of the same company. "Lum" was a resident of Caldwell County, and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on December 17, 1861, before his sixteenth birthday. He was discharged by reason of being too young but, re-enlisted on February 1, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and returned to the ranks and was wounded again at Bristoe Station, Virginia on October 14, 1863, and at the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia in May 1864. He was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia

on April 9, 1865. Letter 37.

**Tuttle, John Andrew (1844 – October 14, 1863).** Son of Robert G. and Lucinda Puett Tuttle and a brother of William A. Tuttle of Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina and Marcus Gamewell Tuttle of Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves. He was a first cousin of Andrew Hull Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney, Romulus M. Tuttle, and Columbus A. Tuttle, all of whom served with him in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted on July 15, 1861, at the age of seventeen. He was promoted to sergeant on April 12, 1862, but was absent sick during the Gettysburg Campaign. He returned to duty but was killed by a bayonet as he crossed Union breastworks at the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. He is mentioned in just about all of the letters as he was a mess mate of Andrew H. Courtney and Henry Clay Courtney.

**Tuttle, Lucinda Puett (October 2, 1819 – March 17, 1910).** The wife of Robert G. Tuttle and the mother of William A. Tuttle (Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina); John A. Tuttle (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina); and Marcus Gamewell Tuttle (Company C, 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Junior Reserves). She was an aunt to Andrew H. Courtney and Henry Clay Courtney. Letters 5, 10, 44.

**Tuttle, Marcus Gamewell (1846 – 1870).** Son of Robert Gaius and Lucinda Puett Tuttle and brother to William A. Tuttle, of Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina and John A. Tuttle, of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He enlisted in Company C, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion North Carolina Junior Reserves (*Editor's Note: This battalion would consolidate with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment North Carolina Junior Reserves.*) on May 25, 1864. He was elected first lieutenant on June 14, 1864 and was hospitalized at Wilmington on July 9, 1864. He was captured at Fort Fisher on December 25, 1864 and sent to Fort Monroe, Virginia and eventually to Point Lookout, Maryland and Old Capital Prison, where he was released on June 17, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance. He returned home and resumed his studies, and became a Methodist minister. He never recovered from sickness that he contracted as a prisoner of war and died of tuberculosis. The Caldwell County town of Gamewell is named for him. (*Editor's Note: He is not mentioned in the letter collection.*)



**Marcus Gamewell Tuttle**

**Tuttle, Robert Gaius (May 5, 1817 – July 22, 1884).** The husband of Lucinda Puett Tuttle and the father of William A. Tuttle (Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina), John A. Tuttle (Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina), and Marcus Gamewell Tuttle (Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> N. C. Junior Reserves) and an uncle of Andrew H. Courtney, Henry Clay Courtney, Robert G. Courtney, Romulus M. Tuttle, and Columbus A. Tuttle. He was appointed the first deputy sheriff when Caldwell County was formed in 1841. He was elected sheriff in 1852 and served until 1865 when he was barred from office by the Reconstruction laws of the federal government. However, he did serve during the Reconstruction period as a county commissioner. When Reconstruction was over he again was elected sheriff and served in that capacity until his death in 1884. Letters 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 18, 20, 21, 27, 34, 43, 44, 48.

**Tuttle, Romulus Morrison “Rom” (December 1, 1842 – February 20, 1904).** The son of Lucius and Sarah Sanders Tuttle and a brother of Columbus A. Tuttle, of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina. He was a first cousin to Andrew H. Courtney, Henry C. Courtney, William A. Tuttle, John A. Tuttle and Marcus G. Tuttle. “Rom” was a resident of Caldwell County when he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at the age of eighteen. He mustered in as first sergeant of the company and was elected first lieutenant on April 1, 1862. He was promoted to captain on October 16, 1862. He was wounded at the battles of Gettysburg (July 1, 1863), the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5, 1864), the Battle of Globe Tavern (August 21, 1864) and Jones Farm (September 30, 1864). He was transferred to the Invalid Corps on March 31, 1865. He became a Presbyterian minister after the war and published a book of poetry with several poems included about the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and the Civil War. [*Editor's Note: See appendices for example.*] Letters 4, 5, 7, 37.

**Tuttle, William “Bill” Anson (January 5, 1842 – September 27, 1879).** Son of Robert G. and Lucinda Puett Tuttle and a brother of John A. Tuttle of Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and Marcus G. Tuttle of Company G, 3<sup>rd</sup> N. C. Junior Reserves. He was a first cousin of Andrew H. Courtney, Henry C. Courtney, Robert G. Courtney, Romulus M. Tuttle, and Columbus A. Tuttle. “Bill” lived in Caldwell County and enlisted in Company A, 22<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina on April 30, 1861. He was wounded at the Battle of Second Manassas, Virginia, on August 28-30, 1862, and returned to duty. He was elected second lieutenant on April 25, 1863, and fought at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2-3, 1863. According to Letter 34, he, along with “Burge” Allen, was run over by General Stonewall Jackson and his staff on Saturday night, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He returned to duty and was present or accounted for until he was paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. According to the family, when he returned home from Appomattox, Virginia, he had burlap sack cloth wrapped around his feet, as his shoes had become useless. The soldiers who were with him, took supper at his parent’s home before returning to their homes in the community. Letters 22, 34, 38, 45, 51.

**U. S. General Hospital, West Building, Baltimore, Maryland.** A large, 425 bed hospital located in Baltimore, Maryland. Letters 52, 53, 54.

**White, James.** Son of William and Nancy Puett White, he was a resident of Caldwell County and enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on July 15, 1861, at age twenty-four. He mustered in as a corporal and was present or accounted for until wounded at the Battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia on July 1, 1862. He returned to the company but transferred to Company E, 58<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on January 15, 1863. He was absent on furlough February 28, 1863, and returned to duty in March-April 1863. He was reported absent without leave on August 26, 1863 but, returned to duty on or about November 10, 1863. He was reported absent with the “Infirm Corps” in May-August 1864. Letter 2

**Winkler, William Joseph (June 8, 1816 – May 5, 1894).** A resident of Caldwell County, he enlisted in Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina on March 20, 1862 at age forty-five. He was wounded at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and was reported absent wounded in January-February 1864. He was detailed as a hospital guard at Lynchburg, Virginia through June 1864. He re-joined the company in July-October 1864, and retired to the Invalid Corps on November 17, 1864. Letter 2.

**Wyatt, Andrew.** He resided in Wilkes County prior to his enlistment on September 21, 1862, at Camp Mangum. He was placed in Company B, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, which was from Union County. He was mustered in as a private but promoted to sergeant on an unspecified date. He deserted on December 10, 1862, but was “arrested at a crossing of the Roanoke River...he was court martialed, convicted and condemned to be shot...in January 1863, [Editor’s Note: According to Letter 18, this was to be January 26, 1863.] he was taken out in a wagon to the place of his execution, where the brigade was drawn up in a three quarter square to witness the shooting. The prisoner was blindfolded, ordered to kneel down by the freshly dug grave, the firing squad stood with their guns at “ready” and the officer was reading the sentence, when an orderly rode up with an order from Gen. Samuel G. French granting a pardon...” Wyatt returned to duty prior to March 1, 1863, and was killed in action on July 1, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, while “bravely doing his duty.” Letter 18.

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# Appendix

## CHARGE OF THE EIGHT HUNDRED.

By Rev. Romulus Morrison Tuttle  
Captain, Company F, 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina

*(The following lines are dedicated to Gen.  
Lee's gallant army, as a whole, at Gettysburg,  
Pa., July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863, and especially to the 26<sup>th</sup>  
N. C. Infantry, and to that regiment's famous  
Company "F," which the writer had the honor  
to command and lead on that fateful day.)*

Boom! Boom!

The knell of doom

To thousands North and South,

Wails from the cannon's mouth,

Rocking the hills,

And every soul with tremor fills.

Crash! Crash!

With every flash

The shrieking splintered air,

With notes of wild despair.

Men terrify,

And rocks from their foundations fly.

Roll! Roll!

The booms of dole

In thunder's hoarsest voice,

And Tophet's demon noise,

Deafen the ear,

And brave men palsied are with fear.

A thousand guns,  
A thousand tons,  
Of powder burn, and hurl  
In many a maddening whirl  
With every breath,  
Ten thousand tons of molded death

The gun-crowned hills,  
God-built bastiles,  
Are wreathed in smoke and fire,  
And quake in manner dire,  
And iron hall  
Belch out on myriad legions pale.

Echoes thunder!  
Brave men wonder!  
As detonations loud  
On detonations crowd,  
And peal on peal  
Unnerves the sinews born of steel.

Put deepest growls,  
And wildest howls,  
And thunder's roar and ocean's  
With din of earth's commotions,  
And you have made  
That July morning's cannonade.

But hours of roar  
Drew little gore  
From men in earthquake-throe,  
From quailing friend and foe,  
And neighing horse,  
And left few limp and bleeding corse.

Hush! Hush!  
You could a thrush  
Have heard upon the hill,  
It was so deathly still-  
The calm of storms  
Before the awful clash of arms.

Now every band  
From Dixie's land  
In ringing Marseillaise  
Electrifies the Grays,  
And makes them rise  
In martial feeling to the skies.

Charge! Charge!  
From marge to marge  
The order quickly flew,  
And each his sabre drew,  
And bayonet,  
And flint like every face was set.  
Rush! Rush!



