

Camp Griffin Va

Sunday Dec 1st 1861

Mr. Alfred Kieth

Dear Sir

I wrote you day before
Yesterday in regard to Hortons sickness. I am happy
To inform you this time that he is much better.
He has continued to improve since I wrote you.
The Col furnished us another tent yesterday
and we have put it on for a Bedroom in con-
nection with our tent. We have him a good
Bed arranged and he feels very comfortable
to day and if he has no drawback will get
along without any further trouble.
He does not feel homesick at all although he
knows he would be mor comfortable at home
than he can be here. I thought about getting
him into a house, but the Col thought not
best to do so. He thought he would feel
better right here with his friends than go to
a house where he might be alone some of
the time. I can assure you that he has
as good care taken of him as he could pos-
sibly have in camp. So you need feel no
uneasiness as regards that. H sat up
for about an hour this morning and is in-

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Proving as fast as one could wish. He is
Now asleep and is sleeping very sweetly.
Capt. of this Reg Sent in two
White flannel Sheets a few minutes ago.
They are now hanging over the stove
warming. I shall have them put on
his bed when he wakes. He has my
Feather Pillow under his head and
will get along nicely. If he should
be worse I will telegraph you imm-
ediately.

Attest Keith

Horton has got up again and is now
sitting by the stove. He wanted to know
what I was writing to you and I showed

it to him and he has put his signature
as you will observe.
Col Lord wished me to say to you that
if you thought best that he would
give Horton leave of absence until
he was well. If you think best please
write me or Col Lord as the Col
dont wish Horton to know anything
about it presently. I will write
again tomorrow. Truly Yours E. L. Barney

Camp Griffin Va
Monday Eve Dec 2nd 1861

Alfred Keith Esq

Dear Sir

Horton

Has been up and ate a piece of
Toast and a baked apple and some
milk porridge and has just laid
down again. He is some better
this evening than he was last eve-
ing, but is improving slowly.
He is now asleep. he wished
me to write to you this evening
and also every day untill he
got well enough to write.
I have seen the Col again
this evening and he sais
that he will give him a leave
of absence any time I think
best. I have not said any
thing to Horton about it yet.
But I think as soon as the
Dr. thinks he is able to go
That he had better go up home
And remain untill he is perfectly
well. He would be better off
at home than he can be here.
He does not complain at all
at his sickness and if he
is homesick any he keeps
it to himself. I should be
sorry to have him go home
even for a short time for
I have become very much
attached to him and as
long as I can help him
in any way he will not
suffer. You of course will
feel quite anxious for him
while he is sick but he
will have good care and
I hope he will be well enough
to travel in a day or two
and if he is I promise you
will see him at home.
I will speak to him about

it tomorrow and on what
he thinks of it.
Yours Truly E. L. Barney

Camp Griffin Va
Wednesday Dec 4th 1861

Alfred Keith Esq

Dear Sir

It is now
about 8 o'clock in the evening.
Horton is sitting by the stove in the
large arm chair (made out of barrels)
warming himself. He is feeling some
better this evening but is not improving
very fast. I have had some talk
with him to day about going home on
a furlough but he does not feel much
inclined to go home and may be
he will not go now.

We received our pay to day up to
Nov 1st. Hortons pay was about \$57.
He has been talking about sending some
of it home and will do so if he does
not come home himself.
He received to letters from home this
evening. One from his Mother and one
from his sister and he was very
glad indeed to receive them. You can

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you can assure his mother that he realizes
his dependence on God, and that
he feels that if his trust is in
God all will be well. As I went
out to one of the Company tents
to a prayer meeting last evening
he desired that I should pray
for him. I am happy to know
that he knows when to go in
sickness and trials and
when he will always find help
in every time of need. The Dr.
tells me this evening that he
will get along without any
trouble but as I wrote you
before he will be some time
in getting well.
He wished me to ask you
for a bill of the cheese you

sent as it has not come
to hand. The butter came all
right, and if he gets a bill
of the cheese he can collect
the pay for it. There is no

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news of importance. The weather
is quite pleasant and rather
warm to day. No snow here
yet. Lieut. Green has not
been very well for a few
days. I am tough and
hearty yet and hope I shall
continue to be. I have
put Orderly Barr in acting
Lieut. for the present and Sergt.
Hatch acting Orderly.
Horton sends love to mother
sister & all and hopes to
be able to write himself in
a day or two.

Truly Yours

E. L. Barney

Camp Griffin Va
Dec 9 1861

My Dearest friend

Although I can scarcely hold my pen in hand to write yet I thought if it did you half as much good to read as I think it will it would pay to write. You know that I received half months pay the other day-but Judy Hendrick [Elisha j. Hendrick from Montgomery, Vt.] went home before the 6th recd. theirs-I received \$ 59, but have had to make so many little expenses in my sickness that I cannot send more than \$50 to you this time. How shall I send it? I do not think

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I had best go home unless some thing unusual turns which I trust and pray may not. I missed the Thanksgiving as much as you. But dear friends I missed the communion service. [illegible] seemed if I could only partake of that holy of holys with you I should be indeed happy.

I expect Robt. here any day. I am gaining strength daily but shall be unable to do duty for a month or more so the Doct says. Now it will cost me \$36 up and back to Vt. If you think it would pay I will come home. Please answer soon. I will not write more now.

Your Affect Son
Horton

Camp Griffin Va
Dec 11th 1861

My Dearest Mother

Robt arrived here
Yesterday together with some
of the luxuries the sheats wines
and cranberries. One of the Capt
in the line had kindly lent
me some that he had, but
they were not as good and
soft as yours. They have
furnished me with some current
wines but it was not very
good. I can assure you Robt
wants I should go to W [Washington, D. C.] with
him immediately and seems
insistent that you and
Father want I should do so

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To. Now if I could have got
my pass yesterday as they
tried very hard to do I
should go but I am gaining
so fast every day here that
I believe I will hold on a
bit and take my chances
as a soldier. For it does not
seem right for one to mur-
mer when he is gaining as
fast. So I believe I will
stay here. I have not heard
from you in a long time.
I should be so happy to hear
From you. Since I have been sick I have had good oppor-
tunities to think of my soul
and am happy to say
that should it please God
in his mercy to take my
life I am ready and willing
to go. I now wish I could

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partake of that Holy sacrament
with you. When I get well
enough I am going to W
and attend Church. Perhaps the
the first of Jan I may be well
enough. Please tell Father that
Will Smally [Corp. William Smalley of Sheldon, Vt., in Co. C, 5th Vermont Infantry
Regiment] was over here yester
day and seemed anxious to
have him draw his pay. He
& Johnson both signed but he
said some thing about [Mack?]
never having organized any.
I will not send the money at
present although I want to
very much but if I should go
to W I should need it.
Love to all, write soon
Horton

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Has Horton received any letters.
Tell him I wrote him if he has not
& want to hear from him dear boy.
When shall we expect [illegible]. With love
Mary

Camp Griffin
Dec 13 1861

My dearest Mother & Father

I received your
Letters dated 4th inst last mon.
It seems to take a great
While for a letter to come from
Sheldon here. I have about
Concluded to take a house
In the vicinity and stay
There till I recover. It will
cost me so much less than
Wash. I shall find
out early this morning.

The price is only \$3 a
Week here and 1.50 a day
In W so I can save a
Considerable by staying. Well
I am gaining rappidly in

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Strength and if the Lord
continues to help me I shall
hope to be able to walk out
in a few days. My writing
looks very bad I know to
day but I got quite tired
before. I commenced writing
fussing around the tent.

Robt is with me still
And sends his regards to you
And the rest of the friends.
I wish very much I could
be with you if convenient
but it is better I should
not. I wont write more
now. Please thank Mrs.
Hubbell many times for her
wines and preserves.

Write oftener. You must
know that letters are
very acceptable to me

Your affect son Horton

Camp Griffin
Dec 13th
1861

My dear Mr. Keith

I am happy
to inform you as I presume
you have heard from Horton
today that he is rapidly im-
proving & has been setting up
nearly all day. His brother
officers & myself think today
he will not find it necessary
to be around from his tent
at all. The weather has been the most favorable for him &
he is almost a different person
since I first saw him here.
He has the kindest of care &
today a floor has been put
down in his tent. He eats a little
& seems to relish it much. I

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have made Broma [a light form of cocoa] which
he relishes very much & I
feel rejoiced much to see him
rapidly gaining & think with
providence he will be out soon.
Horton was really glad to see
me & I shall be with him
all I can. I know it will
rejoice you to know that he looks
to God for strength & keeps
mind full of his indebtedness.
I was happy to hear him say
he wished at the earliest opportu-
nity to visit Wash & go with
myself to communion.
We both think our illness has
been the means of a turning
point in our lives & have resolved
with Gods help to be ready to
meet our calling in future.
I think you need not worry
any more about Horton's care.

I have no fears if he does not

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get cold & if we have a few
more such fine days he
need not leave camp at all &
if we do there is a comfortable
room not far away which I
think by that time he could
get. Remember me kindly
to all friends & your own
family especially. Believe me
as

Your friend
R. Y. Holley U. S. N.

Mr. Carpenters
Dec 19 1861

My dear Friends

Again I sit
me down to to write you a
few lines to let you know
that I am getting on well
by Gods grace and improving
daily in strength both moraly
and physicaly. I went down
this morning to see a poor
soldier who has got to die and
whose papers of discharge are
being made out now. I asked
him if he ever thought of
the future and had a very
interesting talk with him.
He is not a Christian but he says

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he sees the need of becoming one.
I left him my prayer book
for which he was very thank
ful. His Father is hear and
is a christian and he requested
me to talk with him.

I shall not write only twice
a week here after unless there
is some thing of importance
happens. My stamps will
not hold out to write so
often and besides it it is use
less. Robt payed me a visit last
night with Lieut Peck [William H. H. Peck of Burlington, Vt., Co. D, 5th Vermont
Infantry] of the 5
a very fine fellow by the way
used to be in the bee hive.

Nothing more that I think
of. I sent you twenty dollar
yesterday in a letter. Robt said
it would go safe. I need not
tell you to write. Affet your Son
Love to all Horton

Mr. Carpenter's House
Dec 22 1861

My dear Mother & Sister

I suppose you have come home by this time my dear Sister. Another Lords day has come and here I am in a little room but thank God with Prayer book and bible of which I have made good use of them to day having read a good share of the service and a chapter in the old and new testament. Oh how much good it does to read the Bible and how I love to use the confession (the first prayer)

In the first place my dear Mother I am not coming home now. That is to get well. They all thought so and so did I for this and other reasons. First I must become habituated to the climate and if I recruit here I shall be all right. I have hardly any cough and that diminishes as my strength increases. I should have to pay \$32.00 cash to go and return to say nothing of measles & c.

I did not go to W because it costs \$7 a week

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for but little better board than I get here and I should have to furnish Surgeon beside. My room to be sure has no carpet and I have but one chair and that not a very good one. I sleep between the sheets you so kindly sent me on a bed made of four sticks and some boards nailed to hold them together and some staves laid on top then my straw tick and a good heavy comforter thanks to Lieut Green. plenty of covering a good feather pillow. Thanks to the ladies of Highgate, they sent a box and I devoted to myself a good comfortable and the pillow. AS for living I have most any thing and eat most any thing because they tell me to and it does not hurt me. The wine is most gone and Robt is going to send me som porter which he says would be nearly as good. I spoke about some drawers. I wish you would make them right off. I have not got a pair long enough or big enough around the waist. Now do not make them too large. I wish too that you would melt up some of the

maple and send me it. Would relish so on my
pan cakes. I see they are to have an opportunity to send at St. Albans. I do not think of
any thing
else only yesterday being very pleasant I walked about a half a mile and did not find
myself tired

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at all. I have walked every day lately till today it
is so gloomy that I did not go out. I do not
think of any thing else to say to you my dear Mother.
only that your letter did me much good and I
had to read it through twice. I will now write
a few lines to Kate which you will let her read
first and then if she is willing to make known
I have no objection. Monday Morn

I thought I could write more yester
day but I found my self all tired out
writing so that Kate will have to wait a
day or two.

Your Affect Son
Horton

It rains quite hard and is going to be
a gloomy day

Mr. Carpenters
Dec 27 1861

My dear Father & Mother

Your letter dear Father of the 21st and yours dear Mother of the 19th reached me last night and Tuesday. It does take such a long time for the letters to get around that I get almost out of practice sometimes, but we must learn to bear up under all difficulties. I was some what surprised to find that you had gone to recruiting again. I thought that you had enough of that the last time but the idea of Cyrus Keith making an office, why I never thought of such a thing. The Vt Regts except our own are moving into winter quarters. We are as well situated that we did not move. Drill is all given up except company and squad, so I shall not loose any thing.

The Adjut and Major have both offered their their horses horses for me to ride whenever I want. I rode the Adjuts Christmas day about a

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it was a beautiful day. I hope you were favored also just like one of our spring mornings. Everyone seems to be so kind to me, everyday the Col enquires after me also the chaplain seems to take some interest in me. May God bless them all. I paid Robt some money for fruit that he got me, he did not use a horse but once. I will see to that. I am answering old letters too. The chickens I never received. Robt says they all spoiled but I get them here often. We had a very nice Christmas dinner here. Cols Stannard and Hyde Major Proctor adjt of the 3rd Vt Regt also of ours Capt Barney, Lieut Cram & myself composed the first table. We had roast turkey, Beef and Pork, vegetables of different kinds chicken pie and pastry of different descriptions as I did not indulge in the last mentioned I could not tell what the kinds were. The wind blows quite hard from the north west and it quite cloudy on the whole a gloomy

day, if it had not been, I should have rode into camp, about a mile and a half. I am in hopes it will be pleasant tomorrow. I have sent in for some things, now if it is going to cost much I do not want to have

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them sent because I can gey along with what I have got but I have not a single pair of drawers long enough and only one pair big enough across the waist, I put strings in and fix up in that way. You shall have with that I have sent you on next pay day \$225 any way and perhaps more I cannot tell how much I shall use here and I want you should use as your own. I money is tight and hard to get mine will come handy. I do not but I may have a chance to come home recruiting. Is it best for me to come? I do not think of any thing else to write. England looks a little doubtful by todays paper. but I hope she will use some common sense and let us alone. She has two looming neighbors. We [have] skirmishes or rumors of some every day but it does not amount to much. I hope you had a nice time Christmas. Tell Kate to make me [a] neck tie like she did last year. Well I must give you a description of the family. First comes young Mrs. Carpenter Mother a old lady about eighty years old. Next old Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter [aet] respectively fifty five & sixty. I should think. Perhaps older. Then the young Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter about yours & mothers age.

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They have four children but all girls. One about my age another about Katie's another about twelve the youngest about Annie's age. Mr. & Mrs. C (young) are both educated people. Mrs. C being in high reputation with the Genl and has drawn several valuable maps of the country. When there was peace he was I should think in this town some as your in S [Sheldon]. They have moved all their furniture to Washington at the time

of the Bull Run affair and they are going
to winter there themselves going to move
with in a week or two so that
I cannot stay here much longer but I think
I can go into camp in a week more any way
so that I shant have to spend so much money
We live pretty there. One week from Satur-
day I am (God willing) going to Wash to stay
there over Sunday and partake of the holly
communion. Oh! how [I] wish it was at home.
I want you should read the 5 chapter of 2nd Cor.
I think you will like it. It has given me a
great deal comfort. But I must stop.
My love to all Sister & Brother Mr & Mrs H and Dan and
All and to you my dearest and most honored
Parents, may Gods riches blessing and love rest upon
you. Ever your most affect and dutiful Son
Horton

Mr. Carpenter's
Dec 31st 1861

My dear Father

I adress you because
I have some things to say
to you personally but I mean
it for you all. Mother & Sister
have both kindly writen me Kates
last of the 26 received night
before last. I am gaining
very fast and shall leave here
soon. rode over to camp a mile
and a half yesterday and back
horse back and feel no evil
efects from it today on the
contrary a little better, I met
all the field and staff officers
they all seemed very happy to

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to see me. I had the maj's horse
to ride in and the chaplains to come out with. You seem to
think that because I have been
sick and have off duty
a considerable since I came
here that I am off the hook.
Now Father let me tell you an
honest truth I know just as
much about the drill to day as
any other second Lieut in the
whole line and I might include
a good many higher and I can
say that I know more than a
good many and I know that
Col Lord would as soon give
me papers to day as he would
if I had not been sick they have
not had a single new movement
in drill since I drilled with
them Please remember I was
on duty three weeks here

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Now I hope you will not borrow
any more trouble on that score I
study some here-but I sincerely
hope one thing, that is you all
not trying to get me into the
regular army as yet for there
never is any chance of promotion
there however do as you think
best. Our pay rolls are all made
out and the men are being mustered
to day we shall probably have some
pay soon. (Confidential) I can
come recruiting if I wish I
think shall I do it? General orders
from head quarters was that
to [two] commissioned officers from
each Vt Regt should go home recruit-
ing for the brigade. I should
like very much to see you and the
rest of the family, but I would like
to be with my company in case of
a fight and the idea of going to

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Vt to lounge about in I do not know
what just of the state for perhaps
six months for so the furlough reced
is not according to my idea.
But the Capt made an application
without my knowledge and the sur-
geon that is a nearly agreement on
the other side. I am going to
let you decide I believe. Perhaps
I may not have the chance to decide
Nothing of importance. I am glad
Mason and the others are given
up. My best love to all. Thia
must answer for two days Mr Lewis
letter was a great comfort his
sermon a good one please thank
him kindly say nothing about
four going. And to you my best
beloved parents who have done and
are doing so much for me acceft

the only token I can offer now
A heart full of love and a prayer
for Gods richest blessing to rest upon
you Horton