

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF CAPTAIN ANDREW LEWIS AND HIS DAUGHTER

Edited by
MICHAEL BARTON

ALL happy families resemble one another," Tolstoy wrote in the beginning of *Anna Karenina*, and then he added, "every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." That may be true in time of peace, when cheer is fairly regular and trouble comes mainly from rare, bad chance. But the difficulty is that war upsets Tolstoy's dictum, since it involves so many people in horrors that are for a short time typical.

That is the case here. The Lewis family no doubt resembled other families in its happiness; but it was also made unhappy, and that was not just its own way. Indeed, it became the way of a whole body of sufferers who had been caught up in the Civil War. This family's experience was an exemplum, which is one reason why the letters are worth reading.

Andrew Lewis, the father, was from Philadelphia, one of eleven children raised by Joseph and Hannah Lewis.¹ Joseph was a rope maker, and Andrew became a plasterer, first working in Columbia, in Lancaster County, and then in Ebensburg, in Cambria County, Pennsylvania. He was also a willing soldier. He fought first in the Mexican War, in 1846; his next enlistment came on June 25, 1861, just after the Civil War had begun. He told the recruiting officers he was forty-four when he signed on for three years at Camp Wright, near Pittsburgh, but he was really forty-nine. He became first lieutenant in Company "A" of the Eleventh Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Infantry, also called the Fortieth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. By November 1861, he had a captaincy.

Andrew wrote often to his wife, Maria, and all her brood, and they, especially his daughter Mary, were careful to keep in touch with him. Their letters illumine their relations with each other. To his daughter, plainly, Lewis was a hero. "I cant find one more worthey," Mary told him. She was nearly seventeen, the eldest child, shepherd to

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¹ All the personal data on Andrew Lewis and his family were gleaned from his military and pension files in the National Archives and from his descendants, who were especially helpful in providing the information on his early life. I am most grateful to Kathleen Lewis, Andrew's great-granddaughter, and her sister-in-law, Mary Lewis, for making these letters available.

her little brother and now main partner to her mother. She always pleaded for her father to return. Andrew also called his daughter "Melley" and "Fannie." He admired her so much that he apologized; to wit, he was nearly embarrassed by the expensive plans he had made for her younger brother, Andrew Jackson Lewis, whom they all called "Jackey," and who was nearly five. The father wanted the boy to be a West Point soldier. That would be a wise investment for them all, Lewis urged his daughter, who seemed not to demur.

Surely Maria, the mother, was held in high esteem, but her place now was to be practical. Andrew told her what to do with money and the crops ("You seame to think yourself quit[e] a farmer Well I am glad of that I tell you"), and which messages to send. He complained to her of sickness and the quality of his military life, that he needed more letters from home, and wanted more efficiency from the army. He told her all the gossip — that the war was too profitable for some to be ended very soon, that Jefferson Davis was probably dead, and that the Union army was willing to free Mexico from the French. The Lewises had been married twenty-four years (her maiden name was Kerr), and they had watched six children born but only two survive. Lewis came back to his wife on leave in February 1862 — in respect to her "ill health" he told General Meade, and the need to handle some "fiduciary" affairs. But otherwise Maria's letters, which we cannot find, were all he had of her that year.

We also find that beside his family and his men, Lewis had to deal with himself. One incident in particular is worth mentioning. He made an admission to his daughter, and, coincidentally, to his wife, although he said it was something "your mother dose not know." He confessed that he had an "unconquerable passion" that "for an hour or too is worse on me than a whole yeare of hard work." Then, "often after it has subsided apearanceley to evry observer" he would be "sore from the effects of it." Perhaps it was a disease (he emphasized how "lazy" he felt), or his exaggeration of a bad temper (Mary mentioned that he had stopped swearing), or just his way of saying that he yearned to come home. In any case, he saw it as a vexing "passion" that had to be overcome. We know that the "passions" were critical problems in those days.² They were threats to reason and right con-

² See D. H. Meyer, *The Instructed Conscience* (Philadelphia, 1972), 43-86; Ronald G. Walters, ed., *Primers for Prudery* (Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1974), 1-5, and *passim*; Samuel Smiles, *Character* (New York, 1872), 165-93, and *passim*; and Francis Lieber, *The Character of the Gentleman*, 3rd ed. (Philadelphia, 1864).

duct, best controlled by action of the will in private and by consent to duty in public. Perhaps extrapolating from his own experience, he reminded Maria of her duty to the children, and he counseled Mary that she should continue to practice writing. He reminded himself in his letters that he must do his soldier's duty, since, as he wrote, he did not want his family to be ashamed of him. These were Lewis's perceptions of moral episodes in his own and in his family's life.

According to Samuel Bates's history of Pennsylvania's Civil War volunteers and General Samuel Jackson's diary, Andrew's regiment was a most active and unfortunate one.³ It had the heaviest losses of any regiment in the Pennsylvania Reserves, as well as the eighth most serious rate of loss among the two thousand Union regiments. For the first year they mainly camped and marched, but then they fought at Gaines's Mill near Richmond in the Seven Days Campaign, and then at Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness. At Gaines's Mill they were accidentally surrounded and forced to surrender. They were exchanged from Libby Prison in about a month, but forty-six of the regiment's men had been killed and one hundred and nine wounded at "the Mill." Then about one-half the group was killed or wounded at Fredericksburg. At the end of their enlistment in May 1864, the survivors hobbled home, 1,179 men cut to 681.

Captain Lewis was not among the fortunate few to return. He was wounded in the fighting at Gaines's Mill on June 27, 1862, just two days after writing his last letter (he had closed it by saying, "I belive that we are a going to hav a fight rit off so good by"). He was captured and had a leg amputated, but died shortly afterwards, on July 2. Mary remained single and lived in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, with her pensioned mother and, later, Jackey and his family, until she died in 1895. Jackey never realized his father's ambition for him to attend West Point.

The ten letters of Lewis and his daughter that survive are presented here in chronological order. I have included another one, written by a comrade in tribute to Lewis, which also contains interesting material on his character. All of them have been transcribed from type-written manuscripts, which have every appearance of being exact copies of the originals.⁴ I have corrected only the most troublesome mis-

3 Samuel Bates, *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5*, vol. 1 (Harrisburg, Pa., 1869), 845-57; Samuel McCartney Jackson, *Diary of General S. M. Jackson for the Year 1862* (Apollo, Pa.: privately printed, 1925), introd.

4 The collection of surviving letters contains two notes, undated, that Jackey wrote, with his sister's guidance, to his father. The first one consists of

spellings, and added only a few missing words. Spaces have been inserted to separate rambling sentences, and paragraphs have been created. In addition, excessive capitalization has been reduced, and omissions made in the interests of space, but the meaning and flavor of each letter remains.

Ebensburg [Pennsylvania]
Aug 13 1861

Dear Father

As this is the first time I hav ever wrote a letter and as I think for my first beginning I cant find one more worthey then my one dear Papa I will attempt to scribble a few lins to you to let you know that we are all well at least as far as helth is conserved but our minds are never easy on your account nor never will be untill your safe return Dear Papa it is so loansom here with out you O when will this dredfull war be over and when will we have you home with us never to leave us again

I have just herd that Lousa Myers is ded Mr J Myers youngest daughter She died of somthing like scarlet fever We were so fread Jackey will get it Poor little Jackey wants to see you so bad

All of our friends here sends love to you We are so sorry we have nothing nice to send you now Papa I want you someday to write me a letter Mamma Jackey and myself sends love to you And now dear Papa for to take good care of yourself is the prayer of your loving daugther Mary

Mary F. Lewis
to her dear father
Andrew Lewis

Camp Tennely
near Washington
Sept. 8th 1861

Dear Wife

[I] take this my oppertunity to answer yours the 4[th] which [I] recived last evning and was glad to from you all It was a prity big letter but still I maidout to get it all distributed to their proper places and I was glad to think that Marey at last could make out to send me afiew lines of heirs but as fiew as they were I am proud

scribbles and the message, "Jackey sends you some flowers." The second one reads "Dear Pappy come home to Jackey," and is accompanied by the remark, "Fanny held his hand to write the above."

that I hav a daughter to rite me a letter now Although I must thank my little man for the way he has gone into the business of ritting to his Pap

I hop[e] you Maria will make it your buisness [that] you will instruct his little mind in evry thing in which you can and make him to learn to be quick in his turn in his mind . . . for should I be so fortinet as to get home and Jackey should live to become a man I am determined to send him to West Point to giv him a milentry education So my mind [is] maid up on that scoor and I hop[e] you will not hav eny obgections and that you will try and bend his mind in that way whilst he is young and tell him Pap is agoing to make soldier of him and that Pap will fetch him a big drum for him for all that is wanten is to giv him that turn for such thinges as pertaines to a millentry training and he will naturley become so . . . I will giv him an education for it if it should cost all that I hav ever erved or that I ever may ever eren

but mabey Melley will objectt to this and think she must hav heir share of what I may hav to giv which is all true but I know if she has a good milentarey brother and soilder it could be of greater benifit to heir than all that I may have to giv to her So I hop[e] that she will not think that all my thoughts is for Jackey and none for heir for far from it Melley although perhaps I might of alwayese seame to misuse you and think all of Jackey I am happy now to inform you now when I know not wether I may hav the hapyness to ever to meet you all again that I am proud of you as eny father on earth can be

for their is a g[r]eat maney people may think what they p[l]ease of me I hav as good a hart as the most of them has [I] alwayes bene somewhat sowered by an unconkerable passion which I cannot and am not able to conker although you [k]now yet your Mother dose not know it I do that my passion for an hour or too is worse on me than a whole yeare of hard work I do know and often after it has sub-sided apearentaley to evry observer I hav beene sore from the effects of it and often hav I thought afterwarδες I would try and conker it but I never wase able and to you alone are the onley one that I hav ever maid this confesion and now I pe[r]hapes would not of done so to eny one else but to my onley daughter who often might of thought that I never cared eny thing about heir but the onley way I will be for me to attend to make something out of Jackey [is] to p[l]ace him in a posison that you may be proud that you have such a brother

and protector But now evrything that lies in your power it is my earnest wish that you and you and Jackey pay attention to evry thing your Mother may bid or say to you and [I] want you to brake yourself of that habit of mutering back to you[r] Mother as I hav sometimes knowen you to of being in the habit of doing and you will allwayes be liked and blest by your parentes and add[o]red by others So now good by and be a good girl you[r] Father A Lewis I will haftto quit or Mamey will think the leter is all for you

Now Maria I cannot tell what to make out of this ware [war] for the enemy onley yesterday struck down their tentes and went we do not know where or whether it was onley done for to draw us out or not I cannot tell but thet they had some object in it is sure but at eney rat[e] we did not follow them or weather they are a going to giv it up or what I cannot find out but one thing I do know . . . they hav left us go on to long for them to make an attacket on this citey without they all get slaughtered is certain for our fort i[s] finished and the cannon are being put up on it it will hav about 40 cannon and hold about five thousand men and I defy the Devil to take it So some of us I think will soone be moved some place else

Some sayese it be to Washington citey and say we are to be stationed their it may be I cannot tell as yet but it is quit likely if it should be so it will be a safe place and some one or too ridgmentes will be this is sure but I do not like that kind of soildren [soldiering] and would rather help to go after the rebbles than to be housed up in the citey and some sese that the ware will not last for six weakes but I do not se where they get their idea from for I cannot see how it will end in that lenth of time for if it was ended now we would not get home in six weakes But their is a great deal of talk of which amounts to just nothing but I ame inclined to think they are getting tired of the war and that it will soone blow over I believe it is true that Jefferson Davis is dead at least it is belived to be so heare their is about two hundred and fity thousand soilders in and around this citey now and that makes a big army of men and their must soone be somthing done if the leaves was of[f] the treas I believe that the work of death would soone be begun

. . . . So I think our men are all well at present but 2 or 3 and they are geting beter fast the man you spok about dyin here in you other letter belonged to the 10[th] reigement and died with something like the palpitation of the hart our ridgment has not lost [a] man as yet in no way

their is one thing I will tel you that is that our redgmint is the
Brag ridgment in the seves [service] and Jeneral MClenen [Mc-
Clellan] ses he never saw a better set of men together yesterday we
had another parade of about seven thousand soldiers and to morow
we hav another and Govener Curten [Curtin] of our stat[e] will be
along with others to view us it makes one proud to see so maney of
his people of his own stat and somaney of good looking soilders and
them garding others from those nothen more than thives for I think
their are nothing but thives and plunderes but the final day of
recknon is a coming for them and I think the recknon will be hard for
them to settle

I wish you would tell Paddock he might rit to me onst in a while
and tell them all I send my love to them tell them all to make a big
preperation for winter and be readey for its coming and now I hav
just got word that I am on gard to night at the fort I must git
supper and be readey for that so now I will bid you all good by till
my next and I still remain your

Affectionated Husbund
Andrew Lewis

Ebensburg
Sept 19 1861

Dear Father

It is with pleasure that I now sit down to answer your kind litter
of the 13[th] and to let you know that I have got quite well again
but oh dear pappy I had a very hard spell of it but thanks to my kind
dear mamma I have got over it but now I must let you know that
we are looking for grandmother Cameron to die this three days she
took somthing like inflemetary rheumitism but now all the pains have
left her and she is just sinking away Uncle William has berried one
of his children the one he called Gussy and the[re] is another not ex-
peted to live We have wrote for him to come to see grandmother
but I do not know if he can or not but I do hope he will for mamma
and Charlotte is allmost crazy we are getting along if it was not for
our troubl as well as you could expect dear little Jackey is got quite
well again but all he wants is pappy to come home and that is all we
all want is you to come home and then we will be all rite again

. . . We got a book from Mr Moor that you sent to Jackey oh
but he was pleased with it he says he must send poor dear pappy

something you ought to hear him talk you would laghf we told him he must write to you and he got his pen and paper and set down to write he said Fanney get me the almanac I want to see when the moon gets up and one day he said a bad word and we toald him he must not suare for pappy did not suare enymore and he said well when pappy coms home and wants to get a board out and cant then what will he say he is a great boy and it would be very loansome here with out him

We are going to top and blade our corn next week the wether is nice here now they are working away on the railroad they will soon have it don Jackey went to the post office and got your last letter and the next day he went and got the paper you sent and the dollar paper and he is very proud of it

I hav nothing to write only that I hope that this dreadful war will soon be over and you will get home safe for oh papy should eny thing happen I know it would kill mammy and when I was sick I was so fraid I would die and not get to see you but I am spared and I hope to see you again Mommy will write soon so goodby and writt soon to your daughter

Mary
to A Lewis

Ebensburg
March 16 1862

Dear Father

as mommy is writing to you I though I would write you a few lines Oh but we do wish you wore at home now for it is so lone-some here today for last night it rained all night wich makes the walking so bad that no one can go out without going over shoe top in mud

I am going to school wich commenced last Monday I like to go so well I am going [paper torn] Even I think him the best [paper torn] I even went to and I intend to studdy very hard to learn to rite well while this term lasts you may [be] sure that I will

. . . . thare is some soldiers in town and you ought to hav seen Jackey the first time he seen them he thought one of them was you you will think I have not impoved much in my writing but I will write better [paper torn] while

goodby from Mary
to my Father Andrew Lewis

Ebensburg
May 4th 1862

Dear Father

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope this may find you in good health the wether here is nice and warm through the day but very cold at night we have got all our garden made and will plant our pototos this week

Oh dear Father we are so lonesome I beleive the nice weather makes one more lonesom than dull wether all the pleasure we take is in talking of youre safe return which I hope and trust is not far distant and Oh dear Pappy if we all get once more united togeather I pray we will never be parted again untill our heavenly Father sees fit to part us now dear Father I will close by wishing you good luck good health and a safe return to youre

daughter
Mary

[probably May or
June 1862]

My Dear Father

It is with very great pleasure that I now sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all well and hoping this will find you enjoying the very best of helth oh my dear Father I do hope that nothing will hapen [to] you and that you will get home safe once more to us all and then I hope we will never be parted again untill it is the will of the Good Man to part us

School was don last week and thare will not be eny school till September and then free school will begin everything looks well here and if nothing hapens we will have a great amount of fruit and all kinds of vegeatables well be plenty but it is very wet here this summer it raining every two or three days

this morning Jackey slept very late and I went up to call him to get up to breakfast and I toald him to get up for Pappy had come home Oh you ought to of seen him running down stairs and then crying when Pappy was not thare

now dear Father I will close thoes few uninterinsg lins with a p[r]ayer for your future wellfare and a speady and safe return to your ever dutifull

Daughter Mary

Virginia
Camp opsit Fredericksburg
June 6th 1862

Dear Maria

I recived your kind letter of June 1 and was glad to hear from you all onst more and to hear that you wer all well and hop that this may find you all enjoying the same blessing I sent you a letter before but forgot to put a stamp on and I do not know ifen you got it or not but I presume not or you would of let me know somthing about it

I hav nothing in the way of newse to rit to you onley that it is the general opinion hear now that this war is nearley plaid out and that it will not be long before we will be home before long Evry one has their eyes turned now towards Richmond and Mclenend [McClellan] and thinks that a battle will soone be fought their that will desid the fat[e] of the Suthern Confedrasy and now as Beaurigard [Beauregard] has bene chased of[f] from Corinth and that he can bareley [gather] his scattered forces together that if they are licked at Richmond that all is up with them And then the Armeey will be reduced to about one half of the present number And it is most likley that we will be the first or among the first that will be discharged and then wont we hav done the Devell [Devil] and all toward puting down the rebellion it almost makes me laugh to think how we hav bene used and now we hav beene a year in the U S servis and as yet hav never had a fight now if I did not think that this war was nigh over I beliv that I would quit it and come home for I am geting tired of this kind of a buisness for I think that some of them would like to make a long job of it but I think that if it was now pushed it soone could be finished and an end put to it but it payes some to[o] well to let it be finished so soone

I tell you that I would like to see those treese of ours to see how they are doing I hop that you may hav good luck with them and that nothing may hapen to the fence or that they will get distroyed in enyway but I am in hopes that I may get home soone to look after them myself so that you may hav so little trouble as possible but I am affraid that when I do come I belive that I will be so lasey [lazy] that for some time I wont be fit to do anything for I am either getting old or lasey and I cannot tell which but I hop that I will be able to brake myself of it when I come to find out that I must do something to help us keep going But one thing I do assure you and that is that I am not agoing to work as hard as I hav done and this idiea I am

affraid will keep me from doing anything at all

Now in my last [letter] I told you that we are the ridgmint [that] had a great maney sick but since we hav moved here they have beene geting better and their is not enymore than usual now and those that were sick are geting beter fast as to myself my health was never better than it has beene since I come down in this part of Virginia and I like this cuntry better than I do near Washington for the last fiew dayes it has beene raining most all the time but it is not cold but the rain has plaid smash here on the river and has swept of[f] three bridges that we had built acros the river they are all gon and now we hav to go to work and build them up again but that wont take long for their is plenty of handes to do it We hav no trouble with the rebles about here for they keep mighty quiet wilst we are but I dont doubt if we were out of the way that the[y] would be troublesom anough So I expect nothing else but that we will be kept here to keep this part of Virginia quiet Well I think if we do that their is no danger of eney of us ever faling in battle for the enimey seames to keep a good distance of[f] from us all the time nowades [nowadays] whene we go after them but if McLellen [McClellan] gets to[o] weak to manag them at Richmond we will git a chance of going down their yet but I do not think that we will be removed from heare as yet anyhow

And now Maria as I shall get paid of[f] the fore part of next weak I shall send home as mutch money as possable And I gues [guess] I shall send to Barker and as I want you to pay Barker twenty five 25 dollars I then want you to pay to William Davis and lift my not[e] for 10 ten doll[ars] and their will be about sixtety cents interest on the same pay it pay thise two persons then pay the tax then take 50 dollars for your own use settle with E Walters and lift that morgage and the rest pay to William and if it should not quit pay him it wont be long till I get paid again or if you think you will get the rent you may pay him all it will leav you somthing over forty dollars for the interest on Williams [It] is very nigh all paid by me paying that John Hughes meat bill . . . I ought to pay C T Roberts but can tell him that I will not keep him wating mutch longer Now I make this calculation on sending you 190 dollars but if I send you less you will hav to pay less or some one must miss But I shall leav all to you and you pay those that appears to want it worst but dont forget to pay yourself first and for all the others that you pay take recipts but your own I guess you ned not for I will charg you with

50 dollars But if you dont take good care of my little fruit trees I shall charg you more than all your book account may come to for I set great store on my fruit treese So look well to that old fense for fear that somthing gets in and spoils all better for you to pay 2 or 3 dollars to someone to fixe it up than enything should happen

Edger is in excelent health and so is the men generalley of the company I must not forget to mention what I think of Marey riting but if she writ that which she sent to me in your letter she is certainly improving in heir riting And if their is enything you want that your mother dont get you or cant get you all you got to do is to let me know and I will send you money to get it for you need not be affraid to ask for what you want for I am pleased with you for the way you hav improved and if you attend to it you will make a good riter yet But if their should be no school you can practice at home so as not to go backwards again Dont forget it now

now as for Jackey I am quit mad at him for not riting enymore letters to me and I dont know wat to make of him I think he has altogether forgot Pappy O neve[r] mind Mister Jackey when I come home I wont like you for not writing to me but you must make Mamey rit often to Papey now dont forget to tell heir about it

. . . I will hav a big spree of some sort when I come back But I supose you folkes now just jumpes onto the cars up their and rides down to Cresson whenever you take the notion that is if you hav the fair [fare] for I supose no one can go without the fair being paid But I guess that if we liv we will get a free passage up it when we come home and I supose that is all that I shall get for two hundred and twenty five dollars that I hav got in it but let it go so as we get the railroad [I don't] care but I think that we can afford to hav one spree out of this war for I do not know wat of would of become of us all if I hadnot of come

So now I will stop by wishing you all good health But I still remain your affectonat husband

Rit soone yours
Andrew Lewis
to Maria Lewis

Daspatch Station
8 miles from Richmond
June 15th 1862

Dear Maria

I take this opertunity to again send you a fiew lines to let you know that we are all landed safe here and safe and sound and as I now hav but one hour to rit my letter you see I cannot go into eny peticalurs of our march for if [I] do I shall not get enything writ to you So I must make my letter as short and to the point as possable I cannot tell of wether you got a letter which I rot to you from of[f] ship whilst coming up the York River but I hav riten one to you and I could rit you a long one if I had time but although we hav beene hear all day yesterday I did not know when a mail would go out So now I shall tell you how I find things so far

Well their is a great maney sick soilders lying here but when you come to think that their is about two hundred thousand men here their must naturley be a great maney sick the whole of the reserve core are heare and on the road hear and I am informed that they are expected to play a very activ part in the coming battle before Richmond for we are to be placed in the center of the line of battle So I hop that our friends in the North may not be disapointed in what they may expect of the reserv core when the time arrives for them to do their duty but Maria if I am not mutch mistaken their will be one of the awfulest battles fought here that the world has ever wittnessed for I think that their will not be less than five hundred thousand men will be engaged in it So that their must be a great maney fall of cours but who they may bee is hard to tell but if I should be so unfortinet as to be one of the number my onley wish is for you to show yourself capable of baring up against the loss for Maria recolect that maney wife has the same or will hav the same thing to trouble them and how maney a mother will hav their sones to mourn for the lose of them And now Maria as I hav evrything squared up or nearly so I shall leav you in tarable [tolerable] cicustances [circumstances] to get along in the world for the ballance of your dayes for even should I escap death from the bullits of the enimey at the most their is but a fiew short years for us to liv together in this world before one or the other of us must be called home Baring this in mind I hop you may try and do you duty as a mother and I will try and do mine as a soilder so that you shall not be asshamed of me

So now I must conclud And now Maria dont forget my

advise if anything may happen to me And I still remain you affectionat husband

Andrew Lewis
to Maria Lewis

Rit often if I can I will Dirict yours as usual

Hanover County Virginia
June 21st 1862

Camp near the Chickamohominy [Chickahominy]
on the rite flank of the Army of the
Potomac 5 miles from Richmond

Dear Maria

I hav just now recived your letter of the 10[th] not an hour ago and now sit down in the woodes to answer you in the first place I am glad to hear that you are all well and hop that this may find you in continued good health

you will see by this heading that we are now about to begin the buisness of war in earnest we got hear but 3 dayes ago and hav had to move our whole camp yesterday a half mile back for the rebbles comenst cannonad our camp so that their was danger of some of us getting Jessey so we thought proper to move as we could not do anything to them with our muskets But it will soone be their turn to leav for we are putting up some 64 pounders that will make them scaddle the heviest shot that they hav throwen at us yet has beene 42 pounds shot

Now I supose you and evry one else their would like to know what kind of a river this Chickeymahomney is up here Well it is about the sise of the Blacklick at Bulaw but is mutch deaper and is mighty swampy on each sid of it and to cross this swamp with cannon we hav to build corderoy road for about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile on each side of it So you see that to do this it requires a great amount of labour and besids puting bridges acros to for it takes 3 or 4 of these roades to pass us as we want to pas when the time comes to mov on to Richmond and this is what the rebbles keepes firing at is to prevent the making of these roades Yesterday they killed 2 of our men and 3 horses with one of their shelles but you must know Maria that such a thing as that is a small matter here and hardly anything sed about it

Now I will tell you somthing about how pickets dose [does] here fore some places they are mighty close to gether and the rebbles say

that they are directed to shute evry officer they can but not to shute our privets Sou [So] you see that the pickets hav quiet a nice time of it talking to each other and in some cases hav swaped newspapers with each other and yet if an officer appears on either side they will shute him down for McCllen [McClellan] has given our pickets the same order and has ordered all officers to kepe out of the way so that the privets has to relive each other without an officer being with them but in my next letter I can tell you all about this for this afternoon our reigment goes out on picket and then I suppose that we will know all about it Their is one thing I notice here that I hav not noticed eny other place since I hav beene in the Armeey and that is that the bands are not allowed to make eny noise on their horns nor is a drum or a fife allowed to be played by order of McCllen for we are under him now

As for McDowell their is some mighty hard talk about him but as for going over to the rebbles I guess their is no truth in it but you know that he is the man that was wipid [whipped] at Bull Run and the men hav no confidence in him and I am glad that we were taken away from him for I do belive that if we had of got into a battle under him we would of got licked for the men did not like him and did not think him fit for the posision that he occuppyed and that would of maid things bad for they think that he did not act rit at Bullsrun and they wont think anything else theirfore I am glad to think that we hav got out of his hands and hav got back under our old General McCllen but at the same time I donot pretend to say that the other may not be a good General but one thing I am sure of that their is a great maney men holding the office of one place and another that would be far better out of them that is for the government

Now I am in a short distance of cannons that are keeping up a constant firing and their noise are almost instantly [?] but to day I so far hav not herd of eny harm that they hav done us for our men they havnot fired a gun to day as yet but I think that it is not likely that they will untill they get evrything in readyness

. . . . I supose I nead not giv you an account of the trip that we had to come from our last camp at Fredricksburg for I hav ritten pritty well about that alredey for I rot to you about it when I was coming up the York River the letter I rit with the lead pensel Now as to the weather heare I do not see mutch difference betwene it and at home I belive that it was as warm at Camp Wright this time last year as it is heare And the men of the companey are in good health generaley

. . . . Now I am glad to hear that you hav so good luck with the cow but you dont say what you are agoing to do with the calf but I guess you are near tired of raising coves and I think we may as well quit the buisness for they are more trouble to us than they are worth You never I belive hav told me how mutch potato ground nor corn ground you hav planted so I hop you will let me know in your next and how the fruit is coming on and wether the frost or if you hav had eny to hurt anything you say you hav so maney rowes hoed I think you had better get someone to how [hoe] for you for I am sure that you will do it better than by hiring some one but it is to[o] hard for you to undertake to how them and I am beginning to think that we hav most done our share of hard work

I am sorry to say that I havnot got eny pay as yet from the U S but hop now to soon get it for of late we hav beene shifting about so mutch that the paymaster could of hardley kept up with us but he can now find us if he wants to for their will soone be another pay day due to us if he dont hurry and if I was sure he would pay for 4 months when he dose come I would as soon leaf [leave] wait now 10 dayes more for then I could send you four hundred dollars and hav plenty for myself

. . . . we must hav that spree when I come home for it must be one weake long anyhow and as for Marey she must consider heirself in also now as for Jackey I do not know wat to say for him but I guess he must be but I guess if he was with me now he would get his belley full of chereys [cherries] for they are rip here and most over and most delightfull ones they are to[o] I onley wish you had as maney of them as you could eat for they are good the wheat is rip here and most all tramped down through this cuntry

So now I close by saying that was a nice letter that Jackey sent to me with yours I want . . . Marey to rit to me oftener And now Maria I want you to rit to me often and I still remain your affectonate husband

Andrew Lewis

camp before Richmond Virginia
June 25th 1862

Dear Maria

I recived your letter yestarday evning and was glad to hear that you were all well and hop that this may find you all enjoying the same blesing As for myself I havnot had as good health as I might of had for I caught cold out on picket on my last turn which will come on

this evning and comes on evry 4 day and night but I should not mind that so mutch if it was eny sort of a cuntry But it is all swampy about here and at night their is a kind of a due or baither swet that I do not like for after being out in it a while a night you would think that your face was all over smeared with grease so stickey and muckey is it yet it is warm but I never got a worse cold in my life than I got the first night I was out But I am mutch better now again and shall try and take better care of my selfe on the next time for one must be very carefull here of a disease they call the swamp feaver wich I find is making sad havock amongst the troups that are stationed here And another thing is geting among them and that is no less a disease than the dirahe [diarrhea] which I find has got among them and [I] am affraid that if we should lay here mutch longer [it] will be very bad for the water about here very bad that we hav to use

I must not forget to let Marey and Jackey know that I got a letter from both of them with yourse and was glad to see how Marey has improved in heir riting and hop that she will not neglect to keep at it now when ever she may hav an oppertunity to practice at home she ought to do so for if she now neglects to practice she will forget all that she has gained So to help you along Marey I shall giv you a little job which I hop you will not neglect and that is no less than for you to rit to Mary Litzeinger who lives at Bridensville Westmoreland County Pa And tell heir for me that heir sone in my companey is well and hartey and that I recived heir letter and was sorey to think that she should of had so mutch trouble about him for he has beene in excelent health all the time and when I showed him heir letter he seamed verymutch surprised to think that she had not got eny of his letters So I hop you will rit to heir and let heir know all about him he sese he has not got eny letters from heir for a long time now your Mother can tell you who this Mary Litzeinger [is] heir name use to be Mary Crum and married A. Liteinger they used to liv out the Indiannia Road and Crum died their and his sone is a mighty good boy or young man Now I hop you will not neglect this for she seames to be in a good eale [deal] of trouble about him and she may be more certain of geting a letter from their than if I rit from here So do so as soon as you get this

and now while I am riting this letter to you I am constantley looking out for the rebbles cannon balls which are flying pritey thick about here for they hav built a new fort in the woods nearer to us and are firing at us all the time but as yet hav not hurt eny of us as

yet but I hope that McClenn has things most completed for us to advance and then you all will heare some stiring newse for I suppose that you folkes at home thinkes that we are doing nothing here because their is not a fight evryday well to all such I would say come here and see for now we do not get one nights rest out of five but must be on duty either building corderoy road or bridges or else on duty gurdning those that are at the work so you see those that grumbles the most about home knows the least about the difficultyes that we hav to contend with for let me tell all such as do grumble that those that makes the laudest fus[s] dose not care one cent about the Union side and of such I am certain their is a good maney among the people of Ebensburg but I hope that they may yet se[e] the day if the[y] do think so they dare not so say so for I do tell you that the goverment at this time has a monstous army now in the field and that army generely intelligent and are not agoin to be trifled with either with enimeys at home or abroad for now at this time this army whilst fighting our enimey's here are making loud complaints about France and heir intriges in Mexico And if this was over to morow I belive that this army would be willing [to] joine in going to Mexico to help the Mexicans against the French and I am glad to see it so for I think that Lewis Nepolin [Louis Napoleon] has no buisness to interfear with enything on this side of the Atlalick Ocen and I do not know but if the U.S. takes it up as is generely belived she will but that I should try that unhappy cuntry onst more So I tell you that France had better be carfull how she acts over their for we are watching heir and I belive that we can keep heir out of Mexico and attend to our owen troubles to[o]

for I tell you that those rebbles over at Richmond hav a happy time of keeping their men from deserting 3 or 4 night ago 60 North Carlinians come over and a rebble reigment were sent to try and ketch them and you may think that they got Jessey for the deserters got over in time to let us know that they were after them and we pulled out 3 cannon and hada regment to ketch them when they came and fired on them killed about 40 and wounded 100 and god knowes how maney more that craled of[f] in the dark last night one Louise-annnian came over that is diserted and came over and he gives a poor account of them and thinkes that they cannot hang out mutch longer as they are most starving in Richmond But you may look out soon for some hot work being done

so now you may think that it is time I would rit somthing You

seame to think yourself quit[e] a farmer Well I am glad of that I tell you for if I should get home I am thinking that I shall be quit[e] for [far] to[o] lasey for a while to do anything like farming so you may hav all the honor that is due to evry good farmer So as you let me set down and do nothing But I would like very mutch to be at home for a few dayes to see you all but that I guess now is impossible untill things wares a better appearance for the goverment wants evryman at his post now and their is where he ought to be I am very mutch p[l]eased to heare that evrything looks so well and would like to see them as you say I ought I hope to see them soone we have not recived eny pay as yet and do no care about reciving it now for a few dayes and then their will be a months wages due us and then their can come to you four hundreds doll. instid of 2 and then you will be able to pay all and hav a plenty for yourself

so now I must close quick for some of the companey's expect a fight so good by . . . this may turn out to be a fight before [I] get back tell Jackey Melley . . . I hav not forgot them but hav no time to rit to them so I still remain your affectionated husband

A Lewis

to Maria Lewis

I belive that we are a going to hav a fight rit off so good by

Yours A L

July 24, 1862

Old Point Comfort, Va.

Mrs Lewis

In accordance with my promise I drop you a line. Surgeon De-Benneville returned yesterday. He reports your husband as having died from the wound received in Friday's fight. His leg was amputated, but not withstanding he died. I most sincerely sympathize with you in this your sad bereavement. The stroke is heavy, but we must bow in submission to the will of God. These are times that try men's souls. The sacredness of the family circle is broken, fond hearts are separated and every dear remembrance ignored. I can scarcely realize that he is dead, but alas I fear it is too true.

Allow me to write the inscription of him who now lies in the grave, in a southern clime, surrounded by traitors & demons to the best of governments. In memory of Capt. Andrew Lewis, who died from the effects of a wound received June 27th 1862 at the battle of Gaines Mill, fighting for the maintenance of law and order. No

braver man ever lived — no braver man ever fell. No child of his need blush at the name of that patriotic, brave man. His character here was without a stain. In all intercourse he was most honest. He stood high in the regiment. Accept my heartfelt sympathy, and may God who pities the widow & orphan enable you to bear your load of grief & sorrow like the true christian who looks forward to a better & happier world.

Yours very truly
Dan G. Porter