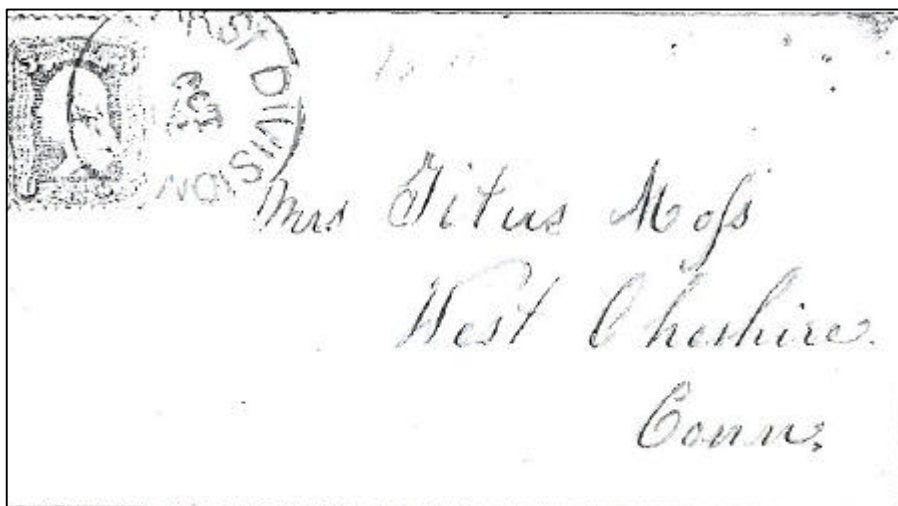


# Corporal Titus Moss Letters

September 1862 – March 1863



Cheshire Historical Society

April 2005

The Cheshire Historical Society  
Cheshire, Connecticut 06410  
<http://www.cheshirehistory.org>  
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## Titus Moss Letters

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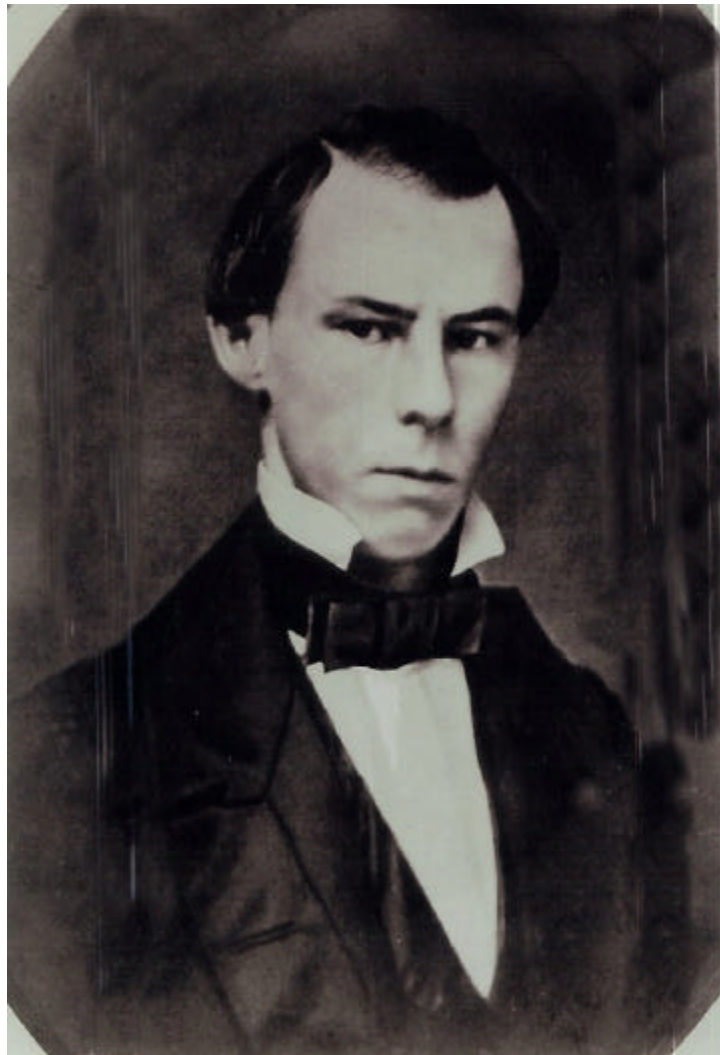
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**Titus Moss – Junior Warden**



*Photograph courtesy of St. Peter's Church, Cheshire Connecticut*

## Introduction to Titus Moss Letters

In 1969, Miss Helen Moss of New Haven gave the Cheshire Historical Society the original copies of 30 letters written by her grandfather, Corporal Titus Moss, to her grandmother, Jennette, in 1862-63. Also included were two letters written by Captain Timothy Guilford describing Moss's death at the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863, and a copy of letter of condolence to Jennette on the death of their daughter, Emma, in 1864. At the bottom of this letter, Jennette has written a heart-breaking note about Little Emma's death. After Nearly 35 years in our files, the letters were transcribed last year by Society member, and now curator, Marshall Robinson.

It is evident that these letters are only a portion of the original Titus Moss correspondence. Although he wrote almost daily after leaving Cheshire in September 1862, there is nothing from Christmas and only one letter from the critical last three months of his life. The collection must have been divided among family members, possibly among his three granddaughters. Nonetheless, the letters we do have give a special picture of a very kind and decent Cheshire man struggling to adapt to the challenges of Union Army life and vitally concerned with the welfare of his little family at home.

The Moss family figured prominently in Cheshire history from its early settlement, especially in area in the west of town along Ten-Mile River known as Moss Farms. The first Moss to come to Cheshire, John Moss, was granted approximately 100 acres of land alongside the Ten-Mile River in 1694 for services to the Crown in settling disputes between the Indians and farmers who were moving to Cheshire from Wallingford.

According to a hand-written note in Society's copy of Old Historic Homes of Cheshire, 1895, the Titus Moss Family lived at 859 Moss Farms Road, a one-and-a-half-story structure built by his grandfather, Joel Moss, in 1795.<sup>1</sup> The house also is pictured in Landmarks of Old Cheshire, 1976, but has since been demolished.

Titus was born on February 8, 1828, the second of seven children of Joel Moss II and Nancy (Upton) Moss. In June 1851, age 23, Titus married Jennette Beecher of Cheshire.<sup>2</sup> They had two children: Howard, born July 19, 1856, and Emma, born June 22, 1859. Another member of Titus's household was his ward, Carrie, who is often mentioned in his letters. We have no further identification for her. The Moss family were communicants of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.<sup>3</sup> In 1857, Titus was elected junior warden of the church, a position he held when he left for military service with the 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regiment Volunteers in 1862.

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<sup>1</sup> See Additional Information at the end of this document (photograph of home at 859 Moss Farms Road). The Society also has a 1943 oil painting of this house in the Exhibit Room.

<sup>2</sup> Titus's next brother, Julius, married Emerett A. Bartholomew of Wolcott on May 15, 1855. Her wedding dress is on display on the second floor in the Paneled Room.

<sup>3</sup> In 1767, another Moss family member, Joseph Moss, gave the land for the church and cemetery.

After the attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861, the first call for troops by President Lincoln asked for only one regiment from Connecticut. The response was so enthusiastic, that three regiments were formed and sent. According to a paper on “Cheshire in the Civil War,” written by Society member Mrs. E.I. Pardee, it was at this time that a group of young men in Cheshire formed a military company called the Home Guards. Their captain was Timothy Guilford, who had previously held office in a militia company in Waterbury.

In July 1862, when President Lincoln issued the second call for “three hundred thousand volunteers for three years,” Cheshire’s Home Guards resolved to enlist, calling themselves the Russell Rifles, but later becoming Company A of the 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers. In August 1862, a special Cheshire Town Meeting authorized payment of a \$100 bounty to each volunteer with a family (\$50 for single volunteers).

Company A left New Haven for Washington, D.C. on September 11, 1862 packed in common boxcars. It included 63 men and boys from Cheshire, including Titus and his brother Samuel, and 20 from Prospect. They were kept in Washington until September 29, then ordered to Frederick, Maryland. By some blunder, the company was told to leave their knapsacks in Washington. They waited all night at the depot for transportation and made their bivouac near Frederick without tents or blankets, and with scanty rations. When letters telling of deprivation and hunger reached Cheshire, mothers, wives and sisters rushed to pack boxes of provisions and forward them as soon as possible.

On October 2, the Twentieth was again under marching orders for Harper’s Ferry. On November 9, they crossed the mountain into Loudon Valley where they were ordered to build huts and go into winter quarters. While some of the old regiments were provided with comfortable houses with floors, the Twentieth did not get along so well. The privations the men endured are told first-hand in Titus’s letters. His close companions were his younger brother Samuel and another Moss, Frank Moss. Both became seriously ill. We know from The Twentieth Connecticut, A Regimental History, that Samuel Moss was discharged for disability on January 27, 1863 and that Frank Moss died at Stafford Count House, March 17, 1863.

According to Mrs. Pardee’s paper, during the first winter, Company A was visited at different times by at least nine men from Cheshire. “They usually found the company enjoying a snow storm,” she writes. In his letter of November 8, Titus describes the arrival of “Mrs. Moss & Mr. Beedles” (Amos Moss and Benajah Beadle<sup>4</sup>). We know from the letter of January 29 that another visitor was Titus’s other brother, Julius.

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<sup>4</sup> Benajah Beadle was the great grandfather of *Curator Emeritus* Edgar Johnson. There is a photograph of him on the wall in the parlor.

The spring campaign of 1863 opened with the Union Army numbering 124,000 men on the north side of the Rappahannock River. General Lee, with an army of 63,000 was entrenched south of the river. It was now only a little over seven months since Titus had left New Haven. Aside from some skirmishes, the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1-3, was the first real battle for Company A. It ended disastrously, with the regiment under Colonel William B. Wooster in full retreat. Over 12,000 Union soldiers were killed and another 5,000 missing and wounded. Titus was killed on May 3, the final day of the battle.

Sources:

- The “Twentieth Connecticut” A Regimental History, John W. Storrs, Press of the Naugatuck Valley Sentinel, 1886.
- St. Peter’s: An Informal History. Helen E. Bray, Aurora Printing Co., Meriden, 1985.
- “Cheshire in the Civil War,” paper written by Mrs. E.I. Pardee, Cheshire Historical Society.
- Old Historic Homes of Cheshire, Connecticut (1694-1894), compiled by Edwin R. Brown, 1895.
- Landmarks of Old Cheshire, The Cheshire Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Moss genealogy records from The Morse Society, Cheshire Historical Society, and History of Cheshire, Connecticut (1604-1840), Joseph Perkins Beach, 1912.

**Letter Number 2 written by Titus Moss on 2 Sept. 1862**

Washington  
Sunday Morning

Dear J

I have just sent a few lines but I don't believe you can read them. I have not washed my hands but once since I left New Haven and am in no condition to touch paper. I am keeping guard while Samuel<sup>5</sup> is gone to wash, and then I am to take my turn. The reason why I left that letter in such shape was because I was it to go when the rest went. We left Baltimore Saturday morning but lay by for the regular trains so much we did not get to W until three O'clock P.M. We were marched out and formed into line and kept 2. until we were liered. We were then marched into a large building for dinner which consisted of bread of good quality pork not half cooked coffee in slop pails if not slop pails they were not fit for the use they were put to. After dinner we were marched back again formed in line and kept a good spell, then took to the cars to get our guns and sacks tent pins, and got started for our cana\_\_. Just at dark our company formed the guard for the baggage train got on the ground at eight P.M. where we lay in our blankets on the ground in as dirty a place as the center of our roads in a dusty time. I sleep sound until morning. I do not suppose I have had more than two hours sleep since we left N. Haven until last night.

3. We may leave this ground before night. At any rate the Capt. said he thought we should. We know where we are going just as much as a horse does when he is harnessed. A long train of wagons have just come on the ground. Sept. 18 Dear J. here is the proof of what I wrote the other day the order came to pack knap- sacks forthwith such a scra\_eling I never saw before, every thing was ready in quick time, the order to forward march given and off we went about forty rods when we were halted and ordered to pitch tents. Stayed until Tuesday when we were kept on our feet the most of the time until nearly

4. five O'clock. Three companies on the right of our regiment were ordered to march we head off followed by N.H. regiment we passed the capitol direct through the city accross long bridge the N.H. regiment and a Rhode Island regiment passed us at the bridge. We reached Arlington hights seven or eight O'clock. We fetched up into a large tract of wood that had been cut to give

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<sup>5</sup> Samuel is Samuel Moss, Titus's youngest brother, who enlisted at the same time.

range to the eye with a good prospect of rain. The men kindled a bright fire some. Some pitched their tents others rolled them selves in their blankets on the open air. I slept until

5. morning. Fortunately it did not rain but little. We had no supper and a scant breakfast and dinner. I had just got my ration on my plate when we were ordered to strike tents immediately. I was so hungry I did not like the idea of losing my dinner and swallowed it so quick it did not do much good. We moved 40 rods onto good ground, I hope we shall stay long enough to drill some and handle our guns. I think we shall act awkward, some of our boys are not very prompt about getting into line. There has been three or four sick. I think all better except George Tiler. Water is much better than I expected.

6. but a good way off, it is necessary to keep a guard over every spring or some of the men will wash in it. The hills are swarming with men for miles around. Thousands coming every day. All we see is men and implements of war. Women are very scarce. I would get out of my tent quick to see a good wholesome lady all ready. Samuel has just com with water and said he came across Cousin Levi. He left home two weeks ago all well then. I was sorry not to send some word home to the by you but I could not command my voice. Please kiss them and tell to be good children from me. I shall write again in a few days. Our boys are in good sprit there is some growling here as

7. there is in any place. I do not think but our fare is as good as can be furnished where thou- -sands of men are coming every day. Sudden moves are all ways attended with short supplies, I think.

From your loving  
Husband  
Titus Moss

Please direct your letters to Titus Moss  
20<sup>th</sup> reg. Co. A Conn V  
Arlington Hight  
D.C.

P.S. Please remember me to all friends, My foot has not troubled since I left New Haven. It is said that we are on Gen. Lee's farm.

**Letter Number 4 written by Titus Moss on 26 Sept. 1862**

Arlington Heights Sept. 26 Carrie's letter has come tonight

My Dear Wife

Your letter has come tonight and I have read it twice. You can not think how please the boys are when news comes from home. If they have none themselves. There is a brass band in the next camp to us and they are playing this evening not more than five rods from my tent. Semes (sic) to me I never heard Old Hundred sound as well. You spoke of leaving home this winter, I have no objections if it will be less trouble to friends & neighbors than to stay at home. I have not carried my knapsack away from the tent since we came here. With the gun which weighs nine lbs cartridge box must weigh with

2. forty rounds in it 6 or 7 more so that with all the equipments caat (sic) buttoned up tight it will make a man moist if he does not go more than 5 or 6 miles at a time. I beleave (sic) some of the boys sent home some of their clothes but I shall keep mine a while yet. Armour vests are cheaper here than in New Haven because they add to the weigh so much. Our drum is beating for roll call. Good night. Saturday noon. I have been detailed with a small squad of men from each Co. to level a piece of ground for parade. I have not lost any of my things except those short pencils I had in my pockets, and the governments stockings I set adrift. My watch runs rather fast at first but I think it runs about right now. Evening. We finished our ground this afternoon and have been busy fixing the well till

3. dark. We set five barrels one above the other for stoneing, put (sic) we use old fashion sweep so we can draw quite easily. I regard to the steers all I have to say is that if Julius<sup>6</sup> did not take care of them you did right in getting some one else to, if they are very troublesome sell them if you think best. I have done one washing, think I had very good luck considering the experience and water which was from a muddy brook. Please not spare any experience or care for Carrie<sup>7</sup>, should rather you would hire a girl for a time or get some one to keep Bill<sup>8</sup> awhile. Your letters and papers came in a good time, please send a few lines whenever you can. Sunday. I will a short sketch of to day. The drum beats half

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<sup>6</sup> Julius was the other Moss brother. He did not enlist but stayed in Cheshire.

<sup>7</sup> Carrie is Titus's ward, who lives with the family.

<sup>8</sup> Bill seems to be a horse or a mule.

past five, all turn into the street in two ranks for roll call, breakfast at seven then pack

4. knapsacks and prepare for inspection. Command fall in about eight marched into our paraid (sic) ground our guns are inspected by our Capt. Should think it occupied  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, we were then dismissed and sent to meeting at the colonel tent. This is the first time I have heard our Chaplains voice. The men gathered in front we sang the 119 We then use a part of the morning prayers with other suitable prayers. I never enjoyed them so much before in my life. They never seemed so beautiful before. Sung 180 H then a short discourse from 2 2 Chapt/ verse. I like him very indeed his remarks were short but good. After the benediction he invited any one to his tent that wished to come at any time. At about eleven we went over to the Patomac to wash was goin (sic) 3 hours had some cake and pie that I bought for dinner. The pie was 10 cts euqual (sic) to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a pie at home. Cake is a ct a piece ginger cake like yours. Dress parade at 5 Oclock with battalion drill dismissed at dusk.

Titus Moss

Extra note included with this letter.

Sept 29. 1 Oclock Morning

Dear Jennett

We are busy making preparations for a move, I now (sic) not where. The old stove is doing its utmost in the way of cooking rations. We are going to have rice for breakfast in order to save the meat for the journey. I have not any idea where we are going but had a letter that I was going to send in the morning and shall put these few lines in. Shall let you know what we are about as soon as possible.

Good morning

Titus Moss Albert Bissell wishes you to let his parents know that we are goin from here. Both the boys are well. He says if it is convenient.

Titus

If you damat (sic) (don't) hear from me direct your letters to Washington D.C. 20 reg CV the I then they will follow us where we go.

**Letter Number 5 written by Titus Moss on 1 October 1862**

I think you had better send your letters to Washington

Frederick City Oct 1

My Dear Wife

I will try to give you a short account of our trip to F. We did not leave Arlington Heights 4 O'clock in the afternoon. We had a jolly time packing up in the morning. After every thing was ready orders came to take every thing out of our knapsacks put all of our things in a bundle except our blankets, overcoats, towels rowled (sic) our things into a long roll tied the ends together strung across (sic) our shoulders like a bag of grains. We lay ready to start at a minute warning. After a tiresome march and an hour or two standing in the streets of Washington for we could not find a spear of grass to get onto, we got into the cars, we had a box car that had had coal in it, we had to

2. stow as lite as we could. I would not think of any thing except a load of lambs in a butchers cart. I think it must have been near twelve when the cars atated. I felt pretty near sick in the coal dust and confusion, one fellow, but not of our Reg. got into scrape and was or staled (sic) near his temple he was crassy (sic) with grog and pain yelling in the wildest maner it took three or four men to hold him. One of Co. H men fell off and ran over was picked up by the next train. After daylight some of the men got on top of the cars making more room inside. It was four in the afternoon when we reached F. Our toute was through a very mountain country with very few inhabitance. We went over a new bridge, the old was blown up by the rebels it was an iron bridge, a splendid one too. The ruins are lying in the water. One of the boys said he saw the grave of some soldiers so slightly covered that some of the

3. limbs were above the ground. A small boy said that it took the rebels three or four days to blow up the bridge. I should think Jackson wanted to make his army look as big possible as they march only two abreast. The country here is very fine, and the people are too. We slept under our blankets and have made a comfortable breakfast of bread and pie with salt beef, the beef we brought with us the rest we bought. Soldiers who have no money go hungry sometimes or eat coarse food. What we are going to do here or how long we stay I don't know. We are on uneian man (sic) farm very people but the rebels use them hard. In the next field to our camp are several large stacks of grains big ones, and

plenty of straw. The man said we can have all the straw we want if we will let his grain alone. I am guarding a well with two men with me. I am seated on an shaving horse

4. but the men jostle me so I can hardly write apart of the time. This is the dirtiest country you ever saw. I don't mean this in particular but the whole country where have stoped. If I could get on a good green turf like our old orchard it would quite a treat, the soil is clay and very dry so that it is enough to smother one. Our camp is on stable ground and no turf but plenty of dirt. I said I did not feel well in the cars but it did not last only till morning. I think I have not said any thing about rations we have two rations of fresh beef, two of salt beef. beans, rice then the same over again. I think we had potatoes once since we went to Arlington. I can make a good meal on salt beef and bread with a little potliquor on my bread. There is an chance to send my letter and I must not miss the chance Titus

**Letter Number 6 written by Titus Moss on 3 October 1862**

Please give my respects to any one  
who inquires of me any time whether I  
write or not.

Titus Moss

Way out among mountains  
Oct. 3th 1862

Dear Jennett

We are near Harpers Ferry landed twelve Oclock last night. We lay by the fence along the road ready to start at a minute notice. I think two or three our Companies got on the wrong road in the darkness, but we went only a mile or two, but got right in the morning. I am under an appletree, but what we are going to do or how long we stop here I do not know. We had a Co. drill yesterday morning were dismissed half past ten Oclock. I had the lock out of my gun when the order came to be ready to march in ten minutes, got everything ready as quick as possible and fell into line. As soo as all the men were ready we went to the cars, staid (sic) as usual until we got tired then marched

2.

into a small lot near by to stack arms left our buggets then hays\_ back to get our dinner and fill our sacks with rations. We packed our cooking utensils, bread, meat, crackers, and every thing else and carried to the cars and then lay around till sunset. The long roll sounded and we were marched to the cars. Staid along side the truck till I was thougherly (sic) tired. The cars came up we got in 35 in each car. I got into one corner and made myself as comfortable as I could in car without seats. I went to farmhouse yesterday morning and got a good breakfast it was the first time I had sat in a chair since we left New Haven. Our baggage is just coming onto the ground. I am feeling firstrate but have bought nearly every thing I have had since we came to F City. It takes about to days to our baggage and stores every time we move so that if we do not buy we have short

3.

rations. This time stores got here almost a quick as we. I think I have not said anything about our officers. I think our Co. understands what he is about, but is not afraid to express him self when things don't go right. Col Wooster is a favorite with every one, I think, and our Co-officers are generally liked, Capt. in particular. I will not finish this until night perhaps I may have

something you would like to know. Evening. We have made tents of our blankets and things look as if we might stay here a few days. There is a good spring with an abundance of water about forty rods from camp. Some of the Co. men got into a disgraceful scrape and were court-martial. I think lost one month pay. I am told that it was on this account that we were brought here. We had a good name before. I will tell as well 4. as I can from what I know. There is a farmer who had taken the oath of allegiance but some of the men fancied he did not like union soldiers and thought it would be fun to visit him at night. I think 20 of them left with loaded muskets. As soon as the Capt.<sup>9</sup> found it out, he sent the rest of his Co. after them. The last party got there in time stop the mischief that might have been done except insult. The men were marched back and kept in the open air till morning. Then the whole Reg. were formed in a hollow square the rowdies inside. Two non commissioned officers were reduce to the rank of privates and all were ordered to be court-martialed. This is all I know except they were walked up to the Col tent bare headed one by one. I saw a man today that was in the battle of Sharpsburg. He said that the rebels fired a kit of blacksmiths tools, hammers and all, and even shot there bayonets. I have written this lying flat on the ground the wind

5.

swailing (sic) the light so that I can hardly see. I will finish this to morrow if I can. Good Night. Oct We are directed pick up the stones and rubbish clear a piece of ground for drill ground and sweep the streets with bruch brooms. But the wind blows the dust into our cook stand so we are waiting for dinner. We are lying at the foot of the mountains where the of Harpers Ferry. Charlie Goodwin went on to the top yester -day. He said there were a few boddies that were not buried when one was found it was burned. He found a gun barrel and said it was well worth climb -ing for I am going up as soon as I can leave. The mail has just come and brought me two letters. Charlie Russell has just thrown into the tent. We have not had

6.

any mail since Sunday. I shant write any more till I have read them. I have read my letters, one from you, the other Hannah I thank you for your letter and sister to. When I can I shall send a few lines about twice week. I got your package? last Sunday night. The tea has come safely and very exceptable to. I think there is

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<sup>9</sup> “Capt” refers to Captain Timothy Guilford.

some doubt whether things sent come very direct but we shall keep a sharp lookout for them. I should like to how the potatoes are corn, every thing else we have. Tell Emma I have read what she sent and Howard also. The steel plates are all most all thrown away. I think it was yesterday I saw one vest offered for 2 dollars, no one took. Please not be ever anxious about me. If I am sick you will know it, if I am hungry I can buy cake and pie sometimes bread. We had a fried cracker and slice of pork for dinner. We missed the beans for some reason. I do not kow (sic) what. S & I bought pie and make a good dinner

**Letter Number 7 written by Titus Moss on 6 October 1862**

From an envelope addressed to Mrs. Titus Moss, West Cheshire, Conn. and marked 7<sup>th</sup> Carries 2nd

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 62

Dear Carrie,

It is Sunday Again we have had our guns inspected and been to church and has our dinners some of the men have gone up the mountain others are amusing themselves some one way some another. Mr. Fenton is asleep and I am flat on my back because there is not room to sit up in out tent. I will tell you how our tents are made. One rustic blanket is supported on four pins about two feet long then one on each sideing to the ground tied to pegs driven into the ground. There is five of us together this leaves two blankets one for each end to keep out the rain when it comes. It has rained since we were at Phil – enough to lay in the dust. Our tents would make a very good playhouse for Howard and Emma. When you write tell Howard I want him to tell what he does to help along at home, and Emma to, tell them I think of them every day, kiss them every night for me. Tell Howard there are more big wagons with four mules or horses here then could stand between our house and church. Above all be sure that he says his prayers at night. I was sorry to hear that Elba Payne is sick I hope she is better by this time as she was alive when Jennett wrote. J.A. Peck told me that Mrs. H. Peck was dead. I hope mother is well by this time. I do not think it worth while to send thing us at present for the cars are so busy transporting soldiers and provisions and we are changed so often. Perhaps we may be stationed at some place and then things would be likely to get to us. You ask how I got my letters. Well the letters all go Washington and then are sorted and the letters for each reg. are put in a bag and sent to the proper direction. The mail for each Co. is sent to its Capt tent. Our tents are always stretched in a line in front of the Capt's so it is no trouble to get them. There has been no mail for six days, until yesterday. Perhaps you would like to know about the church I spoke of. Well we go in two ranks I mean two and two and gather around the Flag tent siting on the ground the services are short but very interesting to me they last about half an hour. For my part I should like it if they were an hour long. The box has come that we sent from Arlington and the boys are getting their bundles and I must stop and get mine. I have got my bundle and found all right it is a week tomor- row since we left Arlington we

left so sudden I did not change my cloths. I expected chang the first of the week when I would get a chance to wash I beleave every one was in the same fix. Sunday is the day a great many take for washing but I shall try to find time some other day. The greatest trouble is water there is no brook I can get into and no tub that I kind of but think I can get a pail of the cook. Please give me an account of every thing. Little things that you think are not worth written I should read with the greatest pleasure. How much did the heifer weigh. How does Bill look, and how all the work goes on. I was very sorry to that you were not well and wish you to be very careful and try to get cured. If you would keep a sort of journal and write a little every night or when you have time it would be very interesting to me.

From your affectionate Guardian  
Titus Moss

This is a post script that he wrote on top of the first page.

I forgot to name any place and I think it is the b-day of the month. We are near Harpers Ferry I think it best to direct letters to Washington then they will come to our reg where ever it is.

**Letter Number 8 written by Titus Moss on 8 October 1862**

From an envelope addressed to Mrs. Titus Moss, West Cheshire, Conn. and marked 8<sup>th</sup>

Camp near Harpers Ferry Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 62

My Dear Wife

There is a few minutes before the drum beats for drill and feeling a strong desire to hear from you.

I was broke off rather quicker than I expected, our Co. was sent out on picket duty about four miles from camp we got off track and went some distance out of the way before we discovered the mistake and then had to hurry to make up time. The sun was very hot and my cloths were fairly well saturated with perspiration. I was not very well in the morning and when we got to our journey's end felt pretty near used up. We cam acrost some men that had been outon a scout from our camp so I ask to come back to camp this is

2 first time that I have given out I had strong signs of dysentery had to stop several times by the way. We came back leasurely and before I got back felt quite comfortable I looked over my medicen and took what I thought was best. After resting a little while I eat a good dinner which was better than usual. By the middle of the afternoon felt about as usual. I will tell the circumnstances just as they are. Co. A was ordered to report to Gen Hanes quarters at halfpast eight there was no time to loos we hurried off a quickly as possible supposing we were coming back again but in the place of that we were sent the other way. We had a few canteens with us but noth ing to eat the General said we would be releaved at four Oclock. Capt said he thought we could stand it till then so we went on. But when we got there we made up our minds that we should not get back until morning. I had come back and got dinner, and thought I would try to get some to the boys. There were ten or

3

twelve left in camp for a guard. Five are detailed every day from each Co. to guard the camp the next day those are free from duty until dress parade which is just at night. I went to the Co. that we releaved which was the Hamden Co. Lieyt D said they would not get back so I went to the Col tent and ask to go with rations, telling him how it was. He used hard words towards Capt. G and said he

told him to take rations for twenty four hours. However I got the pass. He telling me to tell Capt. G he hoped he would starve. I Suppose he will never think of it again. One the while I do not like Col. R as a man, but suppose he will show himself to be an able military man. Please do not let what I have said about Col. R spread about – . I got four stout fellows to go with me with a leg basket of meat and hard bread reached our men about five O'clock staid about 1 hour when a compa

4 ny of men halted and said we were releaved Lieut B sent out for the men that were out on duty they were scattered two miles, as soon as I found they were come back, I hurried back so they could have some tea I think it was about eight when themen got into camp the tea was ready and plenty of soup that was prepared for breakfast. I suppose you would like to know what duty our men were doing. Every person is ed that cannot give a good account of himself. All stragglng soldiers are it is of no use to go out side the camp with out a pass. The roads here are lanes and a lot wider than the farm but they are traveled by hundreds or army wagons with four or six horses or mules. We are lying on Maryland Hights Between ridges of mountains Burnside's division crossed the Mountain Tuesday and encamp A little above us. His batteries and

5 cavalry passed our camp the infant ry crossed farther up. I passed his camp on the road to our men his tents stretch two or three mioles. It is a rumor in camp that McClenland has changed his quarters to Harpers Ferry and that his men are stretched in the opposite direction. What their plans are I haven't the least idea but it look as if they were puting men in here because they are hid from view by the mountains. Gen Kane is brother to the Arctic explorer, he is very small in stature but a big man other ways. Some of our boys saw Burnside yesterday but I did not. It is very hot in middle of the day the sweat drops from my face while I am writing. Please tell Julius his letter was Gladly received he spoke of writing Small things if it were not to muck Trouble I should like a journal of all

6 the small things as well as big ones we get are read with care I know Julius has not much time but if he would write a little when he has time and send when he gets enough for an envelope we shall be interested in the very smallest items It is almost time for drill. Please remember me to all friends tell Howard I should lik to know how Skip gets along kiss Emma and H for me. I notice a direction stuck up by the mail bag

The twelve Army Corps

Gen Williams

Commanding

If you are a mind to you can add this I dout if it makes any difference, don't forget Co. A some of the letters get into the bundles for other companies but the letter tells where they blong write as often as you can. From your loving husband

Titus Moss

7 Thursday evening. I have got your letter mailed Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> you ask some questions. As to the pig I think it may be policy to sell one for two reasons one is it will not be as much to prepare food and I think the corn will be wanted for Bill. My uncle is so near will that I do not think any thing about it. Frank stands it first rate I judge from looks, I think S is a little thiner now than he was in N.H. I weigh 149 lbs the other morning so I should think not I fellaway much. You wished to know wether I should enlist or if I was sorry that I had enlisted I was thinking it over a day or two ago and came to the conclusion that if the circumstances were the same I should try it again. I have not given up the idea of coming home not by any means. God grant that there may never be cause for another war in this world. I trust that this may be

8 speedily brough to a close you cannot imagine how worn dirty and raged some of Burnside men are. Take care of your self and and family and let things out go before hurting yourselves I thank you and every one else for their prayers for no one needs help and protection from on high more than the soldier. Our tents are so low we cannot sit up erect and it is hard to write as we have to lay down I try it sometimes on my back and sometimes lay my papers on the ground. Don't borrow trouble if anything is the matter you shall know it. May a kind proverdance guide Us safely and me we speedily Be united around our hearth

Titus Moss

**Letter Number 11 written by Titus Moss on 15 October 1862**

Camp near Harpers Ferry Oct. 15

My Dear Wife

A part of The good things from Cheshire have arrived camp this morning. I got possession of the old satchel at noon, the rats had examined it on on the road only a little crust of the bread was left the cakes were in very good condition, only broken in rather small pieces. I think the butter was as good as it was when it was put in the box. I have given several of the boys that were not well and some that are a share. The cans are come and in good order. I have open the peaches they're firstrate I shared them same as the butter. I have not tasted butter but twice since we left New Haven and that was not worthy of the name. One bbl, one half bbl and two or three small boxes are come the rest are in Frederick City we expect them in a day or two. I do not know how the things were except those

Moss letter #11

2 in the satchel one of the apples was all rotten in the satchel the others about half, I did not see many of those in the barrel. I think some of the things were damaged. The men in our tent had one dinner without eating Pilot Bread with worms in it. The bread we have had since we left Arlington is same that McClelland had down in the Ismus last winter it is not uncommon to find worms  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length. I judge from the marks on the boxes. I am afraid you will think that I am sick of or wish to find fault with the fare, this is not the case if the Commissary does as well as he can I will find no fault. Sometimes I think he furnishes short rations to save money in his own pocket that does not suit first rate. Oct. 16 There is heavy and frequent firing this morning in a westerly direction it appears to be about ten miles distant. A man just of from the mountain says Sumners Corps move at three O'clock this morning. I suppose it is them that are

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3 engaged. A reg. of Burnside's cavalry passed our camp last night. I am getting used to camp life now. At first my body ached in the morning and did not feel levelly but if it is necessary to run I can run and know what to do when an order is given. Our drillmaster at noncommission officers drill gives us some praise. Samuel saw he had gained three pounds in weight. I thought he

had grown thin. All our tent mates are quite well. There were four of our Co. left at Washington, one has joined us, the others I have never heard from. There are a few on the sick list here but more are dangerously ill. My watch goes firstrate and is a great deal of company for me. It saves me a great deal of trouble from asking the time, we are obliged to be on hand in time or be reported for negligence. I should not like to give up my portfolio very cheap either. I will give you a list of the duties I have to take part in. Reveille at 5 ½ A.M. This is roll call equipped for action Squad Drill 6 to 7, Breakfast 7 Squad

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4 Drill 8 ½ to 10 ½. Co. Drill 10 ½ to 11 ½ Dinner 12. Officers 1 ¼ to 2 ½. Battalion Drill 3 ½ to 4 ½, Dress PARADE AT 5, Supper at 6 Roll call at 8 ½ with gun and other equipment on. No more until afternoon. Then eat my dinner of beans and will write a few lines before one o'clock. There was a bbl of flour left for each Co. yesterday, we had some biscuit for dinner today and fried cakes yesterday. I have not heard how Skip gets along yet and I want to know all about the steer and Bill. There are three black children that live close by the camp. I see them almost every day driving cows one just size one a little larger and smaller should think they had about as much trouble as a drove of nice pigs, with plenty of milk. Give both the children a big kiss for me and if it convenient to have their picture taken on cards and sent some time I should think as much as any father of them. The cannonading I spoke of did not last only about an hour or so. The two papers came in good time, the last letters have been on the road three days. My love to all my own family and all other friends. I wrote to have direction changed a little but it is just as well as it is.

Your affectionate Husband

Titus Mofs

**Letter Number 12 written by Titus Moss on 16 October 1862**

Camp near Harpers Ferry Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 62

My Dear Wife

Your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> came to hand last night and one from Sist Halse, I had a pleasant evening read-ing then and looking over your old ones. I have written a few lines to her with S they are poor pay for her good letter. I wish you would thank her for some tea she sent for I forgot it. She wished to know about my ankle that is not quite healed but does not trouble me any. I found a part of a sheet in an old envelope that I had never found it was written the last of Sept. You spoke of sending papers and ask if we had got them. Every thing seems to come direct it takes three days for letter to come. There is no mail to night do not know the cause, If I were in your pace I should

2. try not to let the afare (sic) of the steers trouble me. There were more things come today I did not see them until the bbls and box were opened there was a bottle of catsup for S. I saw a few apples that I thought came from home and made sure of one and gave Frank half of that. There was a keg of pickles that will divided in the company. I think I did not send word about my boots when you ask. The government is furnishing shoes for the soldiers and I like them so far better than boots. I am very glad to hear that you are so well for you must have to work very hard indeed. I hope to hear soon that Carrie is better, I have plenty of clothes our lineal blankets are a little heavyer but a great deal war- mer at night. How many debts did you have money to pay. How much did the heifer come to and how many potatoes did you have to sell. I don't know but I have ask about the potatoes

3. before. I have written so often and am so poor a hand at letter writing that I cant think of any thing to write that will interest you. Our guard runs around about four acors of ground and I have not been outside but two or three times since we came here. We do the same thing over day after day so that I have nothing in that line to write. It is almost time for the drum to beat for roll call. Good Night. Oct 17 It is Saturday morning pleasant but cool. We have ni drill today but wabs and pol-ish our guns for tomorrow and any thing else that needs doing. We are going to build an oven and try our luck at baking. We had a minute pudding for breakfast. It was more like past than eny thing else. Samuel's honey made it go very well. The sweetening we get is scant, but our food has been better

for a few days than it has been some of the time. Our position in the regiment has been changed by order of the

4. Col. No reason was assigned and we have not the least idea of the cause. I think there are some officers that are trying to curry favors from Col. Ross for self-ish purposes. I will not go on in this way any more but wait a day or two for something to write. May the God of heaven protect and give you wisdom and health and enable you to guide your family right is the daily prayer of your affectionate husband.

Titus Moss

P.S. I remember the children every day. Give my love to all friends. I shall write again in a day or two whether interesting or not.

Titus

**Letter Number 13 written by Titus Moss on 19 October 1862**

Camp Near Harpers Ferry Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 62

My Dear Wife

Your letter of the 13 and 14 came last night and I was very glad indeed to get it as I always am. The mail gets into the camp while we are on dress parade. The first things after we are dismissed is to see if there are any letters. The evenings are getting quite long and my thoughts always turn howeward at night and I can not well tell the pleasure of a letter to read during the evening. We are enjoy- ing usual health in out tent. I will get back one day. Saturday we had to wash. I washed one pr stockings, towel, shirt, wrapper and they look very well to for the accomo- dations. It took me two or three hours to do it and as long to clean my gun for inspection of Sunday. The street to clean making a very buisy (sic) day. The oven I spoke of did not get built.

2, Sunday 4 oclock. We had quite a time at inspection we stood nearly three hours almost motionless. When we were dismissed I found Walter Ives at our tent. We spent a little time at our tent and then took him to the tent of the officers of the Southington Co. Before he left we treated him with some of the good things you sent. He is not mo- re than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from us. His regt is reduced to 350 men. It was 1000. He saud there had been no officers in his Co. of late but himself, one sergeant and two corporals. There is no doubt but that he has seen service. If I can get a pass I shall go and see him tomorrow. He is not sure of staying a day where he is. You ask if I had seen Levi. I saw him once at Arlington and have not seen him since his regt left there be fore we did. I think that I said in a letter from Arlington that S and I had seen him. It was by accident that I found him. I am glad the afare that trouble you is

3. satisfactory. I conclude you have written to Joel Moss. I am glad to hear from him and know that I ought to write to him. I cannot take any advantage of the evenings and nearly all of the spare time I have I use in writing to you. Please your own judgement in regard to Howard's going to school. If the circum stances were not just as they are I should say at once stay at home. Keep a good look out for Carrie and tell her from me to be very careful of her health. I

have not seen the letter you said she had comanened (sic) for me. I shall look for it tomorrow. Let me know how Julius and Joseph made out coon hunting. I don't think it would take long to guess how many they got. Please to tell father that I have a disposition to help him and hope yet to be a blessing to him and my own family. I am or try to be thankful to kind friends and neighbors for the favors they show you. Good Night Look on this little scrap next it is dirty for I had it in pocket.

4. "scrap of paper" Oct 20 Camp near Harpers Ferry My Dear Wife. I am doing guard duty to day and had this scrap of paper in my pocket and thought I would write a few lines when I had leisure. It was quite cold this morning. The wind blew very hard and made us think of winter and made our tents whip about like fun. I begin to think the Col. expects to winter us in our present camp that a part of the army is going forward, the remainder stay to guard Harpers Ferry and the valley between the mountains near. A fatigue party is cutting timber for cabins. It does not seem to me they would be building huts on the scale marked out if they were going to leave in a few days. As soon as I think it is certain I shall send home for my boots and vest and a cap, a sort of skating cap to wear nights. I am quite content to stay where I am if the war is drove on vigorously. I am comparative-ly happy but want the war pushed on as fast as it can be. I am very thankful that I am content. I have not been home sick the leats bit yet. I shall try to get a pass tomorrow. I did not know that I was detailed for guard when I said that. I meant to get a pass today Oct. 21 We have not got the pass yet but expect it tomorrow. I did not care to go today as I did not get off from guard till ½ past 1 O'clock. I did not lay down last night nor scarcely sit. am somewhat disgusted with the manner the military movements are carried on. For example, the guard is three divisions to releave each other every two hours. The men are not allow-ed to leave the place where the guard tent was (the wind has blown it down) during the four hours they are off duty except to meals.

"Scrap of Paper", continued

No matter how tired or sleepy they are they must jump up if a field officer comes along night or day to present arms to him while he passes. The new guard is formed at nine o'clock and gets ready to clear the old one at 10 O'clock. The first releaf gets off the last time

at six O'clock in the morning but have to wait four hours for the new guard purpose to salute officers of rank

5. if any come along. These ceremonies were on the men with a good many others. We are obliged to keep on our belt box canteen and haversack over 24 hours when on guard all together it is quite a load to carry so long. I believe that if all the leading men in the government had the fore and pray of privates the war would be ended in a short time. Mr. Samuel Hitchcock and Mr. Anart ? are here. I was very much surprised to see them. When I have finished this I am going to find them and find out how matters are moving in Ches. The hut business is going on quite briskly they are to be like the roof of a building set on the ground. The fire is in the outside a flue running through under the ground a chimney on the outside at the other side. The hut is 20 feet long there are to be 60 of them. I got yours and Carries letters last night. Shall answer them the first opportunity. May the blessing of heaven be with us and keep and direct us where ever we go. From your loving husband Titus Moss

**Letter Number 14 written by Titus Moss on 22 October 1862**

Camp Near Sandy Hook O 22th 62

My Dear Wife

You will see that I have dated my letter different than usual. We are on our old ground but Sandy Hook is nearer than Harpers Ferry. Our tent is torn down to make room for our new houses and Frank and I are lying under our rubber blankets in one of them that is partly done. We can make them very comfortable by stopping the cracks with mud and put-ing a quantity of dirt on top. There will be room to put up a shelf in center and stand erect besides. This I shall prize for it is not convenient for a stif jointed man like me to go into a wood chucks hole. The huts are 20 by 16 feet and it is quite a job to build 50 of them. The one we intend to occupy will be done tomorrow only the convenient

2. I mean the improvements we can make inside. I do not know who all of our room mates are. Mr. Keler spok to me and others there will be 18 to a hut, and I hope that we shall not be moved from here if it is not necessary till we move towards home. God grant that may be in a short time, the shorter the better to suit me. Only I want the war done with first. Samuel is on guard today. That duty comes rather often now there are so many detailed for work. You need not look for my poutch for I shall keep it hung to my neck while I am well. I am glad to here that Edwin Pond is so pleasantly situated. I have not been into a house but one since we left New Haven not sit in a chair only to one meal. Our bedsted is ground with a little straw, not enough for a dog's bed but for five men. I think he must make a good deal out of a little or else the soldiers near Alexandra have better accommodations than they do

3. near Sandy Hook. I hope Dr. medicine will have a good effect on Carrie. If she was well she would help you much more than she can now. You have thought as I have about Lottie's mother. It has seemed to me that she would get well again, but I am almost afraid to hear. It seems pleasant to me that I staid with you nights as you would be company on for the other. I earnestly hope her mother will soon be well so that she can come back again. Does Lauren find market for the potatoes readaly. What does he think about the cabbage is much trouble to sell them. It seems to me it would better to sell one pig soon if you have not. You can advise with friends at home. I hope Mr. Moss will have plenty of work for the steers and will use them so that they may partly pay for their keeping. I don't ever expect to pay him for all he is doing me and

family but if I am spared to get home well I shall try to do what good I can. I am very thankful to all friends and neighbors for the favors

4. you receive from them. The papers you s come in due time. Messrs Hitchcock & Martin left here this morning. If Julius or Mr. Moss call with you on Mr. Hitchcock he would tell more than I could write in a long time. I do not go outside our gu?? any hardly only three times since we have been here with to day we are on Elk mount on picit (picket) duty. Our camp is at the foot of it. There (??)(??) companies streched for some distance along. The top six scouts are out with instructions not to come in till nine Oclock tomorrow. If things are quiet we shall be releave tomorrow noon. The outside picets (pickets) are instructed to climb a tree atshort inter- vals where a good view can be obtained. Where I am posted it is small wood and thickso that one can not see but a little way. There are ten or twelve of us posted within hailing distance. You may know that my hands are dirty by my paper. The truth is that it is hard to get out of the dirt any time. Now I am in the woods there is no dust here and no water, either less than two miles except in our canteens. We had pork rosted in the fire with crackers for dinner. We eat it with

5. as good a relish as the best beefsteak well seasoned. Oct 24 I am posted with a small squad of men a little way from the others. I have just finished my breakfast of pork and crackers. We expect to go back to camp in the afternoon. There has nothing of importance oc-cured through the night. Some of had to go back an forth three or four times to see that every thing was all right. It is a hard road to travel on a dark night only a sort of cow path and very rough so that there is constant danger of getting a fall. I shall finish this to night if nothing presents. Evening. We got into camp about 3 Oclock and eat dinner in a hurry to get ready for a brigade inspection. Did not get through until dusk. When we came in I found Capt Ives had been down to see us and said they had marching orders on Monday. He did not know where they were going. I have had two or three days set to go and see him but have not made it out yet, I have

6. ask for one tomorrow. It depends on the pleasure of the General about passes. Samuel has a letter from Le to night and one for both of us from Hannah and one from you for me which I shall answer the first chance. If you will make me a vest and knit me a cap to sleep in and send them with my boots. I was expecting to send in this letter to have you send them in a box but if there is a chance to

send them in the care of some one I think it would be better. I am in no hurry for them. Please kiss the children for me and tell Emma that papa will come as quick as he can. May a kind providance guide and direct in safety and return me at no distant day home to my family. I shall answer your letter as soon as I can. Give my love to all friend and keep a good lot for yourself and children.

From your loving husband

Titus Moss

Scrap of paper with this letter

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 62 My dear Jennett

I finished a letter last night but it is not sealed and this morning we are head and heels getting ready to march. We maygo and may not. I shall let you know the first opportunity. We are to be ready at nine Oclock

Your husband

**Letter Number 15 written by Titus Moss on 25 October 1862**

Oct. 25 Camp near Sandy Hook

My Dear Wife

We are in our old quarters yet, have been ready to march at short notice all day and I think we may stay here a while. Yet there has evidently been a movement some where but what it is I do not know. I will try to answer your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> will look it over and answer it as I go along. What luck do you have when you go to the blacksmith do you have any trouble in turning around (ever?) I thank Mr. & Mrs. B for their kind wishes. I like to have Emma remember me but am sorry to have her worry on my account. I have never dreamed of being at home but have once or twice of being in the neighborhood one night. I thought I was near Mr. Woodings with Emma in my arms. I should dearly love to give her one good hug and kiss. Hannah wishes to know if we got her letters dated the 9 & 13

2. of Oct. We did and answered them. Ours were poor pay for her good ones. I conclude that Mr. Jarvis people will have to give up having a girl unless they get some one besides E.B. We got up on Sunday the same time as any other day. The morning is occupied in bright- ing up our guns. It is quite a job to keep them so as to satisfy the big officers. Nearly all of the forenoon is taken up with the insp- ection. Make it seem any thing but like Sunday. You wished to know about the Chaplain. I like him very much as a preacher but I don't think he is much of a talker. I spoke to him twice thinking of getting into conversation with him. He did not incline to talk just answered my questions, and I have not had any opportunity. I mean he has not come to where I am. If he came among the men when they were off from duty and talk with them he would be liked by them a great deal better. I wrote as soon as we got these things that were sent and conclude that you did not get the letter. The cans and butter

3. firstrate, the cakes were badly crum-bled. The rats had eaten the bread all but two or three crusts. I am glad to hear that the singing is good yet. When I heard about draft I thought our church would have to go without male singers unless someone was raseid up for the occasion. I hope Emerelt is not going to be sick and that Lottie's mother will continue to improve very fast so that I can come back and stay with you. I have got your letter of the 21 and see that you think you had not better come here. I think it is a wise conclusion for the accomodations for ladies is not here. I should dearly like to see you but think it would not be wise for you to

come. I hope that some of the men of C will come and make a visit when they can. I wrote in the last letter that I sent you for a few things and will mention them again so that if that did not go to Ches you would know what to send. Boots, vest & cap to sleep in. My clothes are in tolerable

3. condition. You need not worry about my clothes. If we stay in this region a good vest will be very comfortable. I have 7 dollars with me now. That will last some time yet. I have spent more than I expected to but the most of the time our rations have been short and not very good. If we have meat without anything but hard crackers it does not make very good variety and the temptation is strong if there is cake and pies for sale. We have had two bbl of flour that lasted four or five days. Henry made some pancakes that were very good but it is quite a job to fry enough for 90 men that are hungry. I shall not send any thing home, or rather

I keep what I have got as long as I can. Tell Emma that read the word she sent and hope she will go to church a good many times and not cry like the little girl she say??. Little girls are very scarce where I have been about here. Tell Howard he must grow as fast as he can and help mo ther all he can. The best way is to be good. Yesterday was Sunday and the most unlike Sunday of any I ever past. We expected to march all dat Saturday until Sunday morning which was cloudy. The inspection did not last long and we set to work to make our house a tight as we could.

5. It began to rain a little before noon and I washed my hands and began to write. Had got one solitary word written when we ordered to get ready to march. Get ready as quickly as possible and waited until dark. It was very wet and muddy. The Capt. still thought we should march before morning but no orders came and we are still here. It was as rough a night to be out as I ever saw. At this season of theyear the wind blew a gale driving the rain to the skin of the men on guard. It is clear to day but the wind is blowing very hard and cold. I suppose we may go at any hour as the order has not been countermanded that I know of. If we stay here till tomorrow I shall begin to answer your last letter. I want you to write whether you here from me or not. If we should move from here it may not be convenient to write for a few days. Some of the time I do not write more than three or four lines without having to stop for something.

6. You must put in what I have left out. Please not worry about me for I am quite well and content. Frank and Samuel are well also I have no doubt but I shall come home and that God will direct all things for the best. Give my love to all friends. Keep a liberal share for your self and children. From your loving husband

Titus Moss

**Letter Number 19 written by Titus Moss on 8 November 1862**

Saturday Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. 62  
Camp near Keys Ford, Va.

My Dear Wife,

Mr. Moss & Mr. Beedles came into camp yesterday morning but did not stay but a little while (Mr. Beedles staid all day) went back to day to get the things he brought with him up to the camp. This morning he came back with Mr. Spencer. They stayed at house of the man whose premises our camp is on. Mr. Moss expected the things by nine this morning but they did not come. Our Reg't is scattered along the river to see that the rebels do not cross. There are only two companies in our camp. Mr. Moss went over to headquarters and has gone from there to the ferry with a team they got from the old farmers. I think they will have a rough ride in an old two horse wagon. The driver rides one of the horses and

the roads are not Conn. roads by a long ways. Mr. Moss brought his valise with him and has distributed the things that were in it for

2. the boys. Our caps are just what we want to sleep in. I cannot keep my cap on my head at night and when we sleep in the air my head is cold unless there is something on it and these are what we want. There was three inches of snow fell yesterday. To day it is very pleasant indeed and the snow is fast disappearing. I forgot my vest that is just what I want also, it fits first rate and feels warm and good. It is between two and three in the afternoon and I am looking for the team now. I shall finish this tomorrow if nothing happens. Lieut. Bassett with a small party has been down to the river and had some conversation with the rebel pickets. I have not seen him but L said that they wanted to come to the river to water their horses. Some of our boys went across and had two or three shots fired at them. One passed near W.C. Dolittle another close to Chauncey Hall. Our men went over on there side and they came back with them. They wanted the privilege to come to river in safety and would let us do the

3. same. Mr. C. Hall is down here to but Co. H is with the rest of Reg't and Frank Hall is in that company. Nov. 9 I will answer two or three questions that you ask before I forget them, The paper and contents came all strait and the envelopes to. I have enough for the present. I am glad that I have a wife so thoughtful, for my stock was running low of all the articles for letter writing. I have lent

some those with what I now have will last some time. I will give a short sketch of Saturday night and Sunday. Mr. Moss came with trunks about six and we had marching orders in fifteen minutes. We did not know where we were going but thought we had better eat some of the things and take some and give some away. We took the chickens and Franks butter a little cheese and cake. Mr. Moss kept the rest and said he should find us if he could consistently and bring the trunk and bbl. We started for headquarters and went over the rocks and through mud and reached the camp and was dismissed. At ten O'clock were ordered to be ready at a moments notice to fall in line as

4. there was some danger of an attack by rebel cavalry. The camp is in a piece of woods and some of the men that had left had made bush houses. We took possession of them and started a fire but were not allowed to make much

and none after twelve. We were not disturbed and after a little lunch we were ordered to pack for a march and started we did not know where. After a tiresome march of four or five hours we joined the rest of our brigade about two miles from Harpers Ferry. I was very glad indeed to see Mr. Moss and Beedle come. In an hour or two we had we gave them the best we had to eat and they staid till dusk and then went up to the ferry to see if the bbl had come and to get a place to stay over night. I have not seen them this morning. It is very this morning and the men are busy building huts for winter quarters. I think there is no mistake but we shall stay in the neighborhood this winter. I hear there is a

mail bag here this morning and I shall put this in. Mr. Moss can tell you about camp life much better than I can write. Please send me a paper occasionally. If the children sent the sugar that was in my vest pocket give them some sweet kisses to pay. I shall write as often as I can. From your affectionate husband. Titus Moss

Letter Number 20 written by Titus Moss on 12 November 1862

Wednesday N 12<sup>th</sup> 62

My Dear Wife

We are waiting for breakfast and I will try to write a few lines. Mr. Moss left last night and did not expect to come back again if he could make arrangements satisfactory to have the bbls brought up from the ferry. I don't believe anyone ever had as much trouble before and persevered like him. I don't think it pays the cost and trouble for sending unless it is something very necessary only small things that persons can bring that are coming. I do not mean that we do not feel grateful to our friends for the comforts they have taken so much pains to send to us. But I cannot find words to express my gratitude, so I will let it go by thanking all friends who feel an interest in us and Mr. A. Moss in particular. The things in the trunk got here in a great deal better

2. order than one could expect after being thrown and pitched about in the cars and then carried from Dan to Beersheba. The grapes that Julius sent were ruined and the cake was crumbled some but every thing else was as good as new. We open one of the cans last night and found some excellent peach sauce such as very few soldiers get. We shall use them sparingly unless we are going to move and then we shall carry what we can. I puled out some of Julius preserved cucumbers with a hooked stick for Messrs Moss and Dolittle and they were good to. I must go to work and finish this at some future time. Nov 13<sup>th</sup> It is a pleasant morning and we are all well as usual, we means Frank, Samuel, & myself. I have not seen L since last night. He was detailed with three others for Provost guard for four days. There is enough from other companies so that they are off duty ten hours at a time so it seems that it can not be very tedious. They are stationed on the outside of our brigade to stop all persons that have not got a pass. The bbls arrived yesterday afternoon in

3. good orderand were brought to the Capt. tent. The boys gathered around to see the contents. The apple bbl was opened last. The boys passed round and took one at a time until they were nearly gone. I thought best to keep some for the boys that were not on duty. If Mr. Moss had been here it would have pleased him to see the boys walk up for their share. I saved one for each of the Cols. and the Chaplain and took them to them. Mr. Sanford was sorting tracts he had just received from Boston and said that if I would

come in after tea he would have those for Company A ready. I was on hand for them at the proper time and they were ready . He gave me one copy of the mesinger and ten of the Christian banner for soldiers and sailers and a number of tracts. I scattered them as equally as I could among the men. All seemed ready to take them and some were really pleased. We have some huts in the works but they are not progressing very fast. Yesterday we were all busy fixin our huts for a rainstorm. I did rain some but not enough to wet us much. There bu little ambition to go on

4. with the log huts the timber that is right for them is used up and we have not got a quarter enough and we begin to think that we are not going to stay here long either. At any rate we are lying about as lazy as soldiers can be. I think soldiers are apt to get lazy as we have not had a drill since we left Mary land Heights. Samuel has come to stay with us to night says they have a good time when of from but it is mean business stopping every one that comes along to ask if they have got a pass. He said there were two men that came from Maine that were left behind by the Reg't sick at a house a little below our camp and the rebel cavalry came across them and rather than to be carried away with them they took the oath of allegiance to the C.S. of America. I washed my clothes to day and they look very well for clothes washed in cold water. It is as much to wash the draws as all the rest that I have. The boxes of the Benhams that Mr. Moss was to look after in W came today in very good shape. Nov 14 I shall try to them this morning but the mail does not seem to be very regular. I have not had a letter for a number of days. I shall look for one. As soon as Mr. Moss gets home he will tell more than I can write in a week. I shall write as often as I can but there is nothing new at present. Please remember me to all friends. The children in particular. Kiss them. Accept these miserable lines from you husband. Titus Moss.

**Letter Number 21 written by Titus Moss on 17 November 1862**

Loudon Valley Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 62

My Wife

I trust that this will be accept able without the dear when I tell you that I was think of home so strong that I forgot it. There is no particular news from here that I know of. It is a rainy day and I am sitting on my blanket in a bush house formed by placing poles one end on the ground the other on a stick supported by two trees high enough to stand erect in the front end. We have a stone fireplace in front and thatched it with pine boughs so that it does not leak very bad. 30 of our men are on picket duty and will have a wet time to night. We were roused last night about one oclock and ordered to pack for a march. Samuel was not here and F & I packed out things the best we could. F took the can of honey rolled it in his woolen blanket and strap it on his knapsack and I did the same with

2. one of the peach cans. We ate the last of the tomatoes this morning. The cheese we divided and took each a piece. The sugar ten cloves soup we stuffed in the haversacks. S things we left in the trunk. We made these preparations by the light of the fire and as quickly as possible and then sat on a log in front of the fire until we were drowsey and then lay down and sleep till morning. I have not heard any thing since of marching. S has got through with Provost duty and says that one of the Penn. men was shot through the leg last night by a man crawling on his knees. The man that was shot cawled out halt, the other fired his gun and ran instantly. I do not know how bad the wound is. I suppose it was this that roused our brigade. Nov 20 We are well this morning but have had two very busy days. I will try to give a short sketch of them. On the 18<sup>th</sup> 30 men were sent on to Louden Heights for picket and 20 to Elk mountain to work on the fortifications. Mr. Moss can give you some idea of the rout only we went up on the west side. The road that leads

3. up the west side turns to the left at the pont?? bridge and run along the side of the canal for ½ a mile and then turns up the mountain. Mr. Moss did not go up this side but he can judge the caracter of the road. Only it is three times as muddy now as it was when he was here. There are three batteries one above the other in progress when they are finished the region of Harpers Ferry, on these heights, will be a dangerous place for an enemy with a small force of men if they do their duty. These heights command the country for miles and the guns can pass compliments the distance of 4 or 5 miles. There has been three cloudy days with some rain

but I concluded that rainy weather and Sundays were alike in war. If there was work to do, there is small of whisky dealt out to the men that work twice a day so that some think it pays to get wet. Nov 19 Our whole reg't were ordered

up the mountain back of our camp to support a battery that has been there for a few days except a few for guard and those that were out on picket (I was one). We had toilsome march for a short one with our equipments blankets, food and water. The top of the mountain is bleak a place as I ever saw. The wood is

4. all burnt so that there is nothing but rocks and those small or looked so with the points up so that it is a craggy place for men or beast. We "slovd" for two hours in a heavy mist so thick we could not see only a few rods with a cold wind making it anything but pleasant for orders. By that time the other reg't had got away and we were permitted to go into the tents that were there for the accommodation of the men stationed there. Frank, myself, and four others chose one and relieved ourselves of our baggage and eat our dinner and took a view of the guns and horses (I think there were 76 horses) and then set to work make arrangements for the night. There were no comforts inside the tents but stones with a little dirt between them. Went to work to fix a fire place others for wood which had to be carried some distance up the hill. We had got enough for the night. The next thing was marching orders. The battery boys packed there things harness there

horses. We put our baggage on our backs took down all the tents and piled them up and came back to camp just at dark. I was very thankful to have a bush house to stay in with leaves and pine to lay on. In a rainy night we put our rubber on the outside so that our shelter was complete. I had a paper from you Monday and a letter from Sister H last night. L is writing to her while I am to you. Keep up good courage and write as often as you can. I have not had a letter from you I think I think near two weeks. I hope to get one to night. Kiss the children for me as usual and accept this from your unworthy Husband Titus Moss

**Letter Number 22 written by Titus Moss on 24 November 1862**

I have lost apart of those envelopes yo sent me. I do not know how or when. Send a few more, stamps I can get here.

Monday Evening Loudon, Veal. Nov 24 (Virginia)

My Dear Wife

There is a little time before dark and our wood and other preparations are made for the night, supper excepted and I will improve the time in writing a few lines to you hoping they may reach you. I have sent two letters a week from here but I have not much faith to think many of them have got as far as Cheshire. There is a great complaint from almost every that do not get there letters. The mail has come and brought me a welcome letter and one for Samuel, he is at outposts for a week, went this morning. I think I can send his letter to him by some of men that go out in the morning. This is a new arrangement to send men out for a week till the picket has only been out 24 hours. I understand these for a week are on duty at night and are relieved by men from camp during the day. S is real tough and stands a jaunt through

2. mud and water as well as the best as far as I can see. He has volunteered three times to go on extra trips and seems to like it first- rate. I have been on duty every time when there was call for us to volunteer for extra service. About 100 men went out a few nights ago in hopes to fall in with a few rebel cavalry but came back without any. They were in hopes to bring in a few horses. The night was dark and rainy and I thought of them every time I woke. It was supposed the news of their coming traveled faster than they did as it was impossible to pass a house without rousing two or three dogs. I said they use lights for signals. I think that if  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them had come and left the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  secreted in some place where they could see what was going on I think there discoveries would have been greater. There are a large number of men trouble with jaundice. I am afraid that Frank is going to take a turn with it. I like two of the doctors very much, all that I have seen that have been sick speak well of them. I hope I shall not know by experience. I have not missed a rollcall but once since I have been in camp

3. only when I have been on extra duty. The drum is beating for rollcall and I must stop. Good Night. Nov 25 Perhaps you would like to know why I missed one roll call. I had been on guard at headquarters and had no sleep for 24 hours. The next evening was rather sleepy and lay down telling theboys to wake me when the

drum beat but they forgot it and I did not wake till they were coming in. The rule is that if you do not get out without a good excuse you must go on guard the next day. There was not anything said about it in my case. I shall number the letters that I send home and you will know whether you get them all or not. I would like to know what luck L had with his cabbage trip that you spoke of some time ago and Julius with his load of cider and all the rest besides. Mr. Moss wished to know about the distribution of those apple cartage &c. I have written but if the letter did not reach you I will write again. I feel very grateful towards Mr. A. Moss for the great interest he has taken in my affairs and all the other neighbors to. If Lauren should like bill to use sometime

4. to use I wish him to take him for I am not in the least afraid of his hurting him. In fact I should like to accommodate every person on earth if I could consistently. The drum is beating for roll call this morning and I must stop. Evening Your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> has come tonight and I have read it three times. You can imagine the pleasure of a letter to peruse these long evenings. Our days work is done before dark except when we are on duty so that the evenings are quite long. There is one difficulty we have a piece of candle less than three inches long for a night so that we have to use some economy or be with a light. I bought two candles yesterday for eight cts and am using one of them to night. I have \$5 that Mr. Moss left with Capt. G to pay cartage on those bbls and he took three from me.. You will make it right with him. I wish he would take something towards the freight if not for his time and trouble. If you should have an opportunity to send by some one that is coming nine doz. Porters concave plates for shoes. Frank has some at fathers in chest and you can easily get rest at Depot and if you can get a few of that postage currency like what you sent me in a letter some time ago. That is the most convenient money one can have here. Perhaps Mr. Hotchkiss may come after a while. Don't be in a hurry for I am not. I sent a small paper to Howard yesterday if you get it I think he will like because it came from his father. I have heard that the

5. editor of the agriculturist has promise a map of VA part of Md or of the other southern states. I think that you would the map of Va for then I could show you just where we have had our camp and the places we have been in. I have got a pass to go to the Ferry this afternoon. I mean to keep thanksgiving here and am going to see what I can find that is a little extra to eat. Don't expect to get a large variety shall try to get a sparerib to roast in front of our fire just as I saw one in our old kitchen near 30 years ago. A few

potatoes and a small frying pan so that we can cook a little if we wish to. We have had soft bread two days and expect more today which we shall keep for tomorrow. We have a regular fireplace so that we roast a bit of meat if we can get it. I will let you know how our supper comes out in the next letter. Samuel will be here as his squad are ordered into camp for some cause or other. The jaundice is on the decrease and I hope that Frank will not be very sick with it. He seemed very comfortable last night and this morning.

6. For it is morning and I am writing by the light of a candle I bought. Keep up good courage for it is the opinion of all the privates as far as I know that the war will not last only a few months longer. I am buoyant with hope and as happy and content as anyone can be away from a loved home. Tell Emma to give mama a lot of kisses and Howard to be a good boy and help all he can. And Carrie I should like to be as chick as possible and careful of her health. I wish the Dr. to do all he can for her and seems to me she will be better before long. I have taken some pains to get acquainted with Mr. Sanford. Have had two or three talks with him and like him in his very much. Think he may go with me this afternoon. I expect to enjoy the walk very much, but for me one man by the name of Benham he sticks out like a bra??. Much love to all friends and acquaintances any non family in particular. I shall write in a day or two if nothing happens. From you loving husband.

Titus Moss

**Letter Number 23 written by Titus Moss on 27 November 1862**

Titus Moss 23<sup>rd</sup> letter

No. 2 Please give all my love to all friends and  
keep a good share for yourself and family

Titus

Loudon Valley Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 62

Dear Jennett

We have had a holiday today there has been no drill except dress parade (lately we have had a battalion drill 3 or 4 hours in a day) and cut a little timber to fix Capt. G tent. The logs are to be hewed on two sides and locked together so to raise it high enough for a man to stand erect on the out sides. The officers tents are like those they had in New Haven. The remainder of the time we have kept thanksgiving. I went to the ferry to see what I could find to eat. Mr. Sanford did not go. I saw a box go to his tent and conclude he did not think it necessary. I thought I would get a sp??ril. The first man I saw after crossing the bridge was coming from a slaughter and I ask for pork. He said he had not any and thought I could not find it there but said he could let me have

2. any piece of beef I wanted at ten cts per lb. I thought I look a little further but could not find so much as a chicken. Bought a small frying pan for 60 cts and went back to get the beef. Before I got it the meat wagon drove up with two pigs dressed that weight about 60 lbs. I told them to cut a quarter from one of them. It weight 16 lbs. I thought that to much and had them cut off a piece. I took the ham ten lbs at 10 cts 4 lbs beef and came back well satisfied. Frank undertook the job of roasting the meat. We hung it in front of the fire and I never saw a bit of meat better cooked. We had two kinds of potatoes. The common ones costonly 2.50 per bush. Bought 3 lb of flour to make gravy with bread and butter. We dimes the cost was .25cts for eight of us. Samuel is here tonight. He is out every other night. It is getting rather cool for the picket guard. Nights they have their blankets but one blanket is not much for those cool nights. They are not allowed to make a large fire. I think the corporals have the advantage of the private in being out nights. The drum

3. is beating no more tonight. Fryday Morning Frank is or seems well and has gone out with Samuel will in tomorrow noon. I think S is a good man for his job. There are three men from Southington here came down to bring a dinner to their boys. I understand they

set a table 50 feet long. One of them gave S an apple as nice a one as I ever saw. I wish we had had a battalion drill when Mr. Moss was here so that he could have seen the reg't together. Col. Ross has been to New York for several days and we have had Col W to command. I say give me Col. R before any lawyers for a drill master that I ever saw. Col R. has been al his days in the regular service where an officer never speaks to a private only to give a command. We are forbid going to an officers tent only on important business and the officers are subject to a courtmartial for associating with privates. This order was read on dress parade but did not seem to make much difference in our reg't. I think the turnips must have been good from the number of bush. and the is bringing a good price, I should think.

4. Edward Benham said he wished we had 4 lbs butter to spare him. If you have it or if some of the neighbors have it that is good as that you sent me and will write in your next letter if he can have it. If so his folks will come after it. There will be plenty of time for he does not expect his box until the last of Dec. How does tidy do this fall and the turkeys. I think you had better keep one of males if they are not killed. You spoke of Julius wishing bill to go to Southington. It is my wish that he should have him to use occasionally. If he wants him consult your own convenience first. I think Lauren has the best clame if he wants him. If Julius carries wod to the church from our lot I want him to take enough to pay him well for his trouble. Have heard anything about the money that is due the soldiers families yet. The boys are some of them quite impatient for pay day. There is very little money in the reg't

The six dollars that Mr. Moss left has done me some good and I have lent small sums to six of the boys. There is great faith through our brigade that something favorable will turn up in regard to the war. Do not expose your needlessly if the chores are not always done when it is bad weather. Tell Emma that think of her every day and will come home as soon as he can. I do not doubt but a kind providence will protect us and that I shall joyn you at no distant day. T Moss

**Letter Number 24 written by Titus Moss on 30 November 1862**

I have plenty of tea for the present. I had a paper not very long ago  
don't remember the time,  
Sunday Morning Nov 30 Loudon Valley

My Dear Wife

Your letter of the 23th came last night and with one for Frank from Sarah and Eunice. I did ask Frank about his letter for the hut was full last night. He and I are off for 24 hours this morning. I am quite disappointed about Carrie. Have expected to hear that she was better by every letter and sincerely wish it were in my power to bear a part of your burdens. I do not know what to advise but should like to have Dr. Rodman see her if you and the friends think it best. You can talk with them and Dr. William about it. Do not mind any expence that is necessary for her comfort or the restoration of her health. It is my earnest prayer that she may be patient and resigned in what ever condition it may please God to place her neither do I forget to pray that you may be endued with wisdom and judgement to guide your family aright. I have even dared to hope that I may get home

2. early in the spring. Indeed I have felt almost sure that I should go home in the spring. God grant that it may not be long before I may join an unbroken circle at home. If providence directs otherwise may we heartily say not my will O Lord but thine bedone. I think the letter was lost that you spoke of asking those questions in. I bid off Hannah's slip with the expectation that Father and his boys would pay it between us that is what was talked of last spring. L is gone or I should ask him about his share. I cannot tell just how Patrick's account was but feel sure we did not owe him and think he did not owe us much, do not get discouraged. I know you have a great deal of care but you remember the promise, as thy day so shall thy strength be. I will finish this after service. I have sent two letters to you in four days and numbered them so that you may know whether you get all or not. I have just heard a good sermon from the text of St. John 3.16. I like Mr. Sanford very much when I get where he is. I dislike to go to his tent because the Lieut. Col or Major is almost always there. I have been past his tent a good many times to see if he was alone. I do not feel

3. (extra two lines added to top of this page) when the officers are in, I do not think stay nights but it seems asif they make headquarters day time. at liberty to intrude. There seems to be very

few churchment in this reg't and I like talk over church matters. I wish Father would send me a Spirit of Mishion for I should read it with interest. Our books are few and my thoughts turn churchward. This is an unusual quiet sunday. Our inspection was only a company one and did not last long. Our camp is some distance from the road so there were no teams to disturb us by there jumbling noise. There are plenty of axes constantly going. Please ask Uncle L what he has done with his old oxen and what they have done the sawmill. This fall have so much wood they have carried from on the mountain. How do you like the stove. How doesthe pigs do or rather how much will they weigh when you butcher. I was afraid that our pork had taken hurt had it or not. The drum is beat for dress parade. It is evening again and I am seated on my blanket in front of the fire. We have a fireplace about the size of the one in our old kitchen. I do not quite like all of our family and the house is so full we have begun to build another.  
Henry Dolittle, E. Royce,

4. E.W. Benham and us three Mosses. We begun it on Saturday. Frank builds the chimney. The rest are getting stones and wood. We expect to be able to put up the most improved coal that you ever saw with the experience we have had. E. Benham I like very well but deliver me from the other two. I sent in my last letter to know if you could spare 4 lbs of butter or if you could get it from some one as good as that you sent me. So please write in your next letter and give the price. I repeated it in this for if one should be lost the other might go to you. I wish to say a word about Christmas. If carries health permits and you and the children are well do not fail to keep Christmas. You can think that I am having a good aa I shall if nothing happens and I do not have bad news from home. Howard must be just as kind to Carrie as he can and not make a nose when she feels bad and help bring in wood and any thing else he can do to help. Emma must be good girl. I should surely like to see these dear children and think I should before many months. I have thought of Carrie a great deal and expect every letter that she would be better and still hope so. Let me know just how she is as often as you can. Please remember me to all friends. I shall look for letters with some anxiety on Carries account. From your affectionate husband T. Moss

**Letter Number 25 written by Titus Moss on 13 December 1862**

No 4 Loudon Valley Wednesday Morning Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Jennett

I have got up a little earlier than usual so that I could send you a few lines by mail this morning. I am quite well. S has some cold. Frank is pretty well now. Samuel out to night went out yesterday morning and sent a letter back to camp for me to put into the office for his wife who is in Cheshire now, I suppose. I was taken by surprise last night about 7 o'clock to hear that a box had come into camp for me as it was wholly unexpected. I hasten down to the Sutter tent where the team slept and found it was even so I got mine and steered a short course to our tent and took off the top of the box and found a welcome letter which I read before proceeding further. Afterwards examined the box and found the contents mentioned in letter except the chicken pie which was soon handed in. Every thing was in best of shape we shall examine some of the things closer this morning. S&F received letters

2. from home Dec. 2<sup>th</sup>. Samuels was dated Oct. 29 I think from his wife another from Sister Hannah. A day or two later mine was Nov. 3. I think all the important in this you have ask in more recent letters. I shall be very glad if you will get a set of furs and wish you to get those that will be desirable when you are about it. I know nothing of the price but do not think that it policy to buy cheap things that are worn as much as furs are. I am glad you got your money from the town. I had heard that the select men did not like to pay it. I hope this is not so for there must be many that need it to make them comfortable. I think I can safely say that I have not received more than five papers from you. There is a daily paper brought into camp so that we can get some idea of what is going on in the line of the war. I forgot to number the last letter that I sent. It was number 3 and I think put in the office Dec. 1<sup>th</sup>. I should ask S if he expected pay anything towards Sisters rent but he is not here. The slip is in my name and if Father M do not pay a part you will have to pay it all. I think that if the collector calls

3. on you you had better pay it. I do not doubt but they will make it all right. We are unusually busy now making preparations for winter. Are drilling 4 hours a day and at work the rest. I will speak again of the box when I have time. I send these few lines because I thought that if Leottie got S. letter you would think that the box had not got here yet. No more this morning

From your affectionate husband Titus Moss

**Letter Number 26 written by Titus Moss on 6 December 1862**

Loudon Valley Dec 6 No. 5

My dear wife,

It is a wintry day here the ground is covered with snow about four inches in depth and the wind is blowing quite hard so that it really seems like winter. S & F have gone out this morning but they occupy the spring frost every day and have a cabin that is quite comfortable. I cooked their breakfast for them this morning. Every thing was covered with snow so that the cook was not like to have breakfast in time for the picket so I took some of the chicken pie and turkey with some meal and a little potato we had save of our yesterday dinner and warmed it in a small pan that I have so that they had a good breakfast to start on. I tell you we are living high for soldiers on the things you sent. They all came in a good condition as when they started. The bread in particular was as fresh as if it had been baked yesterday

2. and then we have soft bread a part of the time and I have learned to cook a pretty good meal from hard bread by frying it in a little grease and considerable water for they are thirsty things. They are very good especially if we a little pork to cook with them. There is one difficulty that is in our cabin. We have new cabin made of logs but space between the logs are not filled yet and the roof is not on. I think I spoke of building a hut in my last letter but were stopt because the Gen. wanted (system?). When we first came here we undertook to build after the Gen. plan but the timber was not right and enough of it to carry out his plan and we gave it up and most of the men built coal cabins. Now he says they must be built and Capt. G has detached ten men to build them. We have two ready for the roof and to the sides. We are not doing any thing today. The snow sifts in on my paper occasionally. I am glad that money has come from California. I had given up as lost. Should like to know how much it was and how it came. Have you heard from

3. brother George R since I came away. Do not fail to get your furs, and of all things take care of your health. Do not keep to late hours if you can avoid it. Did you get a small paper that I sent to Howard? Hows does the Sabbath school get along? What is going to be done at Christmas? I have often thought of your stove but never think to ask any think about it. I hope it does well. I shall look for a letter now until I get one. Hope Carrie will be better. I do not feel a bit like writing have some headaches today. I think I have not had any of it before since I left home. Dec. 7 I intended to have finished this yesterday but did feel like but am as well usual today. I had some symptoms of jaundice. Some of them are pains

in bones, head ache, a soreness in the breast, hard to take a long breath, sick at stomach at times. I have the medicine yet and with a blessing it has answered the place a Dr. two or three times. I have always been ready for duty and intend to be if I can by taking care of myself. I did not look in vane for a letter and the envelope and 50cts and one from Mr. A. Moss a messenger and three for

4. S. One was from Lottie, one from Hannah, one from Mrs. H. All together we had quite a stock. It is pleasing to know that we have kind friends and neighbors at home. I am glad indeed to hear that Carrie seems a little better and hope she may continue to improve till she is well. She must be very careful. Your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> came in the box all right. I sent a short letter the next morning after it came. I think there are some of all the things left yet we know totally well how to prize things sent to us by kind friends. I have not tried the draws but they look very nice indeed. I do not wish any thing in clothing line as I now have more than I can carry. If we should move from here my old draws are about as good as new and I can make them look very good by rubbing them with a vengeance. I washed 2 shirt 1 pr draws, 1 pr stockings towel and handkerchief for myself. 2 shirts, 2 pr stockings, 1 draws for S. Last week I had a kettle to warm the water. Our style of doing housework I hardly think suit you. We have no other table but the ground and it is often necessary to step over a dish of food for want of room to go around.

The following sentences are written at the top of the first page before the greeting –

This is a poor answer for your letter but I will try to do better next time. I am going to try to answer sisters letters and Mrs. H as soon as I can. F&S and myself are well and all writing. From Your Husband Titus Moss

Monday Morning Dec. 8 '62 I have a sheet full to send by the mail to day but do not feel that it is hardly worth sending and there is a little time before the other boys are up and I am improving it. We have had two prity cold days and this morning is a most beautiful one. The moon is shining bright and it seems not as cold. We intend to work at our cabin to day. Some of us. I am detached for guard duty to day and was yesterday but the guard was drawn in about camp all but four by the Gen. order and I was sent to my quarters and may be today. I think our camp would be a good subject for an artist a winter scene there is the greatest variety of style in our cabin you ever thought of. Trees standing, rather

scattered fires burning in several places, men dressed in overcoats busily employed in collecting wood and in

2. various other ways. Horses with saddles on mules and horses for the wagons, dogs. Perhaps you will wonder where the dogs come from. This is a great country for them and some of the men coax them to come with them when they come in from picket. All together it presents a lively scene. You ask me some time ago if I smoked and I think I forgot to answer you and will do so now. I have never seen any benefit from use of tobacco yet and never had the inclination or temptation to smoke either, and have often been thankful that I am not in the habit of it for it cost some of the boys a good deal of money and trouble to get it. Some of them have use tea & coffee in their pipes for the want of tobacco. I have answered some questions that Hannah ask for mother about sending a box for Christmas. I do not wish any tea or any other small sent things that I think of. I have nearly all the tea you sent me by Mr. Moss. I do not often make any now and think we drink too much for our good that the

3. cook makes. If someone is amiss to send one or two rather plain pies we should not object. One piece of your pieces of pie is worth more than a 20cts Va pie. E. Benham & H. Dolittle have each given me a piece they had sent from home. I don not think pays to send many things, butter is the most useful. The turkey and pie has made us a good many meals with what we get from the cooks. We never have but one thing from there and if we have some things we can have a variety. I have written this by the light of fire a part of it and if you can read it you will do well. May a kind providence restore Carrie to her usual health and preserve yours and the children.

From your affectionate husband  
Titus Moss

**Letter Number 27 written by Titus Moss on 18 December 1862**

Jennett Fairfax Station Dec. 18 62

My Dear Wife

I am trying to write a few lines by the light of the fire. Hoping to send it in the morning . Have been on the march seven days, six days forward and one on the back track. We went within 4 or 5 miles of Dumfries. I cannot see any good or use of the trip but some think it may be to cover the rear of Sigel army. We are in a pine forest waiting for orders. The country is very thinly inhabited on the route we took and you cannot imagine the damage to the country where an army goes. There are miles together where there is not a rail to be seen and a number places that were burned down. Gen Stuart the rebel cavalry mans house was once a splendid place. The fence in front is demolished and the place seemed to be a stopping place for the

2. trains as they pass along. I should think there were 4 or 5 horses and mules hitched to wagons and gun carriages standing in and around the yard. We have seen a little of Va. mud the west side of the woods near the notch of the rock is a very good specimen when the frost comes out in the spring. It is almost impossible to write by the light of the fire and if there is an opportunity to add a few lines by day light, I shall do so. I hope this will find you in good health as I am. The children also and Carrie health much improved. Plus give my thanks to the persons that sent those king letters to us. I do not see much chance for answering that at present. We are very much in hope that you heard we had moved on account of Christmas box we should have looked for if we had stayed at Loudon Valley. It would be of no use to send it now but we shall not mind if the war is drove on vigorously. It is the hope of the

3. end that keeps me in good spirits. Give my love to my father and mother. I had intended to send them a letter if we had not moved before now. I shall write as often as I can but if we keep on the move I cannot write as often as I should like. Neither can we get the mail often. My love to all friends and my family in particular.  
From your affectionate husband. Titus Moss.

Written on paper with a blue and red border and a thirteen star flag impressed at the top with a banner above with the motto "Union Forever". Not his normal paper.

**Letter Number 28 written by Titus Moss on 22 December 1862**

No. 7                      Fairfax Station Dec. 22

My Dear Wife

Samuel and I received each a letter last night dated the 16. I have two others also that are not answered. I mailed one for Hannah on Monday and should for you only it was so cold. I will send hers to you. If we had not move from A.F. I should tried to have with you a Christmas letter but I had no chance for it. I am very sorry to hear that Carrie is no better but do not altogether despair of her recovery. I think she inherits her mothers constitution. I am very glad that Dr. Rodman has been to see her as I wish every thing done for her that can be. If rubbing will do her good I hope she will work at it. When I left home I little thought Carries health would give out so soon and I heartily wish I could bear a share of your cares and anxieties (it is time to get breakfast. I shall improve every chance to finish this) I am bright with hope yet. Things did

2. look rather dark on Sunday, but it is quite pleasant now. I have great confidence in Burnside but greater in the God of our pilgrim fathers and I yet believe a blessing will rest on the best government that has ever existed. I believe God will hear the prayers of the faithful and bless us. May we be endues with wisdom and strength to act well our part in what-ever circumstances we may be places. I shall write to Carrie as soon as I can but think this is the last letter from here. The sick are moved this morning to Alexandria. I was afraid F. Hotchkiss would be hard sick with fever but it now seems as he might get along and not be very sick. One poor fellow from Southington has died since we stopt here. Marching is what kills many a man. It is useless to have any thing more than the bare necessities of life when an army is on the move. It is afternoon I have been at work for Capt. Gat his tent. I do not suppose he will stayin it more than one night but it is the best way when we stop to fix things as well as we can and

3. if we have let them go and fix again when there is an opportunity. It is a butiful day.

Our camp presents a lively appearance. The ground we occupy is gentle hills with rather low ground between. Each reg't is on a small hill covered with pines. The men are as busy as bees at work some at their cabins some getting wood and some water. Each squad does most of their cooking and it takes about half the spare time we have in these short days. There is a dress parade to night. The Col sent a special order for every man to wash his hands and

face and comb his hair. It is almost time for me to do it. S is out on picket or he would have written to L today. I hope you will have good luck at New H. You will give me an account of your trip when you have time and whether our turkeys were any better than usual. We have not seen any of the things sent by Mr. Hinsdale yet. I think he will either fetch them here or send them home again. I hope he will make his appearance here before long.

4. It's almost time for me to get ready for parade. I will finish this tonight or in the morning if nothing happens. It is evening I have a bright fire burning in front of our cabin. Frank is out somewhere and to Henry is sick to- night, has a bad bowel complaint. I have been to see the surgeon and have some medicine for him. I shall take as good care of him as I can, hope he will be better in the morning. Please tell Howard he must be a good boy at home and at school and when I come home I will try to bring him a union ball if I do not have an opportunity to send one before. I should like dearly to give Emma a kiss but you will have to do it for the present. I think the pigs first rate. Did you get a small pig this fall? If you did not I am glad as it will make less work. If there is any way you can favor yourself do by all means as a great deal depends on you now. May the day speedily come when I can bear a part of your cares. Tell Carrie if she will work as hard at rubbing herself as I have patching the knee of my pants it may be her good. I am going to try to mend one of my stockings tomorrow. There has never been a hole in them until we took this march. Good Night  
From your affectionate husband Titus Moss

Wednesday Morning Dec

I have got a nice fire burning in front of our cabin and I thought I would write a few by its light. I do not think H Dolittle is any better this morning. I have done the best I can for him but he is so weak he can hardly walk. I am in hopes he will get better soon. Perhaps you would like to know how we live now. When we first stopt here we were quite short of food. Our crackers was counted so to be shure we did not get to many. Crackers and pork with coffee was all we had for some days so that do the best we could we could not keep a lunch ahead. So as Reuben Benham says we thought we had better make a little calculation. I had a chance to go and help butcher some beef and got half the pluck and some meat of from the head in all quite a pile. We boiled it in a pan and then cut it in small pieces and fry with pork. I suppose our appetites correspond with food. I never had food taste better. It is roll call. Titus I find that it is time this is in the office From your husband

**Letter Number 29 written by Titus Moss on 29 December 1862**

Monday Dec 29 7 miles from camp

My Dear Wife

We had marching orders Saturday evening. Left camp yester- day morning I suppose to intercept some rebel cavalry that are prowling in this vicinity but when we catch them it will be after now. One how- ever was caught yesterday by a boy from Maine. They were both on horseback the rebel struck our boy across the back of his fingers cutting them considerable but before he could repeat the blow he had a pistol close to his head. He dropped his sword and ask for quarter. This affray was 12 or 13 miles from our camp. I understand there was quite a fight between the rebel cavalry and our own in the morning. The one that was captured got parted from the rest and said he had been asleep when our boy found him. We were near by and saw him when he brought in his prisoner. He had his hand done up with his handkerchief and holding onto the rebel's coat with his pistol close to his

2.

head. Our surgeon dressed his hand for him and Gen. Kane took care of his prisoner and told him that the rebel sword was his. We were put on the back track about 5 or 6 miles just at night and are now waiting for orders. It is almost morning just like a spring morning at home. We sleep in the woods last night. I think it is strange that a man from Cheshire can not come here without our having to leave the first thing. Mr. Hotchkiss and Spencer around at camp Saturday afternoon. I did not have much opportunity to see him as almost all wanted to get a chance and we had to leave in the morning. I was sorry that hie boys were not with us. It seems to me he would be disappointed at not finding them. I do not know but do know they were not with us. He had the money and paper that you sent. The money that you sent by Mr. Hinsdale I got by way of the sutler.

The other things we may get if we stay in our present camp but if we go on to the front we shall not. I payed the cook 2 dollars of the first you sent and he has gone home. I shall not need any more money for a long time unlefts some

3. thing happens to me. You wished to know all about my cloths. I have thrown away one of those wrappers and one pr of draws. The other things I have here and in camp. The oldest pr stockings are getting some small holes in the heels but I have got the yarn you put in with the other things to mend them with. The letter you

spoke of sending a day or two before Mr. H started, I have not received yet. Frank S & myself are in our usual health. H. Dolittle is with us but he is hardly able to be round. I tried to have him stay in camp but he would not and today he can hardly go. Mr. Hoadley is a good deal down also. I feel very sorry for J Rogers and his mother and Julia, but if either of the sisters are with him he will have every thing done for him that can be. I shall expect to hear from him soon through you. Dec. 31 We came back to camp just at dark on the 29<sup>th</sup>. I had a severe pain across my bowels that afternoon and night and feel rather sore yet, but am a good deal better than yesterday. Think I

4. be quite well in a day or two, It is cold and sour today and S and Frank are at work on our cabin. I should think it would be done tomorrow. I have been at the ruins of an house to get nails. It is about as large as our bedroom and closet on the ground is built of logs about four feet high. The logs gathered so that a tent about 7 feet square will cover it when it is done and I have staid in it. It will be the first time I have staid in anything but a sort of hovel and a cabin made of blankets since we left Arlington. I begin to feel as if we were fighting for a set (of) politicians and speculators. I hope I am mistaken in this for I love my country as well as ever and nothing else would induce me to live away from my family and home. Mr. Spencer is here yet and I shall try to get him to take Howard a bullet and one for each of Juliuses boys and a small knife to Carrie. The knife I found at Loudon Valley. It is not worth much but I have nothing else I can send except earnest prayers. I should like to know how Howard gets on at school this winter. Capt. Morse and Mrs. Morse Mr. Hotchkiss and family. Is there any prospect of more work in the shop than has been for 18 months back. Try to take care of your own health the best you can if things are neglected out doors. I dreamed of being at home last night and found your hands in flour baking C sitting near the bedroom door. Howard and Emma in the bedroom. Titus

5. written at the top of page 1

Evening. Samuel has found a man that will take this to W tomorrow and I shall send it and write again as soon as I can. I was going to send a few lines ro Carrie but shall write her in my next. Titus

**Letter Number 30 written by Titus Moss on 2 January 1863**

Near Fairfax Station Jan 2, 1863

My Dear Carrie

I am on guard duty today and shall try to write a few lines to you when I have leasure though am likely to be broke en off at any moment. It was quite a frosty night last night but the sun is shining beautifully this morning. We staid in our new house last night and it does seem good to have a shelter that one can stand erect in and have a place to sit. Our bunks are on each side one at convenient hight to sit on and wide enough for two to sleep on. The others the same width and one above the other. A space about 4 feet wide in center and small fire place to corispend with the cabin for size. It draws well does not smoke a bit. This last quality we especially know how to prize after being smoked for weeks. A good share of credit is due Frank for his skill and ingenuity in the arrangement of our cabin. The bunks are

2. small poles placed close together and covered with old grass. I could not think of any thing but the children of Israel scattered over the land of E to gather stuble in place of straw. We think the poles much healthier than the ground to lye on. I do not think that I have had as much as a board to keep me from the ground since we left New Haven til last night. I am afraid we shall loose a good many men before Spring from exposure as I never saw men with such coalds before as some in our Reg't have. Frank, Samuel, and myself have great reason for being thankful that ouy health has been generally good since we left home we have had no very bad coalds. When we stopt here I supposed it was only for the night and was ready in the morning to march but our camp seems more like home (I mean like the home we have had for the last four months) than it did at first. The water is bad here and we have to bring wood a long way on our shoulders.

We shall not use half as much mow as we did when our fire was out doors. Edward Benham is acting as nurse in the hospital and thinks from a word or

3. two he heard from the surgeon that we shall not be here many days. I am not particular which was we go if it tends to be close to the war in as short a time as possible and in a judicious manner. I have been somewhat discouraged of late but hope again brightens and I firmly believe that in three or four months something very favorable for us will turn up. No more to night. I have had six or

seven spells at this all ready. Saturday Morning. It is very pleasant again this morning. I am at the headquarters of the guard yet. There is an extra drill or review to day and the new guard are not mounted until its over, Guard mounting is usually at nine in the morning. I should like a few lines from you if you are able to write, no matter what about. The children, Skip, Bill, or any thing you can think of. If it tires you much do not try but be as churck as possible and perse- vere in rubbing your chests. I spoke of you to Mr. Sanford and he said he was very low with the disease of the lungs and no one thought he could recover but him self. He rubbed himself with salt and water and when to weak for that use to sleep in a

4. shirt wet in salt water and wrung out. A great deal depends on yourself. Keep up good courage don't get low spirited. Take what exercise you can without getting too tired. I expect to come home and see you and the rest of my family. This we are not sure of and it becomes us to be ready at any time when we are called. Leave these scenes of trouble and pain to join our savior in those mansions of bliss which he has gone to prepare for all his faithful children. Dear Carrie let this be our aim that whether we meet in this world or not we may in the world that is to come where there is no parting neither sorrow nor sighing.

From your Guardian  
Titus Moss

**Letter Number 31 written by Titus Moss on 4 January 1863**

Fairfax Station Jan 4  
My Dear Wife

It is the close of another Sunday but to me it does not seem at all like Sunday. There has been a review of our division. There are four brigades in it and long strings of artillery. We were drawn up in line each brigade by itself rode in front of the other. Gen Slocum and staff rode in front and back of each brigade and then we were marched by Co. past them the artillery after us. Came in camp half past one o'clock feeling quite tired. Had dinner of soup and gave myself a good washing and was expecting to write a letter to you but the order came to fall in for a dress parade after the usual ceremony we formed in a hollow square and the articles of war read to us and the president proclamation. The Col made a speech and a good one using the strongest language possible. The point was that slavery was the cause of the rebellion

2. and the way to put down the rebellion was to destroy the cause. He said he wanted the 20<sup>th</sup> to know his sentiments and expected every man to do his duty and if he met with anything that needed to be crushed he should do it if possible. All that I have heard speak of it like his sentiments first rate. Three lusty cheers were given for the Col. I like what he said but did not feel like cheering and kept still. After this an appropriate prayer by the chaplain after all this and supper it was night and I had not written. In the evening we had several calls so that it nearly roll call before I could sit down to try to write a few lines. There was quite a serious accident during the prayer a man discharged his gun with his arm over the muzzle and the whole contents passed through a little above the wrist. Surgeon Casey thought he could make a good arm of it.

He was not more than five rods from the square we were in. I could not help thinking that if

3. he was where he ought to have been he would not have hurt his arm. I do not know but he had a good reason for not being with his Co. at any rate he was very careless with his gun. I am sorry you get discouraged and while we stay here will try to write more punctual than I have of late. The days are very short and we do not have our breakfast very early then there is our regular duties to attend to but we have a good cabin and can burn a light if the wind does blow. I shall try to find some that I can buy and then I can

write in the evening. We have a small piece furnish two or three inches long but that is not any thing for these long evenings. If I had been where I could I should ventured in even if I had expected a scoulding. I have a good supply of writing material and will let you know in time to send more. I have all the clothes that I need except pants and those are spoken for. Nearly all the boys drew pants before we left Loudon and threw the old ones away on the march my

4. old one have answered for me and will until I can get a new pair. I wrote to sister H that I did not go to Mr. Sanfords quarters as much as I should. Were it not for officers, she wished to know the reason. Please tell her that privates are not allowed at an officers quarters only on business of some importance. The major and Lieut. Col quartered with him at Loudon they do no now.

Some of the boys said they could not agree there is difficulty between Gen. K and Col. Ross, I do not know the reason. Col. Ross seldom goes out to drill us of late. I hear he is trying to get out of this brigade. I believe there is jealousy

between many of our leaders. I told you in a letter the other day that I should send by Mr. S three balls for the boys a knife for C and forgot Emma. Give her a big kiss from her Papa. Mr. S is making quite a stay. I hope we shall be payed off before he leaves. If so, I shall send my wages home by him as I know he would be willing to do any thing for us he can. I have not half answered your leter but will send this today and try to write more this evening. It is morning now Frank is out on picket S & Henry

top of first page have gone to the surgeon. It is necessary for all that are not able to do duty to get excused by the doctor. Samuel has hurt himself bylifting and is not able to do anything at present. Give my love to all friends I remember youall every day N10 Titus Moss

**Letter Number 32 written by Titus Moss on 7 January 1863**

No 11

Fairfax Station Wednesday Evening

Jan 7.63

My Dear Wife

It is nearly as cold tonight as it was when I wrote to sister, but our quarters are very comfortable indeed. I think I know how prize it Samuel, Frank, Henry, and Joel Brook of Prospect are talking over old times and seem to be enjoying themselves very well. Henry is good deal better, but Samuel has a cough that is rather troublesome and has hurt himself by carrying timber or some other way. I think it will result in his discharge. Brooks has the gout or some other thing that disen- ables him so that Frank and I have all the wood to get and most of the work for us five. I have never felt better since I left home than at present and we are living first rate now with the help of a little money from each of us, we are all in a family. I swapped

2. some coffee for meal and we had a puding for supper and meal enough for 5 or 6 meals more. The coffee was a surplus. We draw the coffee and do what we are mind to with it. I got an order from Capt. to get some candles and a few dried peach for sauce and tried to get some potatoes but did not make that out. We bought some sausages of a sutler. With the meat and bread we got from the cooks we have quite an assortment. I wish we had those things that Mr. Hindsdale undertook to bring. Thursday Morning The boys are all a bed and I shall try to write a few lines before they are up. I am sorry that I cannot send you a more interesting letter but we go the same rounds every day so that from observation there is nothing new.

I don't think it is possible for any one that has not seen or heard described to realize the destruction that an army carries with it when they are on a march. One can travel all day on the march leading to Dumfries and not see a length of fence near the road and hardly

3. on the other side as far back as you can see. There are very few houses and nearly all have the fence and every thing else demolished around. If it were not for a stray post that is to strong to knock down I should not know as there was ever a yard fenced about the houses in this vicinity. We had a brigade drill on Tuesday different than we had ever had before and went onto a new piece of ground. There was a cellar and trees and that was

every vestage of a home that was left. I noticed three or four grave stones that were left. There had been a fence around them; only a little of the post were left of it. There was a camp near and I suppose the soldiers had picked up things to make their cabins with as there was not a sign of a chimney or a stone of any size around. I conclude it is common for each family to bury their dead near their homes. There are no New England villages here. I judge we travel about 80 miles from Loudon and only passed six towns that I can think of and half of them are no larger than

4. Mixville or Marian. Leesburg is not half as large as Waterbury. Hillsborough might compare with Cheshire only the buildings had an old appearance. The other places were not larger than Marian or Mixville. I have not seen but four or five churches and they are only small chapels and they appear to have been open very rarely. It is time for roll call. Good Morning. Samuel & Frank have each a letter to send home and I will try to finish this before drill and with theirs.

I was glad to hear that Dr. Salisbury saw Joseph. I think aunt J would be pleased even if it did not do him a bit of good. I suppose the children were highly pleased with there Christmas presents at church and at home. I hope Howard tries to be a good boy at school and at home. I do hope that this miserable letter will find Carrie better than she was when you wrote last which was dated Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. I am for a letter every mail. Mr. Sanford has called on us twice in two days. I like to have him come in very much. Try to keep up good spirits you and Carrie both and trust to the providence. It seems our men in the southwest are doing inely and I hope matters will grow brighter as Spring comes on, My love to all friends every where. Titus Moss

Letter Number 33 written by Titus Moss on 10 January 1863

No 12 Saturday Evening J 10<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Wife

Your very acceptable letter of Jan 4<sup>th</sup> came to hand Thursday evening. I had not had one for several days and I was assure you that a letter from home is read with no little pleasure. I put a letter in the office this morning for Julius from Samuel. I did not know that Mr. S was going as soon he changed his plans on account of the death in our Co.. He goes tomorrow and takes the body in charge. The disease was congestive chills. Mr. S has kindly offered to take anything we wish to send home. I shall send a small package and these few lines also an order to Thomas Cornwall for the second payment of the state bounty \$10. You can call for it the last of next week. I think he will draw

2. the money from the state paymaster. Soon after he gets the orders you will please offer to pay him for his trouble. I thought of you last Sunday and tried to be present in spirit while you were hearing a good sermon and from the text it must have been a solemn one and at the communion table I was marching up and down the field before our brigade and division officers. I should think we had some extra drill or duty  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Sundays so that there is no service often. I wish Mr. Sanford was more intimate with the men. I think they would like him much better than they do now. Please let the stories that are afloat about the 20<sup>th</sup> regt suffering from hunger and for the want of clothes go to the four winds.

If we had as good a roof to shelter us fatter hogs had I should be thank- full but if any one thinks we are hungry enough to eat with or pigs food it is a great mistake. I wrote the other day about my clothes and they are in good order

3. considering service they have done they have been on me ever since I left home except to change and wash. I think they ware as fast nights as they do days. Since I wrote the other I have mended the oldest pair of stockings and they are not quite as good as I supposed if you have a good chance to send a pair you can do so. I shall not need them for 5 or 6 weeks. I have kept you posted about camp affairs and have wrote just as things are. My boots are in good condition and shoes to, and better than all those things that were at Washington arrived today in good condition. Mr. William Judd of New Haven came with them. If father or Julius are at New

Haven and should see him he would be able to tell them a good deal about the soldiers in all the Conn regt. Samuel is sleeping quietly this evening. I hope he may be better in the morning. Mr. S leaves at six. Good Night

4. Sunday Morning 5 oclock Samuel has sleep as well as any one and has this awoke and says he is feeling a good deal better. His head was so sore that he could not wink without hurting him severely. He did not cough but very little through the night and thinks he shall eat some this morning.

I was in hopes that J Rogers was not wounded as bad as was first supposed. I thought so from you wrote about his being moved in three weeks. I think he was moved almost direct to Washington. We had a letter Friday evening from Hannah giving a plain description of his wounds they are no worse than I has supposed even at first. You will let me know how he gets along as fast as you hear. I am going to help take the copse down to the railroad and it is time almost now. Samuel says tell Lottie he has all clothes and boots he wants and will let her know when he wants more. Frank is out on picket was well except sore eyes. It was very rainy yesterday. I will write afteras I can in my poor way. My love to all. From your husband Titus Moss

**Letter Number 34 written by Titus Moss on 12 January 1863**

Fairfax Station J 12<sup>th</sup> Monday Morning No 13th

My Dear Wife

I believe the boys are all fast asleep this morning. I have kindle a fire and thought best to begin a letter to go home. There is nothing particular that I know of to write. Samuel was very comfortable yesterday and will be to day as he has sleep pretty good if he does not have chills except a cough which is rather troublesome and a soreness in the top of his head caused by coughing. Mr. Judd left here yesterday afternoon for New Haven. He heard of his father's death and said he should go to Prospect. I ask him to go up to our house if he could. Consistently, he said he would. I thought you would like to see a man that had been here. I conclude he is in company with Mr. H. He thought he should be here in eight or ten days. If Lottie could send

2. a small package of something that would help to releave a cough it would be twice welcome. We can not get anything here. Monday Evening. I did not know when I wrote these lines in the morning that Frank was sick though I notice that he made a little noise as if he felt bad but did not think anything of it. He was out on picket Saturday night. I was a very wet night and he took coald and has considerable fever. Dr. has been here once and is coming this evening again. I am in hopes and think he will not be very sick with fever if we take good care of him. I am afraid that rheumatisis will get hold of him but hope not. I shall do the best I can to make him comfortable. Samuel and Henry are able to go about camp a little and wait on themselves.

Brooks does most of the cooking and occasionally fills the canteens. I think he is trouble with the disease of the heart. He is obliged to be very moderate in exercise. He has shod my boots for me with those things you sent. They

3. will last all winter now. All the patients are sleeping nicely except Brook. I read a letter in the Paladium from an officer of the 20<sup>th</sup> regt giving a description of our march from Loudon. It is true we did not have anything to share and our crackers were carefully counted to be sure that each man did get more than his share. There was one advantage we had no trouble in deciding what to eat. WE had pork and fried crackers for breakfast dry crackers and raw pork for supper and coffee at each meal. I think I did not taste anything

except what I have mentioned but once for eleven or twelve days except one small piece of fresh beef and some meat we took when we started. I never eat food with a better relish and did not think as I was suffering from hunger either. I suppose the officers had to live like the soldiers and there living was courser than some of them liked. I don't think they got a great deal of whis- key. It is regulation that the surgeon shal

4. provide himself with a flask of liquor for soldiers that tire out or sick on the road. It is my opinion that some of the officers get more than wornout soldiers. The shoes are miserable, many of them are worn out in three weeks. The shoes that I brought with me were worth four pairs of them that were furnished at Loudon.

Tuesday Morning Frank says he feels better than he did yesterday and is sleeping quietly now. I feel sure that has got rheumatism about him but am very much in hopes that it will not be very bad. It is a hard place for a sick man and do the best you can. We make our beds of pine twigs and old bent grass that we cut with our knives. The boys have take n turns so that one of us has been up all the time. It is my earnest prayer that my life and health may be spared and that I may be of some little use among my fel- lows and at home. The desire to be obliging makes me quite content and happy. I shall look for a letter tonight and hope to that you are well. May God give you health and wisdom to guide your family aright. I think

Top of page 1 of you every day. I wish to be remembered to all friends and Granmother Humiston in par- ticular. I wish Howard send word how he got on at school. Kiss both the children for your husband Titus

**Letter Number 35 written by Titus Moss on 4 January 1863**

Fairfax Station Jan 4 Wednesday Evening

My Dear Wife

I am somewhat disappointed at not receiving a letter this evening and have taken my pencil as a substitute as I always think of home these long evenings and of the children in particular can imagine just how they look in their night dress and trip accross the floor into the bedroom. I hope and trust this poor apology of a letter will find you in your usual health and the children and Carrie improving. Frank is all most well. Samuel, Henry and J Brooks are able to go about camp a little and wait on themselves. My own health is good and my apetite also. There is no news here except we are under marching orders as usual we know nothing of the direction. I understand the horses and mules are to be shod smooth. This looks as if we are to be transported

2. by rail or water. If we go far it will be some days before I can send any more letters. I shall try and not miss an opportunity to send home as soon as possible. It is probable that Samuel, Henry, and Brook will be sent to Alexandria or Washington. Thursday Morning is dark and cloudy and a damp wind from the South. Frank says he feels well but the other boys have a good many aches about them. S complains of his head, Henry of a bad pain in his back, Brook of a bad stomach, for my own part, I have sleep good, had very pleasant dreams. I know that I am not as greatfull as I ought to be for I have been greatly favored with health since I came out. George Bradley came to our cabin door about six and ask for water.

We ask him to come in and found him sick. I fix my bed the best I could and had him lye down and gave him water and put a wet cloth on his forehead. The drum is beating for roll call.

3. Thursday Evening. Have had a very busy day. It is not expected that men will drill when under marching orders and I thought I could wash a little for Samuel so after doing a few things for the sick boys I borrowed a kettle to heat water and a pan to wash in about half the size of your dishpan and got every thing ready, sleeves up, water hot, an order came for a brigade drill. I put up my things and went out and had a good drill. Got into camp about 1 oclock, had dinner, done a few chores and got amost through washing and the drum beat for dress parade. I set my things aside and went out with the rest and finished when I came back. Eat

supper and put up things and it is night. George Bradley is quite sick with fever. We have done all we can for him and shall continue to do so. I have taken quite a liking to him and it is a pleasure to try to make him comfortable. Samuel is sleeping quietly this evening, but he

4. is very much out of health and the medicine he is taking is not anything to the case. I shall finish this in the morning if there is nothing to prevent. Please overlook all bad spelling and words left out in this and all other letters. Good Night. Friday Morning It is a rainy unpleasant morning. I do not see any particular change in any of the boys unless it is Henry. He seems to feel usually does in the morning.

I will give you a list of fare for two or three days not because I think it hard but the opposite. Jan 18<sup>th</sup> for breakfast, beans and fresh bread. Dinner beans and sausages and bread. Supper pudding and apple sauce. 14 pork, rice for breakfast. Dinner hash made of discarded potatoe. The potatoe looks like meal before it is cooked. Is very good when it is fried brown. Puding for supper. 16 The same as the other days except hash. We have had rice for supper every night but one since we got settled here. We our coffee for meal and buy cakes and cheese and occasion- ally a pie and some apples. Those things that mother sent came in the best time possible. The apples have done us a lot of good. WE cook a dish for supper every night and it is first rate. I have been on guard today and the guard are all nearly releaved on account of cold or marching orders. It is eleven oclock every thing is ready for a start at short notice. Frank is sick tonight. The boys are about as usual. I got two letters this evening and marked the 8 of Nov the

top of first page other Jan 12. I expected to have sent this today but missed it. Shall write more in the morning if I can, if not shel send as it is. Good Night. May God bless you all. Titus Moss

added note with this letter

Saturday Morning Jan 17<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Wife

I filled out a sheet last night and thought than I should write more this morning. If we did not march you will of course conclude we are here. I went on duty this morning at 7 and did not get breakfast after 9 oclock. Our wood was gone so that it was necessary to get some and the time for the mail to go is all most up.

If we do not march I shall write tomorrow if possible. If we do I will write as soon as I can. Frank is better this morning but is trouble with rheumatism. Will probable be more or less this winter the other boys are about as usual.

Please remember me to all friend, kiss the children for your affectionate husband

Titus Moss

**Letter Number 36 written by Titus Moss on 18 January 1863**

Fairfax Station Sunday Jan 18<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Wife

This is the most lonely of all the days since we came from home. We were ordered to be ready to march at eight this morning. Last night I supposed then that I should leave all the boys behind but the drum did beat until the usual time. At roll call I learned that we were to march on Monday. All the evening the doctors were busy in examining the sick to see who were able to march and taking the names of those that were not. Those that were not were to be sent on the cars after breakfast. The doctor came to our cabin and said that the sick must be ready to go to the cars in half an hour. We packed their things as quickly as possible. Samuel is about as usual but is looking thin with a bad cough. I do not know what to think of Frank. He has not been well for a week and has some

2. fever and diarrhea and perhaps rheumatism. At any rate he is sick enough to be in a good bed and be gumbling over very rough ground on a wagon to get to the cars which were only freight cars with no seats, whatever. Henry went with them. He is some better and walked to the cars. I carried his baggage. I did not count the cars. Should think there was 16 or 18 of them. The car that our boys was in was crowded a great deal too much. I think Samuel will be able to write as soon as he gets settled. I am very much afraid that Frank will be hard sick. Frank was gone on picket when we sent those orders home and has not signed his yet but he wished me to sign and take care of it. In our hurry I forgot to ask if I should send it home, but think he intended that I should and shall do so when there is an opportunity. If they should be sick very long I wish that some friend could see them. I should like to pay the fare one way. I suppose it is a trouble to get a pass to come this way from

3. Washington, but one can go to W easily and I suppose could visit friends in the hospital. Your kind letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> has come this evening. I am glad that Lottie is better and hope that Cair is also. I, Howard, and Emma enjoyed the game at hide and seek. Lieut. B has not come yet. I think Capt has looked for him for two or three days. I do not need any thing to wear on my hands. My boots will last all winter. I do not need any article of clothing after the stockings come. I am heartily sorry for Mr. Hotchkiss for his bad luck. Seems to me he has been disappointed at not finding Julius. Please tell Mrs Thompson I thank her for kind offer but do not think it best for you to visit me as long as I am well. I don't know

as there is anything the matter with John A except a very bad cold and cough caused by it. Inever saw men cough as they do here before he has grown thin and it is plain that souldiering does not suit health. Mr. Hoadley looks bad and has gone with the sick. I should think the hay was houlding out well, and hope Bill will continue to be sober-

4. minded. If you have plenty of potatoes or turnips and can spare a few perhaps it would be well to send some to Mr. B. Most likely they have to bag the vegetable. Seems to me that it is rather strange that Mr. B does not visit you more. I think it is wise as you are situated to stay in bed pretty well. I have not heard from J Rogers since I received Hannah letters and that was the evening after I received yours and Carries. I think the wood held out well. It will go a good way toward the \$100. Please tell Hannah that we received her letter in good time and will try to remember her advice. Your letter of Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> came a few eve ning ago.

The dress samples were all safe. Very pretty indeed, but if the war was over I should much rather see the dresses on than a sample of them. When I came up from the cars this morning I thought I should write to you and Julius or Father, but some way other I did not get at it. I can not help feeling as if I was alone. Every thing is ready to start when the word march comes but I don't think there is a person in camp that knows when or where we are to go. It has been rather cold for two days. The wind feels as if it came from snow. I shall not seal this til morning and if we do not march shall add a little more. I was well p[leased with Carries letter and remember you all every day. May God keep you and bless you and you charge is the prayer of your husband. Titus Moss

Top of page 1 I forgot to number the last this is 15 I think

**Letter Number 37 written by Titus Moss on 29 January 1863**

Camp in a gristmill Jan 29<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Wife

I have not written to you as I said that I should when I wrote last Sunday. Mr. Thrall came on Monday and said that Julius was coming on Tues- day so I wanted to see what news he brought but did not come until the next night. Wednesday was the hardest day that we\ have seen yet. Julius can tell you better than I can write. I think it is probable that we shall stay near our present camp some time. We shall try to build a cabin and then I can write in the evening again. Julius thinks that I will go home with him. I did not think he would get home quite as soon but I very glad indeed and hope that by good care he will soon be able to do some light work. He can tell you something about soldiers

2. life. There was a sad accident on Wednesday. Capt. Smith was killed by the falling of a tree. Whisky at \$2.50 a pint was the cause. I will tell the particulars. I shall give Julius \$10 towards his expenses and send \$10 to you. We were paid up to Nov. Mine was \$20.35. If I should get sick enough to need much care I shall expect some one to come and take care of me. I shall use all the judgment I have to keep my health good. Try to preserve your own and be of good courage and Carrie also. I remember you all every day and will write as often as I can consistently. I did not sleep much last night and am rather dull tonight and will have J to tell what there is worth telling at present. May the God of heaven guide and protect you allis the prayer of your unworthy husband.

Titus Mofs Love to all friends and neighbors. I shall prize those things you sent. They are not here yet, but there is no doubt about there coming.

In same envelope Camp Near Stafford Courthouse Jan 27<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Son

We are sitting under a little shed made of rubber blankets with fire in front of us. They are ten of us in our house. It is a rainy day and we are under shelter so to keep dry. There is a little brook at the foot of the hill for we are on a sidehill where we get water to wash and drink. There are large pine and oak trees around us as large as the old elms at our home. I suppose that you go to school and hope that you are a good boy and try do just as Miss Minor wishes you to when at school. At home you must of all

things mind mother and do all you can to help her for mother has so much to

2. do and Carrie is sick and cannot help much and Emma is not bug enough to help mother much yet and father is so far from home that I cannot help at home so that you must help and be as good as you can. You must kiss mother and Emma and be just as kind and good as you can. Try and not trouble Carrie when she is sick and you will grow up a good and useful boy.

From your affectionate father,

Titus Mofs Master Howard Mofs

In this envelope is a letter to Samuel that is so badly faded that It is extremely difficult to read. It is not from Titus and I can't read the signature.

**Letter Number 37 and 38 written by Titus Moss  
on 20 January 1863**

Near Dumfries, Jan 20<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Wife

We have stopt for the night about a mile beyond Dumfries and got all the preparations made for the night. I have held out first rate these two days better of the t two than I did before. Where we are going I donot know but suppose to Burnside. I did feel lonely when the boys left and could not help being sad to leave our cabin but have truded on with my pack quite light light hearted feeling that I shall be cared for and protected. It is my aim and prayer that I may act as it becomes a soldier. I have been blessed beyond what I have right to expect with health and friends, and endeavor to be thankful for them. I undertook to write a few lines to Julius. The morning we left we did not have any notice as we expect to have. When the order came we has to be off forthwith.

2. Do not worry about me for I am sure that I have friends with me and I know that there is one that guides and protects me in the way. I do not think I ever spent four or five months any more conten and happy than those just past, notwithstanding my strong attachment for home. It is dark and must stop. This is enough to let you know the direction I have gone and am in good spirits and health. Good Night. Keep up good courage and trust that all will be right.

From your husband  
Titus.

Camp Near Stafford Courthouse Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Wife

I have enclosed a letter to Father in an envelope directed to you that will tell where we were yesterday. We came in this camp last night and found a letter from Samuel. It seems by that he does not know where Frank is. I hope I shall hear from him soon. Martin had a letter from Dr. Driggs saying that Mrs. Beadle was coming to Washington to take care her son and that Julius was coming to see about Samuel. I haven't any doubt about his getting his discharge if it is ma- nagged right but how that is is more than I know. Our doctors here would not do any thing about it. I have only a few minutes this morning but will send another to you by tomorrow's mail if we stay in this camp to day. I had a letter from Lauren night also and read it put it in my pocket and lost it. I was not much suprised to

2. hear from Mr. Pierpont. Carrie mentioned it in her letter. I am as well as usual and hope this will find you and family and all friends well also. Inever think to say any thing about my watch but it has proved itself an excellewnt time keeper. Give my love to all friends Uncle Lloyd in particular. Sister Hannah, Grandma Humiston and all.

From your loving Husband  
Titus

**Letter Number 53 written by Titus Moss on 11 March 1863**

Camp Near Stafford C. H. March 11

My Dear Wife,

As I have not much to write that is interesting or new I will give a short account of my picket trip yesterday. J. Brooks and myself went from our cabin, had a real spring snow to start in which lasted till noon snowing fast and melting as fast. There were 22 men at the post where our headquarters were. The men were posted in front some distance, so that the fire at headquarters is hid by a hill from the line of pickets. They are posted camp guard fashion, one in a place from ten to twenty rods apart according to the ground are relieved every two hours. Brooks and I put up our rubber blankets for a shelter made a fire in front and sat under our shelter feeling quite comfortable. It stopt snowing at noon but continued damp and rained all the time after midnight covering the bushes with ice, the first that I have seen

2. on the trees. It is very unpleasant for anyone to get around when it is so dark that you cannot see anything only to look up towards the sky and just discern the tree tops. I ran into a stream of water that I was trying to walk by by the side of down a square jog four feet struck on my feet and did not do any damage. I was out four hours during the night, the rest of the time was under our blankets by a good fire. In the morning it came up clear and beautiful and cleared off the ice and the birds sang as merrily as one could wish. I heard a phoebe this morning. Our dinner answered for dinner and supper it was hard bread, beef and sauce with coffee. Brooks had a few dried apples that came from home. The same for breakfast minus the sauce in addition five small potatoes that I took out.

I sometimes think of the quiet nights at home when I am blundering among the stumps and mud or brush at night. Think I can appreciate a good nights rest when I get home as well as any one. I was suprised at meeting Frank

3. when I get into camp. I wish he was home for a month for he is not much better than he was seven weeks ago. Says he should not like to go to the ground ever again. He can have a comfortable place here. Wish I could do something to make him better but haven't any thing to do with. March 12, after breakfast. I received your welcome letter of the 6th last night just at bedtime. If I can conjure up enough to fill this sheet I shall and leave your letter to answer tomorrow. We had a few minutes of lively excitement last

night. At ten oclock the long roll sounded in earnest. I was fast asleep at the time but was not long getting awaik and we were under arms double quick time. All that I could learn was that some rebel cavalry had crossed somewhere. Do not know where. Four companies were ordered out don't know where and the rest dismissed with orders to be ready at a minute warning to fall in line untill four oclock in the morning when roll would sound a

4. again. I was glad to get off so easy for I was tired not having slept much the night before. We sprang out in quick time when the drum beat at four everything had been quiet through the night and we stacked arms in street and went to our quarters. This is the first time we have been aroused in the night. I suppose you will hear of some rebel raid before this gets to Cheshire.

I hope that if our men get after them they will chase them so that they will stay chased a while. You aksed about Lieut. Bassett the other day. There has been no official notice of his dismissal from the service. He ask an officer on Gen. Williams staff what he should do. The officer said never mind any thing about newspaper reports. Col Ross said that he would let the adjutant Gen. know that he could not discharge one of his men without a hearing. Say to all the men that like the old flag, to be wide awake this morning. I look on anyone that endorses the Hartford platform of being as good as benedict Arnold. I feel quite hopeful thinking that a better time is coming. Titus Much love to you and my dear children.  
Mofs

Top of first page I will try to send another after this tomorrow. I had all the stamps I needed and some to spare.

## Introduction To Captain Timothy Guilford Letters

### Captain Timothy Guilford

The letters telling Julius Moss about his brother's death were written by Captain Timothy Guilford (1828-1902) of Company A, Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers. He was a brother of Ralph Hall Guilford, Historical Society member Jane Guilford Harper's great grandfather.

The following is from History of New Haven County, Connecticut, Volume 1, edited by J.L. Rockey, WW Preston & Co., New York, 1892.

“Micah Guilford ... had three sons who grew to manhood: Ralph H., Timothy, and William O. Timothy Guilford was educated in the common schools and academy at Waterbury and served an apprenticeship at tool making for the manufacture of cloth buttons. He came to Cheshire in 1859 and engaged with the Cheshire Manufacturing Company; was foreman of the cloth button department, making tools for the manufacture of the same. He introduced an improved method for the manufacture of these buttons. In 1862, he assisted in enrolling a military company in Cheshire, and was elected captain of the same. The company was assigned to the Twentieth Connecticut Regiment, which participated in the great battles of Virginia. He lead his company in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburgh. This regiment was transferred to the army of the Cumberland in the fall of 1863. He served until the spring of 1864, when he was discharged on account of ill health.



“He was next employed by the Waterbury Button Company to add the manufacturing of cloth buttons to their business. He was manager there for five years. In 1878, he engaged in the manufacture of a button made from pressed hoof. The company was located in Leominster, Mass. Under his management the business was a success, and in 1880 was removed to Babylon, Long Island, that it might be nearer to New York City. He is still connected with it. He was married in 1856 to Harriet J., daughter of Samuel Taylor of Waterbury. They are both members of the Episcopal church of Cheshire. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. of Waterbury.”

Timothy Guilford is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Waterbury.

*Above: Photo of Captain Timothy Guilford from the Nettie Smith Collection, 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, Cheshire Historical Society.*

*This letter was written by Captain Timothy Guilford to Julius Moss, Titus's younger brother, telling about Titus's death. Julius must have passed the letter along to Jeannette, who added a note as the bottom in her own hand.*

Capt. Guilford.doc

Camp of the 20<sup>th</sup> C.V.  
Near Stafford Ct House  
June 11<sup>th</sup> 1863

Friend Mofs

Dear Sir

I must perform an unpleasant duty today, unpleasant under any circumstances, but doubly so in the present case. Col. Wooster returned to Camp yesterday and gave me some information in regard to our missing men. He says he knew your brother. Had often seen him talking with Mr. Sanford (our old chaplain) when they mersed together and has the distinct recollection of seeing him on the Battle Field at Chancellorsville lying among the dead. This was when he was permitted by his captors to pass along under a strict guard near the line of works where our reg't lay on that terrible Sunday morning May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He says he knew the face and figure of the man well, but associated him with the name of Joel I. Brooks and that is the reason your brothers name did not appear in his report of the killed and wounded left on the field. After talking with Col. I am forced with the conviction that the most worthy

2. and useful man of Co. A was killed on the field of battle while nobly fighting the enemies of his country. You who as his brother knew well his noble and unselfish spirit will not suspect me of fulsome flattery when I say t' would be difficult to find a man in the whole reg't who left his home and interesting family from motives as purely and unselfishly patriotic as Titus Mofs.

I think myself perfectly safe in saying that not a single man of the many thousands who have thronged together to form this great army have left the comforts and luxuries of a happy ho,me for their Country's service out of more pure high and noble influences than he to whom this is but an imperfect tribute. Always helpful toward others and never wanting help himself always considerate of others and forbearing and maintaining a truly Christian spirit and conversation amid the demoralizing influences of the Camp he won the respect of and endeared himself to the whole company.

The return of none was looked for after the battle with more earnest hope and now that hope

3. seems to be extinguished, the mention of no name among his acquaintances and friends more quickly brings the sad sigh and silent pause than his.

As the enemy took time to secure all the valuables found upon the dead before allowing any friends to visit them it is not probable that Col. Wooster could have secured anything had his guard allowed him time to examine the clothes of our brave fellow ones, as it was, he only secured a lock of hair from Lt. Griffith who had been a law student in his office 2 years and some other relics of his more immediate acquaintances and took no mementos from any man of Co. A. I feel my friend that any attempt I can make toward assuaging a grief so profound as that, you and the family of the deceased must feel, must fall far short of it's object, but perhaps I may be pardoned for referring to this beautiful and oft quoted scripture, "We sorrow not as men without hope, for those who sleep in Him."

I trust that some one with the pen of a ready writer will be found to do justice to the many excellent characteristics and the high toned and pure patriotism with which your lamented brother gave

4. himself to his country's service and braved hardships. danger, and death without murmur.

If there are any points I have not touched in regard to which you wish information do not hesitate to write me without reserve and I will use all the means in my power to give you satisfactory answers.

I am with respect, yours  
Truly Timothy Guilford

*Note at bottom written by Jennette (who was born June 15, 1827):*

"This was received June 15<sup>th</sup> 1863 being my 36<sup>th</sup> birth day, a sad memento."

*This is a second letter to Julius Moss from Captain Timothy Guilford written two months later. He is evidently replying to an inquiry from Julius Moss about Titus's death. He gives additional details about the last time he with Titus during the battle and describes how Col. Wooster saw the body on the battlefield.*

Camp at Kelly's Ford, Virginia

August 28, 1863

Friend Moss,  
Dear Sir,

Your letter of Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> was received two weeks ago and I sat down at my hard bread box table the next day to answer it. Just then an order came requiring some Company writing to be done and the answer was delayed, and still has been delayed until the present time. I received a letter from my wife yesterday telling me of her visit to your brother's wife lately and that put me strongly in mind of my promise and the unanswered letter of yours.

Your brother was near me for through most of the time we lay behind the Breastworks. It was on the highest ground which the Company occupied in its entire line (the ground was very uneven) and was the best place from which to watch the movements of the enemy and also was more exposed to the enemy's artillery fire than the hollows. The last conversation I had with your brother was during one of the enemy's most rapid bursts of shell canister and grape upon us preparatory to a charge of their infantry. I noticed blood on his face and asked him if he was wounded? He said he "thought twas a scratch from a splinter knocked off the works" – he did not know it until he felt the blood trickle down. We were at this time all lying as close to the ground as we could and keep the use of our arms and a keen lookout for the enemy infantry. Immediately after this, one of the enemy's guns had obtained so close a range on us – right on the knoll – that I ordered the men to move to the right & left a little out of range. The infantry soon charged upon us and I moved toward the left of the Company, the better to see them and do not recollect seeing your brother again.

Col. Wooster was on the field as a prisoner a few hours afterward. He saw your brother lying he thinks just as he fell, not directly in the rear of the Company's position in the works but to the right and on the ascent of the next rise of ground or knoll to the spot we occupied in the works. That was the direction the

Company first took in the retreat. He was lying nearly on his back his “feet to the foe” and the Col. thinks he received a mortal wound and died very soon after. The Col. was under a guard of the enemy who hurried him through as fast as possible and he gave most of his time to the wounded of whom there were not a few, but he knows he saw your brother as his face was in full view and he had often seen him in camp at Fairfax and remembered him as coming to see Mr. Sanford who messed with the Col. at that place. Yet he did not remember his name and put it down as Joel Brooks, whom Capt. William C. Doolittle told him he saw killed, Doolittle not knowing that your brother was also killed.

A burial party from our Corps of six men visited the field under flag of truce for the purpose of disinterring some officers. One of these men belonged to our regiment. He found nothing belonging to any member of Co. “A” and saw nothing except an envelope with the West Cheshire post mark on it and recognized it as belonging to one of Co. “A” and therefore marking the spot we occupied in the fight but he did not remember the name on it nor pick it up to see if anything was in it. The men did not occupy the same position all the time in relation to each other while behind the works. Owing to some miscalculation or other cause, there was not room for the men to all stand up in two ranks and put their guns through or over the works & some had to step back after firing and reload while others took their places to fire. In that manner the men became changed somewhat in their relative positions. When the Paroled prisoners return to the Reg’t, I may be able learn some additional particulars about your brother during the march and fight and will communicate them to you. Three of our absent sick men have recently returned to the Reg’t on Comp and we expect more soon including the paroled prisoners.

Poor Thomas Simons met his death at the hands or rather through the incompetency of the very set of men he has so often denounced for their treatment of others. I say this because I must believe that a competent surgeon must find out whether a bone is broken or not in less than three weeks after the casualty.

The news from the South is of a cheering character and we indulge the belief that when Charleston is ours the Rebellion is virtually crushed. Some feel the real brutality and horrors of war more than the soldiers whose moral sense is not entirely obliterated, and I can assure you none feel more anxious to have this terribly destructive war brought to a close – still feeling that our cause is just, we cannot think submitting to any peace which is

not honorable to our country and just to the men who have fallen by tens of thousands in defense of the same great principles we are still fighting for.

Please present my best compliments to my old friends of the Church Union and tell Mrs. Bryant I have not forgotten the quiet hallowed sabbaths I use to spend in the old Brick Church and think of them often in contrast to the every day alike system which prevails in the Army. Trusting to hear from you again if inclination prompts. I am as ever

Your truly

Timothy Guilford

## Death of Little Emma

Three clippings from scrapbook pages in the Historical Society files explain the following unsigned notes written with different handwriting on a single sheet of paper. Two of the scrapbook items were clipped from a church paper, "The Calendar." The third is from a newspaper. They are reproduced below.

1. Item about the November 26, 1864 death of "EMMA JENNETTE, only daughter of the late Titus and Jennette Moss."
2. Poem, dated December 24, 1864 and signed "L.H.S." At the top, it explains that the poem was written "On reading in 'The Calendar,' the death of Emma Jennette Moss, in Cheshire, aged five years."
3. Obituary for Mrs. L.H. Sigourney of Hartford, "the poetess," who died on June 10 or 11, 1865.

### Two Notes on Once Piece of Paper

#### First Note Written by Mrs. L.H. Sigourney of Hartford

The reason of my writing at this time to request your aid with regard to the destination of an accompanying copy of the Church paper "The Calendar" In the one for last week I read a touching statement of the death of the only little girl of a widowed Mother which prompted a few extemporaneous lines which appear in the present number. It occurred to me that, though simple and without literary pretensions they might possibly be soothing to a bereaved heart. Should you chance to know the precise address of Mrs. Jennette Mofs of Cheshire who is mentioned ad having lost her soldier husband in the 2. battle field and could without inconvenience trans,mit this "Calendar to her for me I should feel much indebted.

#### 1.

##### **For the Calendar**

DIED, IN Cheshire, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>, EMMA JENNETTE, only daughter of the late Titus and Jennette Moss, in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

The father of the deceased, a brave and Christian soldier, fell at the battle of Chancellorville, and she and a little brother were alone left to the widowed mother, and such amiable qualities of character were exhibited by her, she promised to be a great solace to her afflicted parent. But death as destroyed all hopes connected with her, and added another affliction to that already heavy and severe. During her very painful illness she exhibited great patience, and without fear was conscious of the approach of death.

She was a member of the Sunday school, and took such delight in its exercises and in the services of the Church, as gave evidence of a religious spirit which doubtless would have developed into a lovely Christian character. In an affliction so great we can only say, trusting God's goodness, which never fails: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Second Note Added by Jennette Moss

The occurrences of the last few weeks seem like a frightful dream. But alas it is no dream but a sad reality. Little Emma is gone. Gone to heaven. An angel came and took her away. She was a lovely child – gentle and loving; the pet of our family, the youngest. But she could not stay with us any longer. Now that she has gone I do not feel that I have sinned in loving her too well. If I went from home she claimed it as her right to be the first to welcome me on my return. But all this has changed now.

Death has set his seal on my beautiful one and I am bereaved indeed. Seven sad and gloomy weeks have passed since I saw her in her last untroubled sleep. O much as I had always loved her, I never looked upon her with such pride and tendernefs as when I saw her wrestling with disease and death. Her sufferings were terrible but she bore up against them with a brave fortitude that seemed wonderful in one of her tender years.

To the last hours of her life, her only wish seemed to be that I should be constantly with her. No medicine was so nauseous that she would not take it cheerfully from my hand. And when the last mortal agony was upon her she wished me to take her hand and lay my head beside her on her dying pillow. I cup the little hand so often pressed upon my face and at the same time saying Mama I love you more than I can tell. I miss the sound of those little feet upon the stairs. I miss her in any walks & rides, I miss her every where, nut I will try not to miss her in heaven. Can I wish her back again? Or would she thank me for that wish & a voice within answers, No But rather let me be thankful for that pleasing hope that though God loves my child to well to permit her to return to me, he will ere long permit me to go to her.

2.

*Poetry***For The Calendar**

On reading in the "The Calendar," the death of EMMA JENNETTE, in Cheshire, aged five years.

-----  
 Little One! – so sweet and fair;  
 Whom a lonely Mother's care  
 Closer clasp'd – since far away  
 Mid the battle's blast and bray,  
 He, thy Sire, in patriot strife,  
 For our Country gave his life.

Little One! So early fled,  
 Snow-wreaths gather round thy head,  
 But the soul that loved so well,  
 With the pure and good to dwell,  
 Learning still the Saviour's rule,  
 Listening at the Sunday-school,  
 Writing with a heavenly grace  
 Lines of patience on the face,  
 When the fever-pain was high,  
 And the hour drew near to die,  
 That, a blest abode hath found  
 Where, with hymns of loftiest sound,  
 Angels circle it around  
 Smiling as its raptures rise  
 At the greeting of the skies.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 24, 1864

L.H.S.

3.

**Death of Mrs. Sigourney.**

HARTFORD, CONN. June 11 – Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, the poetess, died in this city this morning. Her age was seventy six.

In Hartford on Tuesday the funeral of Mrs. Sigourney was attended at Christ Church, at 4 p.m., the sermon being by Rev. Dr. Clark. The remains were deposited in the North Cemetery.

**Mrs. L. H. Sigourney.**

This estimable lady died on Saturday, June 10, in Hartford, after a lingering illness. She was born at Norwich on the 1st of September, 1791, and was consequently in her 74<sup>th</sup> year. During the quarter of a century ending, perhaps, somewhere about 1850, her name was more widely known, in either hemisphere, than that of any other American authoress. Latterly her poetry has given place, in most libraries, to that of a more modern and varied school, though it will never be wholly superseded. She was early addicted to verse-making, possessed a temperament which, while it never marred her sound and solid health, was nevertheless keenly susceptible to the varied beauties and subtle influence of nature. She removed to this city in 1814, where she opened a select school for young ladies, and where her poetical talent and many lady-like and Christian graces soon attracted the notice and engaged the personal interest of the late Daniel Wadsworth, a gentleman whose artistic and literary taste was fortunately equaled by his pecuniary means; and he was the means of introducing her to the public, in a volume of "Moral Pieces in Prose and Verse." In 1819, Miss Huntley became the second wife of Charles Sigourney, a well-known merchant of this city; and since that time she, while engaged in the domestic affairs of rearing a family of children, found time to contribute largely to the serious literature of the country, both in prose and verse – Her published works, in all, number nearly fifty volumes. Her prose is marked by vigor, beauty, and good sense, and, like her poetry, is full of good moral precepts.

At home she was best known and loved for her domestic virtues and her rare neighborly spirit of

### Map of Cheshire, circa 1860

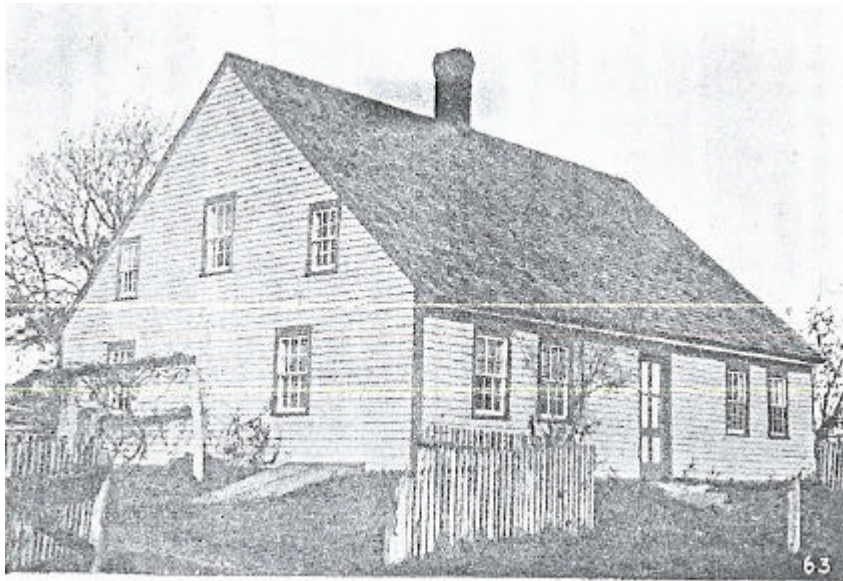
*Circle shows location of Titus Moss home.*



### Photograph of Home at 859 Moss Farms Road

The home of Titus Moss (b. Feb. 8, 1828 and killed at the battle of Chancellorsville May 3, 1863) and the birthplace of his son, Howard Titus Moss.

Later owned by Lambert Russell.



*No. 63. Lambert Russell House 859 Moss Farms Road*

Reproduced from Old Historic Homes of Cheshire, Connecticut (1694-1894).

## Selected Descendents of John Moss

### *Generation No. 1*

1. JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR was born 1604 in England, and died 1707 in Wallingford.

More about John Moss Sr.:

Fact 1: 1640, One of the original proprietors for New Haven

Fact 2: 1669, Signed agreement and on committee of four that laid out Wallingford

Fact 3: 1672, Signed 2<sup>nd</sup> Wallingford agreement – Lot #2

Fact 4: 1677-1678, Granted 77 acres “acros ye Tenn Mile River” (Beach, p. 43)

Child of John Moss Sr is:

2. i. John Moss<sup>2</sup> Jr, b. October 12, 1650, New Haven; d. March 31, 1717, Wallingford.

### *Generation No. 2*

2. JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR (*JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born October 12, 1650 in New Haven, and died March 31, 1717 in Wallingford. He married MARTHA LATHROP December 12, 1677 in Wallingford.

More about John Moss Jr.:

Fact 1: 1672, Signed “second agreement” to settle Wallingford, Lot #24

Fact 2: 1694, Owned approx. 100 acres on “ye Tenn Mile River alongside an irremovable hill”

Fact 3: (Beach, p. 95)

Children of John Jr. and Martha Lathrop are:

3. i. John<sup>3</sup> MossIII, b. November 10, 1682, Wallingford; d. May 14, 1755

4. ii. Benjamine Moss, b. February 10, 1710/02; d. June 10, 1761

### *Generation No. 3*

3. JOHN<sup>3</sup> MOSSIII (*JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born November 10, 1682, in Wallingford; and died May 14, 1755. He married ELIZABETH HALL February 25, 1707/08.

Child of John Moss and Elizabeth Hall is:

- . i. Joseph<sup>4</sup> Moss, b. February 09, 1713/14; d. July 10, 1775; m. LYDIA JONES, February 04, 1734/35.

More about Joseph Moss:

Fact 1: 1760, Bought land where St. Peter's stands and helped erect small, wooden church

Fact 2: 1767, Deeded land for the church and cemetery to St. Peter's

Fact 3: Considered "founder" of the parish. Read services in absence of clergyman.

Fact 4: 1775, Buried in St. Peter's Cemetery

4. BENJAMINE<sup>3</sup> MOSS (*JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born February 10, 1701/02, and died June 10, 1761. He married ABIGALE COLE March 28, 1728.

Child of Benjamine Moss and Abigail Cole is:

5. i. Titus<sup>4</sup> Moss, b. May 16, 1738; d. December 23, 1818

*Generation No. 4*

4. TITUS<sup>4</sup> MOSS (*BENJAMINE<sup>3</sup>, JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born May 16, 1738, and died December 23, 1818. He married MARY ATWATER May 13, 1760.

Child of Titus Moss and Mary Atwater is:

6. i. Joel<sup>5</sup> Moss, b. July 07, 1766; d. March 06, 1847.

*Generation No. 5*

5. JOEL<sup>5</sup> MOSS (*TITUS<sup>4</sup>, BENJAMINE<sup>3</sup>, JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born July 07, 1766, and died March 06, 1847. He married ABIGALE HOTCHKISS December 04, 1788.

Child of Joel Moss and Abigale Hotchkiss is:

7. i. Joel<sup>6</sup> Moss, b. October 10, 1797; d. June 24, 1890, Cheshire.

*Generation No. 6*

6. JOEL<sup>6</sup> MOSS (*JOEL<sup>5</sup>, TITUS<sup>4</sup>, BENJAMINE<sup>3</sup>, JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born October 10, 1797 and died June 24, 1890 in Cheshire. He married NANCY UPSON September 15, 1824 in Southington, CT.

Children of Joel Moss and Nancy Upson are:

8. i. Hannah<sup>5</sup> Moss, b. December 11, 1862.

- ii. Titus Moss, b. February 08, 1828, Cheshire; d. May 03, 1863 Chancellorsville, PA
- iii. Julius Moss, b. June 25, 1830; m. EMERETT A. BARTHOLOMEW, May 15, 1855, Wolcott.
- iv. Emma Upson Moss, b. October 26, 1832; d. 1861, San Francisco, CA; m. GEORGE ROGERS, 1859, New London, CT.
- v. Samuel D. Moss, b. September 20, 1834; d. March 04, 1837.
- vi. Samuel Lester Moss, b. September 27, 1837; d. December 05, 1907.

More about SAMUEL LESTER MOSS:

Fact 1: January 27, 1863, Discharged, disability – 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Infantry Co. A

- vii. Ellen Eugenia Moss, b. May 17, 1844.

*Generation No. 7*

**8. TITUS<sup>7</sup> MOSS** (*JOEL<sup>6</sup>, JOEL<sup>5</sup>, TITUS<sup>4</sup>, BENJAMINE<sup>3</sup>, JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born February 08, 1828 in Cheshire, and died May 03, 1863 in Chancellorsville, PA. He married JENNETTE BEECHER June 1851 in Cheshire.

Children of Titus Moss and Jennette Beecher are:

- 9. i. Howard Titus<sup>8</sup> Moss, b. July 19, 1856, Cheshire; d. August 17, 1923, Cheshire
- ii. Emma Jennette Moss, b. June 22, 1859, Cheshire; d. November 26, 1864, Cheshire.

*Generation No. 8*

**9. HOWARD TITUS<sup>8</sup> MOSS** (*TITUS<sup>7</sup>, JOEL<sup>6</sup>, JOEL<sup>5</sup>, TITUS<sup>4</sup>, BENJAMINE<sup>3</sup>, JOHN MOSS<sup>2</sup> JR, JOHN MOSS<sup>1</sup> SR*) was born July 19, 1856 in Cheshire, and died August 17, 1923 in Cheshire. He married MARY A. BEACH October 19, 1882 in Cheshire, CT, daughter of JOSEPH BEACH and ELIZA BETTS.

More about Howard Titus Moss:

Fact 1: 1887-1917, Treasurer of St. Peter's Church

Children of Howard Moss and Mary Beach are:

- . i. Helen Jennette<sup>9</sup> Moss, b. November 12, 1883.
- ii. Louise Beach Moss, b. March 06, 1888
- iii. Dorothy Margaret Moss, b. September 08, 1898

*The Cheshire Herald, May 1863 – Centennial at St. Peter's*

I THE CHESHIRE HERALD, MAY 9, 1863

## Flowers On Altar Marked War Death Centennial

The flowers on the altar of St. Peter's Church last Sunday were in memory of Corp. Titus Moss, Co. A., 20th Conn. Vols., who was among the missing after the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863. They were given by his granddaughters, Miss Helen Moss and Mrs. G. M. Peberdy.

Titus Moss, at the time of his enlistment in the regiment with which so many from Cheshire served, was Junior Warden of St. Peter's of which his ancestor, Joseph Moss, was the "key man" at the time of establishment of the Parish in 1760. The Moss family had come to Cheshire from Wallingford after receiving a grant to the Moss Farms property "for services to the Crown," and it was here Titus lived.

In St. Peter's Cemetery is a memorial obelisk which bears this significant tribute, "Titus Moss, born Feb. 6, 1828, fell May 3, 1863, while faithfully serving his country on the fatal field of Chancellorsville where his body lies. Erected by Friends in honor of his patriotism, in admiration of his virtues, in love of his memory. The Lord has set apart him that is Godly for himself." On other sides of the monument are inscribed the names and dates of his wife, Jennette Beecher and their small daughter Emma, also those of their son, Howard Titus, and wife Mary Beach and their daughter Louisa. (Incidentally, nearby are the resting places of 60 others bearing the name of Moss.)

Two months after the death of Moss, The Calendar, an important church paper, published weekly over a long period at Hartford, carried this interesting letter:

Titus Moss, of St. Peter's Church, Cheshire - The cost of the fearful war in which we are engaged is not to be estimated by financial reports nor by high taxes - not by the amount of property expended and destroyed. There is a treasure involved far more valuable, a loss incurred far more deplorable; it is the sacrifice of precious life; the loss to the family, to the Church and to society of their most devoted sons and brightest ornaments. How many a household has thus been bereaved? How many a Church has been called to mourn such irreparable loss?

St. Peter's Church, Cheshire, will not soon forget the battle of Chancellorsville. In that fight fell one of her most exemplary and devoted members. On that bloody field now lies buried her junior warden, Mr. Titus Moss, the person to whom we refer, and whose loss we shall long lament, was most emphatically a man of peace. Pure and mild and gentle, devoid of every violent and turbulent passion, to no man was war, with all its associations, more abhorrent. For him the life of the camp had no attractions, the vocation of the soldier nothing in it congenial with his feelings or habits. But with calm and clear views, viewing the great contest as involving all that is precious in our national existence, all that has made us a great and prosperous people, as vitally connected, therefore, with the interest of the Church, as well as the State; with these views - waiting for no draft and influenced by no bounty, but constrained by a strong sense of duty - he volunteered in the service of his country, and in the prime and vigor of early manhood, laid down his life in his country's defense. Seldom, we believe, has there ever been laid a purer offering upon the altar of patriotism or piety. Upright and faithful in all the relations of life, he has left an unsullied name, and his memory will be long and affectionally cherished by all who knew him. Though early finished, his work is well done. And though in respect to his years and earthly connections his death was un-

timely, yet to him it was not premature. He was prepared for the summons. - He had accomplished the great object of this temporal probation, and has gone to his rest and reward. Whether amid scenes of peace and tranquility, or in the "battle of the warrior, with confused noise and garments rolled in blood," "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." We know not where or how our brother was buried, whether by pious or by rude and thoughtless hands. We cannot lay upon his grave, as we gladly would, the expressive tokens of respect and affection, but his dust will be safe. Though "sown in dishonor, it shall be raised in glory."

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