

Herbert D. Bates 1st Regt 2d Light Arty  
Camp Butler Feb 8. 1862.

My Dear Wife —

It is Sunday morning, and I thought  
after delaying so long, I would take my time &  
write you a good long letter. I should have written  
you sooner, but have been very busy, as our Lieut  
Col was not here, and we had to "pull our  
own Cannel". There is no Artillery here except  
our Company, and there being no higher  
Officer of Artillery here, I am in Command,  
a position at once honorable, but very far  
from being easy. We had good luck in coming  
down, arrived at 10 O'clock, it rained when we  
got here, & we did not get to bed till one  
O'clock in the morning. Yesterday Lieut Boston  
& myself went to Springfield, (6 miles) and  
back, on foot. Thirty of our men with  
Lieut Bann, went to Springfield to guard  
the Arsenal, they have Cannon and Sabres  
to drill with, and board at a Hotel.  
Tell Mrs Kennedy that Charlie is at Springfield,  
and is well, and enjoys himself first rate.

On the reception of the news from Fort Henry,  
Governor Gates ordered 34 Guns, and Lieut  
Bann took a detachment of our men and  
went out at 10 O'clock and gave them  
the Guns. They acquitted themselves admir-  
ably. Our Bunkers are very comfortable, and  
the men healthy and good natured. The  
Officers Quarters are very comfortable, we have  
3 Rooms, Stone &c. I felt sad to leave home,  
but had known of it so long, and so fully made  
up my mind, that it would be a hard job

to do. that I thought I could go without much  
trouble of mind, but in this I was disappointed. I  
looked round for Roger, but could not find him.  
I often think of him, and as often wish he was  
a little older, thus I could have him with me,  
then the family would be equally divided, if  
such a thing is possible. How is Lucie? I hope  
her cough is better by this time. Jim and Joseph  
went to Springfield with the 30 men, and  
have visited Mr & Mrs Patterson.

Our men seem to be pleased with me, and my  
every wish is complied with. I feel proud  
of them, and when they get their uniforms, (which  
will be in a day or two) they will compare  
favorably with any company with any company  
of Volunteers that I have ever seen. The Devon  
is well, has just come in and filled his  
pipe, sends his love to all. Give my love to  
Mary, and all the friends. Kiss Roger & Lucie a  
thousand times for me and as often as you  
get leisure, & think your lot a hard one,  
think of the cause in which I am engaged,  
the glorious success that is now attending  
our arms, and hope for my speedy return,  
when the joy of meeting will repay for the  
separation. I have not learned yet when we  
will be mustered in, and cannot tell when  
we will get paid. I do not yet know how  
I am to get my uniform yet but doubt not  
there will be a way open at some way.  
Let me know how you are getting along, and  
take good care of your health. The 46th Regt  
look very fine, & is really a good Regt

Affectionately Yours  
Jas. J. Cheney

Ms. B. 1. 62  
1862  
Letters of