Camp of the 14th Conn. Vols.

August 29th, 1864

Dear Sarah

I wrote you a few lines the other day to let you know that I was alive. Today I have a little more time and if they will let me alone I will tell you what had happened to our Regt within the last 3 weeks. Three weeks ago we left Camp and started for Deep Bottom the North Side of the James River. We marched all one night and the most of the next day before we got their [sic]. As soon as we got their [sic] we went out on the skirmish line and Fought and Skirmished all the time for just a week. But we did not loose [sic] many men. In killed and wounded we lost 8 men, two killed and six wounded. Then we started as we supposed for Petersburg but when we got to Petersburg we went right by and did not stop, only to build some breast works for the 5th Corps. As soon as we got them done we started for a place called Reames Station about 14 miles from Petersburg on the left. As soon as we got their [sic] we went the same as usual on the skirmish line and skirmished for about 4 days, when we started to go down about 5 miles below to burn a Railroad Bridge. But we found them to [sic] much for us and we did not burn it, but come back and mighty glad to get back to [sic]. We lazed around for a couple of days, when we went to work to build works. We had not got them done when the Rebs opened on us with 6 Battery and opened from the rear. Then we jumped over to the other side of the works but just then the Rebs come up the other side and then it was look out for yourselves. We stood it as well as we could for a while, then we was ordered to Charge and we Charged to the rear as the Rebs was coming on from that direction. Then was the time we lost so many Officers and men. It was the hardest fight that has been in this war. We fought for 4 hours about 25,000 men and we did not have more than 6000 and got away from them. If they had not been fools they could have taken the whole of us prisoners. And I wished for a while that they would. I thought that was my only Salvation, but I lived it through and did not get hurt and did not have but one Ball hit me at all and that did not hurt me, it did not break the skin. But we lost a good many men.

I understand that all of our Wounded have gone North to day except Capt. Nichels and he will go as soon as he is able which will be in 2 or 3 weeks. I almost wish that I had Capt. Brigham’s wound. I am sure that I should not do any more duty for my Country. I think that I should let the Country go, the Country is a good one but it ain’t worth what we are fazing [sic] for it.

Their [sic] was 100 recruits left New Haven for our Regt and they got here with 82. We did not have them but 3 days when all but 34 Deserted and now we have got 19 left. Them are the men that the folks at home send out to us to put down the Rebellion with, but it will be a long time before the Rebellion is put down with such men as them.

I have not had but 3 good nights sleep for 3 weeks. Last night I was detailed to go with a detachment to build a new Fort up in front of Petersburg. So you can see that I did not sleep much last night, but if nothing I shall seek some to night.

I saw Norman the time we come from Deep Bottom, he was looking better than he was before when I saw him.

Write often.

From your Husband

Frank E. Stoughton