

Camp Griffin, Va.¹

Dec 4th 1861

Loved ones at home we left Bethel² at 12 and arrived in Washington

Tuesday at 12 am all safe found it very Cold we got our papers & arrived

in Camp about 5 the same night we had a joyful meeting the Boyes have

all got bad Colds. P Banker with Ed & George Marsh & others to lungs

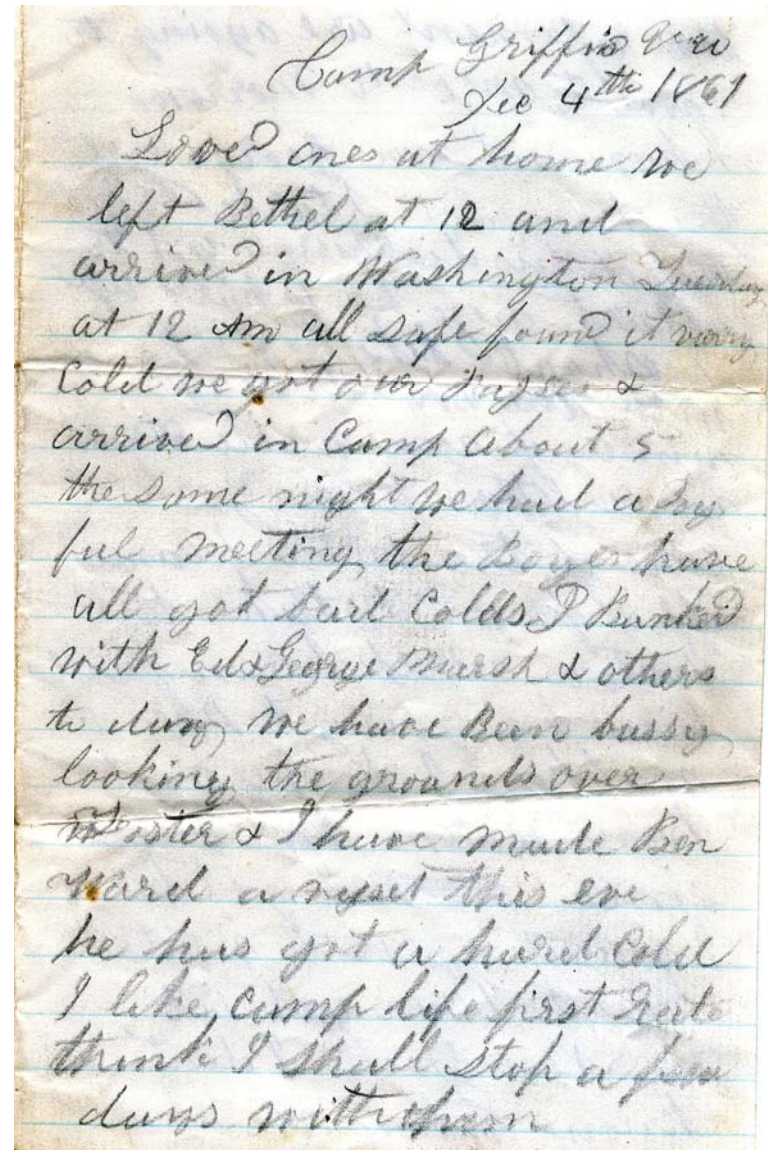
we have Been bussy looking the grounds over Foster & I have made Ben

Marsh a ???set this eve he has got a bad cold I like camp life first rate

think I shall stop a few days with them

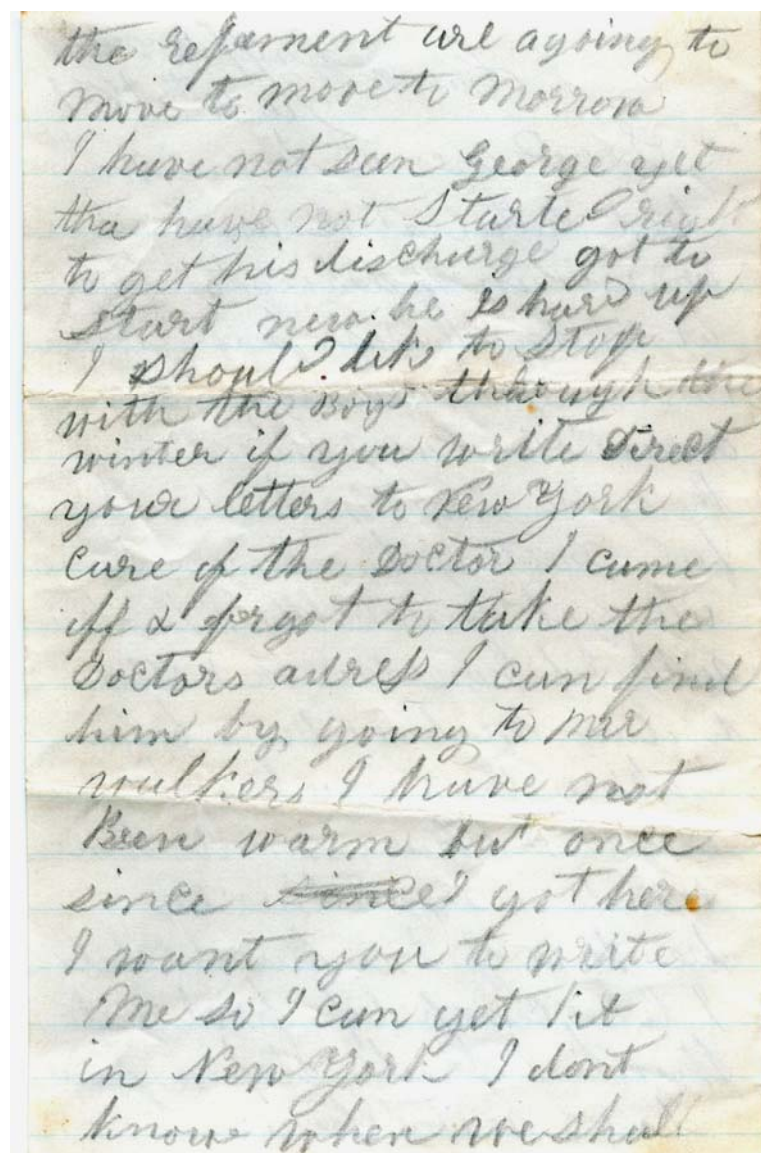
¹ Camp Griffin occupied a parcel of land known as Salona, in McLean, Fairfax County, Virginia, between October, 1861, and March, 1862. At the time, it was owned by Jacob Smoot, whose house served as headquarters for Union General William "Baldy" Smith. It is marked by a historical marker (see photo section at end)

² Bethel, Windsor County, Vermont, is located in central Vermont north of White River Junction and south of Montpelier.



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the regiment are going to move tomorrow I have not seen
George yet tho have not started right to get his discharge got to start
new. He is hard up I should like to stop with the Boys through the winter
if you write direct your letters to New York Care of the Doctor I came off
& forgot to take the Doctors address I can find him by going to Mr
Walkers I have not been warm but once since got here I want you to
write me so I can get it in New York I don't know when we shall

A photograph of a handwritten letter on lined paper. The handwriting is in cursive and matches the typed transcription on the left. The paper shows signs of age and wear, with some discoloration and a small tear near the bottom right corner. The text is written in dark ink and is clearly legible.

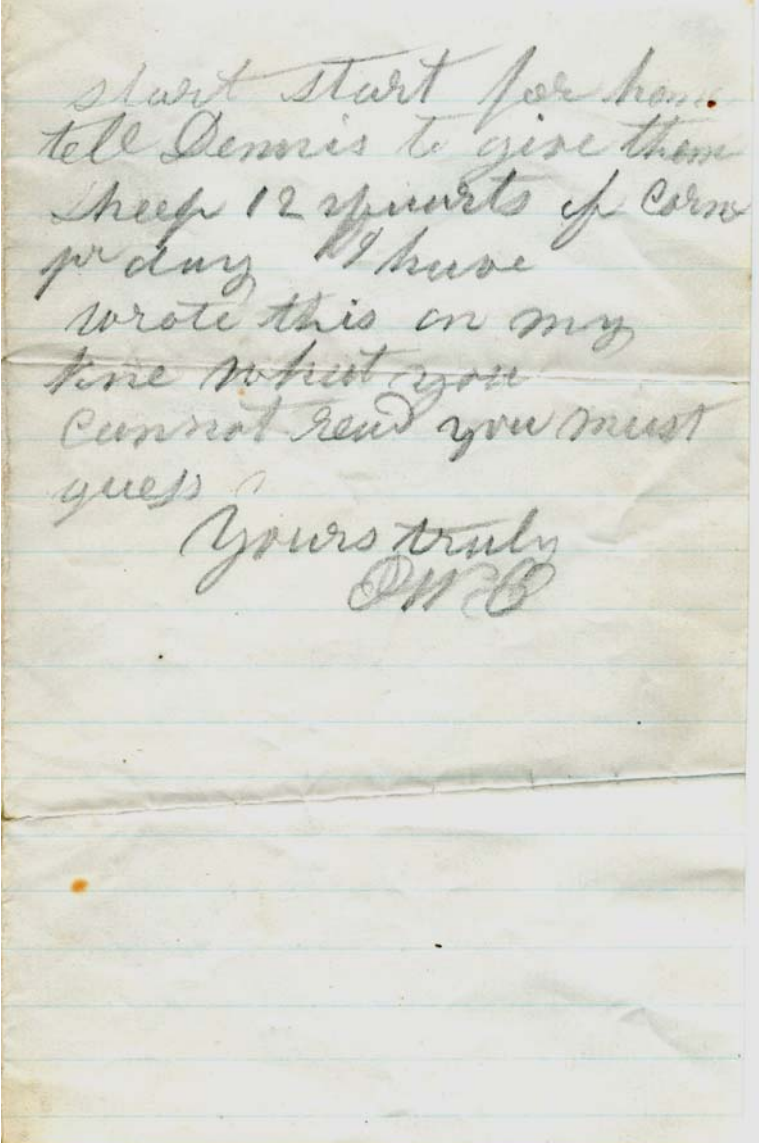
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start start for home tell Dennis to give them sheep 12 spuarts of corn per

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Yours truly

JWC



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Yours truly
JWC

Notes

I received a link to this letter in an email from Helen Krieg Came dated May 31, 2015. The email:

Subject: John Wood Campbell in the Civil War
From: Helen Came <hcameandall5@gmail.com>
Date: 2015-05-31 14:32
To: Laurence Krieg <krieg45@gmail.com>, Leslyn Campbell Randazzo
<lcrand2@earthlink.net>, Laura Morris
<laurarnmd@gmail.com>

http://cdi.uvm.edu/archives/civilwar/cwvhsCampbellJohn01_01-full.jpg I've been in touch with a third cousin (more or less) whose name is Margo Campbell, of Greenfield, MA.

I've been in touch with a third cousin (more or less) whose name is Margo Campbell, of Greenfield, MA. She's related to Claude Melnotte Campbell, MD, who was brother to our great grandfather, William Wildman Campbell.

At the University of Vermont, they have a digital archive of some Civil War Letters, including JWC's. Margo was kind enough to send me the link. I've just begun to decipher the handwriting which is a challenge. There is also a letter to JWC from Henry Terry, a friend from Rochester, VT.

Let me know what you think!

Photos

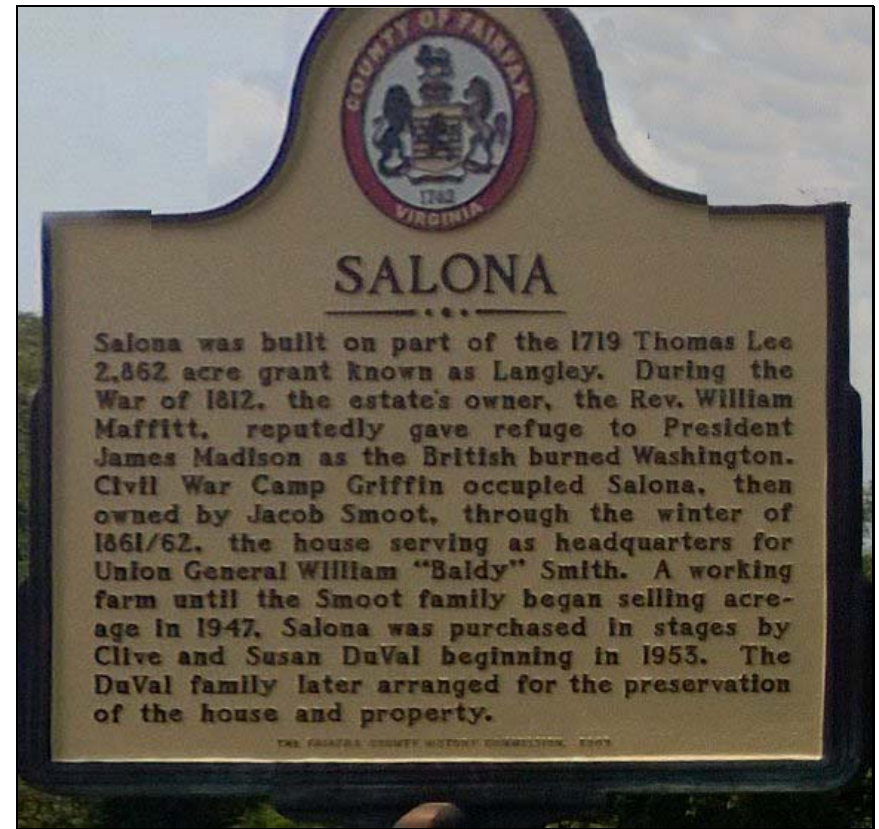


Photo 1 - Salona historical marker
(Mckaysalisbury, Wikipedia)



**Photo 2 - The 2nd Vermont Volunteer Infantry at Camp Griffin
(Library of Congress)**

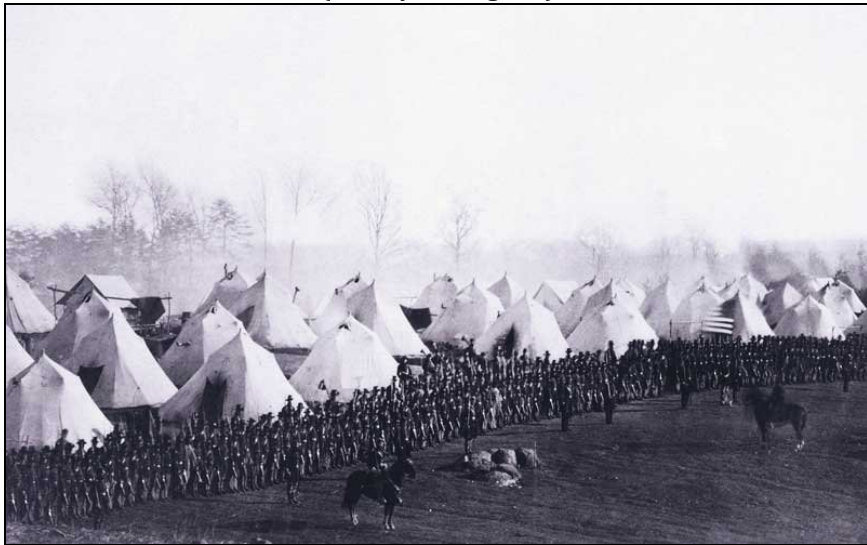


Photo 3 - 5th Vermont at Camp Griffin. (Library of Congress)



**Photo 4 - Union soldier Larkin Goldsmith Mead holding a Thanksgiving turkey during the Civil War in Camp Griffin, Virginia, 1861. Most likely taken two weeks before JWC's letter.
(Uploaded to reddit.com by Chubachus)**