

cannot write any more at present
for we have got to go and
drill write as soon as you can
give my respects to all
the folks

M. Enlow

Dear sister and friends
I thought I would write you a few lines to let you
know that I am well I got your letter the 11th
and was glad to hear from you I have got
most over my cold and feel just as well now
we are drilling every day 5 hours it is not
as cold as it was the last time I wrote it
now pleasant here now the mornings are very
foggy so you can see as red I should like
to be out of the hearing of music for one
day and see if I could not hear my
self think we have got about 50 bands
of different kinds all around us and they
are a thumping all the time but that is
not all there has bin heavy firing on
our side center all this forenoon in the
direction of harpers ferry I have not
found out what forces have bin
engaged but I think it is part of
snacclinans we are a very strong

here we do not know as we have got to move
at present I think that we shall not stay
here much longer on this place but we
may you cant find out any thing here
you say that Henry wants to borrow
the money that is left at home I should
as soon put it in the bank and then
if it come home I can get it when I
am a mind to if you have not put
it in the bank you may save some
2 or 3 dollars or so in the house so if I
should be sick and want to get home
I could send and get it to help
my self with when I get paid off I
will send some home and then you
can put it in when you are a mind to
I suppose that Tom will wear out
all my close but did him have what
you do not want if there is any ~~per~~
~~to day~~ I will send home a pa
to day for writing paper is very scarce
here and very high envelopes are
25 cents a dozen paper you cant

get at any price and stamps are
most gone here this is the last one I
have got the chaplain writes in the
letter and you will have to pay when
they get there if there dont some
stamps come ~~at~~ every thing is very
high here I bread 8 cents a loaf for
ones like gomes that you make apples
60 cents a peck tobacco 50 cents a barrel
paper 15 cents ^{at paper} there was a barrel of
cider here yesterday but they dont ask
any thing 12 dollars a barrel and sold
quick at that I see Joel Smith here
yesterday he was well and in good
spirits I see some of the boys every
day there is ~~an~~ one news here it is
the same as ever I have not seen dan
hop nor heard from him lately some
of my letters will be post marked
hartford some may be at others
places for I got a chance to send
them some times by errand
men that come out to see
their friends

Pleasant Valley, [Leesboro] Maryland

September 10th 1862

Dear Sister and friends,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I got your letter the 16th and was glad to hear from you. I have got most over my sold and feel first rate now. We are drilling every day 5 hours. It is not as cold as it was the last time I wrote. It [is] very pleasant here now. The mornings are very foggy so you can't see a road.

I should like to be out of the hearing of music for one day and see if I could not hear myself think. We have got about 50 bands of different kinds all around us and they are a thrashing all the time. But that is not all. There has been heavy firing on our right center all this forenoon in the direction of Harper's Ferry.

I have not found out what forces have been engaged but I think it is part of Maeclenans [McClellan's]. We are very strong here. We don't know as we have got to move at present. I think that we shall not stay here much longer in this place but we may. You can't find out anything here.

You say that Henry wants to borrow the money that I left at home. I should as soon put it in the bank and then if I come home I can get it when I am a mind to. If you have not put it in the bank, you may save some 20 dollars or so in the house so if I should be sick and want to get home, I could send and get it to help myself with. When I get paid off, I will send some home and then you can put it in when you are a mind to. I suppose that Jon will wear out all my clothes but let him have what you do not want. If there is any.

I will send home a paper today. Writing paper is very scarce here and very high. Envelopes are 25 cents a dozen. Paper you can't get at any price and stamps are most gone here. This is the last one I have got. The chaplain writes on the letters and you will have to pay when they get there if there don't some stamps come.

Everything is very high here — bread 50 cents a loaf for ones like yours that you make. Apples 60 cents a peck, tobacco 50 cents a hand, paper 15 cents a paper. There was a barrel of cider here yesterday but they don't ask anything \$12 dollars a barrel and sold quick at that.

I see Joel Smith ¹ here yesterday. He was well and in good spirits. I see some of the boys every day. There is no news here. It is the same as ever. I have not seen Dan Hop nor heard from him lately. Some of my letters will be postmarked Hartford, some may be at other places for I get a chance to send hem sometimes by Connecticut men that come out to see their friends.

I can't write anymore at present for we have got to go and drill. Write as soon as you can. Give my respects to all the folks.

From your Brother, — M. Culver

¹ Probably Joel P. Smith of the 14th Connecticut Infantry.

Bio of Martin VanBuren Culver

Born in 1833, the 29-year-old unmarried son of Martin Culver (1798-1867) — a stone cutter in the Portland Quarry — and Lucy P. Bailey (1803-1894). Martin gave “carpenter” as his occupation when he enlisted in August 1862. Martin served in Co. A. 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. The Union garrison at Plymouth was surrendered on April 20, 1864, by Brigadier General Henry W. Wessells.

Culver and the other members of his unit who surrendered were taken to Andersonville Prison. Culver’s prison record there states simply: “Survived.” In the 1860 Census, he was enumerated in the household of Roswell R. Robbins in Rocky Hill. Martin passed away in 1907.