



Envelope from letter

Best etc us the days like
to see him he takes good
to them ^{Wm} Kelly I
Dont see as I have any more
to write at present write
soon Dont to Washington
Dc

So good by far the
present this from your
Brether and ever ~~by~~ his
friend ^{Wm} Kelly Gafferty
to his sister Kelly & Edy

Give my respect to all
and if you here from
John tell him to write to
me and I will over it
when i no where to write

my pen is poor
my ink is pale
my spirit is dry
my hand is frail

Heapsberg

October Friday the 3 1862

Dear sister not more

I take my pen in
hand to in form you of my health
"Wm" is good at present hoping
all these few lines will find you
the same I have not heard from
you some i kept the hospital
so i thought that i want write
you since to see if you was a
line and how you get along and
the rest of your folks I got a letter
from Ellen yesterday she was all well
when she was I have got only 3 letters
from her since i am from home I
dont think she writes much for
I have wrote about 18 since i am
But i had not from whole sense
I am heart sickly where not
have is 28 tell me when you
write I have wrote to him on cont

Pages 1 & 4

here from him and you
must write and let me know
when he is and how he get along
I had good time at home I wish
you was there we want had good
time that but you want that
so I had to do with out you
I want like to come up there but
I cant not but if i get home
again I shall learn I had another
letter from Ellen to night the six
all well hale folks had you up
to Jamstown to see the Sagers
starte from there he said he wanted
to see how so many men
did last he had better ~~to~~ learn
don here if he want to see
you far here is half of them
I see more dead men than he will
see there after the battle of
the 17th their half of them I
launched one file that had 50 in
and the files lay all over the

ground first so the was
reels are more was had before
I saw then I was with
doctors so i want in the fight
I was with them a month more
I am look for the best days
here that sick I dont want
he is going to be sick again but
I hope not I am tired and hardy
and feel thankful for it I never
was more tired in my life than I
am at the present time not that a
blessing to me and the rest of your
folks I think it is dont you folks
I want like to see you and have
good time and I think i shall
sometime Kelly we had short
fight in 1861 I presume you
have red all that we had the pleasure
of having shot from old she and
little McCalmington old she
talked like a hawk more than like
a man who is the one that takes the

Pages 2 & 3

Harpers Ferry, [Virginia]

Friday, October 3, 1862

Dear Sister and more,

I take my pen in hand to inform you of my health which is good at present, hoping these few lines will find you the same. I left the hospital so I thought that I would write you a line to see if you was alive and how you got along and the rest of your folks. I got a letter from Ellen [on] Tuesday. They was all well when she wrote. I have gotten 3 letters from her since I come from home. I don't think she writes much for I have wrote about 18 since I come back. I had one from _____ since I come back. Phebe, where and how is Ed? Tell me when you write. I have written to him [and want to] hear from him. You must write and let me know where he is and how to he gets along.

I had a good time at home. I wished you was there but you weren't there so I had to do without you. I would like to come up there but I could not. But if I get home again, I shall come.

I had another letter from Ellen tonight. They are all well. Cal's folks had gone up to Jamestown to see the soldiers start from there. He said he wanted to see how so many men did look. If he wants to see men for there is lots of them. I see more dead men than he will see there. After the Battle of the 17th [Battle of Antietam], there [was] lots of them. I counted one pile that had 56 in and the pile lay all over the ground just so. They was Rebs. Our men was buried before I saw them. I was most with doctors [?] so I wasn't in the fight. I was with them a month now. I am back for the company just lays here about sick. I don't know but he is going to be sick again but I hope not. I am tuff and hearty and feel thankful for it. I never was more tuff in my life than I am at the present time. Ain't that a blessing to me and the rest of your folks. I think it is, don't you Phebe?

I would like to see you and have a good time and I think I shall sometime. Phebe, we had a hard fight in Maryland. I presume you have read all about [it]. We had the pleasure of having a call from Old Abe and Little McClellan yesterday. Old Abe looked like a shark more than like a man. Mc[Clellan] is the one that looks the best to us. The boys like to see him. He looks good to them.¹

Well Phebe, I don't know as I have any more to write at present. Write soon. Direct to Washington D. C.

So goodbye for the present. This from your brother and ever true friend, — Wiley Lafferty

to his sister Phebe B. Edy

Give my respects to all and if you hear from John, tell him to write to me and I will answer it when I know where to write.

My pen is poor

My ink is pale

My appetite does never fail.

¹ According to the *Lincoln Log*, on 2 October 1862, Lincoln did pass through Harpers Ferry. “In morning, the President and Gen. Sumner reviewed the troops at Loudoun Heights and Maryland Heights. The President left Harper’s Ferry at noon and arrived at the headquarters of the Army of Potomac too late in the day to review the troops. He occupied a tent for night next to Gen. McClellan’s headquarters.

Bio of Daniel “Wiley” Lafferty

Pvt. Daniel “Wiley” Lafferty, CO. A, served in the 64th New York Infantry. Though he enlisted for three years, Wiley’s service was cut short by a couple of debilitating injuries. He received a wound in the fighting at Fair Oaks on 1 June 1862 that resulted in the loss of the 3rd finger on his left hand.

In early November 1862, he accidentally chopped off the large toe on his right foot while chopping firewood. He was prematurely discharged for medical disability from a Philadelphia hospital on 3 February 1863. Wiley passed away in the year 1900.