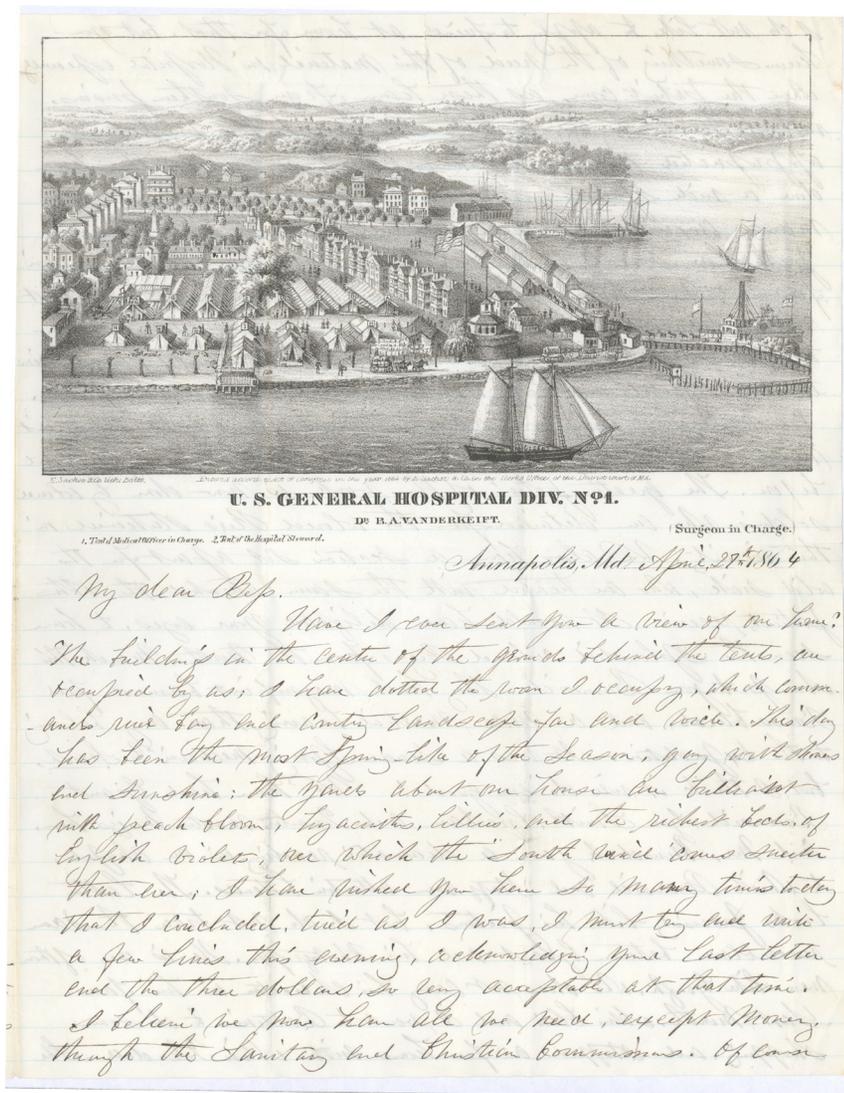


[ Illustration of General Hospital Annapolis Md.]



E. Sachse & Co. Lith. Balto. Entered accord. to Act of Congress in the year 1864 by E. Sachse & Co. in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Md.

**U.S. General Hospital Div. No 1  
Dr. B.A. Vanderkeift.**

1. Tent of Medical Officer in Charge. 2. Tent of the Hospital Steward. (Surgeon in Charge.)

Annapolis, Md. April 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

My dear Rep,

Have I ever sent you a view of our home?  
 The buildings in the center of the grounds behind the tents, are occupied by us; I have dotted the room I occupy, which commands river bay and country landscape far and wide. This day has been the most Spring-like of the Season, gay with showers and sunshine; the yards about our house are brilliant with peach bloom, hyacinths, lillies, and the richest beds of English violets, over which the south wind comes sweeter than ever; I have wished you here so many times today that I concluded, tired as I was, I must try and write a few lines this evening, acknowledging your last letter and the three dollars, so very acceptable at that time. I believe we now have all we need, except money, through the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. Of course

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 98609

Date: April 27, 1864

Description: Louise Titcomb letter to Rebecca Usher on Annapolis Hospital

all about friends, when you next write.

28<sup>th</sup> Last Night. I hardly thought to fill this page, as I heard new men had been placed in my Wards just from Knoxville, but this morning they have been transferred to the Measles Section, and I am relieved of extra duty. I have a fresh bouquet of real May-flowers just from the eastern shore of Maryland. The dear soft-eyed pink lipped things, remind me of little refugees. Somehow they seem out of place, away from the Saco river, where I have always felt they had their origin. The gallant, who presented me with the flowers, is a Kentuckian Six feet four inches in height, never used a pocket handkerchief, never saw an orange, till he came here, and thinks May-flowers, "Are right pearte, sort'er greens"! The Rebels took all his property, last fall, and thought they had drowned him, but he held his breath, and came up in an opposite direction from where he was put in, and slept among the bushes three days and nights, living in [?] all that time; At last he got Union people enough together to form a company, and they [?] fighting, on their own hook. He is then, like many of the Border State Men, with no claim on the Gov. for pay, and yet held by our Military laws as amenable to them. I have read a journal of Henry's speeches delivered before the Legislature, and was very much delighted with the finish and ability, [?] thoughts. I do not think a more correct and profound thinker has ever spoken inside those walls. As highly as I have always thought of Henry's talent, the breadth of his thoughts impresses me, when he has a subject before him, of sufficient scope to test his power. Remember me to him, and all my Salmon Falls friends. I feel a strong bond of sympathy with your little circle, and I assure it is one of the most cheering signs of the times that soldiers that your interest in their welfare does not abate. Write as soon as possible, and believe me yours with heaps of love, Louise.

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Louise.

I do not like to apply to friends at home for that, but you know something of the need of this material in Hospital especially when the patients come as these have, from southern prisons, without means to buy a letter stamp. To this purpose, I appropriated the three dollars, and I assure you they have done a wide spread good, in the relief they have given so many anxious wives and mothers. My own purse has run pretty low several times, and would have failed, but for reinforcements from home, for I am still a volunteer, and can not manage it with Sister Tyler to have pay. I suppose you know the Burnside Expedition has moved; the sick of their Regimental Hospitals were left with us, filling our wards completely. Our work has been very hard, owing to the want of sufficient nurses and Police force: we have never been so nearly over taxed before. The greater portion of the work is now done by colored soldiers, who are detailed from the colored Reg's stationed in this vicinity. We also have a section set apart for the old sick, who are treated with the same attention, the other patients receive. It would have delighted your eyes, to have seen the splendid colored Reg's from the North, march thro' Annap. to join Burnside. They had magnificent banners, full Brass bands, and a more martial bearing, than any belonging to the Expedition. It was a severe "Spring Medicine" to Secesh, but, I think it will do 'em good! We have had Grant, Burnside, Gen. Smith, Graham and Quarter-master Meiggs here, and Mr. Murdock gave a dramatic reading in our Chapel, to which Burnside and Staff were attentive listeners. The latter looks precisely like his pictures, but I do not trace the same resemblance between Grant and his photographs. He is one of those men like Gough, who does not carry his character in his face. Last month, Miss Ellis and I went to Baltimore to do some shopping, and stopped a few hours with Miss Kendall. She

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is dimly located, but like her position, because she has as much control as any one, and as she expresses it, is free as air. Miss Southgate joined her last week, and Mrs Deguindre must have done so, by this time. Miss Ellis starts for home next week on a summer furlough, but her place is already filled by a lady from Buffalo, who is to be reinforced soon by a blooming [?] from Springfield. I doubt if we can all remain here through the summer; I would like very much to go North, in the hot months, but, so long as I am well, shall stay, if I am very much needed. It is said we are to have the wounded from the next battle field. The Paroled are being sent to the Baltimore Hosp. fast as practicable. Added to our daily duties we are rehearsing comedies for an entertainment for the benefit of a new Brass Band to be organized here as soon as the instruments can be purchased. We have a permanent stage now in the quartermasters building, ready for Concert tableaux &c. I have just heard one colored cook, a slave from Annap. declaim "Barbara Freetchie," in preparation for an exhibition to take place in their church tomorrow evening. This girl can not read a word and we are just beginning to teach her, her letters; but among all the verses we produced she chose those, and she does them better justice in recitation than most young ladies could, who graduate from our best schools.

I have noticed by the papers, that Jeannie is concert going. — glad her health will permit it, and wish I was there to hear. So you must lose Mr. Stebbins; I am so sorry for Portland, feeling as I do, that his loss can not be made up. I shall hope to have an article yet from you for the Centet. I have something to do with it being paid and my time is so occupied day and evening, that, a contribution for it, is like drawing teeth. So make Mat use her talent in this direction. Love to all, at home and at Salmon Falls, tell me

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