

Camp Advance
Oct. 11. 1861

Dear friends,

I have not had a letter from you for some time so I concluded I would write to-day. The Regiment is out in the neighborhood of Falls Church. I came in last night to send out the tents, knapsacks, blankets &c. When I came in I found Bouly sick in the Hospital I think he has the Small Pox. I cannot see where he got it as it is the only case in the Regiment, or that we have had since we have been out. He is getting along very well however, and I do not think there is any danger but that he will get right well in a short time.

We have been following the enemy since Tuesday last but they have retreated as fast as we advanced. We are advancing very careful however, so that there is no danger of them deceiving us or leading us into an ambush. We have an immense force, and I am satisfied we can whip them just whenever we can catch them.

Hendricks must be foolish, Bill and I are the best of friends. He has slept in my Markoe ever since we have been out. He gets along very well. He is out with the Regiment to-day near Falls Church.

We do not get much news here. The men
as a general thing enjoy the best of health only
a few cases of diarrhoea being in the Regiment
and a case or two of fever and Ague. The weather
has been very warm and on Monday night and
in the afternoon we had an awful storm, but
it did no damage here.

Get me hear from you
soon. I have no news to write. I will write
again when we get in Camp. Remember me to all
friends

Yours Truly

J. P. Smith John

P.S. While cleaning out my trunk the other day,
which I always do before we move, I found the
two notes enclosed. One is the Rev. Gen. Smith's
note we hunted for - the other is Gen. Misers.
Misers note give to Zetlemayer the other to Silver
wood

J. P. S.