

Blanford I. C. Sept 3rd 1862

Dear friends.

I have been as mad as a March hare, and the other day wrote a letter to you under that state of mind. I had had no letter from home for an awful long time. Last night a mail arrived and with it came five letters from you beginning with the one on the 1st of August. Papers I don't receive at all. Once in a while a package of Americans come to land but that is all. I am glad to learn you are all in good health. Mine still continues excellent and spirits equally so. The news we received by the last mail is rather depressing, but I don't believe the half of it. At all events I look for particulars as I form an opinion. We were ordered North, and today would have been on the road to Virginia but another steamer came last night and countermanded the order, so that we are doomed to remain here inactive a while longer. How long, God only knows, but I hope but a short time, as I desire to be where there is something to do besides boat mauling for myself and guarding miggers for my men. They as well as myself are tired of it.

I Am now acting as Judge Advocate of the entire Department. It keeps me very busy and takes ~~the~~ good deal of attention from my Company. I am tired of it and would like to get rid of it but Gen Brammen took me down to see Gen Hunter last week and now I cannot get off. I am afraid Hunter will detail me for his staff, which will raise a fuss in the Company. There is a fuss in the 35th Pa Regt. over some of the line Officers wanted to make me Major, which would give me Command of the Regt as the Col is to be Court Martialed and the Lieut. Col is a prisoner in recess. My men got to hear of it, and would not let me think of it. So I am doomed to remain a Captain till the end of the War. Well I would rather be the Captain of Co C. in the 49th Regt. than be a Colonel of any other Regiment I know of I think there is no doubt but that we are by all odds the best Regiment in the service. Certainly on a drill nothing can touch us and as regards health we surpass everything I have yet seen. I was much pleased with Gen Hunter, He is a gentleman and a fine soldier, but too much given to Niggerism.

If there is anybody in town that wants to come down let them report to Major Gansler at Allentown. However I do not care about getting more than 4 or 5, but will take more if they come.

I saw a Tent up town the other day with a sign up it of Skenepes Taken. I will go up some of these days and have my fluff done up for you. However, if you don't know it you need not be surprised, as if my hair was black and slightly curly I would make a pretty good mulatto. Southern men plays pos with light countenances. So look out when it comes

We have nothing especially new here. My men were out on picket the day and just come in on Monday. They had a nice time and lived high on sweet potatoes and oysters. They amused themselves in day time by shooting at the Rebel pickets on the other side of Broad River. I've shot at Louis Oyster at once and not one of them hit him. The distance was rather great, but on guns than a cow easy. None of my men were hurt, nor in power any in the Regiment. The Rebels I think were not so fortunate.

Your boy has not yet arrived, but I
think it is at the Head, having arrived on
the last Steamer. I hope so. as everything
in the hope of niceties are getting scarce
here. Oysters are getting good however, and
we have millions of them. Also Orange
sweet potatoes &c. who will live with
white.

I got a letter from Annie this
morning, written while with you I
will answer it in a few days. Also
one from Uncle T. M. I would like to
know what became of my coat and hat box
I would not have taken \$20 - for my Car, as
it was a present.

My men are all in poor
health. Joe Smith has a sore foot as John
both the fever. All the rest are in fighting
condition. Write soon and direct. I will
then you R. Bully for Depe Simpson. Remember
me to all friends

Yours
H. S. Smith