

Camp near Brandy Station, VA

Mrs. Gehr

Westminster, MD

Respected Madame;

You will without

doubt be much surprised to receive a letter from a stranger and I really hope you will not be offended at the liberty I take in addressing you.

You will surely re-collect the eventful days of July 1st to the 5th or 6th Time nor distance can efface the memory of those sadly glorious days from the minds of the kind hearted loyal mothers, the generous maidens, nor the benevolent, patriotic Fathers of "Maryland My Maryland." Neither can the destroying hand of time wipe out from the soldiers minds pleasant personal recollections of the kind= heartedness, loyalty generosity, benevolence and

patriotism show as they marched, counter= marched and fought to pre-serve the honor of our dear flag and the integrity of our loved County. Although but one I am thankful that I am permitted to be one among the recipients of so many generous, impartial exhibitions of love for a Country's defenders

As my duties took me with the Baggage Trains that were parked around Westminster, I found myself on the morning of the 4th of July, 1863, in the streets of your pretty town searching for a place where I might be able to purchase a loaf of bread. After searching sometime, I passed your residence, and as I passed I asked a young lady who was seated upon your door step and whom I judged to your daughter "If she would be kind enough to sell me a load of bread?"

She looked up and raising her glasses said with a pleasant emphasis "No sir, I can't sell any bread to soldiers but at the same time she invited me to the kitchen, There I met Mrs. Gehr and was very kindly pressed to seat myself at the breakfast table and between visiting and eating I past a very pleasant half hour

Since that day when I have thought of the Glorious 4th of July-Birthday of our Nation's Freedom- I have thought of the 4th as spent in the West-minster, Maryland, and asked the God of the good and True to bless Mrs Gehr and family and all the patriotic mothers and daughters of our Common Country

The recollection of the Sympathy ex-pressed in acts by the true hearted ladies of Maryland has nerved neak arms to deeds of daring and

Hearts to hush their fluttering when the roar of Artillery and the zip of the bullet deafens the ear.

Be assured dear Madam, that the kind deeds of those days were better than Brigades of men to ensure us the Victory gained on the hills of Gettysburg

Our brave boys fought for their country but, I believe, that extra exertions were made to drive the foe from the doors of "our friends" accept for yourself and your daughter my kindly wishes and earnest thanks for a Fourth of July Breakfast, and words of cheerful encouragement

I give my full name and address so that should you desire to chide me for my delay in acknowledging your kindness or my presumption in addressing you a stranger you may know where I may be found.

Again assuring you of the earnest thanks of a Soldier for your kind words and deeds I subscribe myself

Yours Truly For the War

Henry M. Morgan

Capt Arms Battery 2 nd Army Corps

Washington D.C.