

Jun. 23, 1863

I am sorry to hear of your Fathers poor health and hope he may soon regain his former health. My kind regards to him I must close as I have filled my sheet and is quite late. Adm. Suffolk Va of m 23rd
Good bye with love and believe me your affectionate

Dear Cousin. Cousin Sam.

You will pardon my neglect for not answering your very welcome letter which I recd some time since. When I recd your letter I was detached from my Company as Capt of Provost Guard, which place I filled for two weeks, but liking the Company better I applied for a relief from duty and returned to my Company. My duties were the command of one hundred and fifty Men, to drill the same and see that quiet was kept through

out the Town. I had a very good
chance of seeing all the prisoners
that were taken by our scouts, as
a part of the Guard was over the
jail. Since I wrote you last we
have made another reconisance to
Blackwater over the worst roads
that I ever traveled. A good part
of the way through water knudes
and then stand a advance Guard
within hearing distance of the
Rebel pickets, with very wet feet and
freezing at the same time quite
hard. I thought before morning that
that was soldiering under difficulties.
When morning came we saw nothing
and returned. I dont know how
soon this awful war will close
for it looks as though it was no
nearer than when I saw you
last, but I pray the time is
near at hand when we shall

All return to our Friends and
home never again to be engaged
in war. Monday night I went
out with our Company as advanced
kitchen and remained all night.

I suffered a good deal with cold
but as we could have no fire and
nothing but the frozen ground
to rest on. You have my thanks
for your kind invitation to
dine with you, I trust I may
have the pleasure to visit you
before many years. I am glad
to hear that the New Year began
so pleasantly with you and only
hope in may be continued to you.

I should think it ought to after
receiving so many Calls from so
many gentleman friends. You remember
calling with me the morning I left
on a Miss Baldwin who was quite low
with consumption do you not. She was

buried on New Years day. One of my
Sady friends has been married since
I left home. and all the consolation
I have was the wish that I could
have been present at the union.
Well that is my belief that the
union must and will be preserved
if not throughout the this glos-
sious land, in certain localities at least.
Brother Girault has been making
me a short visit. On Tuesday night
I was quietly reading in my tent
when I heard some unusual noise
in the street and looking out I
saw Brother. Reading was left in short
order when I took a double quick and
charged on him. and soon took him
to my tent as a most welcome guest.
I enjoyed his visit very much, and
was somewhat disappointed in not
finding Uncle Dick with him. I hear
that he talked of coming down here
this winter, but hardly think he will
now. I visited as hard as I could
for the time I had. I dont think I
left him five minutes during his stay.
He returned this morning and will
reach home the fore part of next week.
The Giraults were all well when he
left home. Uncle Michael Kelly
came as far as Washington to see
cousin Sam. There were in all from
our town some nine or ten in the ^{con-}
pany.