

answered.

Yorktown Va June 27th 1863.

Dear Cousin,

I Recd your very welcomed letter a few days since & was very glad to hear that you were all well. Since I last wrote you we have been on the move nearly all the time. The night that I returned to the Regt six Cos were ordered out, for the purpose of capturing some bushwhackers who had been firing on our Cavalry pickets. I had the night before killed one of them. We left Camp at eight and marched three miles, took our position. We didnt succeed in getting any thing but a thorough soaking for we had a regular Virginia Thunder storm.

I couldnt help thinking as I stood in the drenching rain, of the difference of only a week when at the same hour I was quietly sleeping at home. But, such is a soldiers life. On the twelfth we Recd orders to march with three days rations, and started for our old ground, Blackwater. - the first night.

We Camped about fourteen miles out. Started next morning and continued marching from place to place, & returned to Camp after six days marching. Our Regt had the honor of the Advance & our Co, the Advance of the Regt, consequently we had all the skirmishing to do. On the morning of the sixteenth we came on their pickets & drove them a crop the River, we lost no men that day. On the bank was a fine plantation house which was completely riddled of every thing it contained. I was fortunate enough to get a nice plate which I shall keep as a memento of the place. After we had joined the Regt the house was set on fire & before we left was a heap of ruins. I hadnt much sympathy for the owner as the house had been used as a head Quarters for the Rebs. The Cavalry got two Reb mail bags in the house.

From there we marched to G. Franklin and again advanced to the River with the intention of crossing but found the bridge torn down & the stream too deep to ford. They opened fire, when a sharp skirmish followed, in which I lost one man killed & one wounded. After I had established my line of skirmishers I returned to the left, and stopping for a moment near one of my men, I saw a Reb a crop the River. I took his gun & fired & before I had time to bring the piece

down the poor fellow was hit by a ball in the side. He
was close by my side. Why he was taken & I spared God
only knows. I was with him when he died. he died with
out a struggle. When we returned to Camp orders were
waiting us to move to Yorktown. We started the next
day and arrived here on the morning of the 19th.

Yorktown is a poor old southern town with scarce
any enterprise, they are full fifty years behind the
times & judging from appearance they have not put
up any houses since the surrender of Cornwallis.

The advantages it has by having good water commu-
nication with all the seaboard towns one would think
it a place of importance. We have a very pleasant
Camp, situated in a fine Peach Orchard & half a
mile from the River our post is the field where
Cornwallis surrendered his sword to Washington. on our
right and near the River bank stands an old
house said to have been the Head Quarters of Cornwallis.

Yesterday I took a walk & went down to where Mr.
Cellan had his Head Quarters some two miles from Camp.

A person has no idea of the amount of work that
has been done here till they see for them selves

I saw the Graves of many poor fellows who have lost
their lives in this Campaign & none to mourn their
loss except those who were dear to them, When the history

is written of this unholy Rebellion their names will be left out, some have not even a plain board to mark the spot where they rest. Our Brigade left here on Monday morning for Williamsburg, as have nearly all the force from Suffolk. I was ordered by the surgeon to remain in Camp, much against my will, but as I was a good deal worn down by the six days march I thought it might be well for me to stay. The Colonel gave me the Com^d of the Camp in which capacity I have been acting.

I hope the Regt will return soon, or I am ordered on to join it. - it is very lonesome with out the boys, they were sorry I could not go with them, as soon as the Regt Returns I expect to be Acting Regt. Lt. I shall have it much easier but think I will not like it as well as to be with the Co. I heard this morning that our force was near, or at the white house if so, it looks like a move on Richmond. I rec^d a letter from Sibie last week she was well, her husband is at Newbern N.C. his time must be out in about a year. My time will be out in two years and two months. I think I shall wait till after peace is declared before I get married, and the prospects are good for waiting still longer, for I am not even as fortunate as many not even a beginning. I should be glad to have you take tea with me when I get settled, & perhaps with your assistance I might be successful. I pray this war may soon close & we all return once more to our comfortable homes. wont there be rejoicing then - the majority will I think know how to appreciate a home, I think I shall. I expect a letter from home to night & shall be disappointed if I dont get one. Nothing does me as much good as to receive a letter from my friends. I shall wait patiently for your photograph & hope you may be successful in obtaining good ones, as you are intitled to them. I have just learned that our mail has gone up to the Brigade & if I have a letter I shall not get it for some time, also that our Cavalry had a fight near the white house & were successful, captured forty prisoners. I must close this wandering letter. My love to all, From your affectionate Cousin

P.S. direct to Yorktown, Va.

Via Fort Mifflin.

Sam.