

Letter 14

U.S. General Hospital
Annapolis Md, Aug 26th/64

Dear Cousin

It has been a long, long time since I rec'd a letter from you, & I hardly knew how to account for it till today. I rec'd a letter from Maggie saying she had just rec'd a letter from you, saying you had written me some few weeks since. Hoping that the time will not be as long in the future, I will try and give you a rough sketch of what I have been through. Our first fight was at the Wilderness, where we lost quite heavily. I went into the fight with twenty three men & came out with ten. I rec'd Sun Stroke at that time & am now suffering from its effects. Next was the great Raid Around Richmond which was more than I ought to have undertaken. We started the second day after the fight on the Raid. My men helped me on my horse & on to Richmond. We started fighting nearly all the way. We had some amusing scenes & many very sad ones.

Next came the raid on the Danville(?) R.R. which was hard work indeed. On the 27th of July we crossed the James R. with the 2nd Corps where we had a pretty hard fight. Recrossed the next day & moved to the extreme left of the Army & remained one day, where we rec'd orders to move to Washington. Taking transports at City Point we arrived safe at Washington on the 3rd of this month. On the 5th our Brigade marched triumphantly through Penn Avenue en rout for Harpers Ferry where we arrived on the eve of the 8th. There I was obliged to leave & come to hospital arriving here on the tenth pretty well used up. The right side of my face is paralyzed & I have but little use of it & the sight of my eye is nearly destroyed. Still I am in hopes to recover sufficient to return in a short time. I am thankful that my affliction is no worse, when I contrast my lot with many that are here.

I have applied for a leave of twenty days & am in hopes to be benefited by it. I should have been very glad to have met your Bro & Wife while visiting in Groveland, but at that time U.S could not spare any of us. Should I be successful in getting my leave, I should be delighted to see you at Mothers.

They are very anxious for me to come home for a short time, & oh wont it be good to see those dear faces once more. The changes have been great since I left them last. Then we were all happy. Since then we have been called to mourn for a dear Bro who fell in Battle at Drewreys Bluff. He was a noble Bro, brave to a fault. Poor Libbie mourns his loss very deeply. Yet he is but on of the many that have given their lives for their countrys cause. My Co has suffered very much this summer. The Casualties are thirty five & when I left I had but twenty five for duty. Some of my best men have fallen.

This is a very pleasant locality & well adapted for Hospt'l purposes. The buildings were formerly used as the U.S. Naval Academy. There are some four hundred officers here at present. It is growing late/& I must close.

Remember me. With much love to all

I am, ever your Afft Cousin
Sam

P.S. All were well at Home when Maggie wrote.