

Letter 5

Camp Suffolk
June 7th 1863

Dear Cousin

I rec'd you very welcome letter yesterday on my arrival from home. You may be assured I was glad to hear from you it being some time since your last. While at home Maggie rec'd a letter from you and by that I learned that you were all well.

I have been off duty for a long time. Some nine weeks before I received my Furlough which was fifteen day. While at the Gen'l Hosp't I applied for a leave but was not successful until I returned to Camp and being advised by my Cap't and Surgeon, to go north together with Libbie's wish for me to be present at her wedding, I sent in an other application for a leave of fifteen days which was granted, but too late for me to be present at the Union.

They left for Easton Pa. the same evening I rec'd my leave. I was very sorry that I could not have seen them before they left. Our people gave me a history of the wedding which must have passed off very pleasantly. Well as our family is quite large, I may perhaps have the pleasure of attending some of their weddings.

I think it best to look on the bright side as long as one can. What think you of it.

I had a splendid time while at home, visiting friends. The first that I done was to visit or rather called on all of my Boy's Friends first as they were anxious to hear from them. And I was well paid for my time in the kindness which I rec'd from them. I wish you might have been with me tho have shared the blessing which I received.

I brought back a good many packages for them from their Friends. More than I did for myself. When I arrived at the Depot I found several of them waiting for me and it done me good to see them. I left the Friends all very well. Uncle Dick took dinner with us the day I left. We are living in a brick mansion fifteen by twenty feet. In the corner each side of the table that I am writing on are our bunks and in the centre is our table spread with a white cloth ready for dinner. So you see we are quite comfortable so long as we stay here.

Last night we had strawberries minus the cream, with warm cakes and tea. Last night six Co's of our Reg't were ordered out some three miles from Camp for the purpose of capturing a lot of Bushwhackers who have been firing on our Cavalry pickets and killed one the night before. About twelve we had a very heavy thunder storm and the rain fell in torrents and continued till nearly three, when we came into the camp we saw nothing while there. While I was standing in the rain I could not help thinking of the difference of only a week when at the same hour I was quietly sleepin at home where all was peace and quiet, but such are the fortunes of War. I hope your pictures will prove to be good

ones and please remember your Cousin Sam I hope you may have a pleasant visit with your Brother

Enclosed you will find a Fotograph.

Remember me kindly to all the Friends. I Remain, as ever your Affectionate Cousin Sam.