

Clarks Burg June 24th 62

Dear John

I have just come in from picket duty I have been out 4 miles on the Bucanon road I suppose you know pretty much what we are doing here as I have written two letters home but I haven't received any from home sense I have left Columbus I know you send them but I gess they got stopped on the way. Yesterday was the first mail the regiment received here our company got 50 letters itself and they wore all directed to Cumberlain where I told you to direct your letters I got two letters but I am sorry to say neather of them was from home the mail will be in in a few mints I gess there will be one for me this time This is the prettyest country around here I ever saw I whent over to a large tunnel yesterday on the Parkersburg and Grafton road its one mile and a half long As a general thing we have first rate times here standing on guard when it is raining is a little tough but the other duties are not hard at all We all thought when we came here there was rebels bushwackers Jayhawkers and evry thing els. The first night we came here as a fellow and I were walking through the town we came across some of the 6th Verginia fellows and They told us that there wasnt a rebel within sixty miles of us Their regim has been here 10 months I don't know what they were kept here for unless it was to guard the comissary stores They are going away in a few days and we will have to stay in their place until some regiment relieves us which I think will be in about nine months I don't care much as the pople here are most all union and rich as jobes turkey but They are very nice poples the other night I was at a party given by one of the influensal citizens I tell you there were some pretty girls there to I had about as good a time as I could have to if I can get a pass I will go to an other to night if you ever here eny thing good of this regiment it won't be the field officers fault We have the poorest lot of field officers ever I saw or heard of I am not the only one that says so eather The Col made 6 mastakes on dress parade the other night He says himself that he don't know eny thing about military matters We have as good company officers as you could skare up eny where I am getting fatter and stronger evry day if I just keep my health as good as it is now I will do very well All that we will have to do here will be to stand guard and do picket duty just to keep up appearance when you write direct the letter to Cap MacFarland Co A 86th Regiment OVI follow the regiment

Give my love to all  
your brother  
Stephen L. Patterson

P.S I hope you have heard from Will and Bob