

Stamps are very scarce here or I should put one on this
Sperryville Aug 2nd
Headquarters 1st Corps
Army of Virginia

Dear Father,

Owing to the mail being detained at Washington, I did not receive your letter till Wednesday. It was very acceptable as I had heard nothing directly from them since I left Ohio.

There was nothing of any interest occurred here since I wrote last. We are still waiting here as I understand to be attacked by Ewell which I think will be sometime to come although the outposts have an occasional brush with his Cavalry. A whole company of a New York Regt was captured at Madison about twelve miles from here this week by them.

Ewell is supposed to be about Gordonsville with some twenty or thirty thousand men and will it is supposed dispute the possession of that part of the country with us if we advance. Gen Seigel has had his whole Corps out on a mammoth drill, and was at it for two whole days. He maneuvered them as if they were really in an engagement and a good many officers as well as men, not learnt a few new wrinkles that rather astonished them. I was not in it as I have not been quite well for some time, and was afraid of the heat I have been improving very fast for the last three or four days and feel quite well now.

Gen Pope and Staff are expected here this afternoon. He reviewed Gen Banks Corps yesterday at Washington six miles east of this. Part of Banks's forces are at Culpepper. It will probably liven us up a little. We all certainly need it as we have been in one place so long that we are getting restless.

They had a big time at Gen Schenck's Quarters last night. His staff presented him with a very handsome Sword. The presentation speech was made by Gen McLean and the Gen replied in a very neat speech I looked on a little while Capt Johnston was there. I understood that Capt Lowry and Jo Clements had returned from Dayton but have seen nothing of either of them.

I saw a letter in the Cincinnati Gazette from the correspondent here, who speaks of us as being wholly demoralized till Seigel came here. He says that we were plundering every body of everything that they possessed and raising Cain generally. In justice to the men and officers the idiot ought to be drummed out of camp with a pair of long ears pinned to him. The facts are thin. We came here with little or nothing to eat: the Quartermasters expecting to receive their supplies from Warrenton: but the river rose so high that it was impossible for them to cross. In the mean time forage parties were started out from the different Brigades to pick up what they could and if the owners could prove their loyalty, to give them orders on the paymaster for what they took. We got flour, corn meal, and a few beaves; just enough to keep us from starving til a bridge was thrown across the river. Of course in an army like this there are a good many men of bad character who abuse the liberty they get and they have committed some few breeches of the orders but none as far as I could learn have gone unpunished for they are certain to be found out. If this Gazette man is so thin-skinned he had better go home and stay there. or he

may see some thing that may hurt his sensibilities a good deal worse than they have been; for according to Gen Popes orders we are to live on the enemy as much as possible after this. Confound the fellow does he want us to starve here amongst the Secesh who seem to have plenty of the staples if not the luxuries of life. I see that the order of Gen Pope has raised the dander of the Southern papers which I think is a good sign that it is going to hurt somebody.

I sent a letter of recommendation from Gen Schenck to Gov Tod. to Col Anderson and told him that I should like to get into his Regt if possible. I am afraid however that it is too late as I see by the papers that nearly all of the appointments have been made not only in that Regt but in the others. I should like to have it sent to him anyhow as it will do no harm if no good. The letter was entirely unsolicited on my part. I was over there talking to Capt Crane and he remarked that Coz Charleys Regt would be a fine place for me. I remarked that I should like very much to leave the 61st and that was all that was said. The next morning an orderly came over with the letter and directed me about it. and sent it accordingly. Affairs are in a state of uncertainty in this Regiment Col Schleich has done nothing to fill the vacancies here besides the ones he has filled up with his relatives. I should like to hear from you next week if it is not too much trouble.

The 81st O.V.I is at Cumberland. I rather expect Steve will be heartily sick of soldiering by that time although they are on the R.R. and can get all their rations which is vastly different to being stationed out here where it is pretty hard to get half. They being only a three months Regt will probably never leave that place Remember me to all.

Your affectionate son

Robt Patterson

P.S. I suppose you got my letter that contained Col McGroritys letter