

Clarks Burg July 17th 1862

Dear Mother

I received your last letter to day and as you are anxious to hear from me I take my knapsack and jet under a large chesnut tree that stands near our tent to answer it I am very sorry I caused you any anxiety I know I ought to have written sooner but if you knew what inconvenience it is for a private to write in camp I think you would excuse me for not writting more frequently hereafter I will try to write home twice a week at least But as far as my health is concerned I never had better in my life our rations are as good as we had at Camp Chase the bread and coffee are better so we don't care much how soon we leave here Charles Anderson I suppose is doing all he can to rase his regimant as he is makeing speaches evry where We know evry thing that is going in Ohio as we jet the Cincinnati papers evry night at ten oclock I would like to be home to jet a commision in Charlie's regiment I gess it won't be full before our three months will be up. Ashley Brown is doing his part towards helping the people of Kentucky He and a few others seems be the onley ones that are doing enything to I think it's a disgrace to Ohio to see Kentucky run over by such an outlaw as Morgan The boys are very anxious to go to Kentucky We can fight for the Kentucky people but we don't believe in fighting for an ignorant half civilized lazy secessionists I wouldn't give a straw for all the Union men in Western Virginia I have heard men that have been all through western Virginia say the same. One thing it is good for and that is black berrys they are the principal thing they rase here They wouldn't rase them but they are to lazy to keep them out of their fields The regiment lives on them almost since they have been ripe the other day a leffow [fellow] and I went out about a mile from camp and got a bucket full in a few minits on our rode [road] home we saw some cows in a field close by the rode we thought we might as well have some milk to eat with our black berries so I got over and got a kanteens full of as nice rich milk as you have at home. I am glad you have heard from Will and Bob the 61th is still at Cumberland I believe. Our Lieu Col formily belonged to that regiment Tell Uncle Charley that it is not to late yet if He wants to give me a commision It seems to me that He might have found another camping ground without being so close to our house you will find it a great nuisance I know from experience I suppose aunt Hizie has gone home John stated she was going in is His letter I shouldent thing you would want them there as you have so much work to do I don't see how you stad it Mother working all the time as hard you do I hope you won't get sick I suppose you will soon be through with the harvest I cent home a Clarcksburg paper last week that will tell you pretty much all about the 86th We are the only troops here except a battery of artillery I don't think there is eny prospect of us leaving here for two or three weeks yet Tell John I will write to Him soon I see the post master comeing down the hill gathering up the letters no more at present give my love to all the family

Your affectionate son

Stephen L. Patterson

PS When you answer put some postage stamps in the letter

S.. L.. P