

Camp in Snake Creek Gap, Ga.
May 11th - 1864

Dear Mother.

I have an opportunity of sending a letter to Chattanooga today as I may not have a chance to mail anything for some time I thought I would accept this one.

We arrived at our Division Head Qrs on Sunday evening and next morning were pushed out to the Front but had no fighting of any consequence although there was considerable going on, on all sides of us. At twelve oclock at night we were roused up and marched twelve miles to this place where we are watching the movement sof the Rebs

Hookers Corps is in the Centre

Howard on the left with the 4th Corps

Palmer with the 14th between Hooker & Howard and McPherson on the left with the 18th and 16th Corps trying to cut off the Rail Road about Resaca. I hear this morning he has succeeded. If so, the Rebs are in a bad fix. We have about one hundred fifty thousand to their sixty thousand but if we have to fight them in their position the advantages are about equal. The distant thunder of artillery tells in unmistakable language that our comrades on both sides are engaged.

This part of Georgia is very mountainous, extremely adapted for defense, and if Genl Sherman succeeds in geting the enemy to swing either out of his fortifications or whips him in them, he will do wonders.

I wrote to Steve about my Valise and at the same time I wrote to a Lieut in our Regt to go to the Express Office and bring it out with him, but he may have left Cincinnati before my letter reached there. If that is the case I can see or think of no other way than for Steve to send for it to Cincinnati & keep it till we get settled somewhere. I would send the money to pay expenses but am afraid to trust it to the mails.

We may be on this campaign for some time for if the enemy succeeds in geting away we will have to follow him to Atlanta a hundred miles from here, which will be awful as this climate is very warm even now. We have suffered from the heat as much as I ever did at home in July or August and the roads are six inches deep in dust. The water also is very bad. I cannot see how we will be able to live here in the summer months at all.

I cannot tell you how much I regret at being unable to go home before we left. We had no idea of leaving Camp before Monday and I was very busey making out Rolls when the orders came.

Our Brig Gen Who by the way has since been sent to a Lunatic Asylum at Philadelphia, telegraphed for us to be sent out immediatly and I suppose the authorities at Columbus thought there was something urgent and sent us out in a hurry.

I have not heard of Will since I came down here he is on the left somewhere about twenty miles from here.

I saw James Reynolds at Chattanooga.

The Col joined us on Sunday. He was put in command of a Brigade of Militia but would not keep it. He will take command of our Brig in a day or two. He brought out several commissions one for me as Capt amongst the rest and the next morning we were all

mustered in. I must close this as the man is ready to start.
Remember me to all

your affectionate son
Robt Patterson
61st Ohio 3rd Brig 1st Div
20th Corps
Army of the Cumberland