

Camp of the 97<sup>th</sup> Reg. A.M.V.  
near Hatcher's Chapel, Va.

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Dear Mother,

Your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup>, just  
so full, of good cheer, gratifying news, & golden  
counsels, came last evening; & the same  
mail brought one from Gustavus, dated at  
New York, the 19 (13<sup>th</sup>), both of which were  
welcome indeed. I was glad to know  
that he was doing so well, & enjoying him-  
self so highly in his social intercourse  
with friends, in whose esteem he has  
been elevated, by patriotic gallantry, &  
whose friendship may have become more  
generous, from their sympathy for his  
suffering. I also received a letter from  
Eliza three or four days ago, informing  
me all about Gustavus, & the pleasant  
times they were having. Eliza is certainly  
enjoying most valuable opportunities

for improvement, both as to her social & mental qualifications. The experience she is now acquiring, by her residence in New York, will doubtless prove the most fruitful of her life thus far.

I have been trying, for several days, to get time to write home again, but have been so busy with the work of making out quarterly & yearly Returns, some of them requiring a very great amount of labor, of which those who have never had the experience, can have but the faintest conception. - A large part of the work that should have been done during the Year & the last quarter (if we had made out our Returns & kept all our accounts properly) has been compressed within the last 10 days. I have worked with the utmost patience & perseverance, day after day, & frequently late at night, after all others had been long asleep, in order to attend to all the requirements of Co. K, correctly, & within the allotted time, & now it gives me pleasure to say that

This extraordinary work has been ac<sup>3</sup>  
complished, quite as satisfactorily as the cir-  
cumstances would permit. Soon after  
finishing my last Return, this After-  
noon, information came that the Pay-  
master, so long expected, in vain, had  
at last arrived & was paying off the other  
Regts in our old Brigade (now Cal. Roots)  
& would be ready to pay us on Wednesday.  
This intelligence is highly satisfactory to all  
the soldiers, though <sup>this satisfaction is</sup> considerably diminished  
by the fact that we are to be paid for  
only four months, whereas there is 6 mos  
pay due. I draw only 2 mos' pay now,  
having been paid to the 31. Aug. when I was  
at Washington. Yesterday a number of  
Commissions came, including Alexander's  
& mine. They are signed by Adj. Gen. C.  
T. Sprague, & by Gov. Seymour. We have to  
be "mustered out" of our former rank &  
"mustered in" to the new one, requiring  
considerable formalities & the ~~issuing~~ <sup>expending</sup>  
purchase of a quantity of Gov't Stationery &

some time in filling out The Blanks, &c,  
 but we are ready to get mustered, tomorrow,  
 so that we will be just in time to  
 draw our pay according to promotion,  
 as we could not do, unless we had the  
 necessary "Documents" to show.

In a few days, I will send my Com-  
 mission home, as I shall not need it  
 here, after being mustered. You have my  
 first Commission at home, haven't you?

Two or three days ago, rumors  
 became rife again, of an im-  
 mediate movement, & then we received or-  
 ders to have on hand 3 days rations,  
 & 60 rounds of cartridges for man. These  
 orders coming while we were yet in  
 the midst our work of making out returns,  
 spurred us up some, in order that we might  
 be ready at the earliest possible moment.  
 Last night, an Dress Parade, Col,  
 Whelock informed the Reg. that he had  
 just received orders to be ready to march

5 at an hour's notice, & awaked all the men  
to get their things in shape, so as to be able to  
pack up within the specified time, after the  
reception of marching orders. It has  
been very fortunate that we are not yet  
ordered off. The weather lately, has been  
much colder than usual, & a few days  
ago was rainy, & very windy & cold.  
The wind was so high that two or three  
trees were blown over in camp, to the  
damage of some tents; & we couldn't have  
fires in our stoves, for the smoking, & we  
felt rather miserable & uncomfortable,  
sitting in the cold, while engaged in  
our literary & other occupations. Our  
tents then seemed rather frail & unstable  
tenements, though comfortable & substan-  
tial enough for most weather. I think I  
wrote you, in my last letter, about re-  
ceiving the other box. It was brought  
by a Mrs. Hill, a friend of Mrs. Menden-  
hall's, who came from Mrs. Banover's  
man's. I am not acquainted with the

lady, but thinks she must be the wife of  
one of the Officers of the 88<sup>th</sup> Pa. in our Brig-  
ade - The apples were exceedingly nice,  
also the cookies & some biscuits sent by  
Mrs. Mendenhall. The candy was a "kiss from  
Grandma," excepting half that I gave Alex.  
The dried beef & fruit, & Salsaparilla, &  
pepper, as well as the butter & dried app-  
les that came in the first box, have  
been kept until the present time, instead  
of being turned in to the mess; as Alex &  
I have calculated to have a mess of our  
own, as soon as our kit arrives from  
Washington. Mr. Leamstock came tonight,  
I understand, but not having seen him,  
do not know whether he has brought our  
things. Lieut. Carpenter has sent  
in one or two Resignations, within a  
week, & they have been ret'd "disapproved."  
But he has continued to persevere in  
his efforts to get out of a service, so  
~~disagreeable~~ disagreeable to him, & for which he is so  
littled suited. He says, that of his last

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resignation is not accepted, he will  
go before the "Examining Board", after  
the Exam. The qualifications of such  
Officers as may be ordered before it,  
upon the supposition of incompeten-  
cy, - He vows he will never go into  
another battle". I am glad he has not  
succeeded in leaving before being paid  
off, as he owes me some money.

I am sorry to say, in answer  
to your questions about our Chaplain, Sabbath  
Services &c, that we would be better off  
without the Chaplain we have, as he really  
does next to nothing but stay with the Reg.  
& draw his pay, which amounts to a handsome  
sum <sup>per</sup> month, as he ranks as ~~Major~~ "Cap-  
tain of Cavalry". He exerts very little positive  
religious influence, & few in the Reg. I think  
are much the better, not to say wiser for  
his ministrations. - It would hardly re-  
quire all of one's fingers or which to  
count the services which he has held in  
the Reg. (when he has preached) since  
we left Brownville. It is most un-  
fortunate, & deeply to be regretted that  
this is so, as a good Chaplain, such as  
Mr. Bellamy would make, might the

8 of inestimable benefit to a Reg. & might  
exert such an influence, & impart  
such knowledge as would go far  
towards preventing soldiers from sinking  
to that low level of depravity, to which  
the tendency is so strong. If there is  
a redeeming feature in the Chap-  
lain's record, I think it is that he  
has assisted in the care of the wounded  
at the Hospitals, after battles.

I forgot to speak of the letters  
in that box, from Ella & Dannie; they  
were very good indeed; Ella writes  
an excellent letter, - indicating a prom-  
ising future, for her, I think. Dannie,  
though so young, proves himself a "chip  
of the old block." Some of these days  
I will answer Willie's 6 letters, all in  
a batch. Tell all the children &  
Grandma too, that I am writing  
to the whole of them, & haven't time,  
after to write separate letters to them,  
but they are under name the less



obligations to write to me, as they have  
time enough; & they may be assured  
that their letters are a source of much  
interest & gratification to me.

I must compliment Grandmother  
for her comparative excellence in  
writing, considering that she has had  
so little practice. I experience no dif-  
ficulty in reading her letters.

Accompanying the aforesaid box,  
was a good letter from Mrs. Menden-  
hall, which I duly answered, to the  
best of my ability.

Uncle Billy & Aunt Gave, are getting quite  
a little brood around them, <sup>following the mode</sup>  
I don't know as I remember the Bull of whom  
you speak, in connection with Cous. Hattie,  
though young, she is quite mature, & will  
doubtless make a good wife.  
Remember me to Uncle Nathan & Aunt  
Lealista & Cous. Ann. I am sorry to hear that  
he is all the time quill.

Please present my kindest regards to Louis  
& Gossie Perry, & say that I would like to give  
them a friendly call, & perhaps take the old  
riding, or go out perambulating with them, & Smith  
& Collins (who would be glad to open & close gates,  
& make himself generally useful). My congratu-  
lations & compliments to the newly married couple,  
of my acquaintance. - Will write Gustavus  
soon.

Your Son. Rush P. Cady.

10 P. S. I enclose a letter for Gustavus,  
which I took the liberty of opening,  
a short time ago, in order to  
reunite it, & forget to do so.

Tuesday morning - At about 7.30  
A.M. we received orders to march at  
~~the~~ 12 o'clock. M. T. day. We are in the middle  
of preparation. Haven't had time to write  
to Ediza. Expect cross the river to  
fight a battle. - The paymaster  
goes along with an ox-wagon at the  
first opportunity; but Alex. & I have  
not had time to be mustered yet; am pay-  
ing on his account. - It is quite  
cold - with an rather hard wind blowing  
on the ground, at night.