

July 4th



Mr. Daniel Cady
Rome,

N. Y.

6
Headquarters 97th - S. V. V.
Cattlets, Va. June 25th 62

Dear Parents,

As it is but a few days since I wrote home, I will have but little to write now. - Joe & I received a hearty welcome back, - all seemed glad to have us return, in health; especially Gus & Louis. We found him quite well, with the exception of a little lameness, occasioned by marching, but he has since recovered from that. Found the Major quite sick, at a farm-house, about a mile east of our camp, where he had been some time, having a comfortable place, & being well cared for. He has now returned to camp, being nearly recovered, though not very strong yet. - I took dinner, in company with the Chaplain, - Gustavus & Joe, at the house where the Major was staying, the day after our arrival. - Mr. Calvin, & his family,

consisting of a wife & four daughters, entertained us very acceptably. - The people about here with several families of whom, I have become acquainted, live in a hamlet, & though they seem to be comfortably off, & treat the soldiers in a hospitable manner. Scarcely, if not quite, all are strong in their expressions of sympathy for the Government, & the Union Cause, & exceedingly desirous that the war shall be speedily brought to an end. All the property owners about here have suffered greatly ^{in a} pecuniary point of view, from the proximity of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~war~~ ^{war}. Rather than risk the destruction of crops, little hopes to be raised this season.

When marching to Front Royal, & the hardships & exposures incident thereto, told sadly upon the health of our Regt. A great many were sick in consequence; - about 20 are scattered in different hospitals, out of one Co. & of those who are left in the Co. a good

many have been unwell, but are now rapidly recovering. Our sleeping accommodations are quite rude. I have no blanket, except a rubber one, as my two woolen blankets & rubber coat were lost some time ago. The weather has been quite pleasant since I came, though we have had two pretty hard rain storms. - Our Co. was out on picket duty before yesterday. I was with the most advanced picket, consisting of 9 men, a Serg. & Corp. During the day - a party of 17 of Shields men came along, & passed beyond the line, to go on a scout. At night 7 of them came back, reporting that they had seen the Rebel pickets three miles above. We were at Warrenton Junction, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Catlett. It has been since reported that the enemy are only 8 miles from here, which may or may not be true. - We are expecting marching orders all the time, having been

ordered to be in readiness to march
at an hour's notice, what our
destination is to be, of course we
do not know. I am very well,
am getting quite strong & rugged.
Love to all - Good night!

Yours aff. Sam

Rush P. Leary.

P.S. Thursday Morning,

As I write, a squad-
ron of Cavalry - the 1st Mich. - is passing
by, probably going towards Marretown,
as there are bands of Guerilla Cavalry
between here & there. - One of our
boys who was off 8 or 10 miles from
here, scouring the Country, trying to "cap-
ture" some stray horses, went within
a short distance of a body of about
40 - Guerilla Cavalry, & narrowly es-
caped being taken. We expect work
pretty soon.

R. Leary