

Camp of the 108th NYVols¹
April 23rd 1864

Dear Father

I arrived in camp last evening and as we have no dress parade this afternoon I shall write you a short letter. Howard and I got along nicely with the detachment under our charge. We arrived at Washington Tuesday night at about 10 o'clock. The men put up at the Franklin, H & I went to the Ebbilt house.² The next morning went to Provost Marshalls for passes. We got them without any difficulty, and as they did not expire until Thursday we had a whole day in the City. This we improved to the best of our ability trotting round the town all day and going to the theatre in the evening. The next morning we took the early train for the front. I stopped over night with Port sending the men on with Howard. I had a very pleasant time. Saw all the officers that I was acquainted with and was treated very politely by them. The Col also was very hospitable and took pains to show me all the peculiar institutions of the Regiment. Yesterday afternoon I left Warrenton and came directly through to the regiment. First let me say that I saw Henry Hamilton, and that he is looking very well. He is to be Captain of K Co. Everett came down on the train with me from Warrenton. I have not said a word to him with relation to his marriage, but I understand from others that when hard pressed he admits to having been married to a Brooklyn girl, at his home in Illinois. He lives in Bloomington and if anybody in R[ochester] really wishes to find out exactly how things stand with him and his family a letter directed to the Postmaster would probably bring the desired information.³

Sunday – As senior officer present for duty I am in command of the Regiment and have just returned with ~~the R~~ it from an inspection. I was pleased to find everything in such fine order. It is natural for every one to think well of that which belongs to him but I really think that all prejudice laid aside our Regiment is in order and discipline one of the finest in the camp. When I returned I found that new orders had been issued relative to the muster of officers in regiments reduced as ours has been. Such are entitled to 2 officers of any grade in each company. So you see we can have ten Captains and ten Lieutenants. On the strength of this order I went to the mustering officer and was mustered as Captain. This makes me the 4th Captain but Fellman can hardly be considered an officer of the Regiment and Everett has sent in a resignation which I rather think will be accepted.. This while Andrews & Cramer are away will place me 2nd in rank after the Col. As this would not be of much interest to any body outside of the army perhaps I would be as well not to say any thing about it.

Tell Mrs. Gould that I expect to visit Seward tomorrow. He is about eight miles from here. Our boys played ball with the 10th NY few days since. Score 108th, 57 10th, 40. We play on Tuesday with the 8th Cavalry who are about a mile from here.⁴ Every thing indicates a move. Weather very fine but quite warm. I am well and as yet not very homesick. With much love to all I am

Your affectionate son
Sam Porter
Captain F Co 108th NY Vols

Please acknowledge receipt of Commission.

Endnotes:

¹The camp of the 108th was still in the Stevensburg area, probably at their camp at Stony Mountain, north of Morton's Ford.

²The Franklin House was a boarding house and tavern, located on I Street, Washington D.C.
The Ebbilt House, founded in 1856, was also a boarding house whose exact location could not be determined.

³Simeon P. Howard was 2nd Lt. Co.E, (July,1863), 108th NY.

Porter Farley was his cousin in the 140th NY.

'The Col' reference is probably George Ryan who commanded the 140th NY after the death of O'Rorke assuming of course that Porter was still referring to the 140th NY.

Henry G. Hamilton was appointed Captain of Co.K 140th NY on April 9, 1864.

Captain Ambrose S. Everett of the 108th apparently did not resign but was discharged for disability in August, 1864.

⁴Fellman – see notes to letters of Jan.7 &Feb. 11, 1864.

Captain William H. Andrews commanded Co.C, 108th NY.

Captain George J. Cramer commanded Co. D, 108th NY.

The second reference to 'Col' is either Powers or Pierce of the 108th NY.

Sarah T. Gould (née Seward) was the mother of Seward Gould of the 4th NYHA.

The 10th NY, known as the National Zouaves suffered such losses that they were used as provost guards for the Brigade.

The 8th NY Cavalry, another Rochester Regiment, was recruited by Samuel J. Crooks and mustered in on Nov. 23,1861.