

Camp 108th N Y S Vols
Near Stevensburg Va¹
Jan 15 '64

Dear Mother

My candle is nearly out and I shall not be able, for want of another, to complete a letter tonight, but I will commence one to you, and finish it early in the morning. Last night's mail brought me your letter giving an account of the wedding, also one from Arthur Hamilton, postmarked, Washington, in which he says that Henry is very sick, and requests me to go over and see him. This is impossible, as you will see by my letter that the two regiments are nearly twenty five miles apart. I am very glad to hear that the wedding was such a success. What did you mean by "cousin Sam's" clothes being a fit. Did Port wear my black coat. Since my return I have acted as Adjutant, and have in that way escaped from all picket duty. Two of our Commissioned Officers left this morning for Elmira to assist in the draft. Two more will leave in a few days for Rochester to try their luck recruiting. When I wrote you last the weather was intensely cold. Now there is quite a change and we are once more having a taste of Virginia's mud.²

Saturday Morning

As I expected my light went out before I finished my letter and I was obliged to put it aside until this morning. Thing in camp are very quiet much as they were last winter only more so. I had so nice a visit home and was away from the army so long that this quiet is rather pleasing but still it does not furnish much material for writing. Our camp duties I believe are as yet unknown to you. For myself, I get up at half past 7 , breakfast immediately, dine at 4 P.M. and mount dress parade soon after. This with the signing a few papers as Adjt constitutes my whole duty. I have had a good deal of company ~~duty~~ writing to attend to so far that is now nearly ended and I shall probably have very little to do for the next week. One of the Officers wants me to procure him a pair of boots just like the high ones I bought of Haas. I wish that Farley would order a pair one size larger than mine every way. Made of just as good leather and at the same price. Haas will make them for me quickly and well. I want two rows of nails in the soles instead of one. When they are done charge to me and send to Washington by Express (American) to Ira D. Haroun (*sic*) no regiment.³ Send bill of charge and I will collect here. I have been very much surprised that you have not received (up to the latest dates of your letters) any of mine, but suppose there is some delay in the mails leaving the army. I have written three times at least. I believe that I have written for postage stamps but as I am not sure and am very much in need of them I shall mention the subject again.

Much love to all the family

Your affectionate son

Sam

Notes:

¹ For location see notes to letter of Jan. 7, 1864.

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.

The original letter is in the Porter Family Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester Libraries.

² Arthur S. Hamilton (1843-1917) was the younger brother of Henry and became a leading businessman in post war Rochester.

Henry G. Hamilton, 1st Lt. Co. I, 140th NY was a family friend.

Porter Farley was Sam's cousin and Farley Porter was Sam's younger brother.

³Ira D. Harroun was enlisted in the 108th NY Co. B. Why Porter says 'no regiment' is not clear. Harroun was wounded in the Wilderness fight and discharged in March 1865. He acted as Wagonmaster and served at Brigade HQ. The Washington address is odd also.