

May 1st Morning [1863]

Dear Mother

My last dated the 29th April was not sent off until yesterday and as it was mailed in rather an irregular manner I thought I would write a word to assure you all of my continued health and safety. We crossed the river yesterday afternoon no opposition and had a little taste of our old style Maryland marching. We are now a mile or so back from the river and on our way to cut off the Rebs at F__.¹ If they have not already fallen back to a new base near Richmond we will be likely to fight to morrow early. The Regt is in good condition and the whole army seems to be in fine fighting order. The 5th Corps is in advance of us & we have evidence of the 140th's presence in the knapsacks we see lying by the side of the road marked 140 N.Y.V². There is now to be an inspection of arms & I must put up my writing. I may not get a chance to mail this letter for some time but will do so as soon as possible.

Love to all
Sam

...evening no fighting by us but very heavy firing within half a mile and on every side. The 140th must be in the fight. We are just to start and will soon have a chance to see another fight. I feel well and hope to come out of this engagement with no more serious injury than I sustained in my two former battles. The firing is growing hotter but I think we are too many for them.³

Sam

Notes:

¹ The regiment crossed the Rappahannock at U.S. Ford on April 30th and bivouacked about a mile north of Chancellorsville on the U.S. Ford Road (*O.R.*25, 1, pp.375,379). Sykes Division of the 5th Corps was in the advance moving east along the Orange Turnpike in the direction of Fredericksburg and Lee's flank.

²The 140th NY was indeed in the fight. Sam mentions the knap sacks at the side of the road which were never seen again by their rightful owners (Bennett, p.162). The 5th Corps troops had run into elements of McLaws' Division Army of Northern Virginia moving towards the Federals. So Sam's concern that the Confederates would retire to Richmond was unfounded.

³ The Union troops were "too many for them" but as usual the Union commanders declined to use their manpower advantage mainly based on their fear of Robert E. Lee.

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

