

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

Hd. Qrs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 2<sup>nd</sup> AC  
In the Rebel lines <sup>1</sup>  
April 3, 12m (1865)

Dear Father

Yesterday was the most glorious (since the declaration of independence) in the history of our country. Lee has been completely outgeneraled, and with trifling loss to us has been awfully punished. Our Division carried two forts capturing three guns and 400 prisoners. I accompanied the skirmish line that first captured the works. We have worked day and night for 48 hours & are very tired but in glorious spirits. I am well & unhurt. Seward is all right, he got just the least scratch on the cheek but still sticks to his duty. I believe that Crombie is safe. We are just on the move.<sup>2</sup>

Sam.

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> On March 27, 1865 Grant began what would be the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. Over the next few days Sheridan's cavalry in combination with Warren's 5<sup>th</sup> Corps moved inexorably towards the Southside RR and the important road junction of Five Forks where, on April 1<sup>st</sup> Lee's defensive line was breached. In order to hold Lee in place and to prevent the Southerner from sending aid to the Confederate troops fighting at Five Forks, on April 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant ordered a general attack along the entire line at Petersburg. Wright's 6<sup>th</sup> Corps punched through the NE part of the Rebel works by 8 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. At this time but farther to the south the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps advanced and overwhelmed four Confederate brigades in the works west of Hatcher's Run. Hays' division captured three forts, along with three pieces of artillery (*O.R.* 46, 3, pp. 470-71). These are the events that Sam calls 'most glorious'.

<sup>2</sup> Seward F. Gould was now Major (Nov. 6, 1864) in the 4<sup>th</sup> NYHA.  
John C. Crombie was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. (March 27, 1865) in Co. C of the 4<sup>th</sup> NYHA.