

Near Gettysburg  
July 4<sup>th</sup> '63

Dear Father

We have had fierce fighting for the last two days. Yesterday the position occupied by the division was attacked by a tremendous force. We drove them back but it was with fearful loss to us. Our Regt lost nearly half its number. Co.F in particular suffered fearfully, Losing 19 out of 32. The rebel loss is dreadful & the division has taken 14 stand of color & I should think 2100 prisoners. I did not receive a scratch. To day what is left of our Regt is awaiting another attack.<sup>1</sup>

Sam

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Although this letter is extremely short, it is most interesting for the particular phrase "I did not receive a scratch". Sam came away from the battle unhurt yet two modern studies claim that Sam was wounded at Gettysburg (Marcotte & Strenger). The belief that he was wounded at the battle was encouraged by Sam himself as can be seen in his military file where his wife recalls their discussion of the wound but such was not the case. Sam was shot at Taneytown on July 7, 1863 in a non-combat incident and under unusual and embarrassing circumstances, the details of which can be read in "*Rochester's Forgotten Regiment*", pp.123-126.