

Camp 108th N.Y.V¹
September 5th '64

Dear Grandpa

I am once more safely quartered with the Regiment, and not withstanding the assurances of my friends at home, find my leg perfectly strong, and able to take me through any thing, we may be called upon to endure. After the battle of Reams Station, of the 25th, our Corps was moved back to the present position which is nearly south of Petersburg, and from three to five miles distant. We are as usual in reserve, and will doubtless soon be called upon to carry out another of Hancocks brilliant plans.²

There has been a great change in the weather within a fortnight and we are now able by sitting in our shirt sleeves to keep comfortable. Col Pierce and I rode over to see the 140th Regiment, a day or two ago, but found very little to repay us for our trouble as all the officers with whom we were acquainted were away or on duty. That Regiment numbers now 123 muskets and small as that number is, it is almost twice as many as we report.

The news of the recent nominations at Chicago is occasioning considerable talk in the army, but there seems to be very little of the old McClellan fever, and I am in hope that in November we can give him a good drubbing.³

Last night we received news of the capture of Atlanta and, are anxiously awaiting further particulars. If the report is correct it will prove in my opinion a very disastrous blow to the Rebels.⁴

As yet I have not heard from home but take it for granted that everything and everybody is well. You and the others at Canal St. must excuse me for not going up to say good bye. I thought that as I came and went so frequently it was almost a farce to make so much of it every time. Convalescents are now rejoining the army in large numbers, and I trust with them and the drafted men we will soon have enough to force everything before us. The church call has just sounded and I must close

Your affectionate Grandson
Sam Porter
Captain F Company 108th

Endnotes:

¹ The regiment was still on the Petersburg Front.

The grandpa could be either grandfather – see letter of Jan 27, 2863.

²The battle at Reams Station on August 25th 1864 was the ultimate low point in the marvelous career of the 2nd Corps. Hancock did not function as he once did and the corps lost large numbers in prisoners and for the first time lost pieces of artillery (see *Rochester's Forgotten Regiment*, pp.264-269). The disillusionment with Hancock may be reflected in Porter's remark about the commander's 'brilliant plans'.

³George Brinton McClellan was nominated by the Democratic party as presidential nominee to challenge Lincoln in the upcoming election in Nov. 1864.

⁴On Sept. 2, 1864, Major General William T. Sherman captured and occupied the city of Atlanta, GA.