

Beaufort, S.C. Oct. 2nd [1863]*

Dear Cousin

Yours of 30th Ult came to hand. a few days ago and I take this, my earliest opportunity to reply. I am sorry to hear that Grandma is so unwell. Rogers is in Virginia somewhere. The letter I received from him yesterday was mailed from Alexandria, but his address is, Washington. D. C. as before, or in other words, it is Mr. J. R. Loper. Co. 9 2nd R.I. Vols., Washington, D. C.

Since I wrote my last letter to you, I have been on picket. on the advanced posts. We were ordered there for 12 days. Our camp was situated at a distance of 10 miles from here. But our picket posts were three to seven miles further, and came off duty on the morning we were ordered back to town. So had to march 14 after being on picket duty all night. You may be assured. I slept well that night. It rained very hard two days while we were out there. and I was so unfortunate to be out in it. One day, but it did not hurt me. (It is raining now.) I was completely drenched, even my pocket book wet through, and my money so thoroughly saturated that it lost part of its color. and came near turning white. One of our boats is so near that of the "Rebs." that we can talk together. What did you think of that? I held a conversation with them overnight. I guess that Hank Jen [?] and I could get along without quarrelling if we should try very hard. I had forgotten that I had ever put such an idea in your head, but I suppose I did, as you would never have mentioned it. I would like to have been with you on that pleasure trip, to have enjoyed it with you, but no such enjoyment for me, I am here, compelled to put up with the dull monotony of a soldiers life. But never mind, perhaps there are "better days" in store for me. I have not written to Theodore. If you consider your letter short, what must you think of mine: Remember me to Uncle and Aunt and believe me as ever Your Affectionate Cousin Milton

*Probably 1863. Cf <http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/115thInf/115thInfMain.htm>
Loper's unit was assigned to Beaufort, S.C. In 1863.