

Headqrs. 159th Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.
3d Brigade, Grover's Division
"Camp Grover" Baton Rouge Feb. 20/63

Dear Father

Your letters of the 28th, 29th & 30th Jany came to hand today. I was glad to hear from home and especially to hear that all were well. I was sorry to hear of Gerty Tiemann's death, a notice of which I saw in the Herald of the 27th Jany.

My letter will be dull as there is no news to transcribe. Everything is the same day after day, Drilling, going on guard and laying about camp. I am afraid we will be an awful lazy set by the time we get home.

It is almost as warm here now as it is in York in May. How hot it will be I can form no opinion.

We have Brigade drills now quite often. I like them very much although it is extremely tiresome work. Our regiment is progressing slowly. The men appear to have no life nor ambition. When on drill they go through the movements as though they had a weight to drag with them. I hope that they will improve before long for the pay master has paid off part of our regt. and I think the men will take more interest in what they are told to do.

I have heard nothing in regard to our moving from and think the prospects are that we will be in camp here all this summer. If we do not move pretty soon, we will not be able to move for some time as the rainy season sets in in a very little while. The river is unusually high for the time of year. It is now within three feet of high water mark. Last year at this time it was seven and a half feet below high water mark.

In the fore part of this week, about thirty of the rebel cavalry made an attack on our vedettes shooting one and capturing another.

You say we must not discuss the acts of those in command. Now for myself I think if the people of the north only knew how things are conducted in the army that they have sent out, it would utterly astonish them. I do not speak from hearsay, but from personal evidence. We cannot get shoes or stockings for the men. For a long time they had no shirts or drawers and for two weeks we were on short rations. At one time for three days the men had neither bread nor flour and there was almost open mutiny in the camp. Such things are scandalous, but you say we must not find fault with those in authority. In such a case what would you do?

Harry [Tiemann] is getting along very well indeed. He is very much pleased with his position and from what I hear is much liked. I only wish the thing was permanent, but am well satisfied as it is. I see him now once in a while, but not as much as before he went on the staff.

I do not have as much to do now as before my promotion but still my hands seem full all the time. I shall try to write more regularly than I have heretofore done, and hope to hear from home by every mail.

Sorry that this letter is not more interesting and that there is no more news to transcribe.

I remain your Affectionate Son
Frank

Please remember me to Drake, Edgar and all enquiring friends. Edward [Leslie Molineux] was past here and desires me to tell you that he was grateful to state that he had arranged Harry's affair to his satisfaction. He (Ed) will write you as soon as possible.