

Camp 159<sup>th</sup> Regt. N.Y.S. Vols.  
December 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father,

I wrote you a letter a few days ago since when a mail has been received, & no letter for me. I did get a letter from you mail before last & was glad to hear that all were well.

There is no news at all to communicate. We do not hear from Texas, & the force up the Teche have gone into quarters, so there is nothing to be heard from them. This place is lonely & dull, as we have so few officers here. Our only pleasure consists in going to New Orleans, which we do as often as possible, which is about once a month.

Harry [Tiemann] I suppose has written to you that his resignation is accepted. I hope to get a chance to resign before long but such a thing is very difficult at present. I will try & get a furlough if I cannot resign, as I want to see you all & see how you look.

I see, through southern sources that [General Braxton] Bragg has been removed, & [General William Joseph] Hardee has been appointed his successor. Hardee is probably a smarter man than Bragg, but I do not think him a match for Genl. Grant.

I enclose in this a circular which we are all obliged to fill up. I wish you would fill up those spaces in regard to ancestors &c. which I have left blank & forward with photograph as per direction on circular.

I have enjoyed excellent health for some time, & I hope it will continue so.

The weather has been extremely cold for some time past. Two nights ago we had a heavy frost. The ice formed was ¼ inch thick which is rather remarkable for this country. It is hard work to keep warm nights, but we pile up the blankets & so manage to keep pretty warm.

Harry I suppose you will see before long. They do not know what day they will sail as they are waiting for some one to relieve Genl. [Henry W.] Birge, & Harry is waiting for him, as I believe the Genl. wishes him to.

I am glad to hear in yours of Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> that the meats will be sent. You send me the bill & I will remit the amount. I am sorry the Pies &c cannot be sent, as they would be a rich & rare treat. But when I think of the expense, I am glad you do not send them, as I think I have cost about enough. I hope to remit some money before long, but until I pay my debts I cannot do it.

Tell the children I should write to them, but owing to my having so much company business to attend to, (I command 4 companies.) I cannot write at present. Give my love to Nettie, Grandmother & all the folks at home.

I remain  
Your Affectionate Son  
Frank