

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y. S. Vols.
Alexandria La. April 5th 1864

Dear Father

There is nothing of much interest to record since my last letter was written. We still lay in this town having moved our camp about a mile to the front, in expectation of a raid by Green's cavalry, who are gathering it is reported to make a rush on the town & destroy our commissary stores &c. The streets in the lower end of the town have all been barricaded & I think the rebs will have a rough time if they attack us.

I enclose you an account of a fight at "Cane Bayou," a few miles this side of Natchitoches, in which our forces were victorious. We knew nothing of the fight until we saw the New Orleans papers although we are but a few miles from the scene of the engagement.

We had a spell of bitter cold weather for nearly a week, & it was impossible to sleep at night. It has now cleared off quite warm & I do not think we will have any more cold weather.

Genl. Birge got back on the 4th & is now in command of the Brigade. Edward has been appointed to organize the State troops. We all expected he would come back to the regiment & were extremely disappointed at his not coming back. I suppose he will do as much good where he is as though he was with us.

I have enjoyed excellent health with the exception of a bad cold caught at Terrebonne, which I have not succeeded in getting rid of.

Two of our Captains have just been detached. One was appointed on Genl. Grover's staff, the other on Col. Molineux's. This makes the work much heavier on those that remain with the regiment. We have more duty to do than usual, having a heavier picket on, than we would have if we were in a more peaceable country. Our men go on duty every other day, & they are getting pretty well used up.

Give my love to all the folks & ask them to write.

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.