

In the field Va
Augt. 20th 1864

Dear Father

I take the opportunity of our Surgeon Dr. Provost going home to write to you. I wrote from Tannallytown D.C. on the 13th notifying you of our movement. We left early on the morning of the 14th getting up at 1 A.M. & leaving at 4 A.M. We marched to Difficult Creek about 10 miles where we had to pull off our shoes & stockings & wade. We went into camp on the other side. Next day at 2½ A.M. we moved again. At 7 A.M. we passed thro' Drainesville a small place consisting of a hotel, house & barn. We encamped just across Broad Creek. At 4 A.M. of the 16th we moved again. At 9 A.M. we crossed Goose creek, & at 12 m. we were in Leesburg, which is a very pretty place but awfully secesh. We were well treated by some who gave us water to drink (ice water at that) & appeared glad to see us but the majority turned the cold shoulder. Talk about the Destitution of the south. Our Lieut. Col. eat dinner at Leesburg & had every thing you can get at any hotel & they only charged him one dollar. The citizens there say they can get to Washington whenever they choose. We went into camp about ½ mile outside the town. On the 17th we started at 4 A.M. At 7 A.M. we passed through Hamilton a small town of about 20 houses & also very secesh. Some of the people hung out the union flag as we passed, but we were inclined to think it was done for the occasion. We passed Purcellville at 8 a.m. Here also some union flags were displayed as before. We encamped about 4 mile from Snicker's Gap at 10½ A.M. We fixed things nice for all night & had just got through our dinner when we got orders to move. At 5 P.M. we marched off & reached Snicker's Gap at 6½ P.M. The Gap is a very pretty place to look at but not so nice to go through. First we went up, up, up & then down, down, down. At 9 P.M. we reached the Shenandoah River & here we had to take off our trousers & wade in. The water was up to our waists. It was a laughable sight to see all the men looking like so many highlanders wading the river. Every once in a while the Moon would shine out bright & clear giving quite a picturesqueness to the scene making it a pleasing sight, & for all we were so tired that we could hardly walk yet we had to laugh when we looked at one another.

We reached Berryville at 12 midnight. We had marched 27 miles in 13 hours not including the time we stopped in camp near Snicker's. Foot sore & weary we threw ourselves on the ground without thinking of any blankets or any thing else, & in a few minutes were fast asleep. At 5½ A.M. on the 18th we went off without breakfast & marched some 7 or 8 miles when we went into the woods for Dinner. Here we saw Genl. Sheridan, & Col. Molineux, who is looking quite well & with the exception of the fatigue is doing well. We went to camp late at night in the woods.

Yesterday (the 19th) we laid quiet & glad enough I was that we did for all the men were fagged out & could not have stood much more. The officers live on corn & apples with coffee, as the Commissary has nothing for us to eat. This morning we have orders to move. I do not know where we are going but expect to Harper's Ferry. I cannot send you any news as I have been too tired to ask for any. Then have several of our men shot & some taken prisoners by the guerrillas who are thick in all directions. I will write again at first opportunity. Love to all at home & to Grandmother, uncle Daniel all the rest.

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.

P.S. Tony has not got his commission yet.
Your letter of the 26th July just received this morning.

Send word to Edward's folks that he is well, also Tony's.