

Jan 27th 1863

Dear Nettie,

I received your letter at the same time as Pa's. I was grieved to hear of Grand Father's death although so long expected. Aunt Grace's death I was surprised to hear of, for I always thought her a healthy woman.

It is a miserable rainy day. Every thing is damp and wet and there are no drills this morning, so I have some little time to myself.

As you will see by my letter to Pa, I have been promoted to "2d Leff" in one of the country companies. My duties are much lighter now than they have been at any time since I joined the regiment.

Harry [Tiemann] has been appointed Aide de Camp to Col. [Henry W.] Birge, Acting Brig. Genl of our Brigade.

Yesterday we had a grand review of our Brigade by Maj. Genl. [Christopher Columbus] Augur & Staff attended by Genl [Cuvier] Grover commander of our Division. I suppose you never saw a review so I will try and tell you how the thing is done.

The regiments are drawn up in two ranks at about 30 paces from each other, with the field & Staff officers posted in the rear of their Battalions, all in one line or nearly so. The commander of the Brigade is posted opposite its centre facing it. The reviewing officer is posted about 100 paces from the centre of the Brigade facing it. The Brig. Genl. gives the command "prepare for review," "to the rear open order, march." At this command the officers step 4 paces to the front, and the rear rank of the Battalions 4 paces to the rear. The Brig Genl then commands "Present arms," the Genl (Augur) rode up to about 20 paces from the line of officers & took off his cap in acknowledgment of the salute. The Brigadier then commanded "Shoulder arms." Genl Augur then rode down the lines and then up again and then returned to his position opposite our centre. The Brig. then commands "Close order march." When we all returned to our positions he then gave the command "By companies right wheel march," then "Forward march Guide right." We marched around the field and when passing the Genl. saluted him. We marched back to our positions again and came to the front, again presented arms and then the review was over. We marched back to camp in a drizzling rain, which was not the pleasantest thing in the world but as we did not have far to go we did not get very wet.

There is a great deal of dissatisfaction here among our officers, from certain causes, one of which is the presence of a Negro Regiment in the city. Some are Home sick and others sick. We have now at least six vacancies in our regiment. So there is lots of room for promotion.

There are three of us here in one mess and we have about a dozen Darkies waiting on us. They do the cooking &c, but are as lazy as one can imagine. We can hardly ever find one when we want him, but take it all in all they get along very well.

I am sorry I have nothing more interesting to write about, but it is extremely dull here now & nothing of excitement occurring.

If any chance offers I should like some shirts & collars sent to me both under shirts and the outside shirts. The best kind of over shirts are the crimean army shirts. I would like flannell under shirts. 3 of each would be plenty. Also some stockings & drawers.

I enclose you a leaf which I picked from a tree on the State House grounds burned down some time last December.

Hoping to hear from you soon again, I remain with love

W. Frank Tiemann

2d Lieut Co A 159th NYSVols

Excuse half sheet of paper.