Copy

Near Williamsport
9 miles from Hagerstown.
Near Fairplay Md.
Sunday Morning July 12 1863

Dear Bro. Henry

You are probably going to church, as it is about 9 o'clock, I wouldn't care if I was with you. but as I can't very well be there and here too. I shall have to get along without.

We are at present drawn up in line of battle our left resting on the Potomac. arrived here yesterday in the forenoon. Sent out skirmishers in front, who had quite a brisk fire with the Rebel pickets, not ½ a mile from here, did not amount to much no one hurt on our side. The Rebs are entrenched about 2 miles from us in a place where we cannot get our Batteries to bear on them. I don't know if we will try to take them or not. some think we shall storm them today.

I don't know how many of Lees army is here I guess they have got most of them across the river. I think he will get away all right some way or other. our Generals don't seem to be sharp enough for them. We have walked a good many miles since we left Stafford. now about a month since we started. Have been on the tramp most every day. Some days we would go 20 or 30 miles, but we can do it easier, than could ½ of distance last fall.

There are some Regts. here that have been

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around Washington doing guard duty, that have just come here, they think soldering is rather tough. Some Militia from N.Y. the 7th Regt. was in Frederick when we came through think they have some awful hard times, one said they were two whole days without butter, & marched 10 miles in one day, & did not stop to make coffee but twice - when they get to going 20 or 30 miles without stopping at all for dinner as we have done often, they will know more about soldiering.

I saw a Spy hanging to a tree in Frederick City: he had been hanging 2 days, that's the right way to serve them Rebel Spys, we ought to have done so long ago.

We had good living when in Pennsylvania - When we went through Littlesburg, our Brigade was in advance - the Cavalry were fighting on other side of town, we went through on double quick - The woman came out on the streets with Pie, Bread & cakes - and cheered us as we passed - made quite an interesting time for a while. I have had a good many good meals among the Dutch Farmers around. The People in this part of Penn. are all Germans, & talk german altogether to each other the women smoke & the girls go bare-footed. I would be satisfied to have the rest of our fighting in the Union States. Often when we halted, Rueb. Stewart & myself would go across the fields a mile or two from road where soldiers had not been & get a good meal, or some bread & milk.

I saw Dewitt Prince yesterday, had a long visit with him, he is looking first rate, fat as can be. I can see some of his brother Norton's looks in him - He was in fight at Gettysburgh, says it was the hardest he ever saw. Lost 26 men in his Battery "B". I suppose you have heard that Otis Billings was killed there, buried on the battle ground - We had in our Regt. only 3 killed

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and I wounded, Capt ~~Utley~~ Weir of Detroit Co. was shot in leg. have to be amputated. The Rebels lost a good many men there at Gettysburgh. I was over the battlefield the 4th our men were burying the dead, put 15 or 20 in one grave (or rather hole) Our men were buried separately & head boards put up with names on.

In the afternoon of 4th we had a hard thunder storm. I put on my Overcoat & sat with my back to a tree & had to just "grin & bear it" for 3 hours. I did not get wet through as those did who had no Overcoats to put on. The day after the battle on our march through Frederick, we had the hardest time with the rain. I was soaked through & through, but did not get any cold, the folks dont catch cold here as at home. I washed the only shirt that I have here (I have one in my pack in wagon) in the brook & wring it out dry as I could, & put it on wet. Just about as good as though it was dry. get used to most every thing after being here awhile.

all the boys of your acquaintance are well I am in first rate help at present.

You will have hard work to read this. I am writing on Andrew Shalers Drum. There are Regiments all around. perhaps 10000 in sight. engaged in different ways. a lot of boys have an Opposum up a big hollow tree and are cutting it down. Some writing letters. good many reading some playing cards, playing on fifes &c. &c. not a very quiet place for writing

I hear our "Bull-dogs" talking of first shelling the Rebs. All kinds of noises and doings and sunday besides

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P.S.

Write soon. I have not had many letters from home – have one from Jane and Amanda that I have not yet answered –

This is a good long one. divide it up and let each have some of it.

You must be Haying & Harvesting about this time. Farmers here are cutting wheat about all the kind grain raised here – Lots of wheat, we have trampled down a good many fields of it. –

No more now. Love to all

Your Bro. Clark

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U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,

SOLDIER'S LETTER.

Mrs Lewis H. McLean.
Cambridge
Washington Co.
New-York

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