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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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 Lee's 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ of distance last fall.

There are some Rebs. here that have been

around Washington doing guard duty. That
 have just come here, they think soldiering
 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 these Rebel Spys. we ought to have done so
 long ago.

We had good living when in Pennsylvania - When we
 went through Littlestown, our Brigade was in
 advance - the Cavalry were fighting on other side of
 town, we went through on double quick - The
 women 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, Reub. 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 Seibert Prince yesterday, had a long
 visit with him. he is looking first rate, fat as
 can be. I can see some of the 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
 battlefield. We had in our Regt. only 3 killed

(31) Weir
and I wounded, Capt. Bailey of Detroit Co.
was shot in leg. have to be amputated.
The Rebels lost a good many men there at
Gettysburg. 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 put "grim &
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 don't 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
& wrung it out dry as I could, & put
it on wet - just about as good as
though it was dry - got used to most
every thing after being here awhile.
all the boys of your acquaintance are well
I am in first rate health 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 fife &c. &c.
not a very quiet place for writing.
I hear our "Bull-dogs" barking at front shelling
the Rebs. all kinds of noise and doings
and Sunday besides

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 tramped down a good many fields of it -

No more now. Love to all

Your Bro. Clark

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,
SOLDIER'S LETTER.



My Louis B. McLean.
Cambridge
Washington Co.
New-York