

U. S. Hospital at York, Pa.

July 25th 1863 -

Dear Father

I last wrote from
Gettysburg; I left there on the
20th & arrived here at night.

I would have written
immediately but have only
just succeeded in getting
writing materials. ~~For~~ During
the last few days I have felt
stiff & sore & have scarcely
gone farther than from here
to the dining room, about 100
yds distant; day before yester-
day I had a headache all
the afternoon & most of the
night, owing I suppose prin-
cipally to the heat for the day
was very warm & the air in

this room very close. To day
I am feeling well & I believe
doing well.

Our Hospital is simply
a piece of ground in the form
of a square containing perhaps
20 acres & bounded on two sides
by a double row of one story
buildings & on the other 2 by
a high & close board fence; &
was originally designed & used
for a camp ground & barracks
for soldiers & consequently its
accommodations & comfort is
I suppose far inferior to most
or all regular General Hospitals.
The rooms are low & ill ventilated,
there is not a tree or bush on
the ground, & the number of
seats outside the buildings is very
small. When I first arrived here

we had about 1150 patients & now we must have many more & consequently on many accounts we far worse than we would with fewer patients; previous to the battle of Gettysburg the number was 160. Fortunately for wounded men we have had cool cloudy weather most of the time since the battle. There is a Post Office & small soldiers Library on the ground. In about the centre of our enclosure there is an open shed under which they have lately conveyed a few benches, & religious meetings are held there in the evenings & on Sundays. York contains about 8000 inhabitants & seems to have a fine agricultural country around it. Our Hospital buildings are

divided into wards & the
wards into rooms: our room
contains 40 Patients, none of
them very badly wounded &
most of them doing well; we
have 3 nurses to take care of us
& the room, & the Dr. comes around
occasionally. Every man who is
considered well enough can
obtain a pass to go (out) into
town once in 3 days, between the
hours of 1 & 5 P.M. - In other
Hospitals I am told furloughs
can be easily obtained & passes
more easily frequently & for a
longer time than here. Here they
say it is useless to ask for a furlough,
but I did not design to ask
for one but would have much
preferred to have gone to some
Hospital in Philadelphia or New
York - It is now nearly 5 months
since I have rec^d any pay, & being
in Hospital will have to wait an
indefinite period longer, I spent my
last money to day for writing materials
I would like it if you could send me
a "Porte Monnaie" of \$2 or 3 in pos-
sage currency. In directing letters please
State Regt & Co, & then, U.S. Hospital at
York, 4th Ward. Your affectionate son
Jas. Mills Smith