

Don't be at all alarmed about me, as I  
do not mean to get killed. M-

Camp of 93<sup>rd</sup> N.Y.V.  
Near Gettysburg Pa.  
July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Dear Uncle.

Your kind and welcome  
letter was received at Westminster.  
Md. I am glad to learn that your  
health is so good as to enable you  
to attend to business as I know  
you are apt to do when well. With  
you I trust to return safe from  
this war and that too the same as  
I left home, and rest assured -  
Should any of your family ever stand  
in need of a friend, my life will  
be all to show to repay the debt of  
gratitude I owe to you, who have  
ever been a more than Father to  
me.

We have had an awful fight  
here, But thank the Lord, Our

Army has given the Rebels an  
ever-lasting thrashing. The heaviest  
fighting was yesterday. And to-day  
they are in full retreat, and our  
Army entire is after them. This  
is the first time since the organ-  
-ization of the army of the Potomac  
that the rebels have met our  
men in open field, fight, and  
I don't believe they would this time  
but that (as the prisoners say) their  
officers ~~told~~ them they were to  
fight the militia, but they found  
to their cost that the old Army of  
the Potomac was around. We  
must have taken about 8,000-  
prisoners. The loss in killed and  
wounded on both sides must be  
25,000, and some say the rebels  
alone have lost that number. Gen.  
Lee tried to come the play of time  
game on Gen. Meade, but it  
failed to work. Gen. Meade



said back word that he would  
bury their dead for them.

We are en-

-Camped about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from  
Gettysburg, right on the Battle field  
which is very large. I have seen  
but very little of it, as we have  
been momentarily under orders to  
be ready to move. We expect to go  
to Emmitsburg in the morning.  
About a week ago our 2<sup>d</sup> Lt.  
was detailed to take charge of  
a squad of men to guard a  
valuable train of Hospital stores  
(from Washington) just arrived, they  
were camped near as yesterday  
but moved this morning, and it  
is reported that two of his men  
were killed by a shell, yesterday,  
but as his train is moved we know  
nothing for certain whether he is  
hurt or not. I don't know whether  
the first Battle of Fredericksburg, or

this was the most severe, but it does  
seem as if this beat anything severe  
heard before. The Citizens are doing  
all they can for the wounded, my  
Barn, House, and tent is a hospital,  
and the smell which arises from  
the battle field is sickening and  
intense.

I wrote that I had got John  
back again. I expect to  
have him restored to duty without  
trial, but the order is not yet issued  
as there has been something else to  
attend to at H<sup>Q</sup> for the past  
five days. Quite a number of  
our H<sup>Q</sup> officers are killed and  
wounded. One of them Genl Warren  
was wounded right in camp by  
the bursting of a shell, a piece of  
which struck him in the throat.  
Take it altogether we have had  
very hard times for a few days



We left four Companies of our Regt  
at Westminster Ind. doing Provost duty  
Lt Col Butler was Provost Marshall  
so there are but six companies of us  
here. Capt Barnes is in Command  
of this Battalion, We expect the  
other four Co's to join us at Em-  
metsburg Ind.

I have been just as  
well as possible to be, during all  
these marches, which have been  
unusually severe, not even here  
I have foot sore, and we are so  
toughened to it, that we can march  
twenty odd miles with ease any  
day. We started from Westminster  
in the rain about 4. o'clock of the  
day we came intending to march

all night, but the roads were so  
blocked up we only marched to the  
O.C. and then lay down in the  
rain. Slept sound till daylight and  
then marched on here, 25 miles,  
I don't see why we went to that  
place any way, as we were most  
here once before, and the Genl. staid  
here then.

Trusting this war will soon  
end favorably to the Union, and that  
I may return in safety and in honor. I  
remain with much love to Amey  
Hannah and all.

Yours aff. nephew

Waters.