

Camp of the 154th in lookout valley November the 8th/63

Friend John

Yours of the 11th is at hand your letter found us all well as Common hoping that these few lines may find you all Exactly the Same I have some little news to write you, but brobily it wont interest you much for it is out of your line buisiness. but never the less I will venture to write you a faint History of the past three weeks.

We broke Camp at bridgeport on the 27th of last month. we marched 18 miles the first Day and Camped for the night. on the morning of the 28 pursuid our Journey until 12 o'clock. then we began to find our Enemy, but kept on the march until 4 in the after noon then we found the Enemy sow Strong that it was Dificult marching through them. we was ordered into line of battle double quick and made a Charge on the Rebels and Drove them kiting in to their holes our Regt. and the 73. PA Don the whole of this we Drove one whole Brigade of Rebs. only one man wonded in the whole Regiment and that was Don by one of our own men. but it was a slite wond in the little fingure. well then we went on our way rejoicing for about 2 miles and Camped for the night. During the night the 2 Brigade in our Division had a severe fight, Ending in a complete victory on our side. our loss in the nights fite was very heavy in Consideration of the few men we had ingaged. our loss in killed was 42 and 92 woonded of which 10 Died in Consequense of woonds. our men had the Charge up a steep hill and drive the Rebs out of their Brest works which they Did Bravely, and Captured nearly one hundred Prisoners, and got all the picks and Shovels the Rebs had on the whole line of their works and then we took the tools and finished the works which they got begun and we hold them yet and can til the Day of Pancakes well now the Rebs are out of the valley upon Lookout Mountain some 4000 feet higher then the level of the River. they throw hundreds of shells over our heads every day put dont Disturbe us in the least their has bin half a dosen throwed since I Commenced this letter but of noe account. the Regiment has bin on fatigue Duty for 3 or 4 Days and we are in Camp to Doing their washing and the like of that. tis Sunday I am toled but I should not have nown it if some one had not told me sow. the day of the month I am familiar with for I have to make a morning Report of the Company and by the means of that I am able to tell the day of the month. well I have got to stop and make a report of all the Guns on hand and amunition and Camp and Garrison Equipage and then I will reply to your last letter I have got answer this to the best of my Ability well John I am ready to finish I have ate a little Dinner and I feel just Stout

*James M. Baxter to John Phillips, November 8, 1863, continued*

You talk as if you had bin through a military Survis well if you have it has Cost you more then it has me accordin to your owne report. you say you was held to Survis by the Abolishenist. well that is a matter of corse now you say the only remedy for you was to shell out. well now John for some good sound sense and Judgment first you say that it want men that the Government wanted it was money. this you now to be now such a thing and I now it this 300 Clause was to screen such men as you. it was to give you a Chance to use your money in furnishing a substitute. what would you have sed if they had brought you in too the field and not given you a Chance to pay 300. hundred or furnish a subsitiute you would have used worse language then you have. you would have sed that the Government was out ragious and nuthing just in it but they saw fit to give worthy people a chance The Government made a fool of the Draft in the first place they aughtent to give any man a chanse they aught to have brought them out, money or now money but that wouldent have Suited you and hundreds of others. when a man says that the Draft want for men but for money I say he says it will fuly he nows better if he nows any thing

you say you feel Sausy well that wont hurt me. the Distanse a part we are proves that to be a fact and you say if any one feels Disposed to take any Acceptions to what you say they Can pitch on as your letter was directted to me and intended the same I answer you as best I can without any feeling on the Subject more then common. you say that the Abolishenist is Down on the Administration. bully for that I am an Administration. Sow you Cant rank me with the Abolisionist any more I am glad if the Abolitionist are Down on Abe. well John you now that I was allways was thankful for small favors. you say as for me be a good Administration man while in the Survis thank you uncle John for such advise I trust I am a full believer in this present Administration old Abes Administration So you must take my meaning right. old Abe. I trust every Loyal man is in favor of Abe Lincoln how sweet the sound this winter you will hear it sung, we are Coming father Abreham 300 thousand strong 300. then will be plaid out then you are lucky John you seem to have great hopes. yet if Election gowes right well I ant posted on Election this fall nor I Dont want to be. but I suppose you are aluding to Govener Seymore Election. the Soldiers Dont think as much of him as they Did they give him the Credit of being the cause of that riot in New York last spring I dont myself but the majority of Soldiers does well John less lay all these things aside and take up some other. in regard to your Paying your 400. Dollars I say thats all right I would have Don the same thing if I was at home nowing as I now seeing as I see. but their has got to some one Do this fiting and it mite as well be me as you or you as me but John Dont for God sake preach Such a Doctrin to me as you Did for it unjust and ant rite if you Dont want to Come why thats all right now one blames you tis hard to be a soldier but you now and I now that it is a just Cause and worthy of any ones notise. if you cant come incourage what is heare and advise them to do the best

*James M. Baxter to John Phillips, November 8, 1863, continued*

they can and that some time this ware will be over. Dont make us think that we are in straight opposition to our friends at home Soft words turneth a way anger well I must Close write as often as you can make it Convienient and oblige

I remain yours Respectfully

James M. Baxter

Orderly Sargent of C.O. I } Direct

Nashvill Tenn

11 Corpse

1st Brigade 2 Division

Co. I, 154th N.Y S V