

Letter to Katherine Strickland
from her husband Francis.

(Letter Donated by Charles)
(Strickland April 1982)

Centreville, VA, June 17, 1863

Dear Katy,

On the 12th inst just as our Regt had got about half paid off, or at least three Cos. had got their pay for two months more, when we rec'd orders to march, and to get ready immediately. We were out on picket and were getting our pay there, but the orders to march broke up the fun and we had to skedaddle back to our camp and pack up and start, and oh! how hot and dusty. It did seem as though we should melt down but onward we marched and reached Hartwood Church the same eve having traveled (12) miles after two o'clock. And you had better believe we were a tired lot of boys. I had the sick headache and had to ride in an ambulance about half the way which is the first ride I have had since I crossed the long bridge last Sept. The next day we marched to near Carther (sp?) Station on the Orange & Alexandria RR the next day (Sabbath) we traveled to Manasses Junction and saw the famous fortifications made by the Rebels under Beauregard in the winter of 1861 & 2, we encamped about half way between Manasses Junction & Centreville and in the next morning came here. How long we shall stay here I don't know. Todays Washington Chronicle says the Rebs under Gen. Lee are making a raid into Penn. again and if that is the case we shall probably have to move soon. Probably we shall have to go into the Shenandoah Valley. Our Co. did not get their pay and I don't know how soon we shall get it now. I wrote you a letter a few days before we marched and have not received any from you since as we have received no mail since we left Stafford C.H. I rec'd a letter from Joe the night before we marched, he was quite sick, spitting blood again, said there was scarcely enough left of him to make a shadow. My feet are sore being badly blistered walking on the hot sand but I shall go as far as I can. There has a great many sent to the hospital since we left Stafford and a great many from there. Abner went to Division Hospital at Brooks Station and has probably gone to Washington or Alexandria. I lent him 50 cts. He was quite weak and somewhat childish.

Centreville is a very pleasant place or would be in time of peace. It is located on the top of a hill, the land sloping each way from the village but is cut up by fortifications and entrenchments. It seems to me as though our position here was a very strong one. We have the works built by the Rebs as well as what we have built. I have not heard from Cone since he went away from Division Hospital and don't know where he is. He has doubtless written to his folks ere this. The paper on which I write is some that came round Cartridges. I must now stop and try to send this to the office. Hoping that this will find you all well and enjoying your selves firstrate I remain now as ever your affectionate husband.

Frank

(Cattaraugus Co. Memorial and Historical Museum, Little Valley, N.Y.)