

Dec 22nd 1862
Camp near Fredericksburg, Va

Dear Sister.

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to inform you that I am well & hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. I have not had any letter from you since I left Camp Seward, Washington. I wrote one to you from Fairfax but have not Recd. any answer. I wrote for \$25.00 in Money and \$1.00 in Postage stamps. I got one from Edwin while at Fairfax and one from Ellen at Thoroughfare Gap. We Started from Fairfax the 10th of Dec. and marched 6 days through the mud. If you would like to know anything about a forced march just strap a bureau on your back take a meal-bag and fill it with provisions then tie two flat-irons on each foot in place of mud and start off on a double quick and you will have a faint idea of a soldiers life. We had just put us (five) up a log house in Fairfax and made a nice fireplace in it when we were ordered to march I was sorry to leave it but it was of no use

I never was in better health in my life than I am now I can eat all of my rations and more too. I have to steal or confiscate is the modern name for stealing to get enough to eat. We march two days with only four "Hardtacks" (Hardbread) apiece. I went into a house in Dumfries, a place where we camped one night and got a peck of Potato and a Chicken and we had the best supper I ever eat in my life We are encamped on the Rappahannock opposite the City of Fredericksburg We can see the Rebel Camp fires from here. Our Regt has not been in a fight yet but we dont know how soon we shall We started from Jamestown with 945 men and now there is not over 500 men there was 83 men in our Company now we can muster only 52 men for duty. there has been 8 desertions out of this Company since we have been in Virginia.

I have not any more time to write now for we have got to go out and drill this afternoon

Send me \$25.00 and 1.00 in Postage stamps and oblige Your
Affectionate Brother

John N. Porter
Direct to Washington D.C.
154th Regt N.Y.S.V.
Co. H. Capt John F. Nelson

Give my love to all inquiring Friends. tell them to write