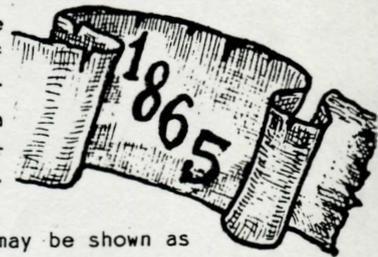


If you have a letter written by a participant in the Civil War that you'd like to share with readers of *The Courier*, send a typed copy of it to the publisher and it will appear on a "space available" basis in a future issue. Any information that you may have that would add to the content of the letter, whether or not the writer survived the war, his regiment, etc.,

would be welcomed. Advise as to whether or not your name/address may be shown as having sent in the material and please do not send material that must be returned.



The following letter was written by Isaac Porter, a member of the 154th New York Infantry, to Charles Murray Harrington of Westfield (Volusia), NY and describes Stonewall Jackson's flank attack at Chancellorsville. Isaac survived the war and returned to his home in Western New York when the war ended. The original letter is in the college archives at the State University of New York - Fredonia, and was submitted by Gary Lash, 116 Seymour St, Fredonia, NY 14063. Gary teaches Geology at the college and "galvanizes" as a member of the 22nd VA Infantry and/or the 111th PA Infantry regiments.

Friend Murray:

Camp John Manley Near
Stafford CH Va. May. 13th. 63

I will now write a few lines to let you know that I am well and occasionally think of old times and old friends. I was at Kelleys Foud when I received your letter and I had no chance to mail any letters from that time until the 10th of this present month or I should have answered it E're this but (better late than never) so I will try to fix up something and call it a letter. Doubtless you have read all about the late movements of the Army of the Potomac but I will give you a sketch of the doings of the 154th. We left this place about 4 weeks ago and marched to Kelleys Foud which is about 23 miles above Fredericksburg. We stayed there two weeks. While at that place we had to go on picket every other day but that is nothing after a person gets used to it as Uncle Joe would say the 154th was the first regt across the river. We were deployed as skirmishers and were ready to meet the louzy rebs if they attempted to molest our pioneers while they were laying the Pontoon Bridges but the grey coats did not show their heads so we recrossed the river about three o'clock A.M. and returned to camp without a gun being fired. We first crossed the river in the boats upon which the Pontoon bridges are laid and we expected that the rebs would oppose our crossing as they had several batteries planted and a long line of rifle pits in front of the Foud but they were so completely surprised that they dare not show their heads except a few who remained in the rifle pits because they were drunk and could not get out. We soon made them dig out of that and go into an old stone grist mill that was close by where they were guarded by some of the Dam--d Yankees as they call us. -- but I dont care what they call us for I am sure that we as a general thing are full as intellectual and as well dressed as they appear to be. Yet they are better fighting men than the Dam--d Yankees are and there is a good reason for it. They are furnished with a plenty whisky and gun powder which makes them fairly crazy for a fight. Many of the prisoners that we took in the last battle were so drunk that they could not walk strait if they tried but I will go back to the foud -- after we had been in camp 3 hours we fell in and crossed the river again and lay on the cold wet sand for 23 hours. then we put our buggs on and marched to Elys foud on the Rapidan where we halted and took dinner while the trains or wagons and pack mules foudred the river for the bridge had been destroyed by the rebs at our approach. as soon as the trains were across we started for Chancellerville which place we reached about two o'clock the next morning. then we tore down an old house and laid the boards on the ground for our beds and we slep till daylight when we were awake by the report of heavy guns in the direction of Fredericksburg. and from that time until after the battle was over there was but a few minutes but what we could hear cannonading or musketry in some direction. even in the stillness of the Midnight hour we were disturbed by the rebs who were trying to drive in our pickets. I will finish this on another sheet.

We arrived at the Chancellor house on thursday and we were not allowed to take off our traps such as Cartridge box and in fact everything that was necessary for a battle and we busied ourselves by throwing up a breastworks and the like for two days. Capt. Ferg and Lieut Jenkins who had been in the hospital at Georgetown came to the regt on Friday so they were in time to share in the fun on Saturday and Sunday. We were shelled by the rebs all day and part of the night on Friday but none of our men were hurt our battery returned a few rounds on Friday just at dusk and we were not disturbed again until about 5 o'clock Saturday P.M. when old Stonewall attacked our rear which was composed of General Schurtz division some of which shamefully ran and the other regts bravely disputed with Jackson but he was too much for them and General Schurtz was forced to retreat. Next in line was General Bushbecks brigade which is composed of the 27, 73rd Pa and 29th, 154th N.Y. our battery did nobly and mowed down the enemy by scores yet they heeded us not and they came until within reach of our muskets then we for the first time tried our skill at fighting we let the blue pills fly so fast that they were forced to stop in front of us but the second brigade of our division was absent at that time so the enemy flanked us on both sides and as they were 40,000 strong and we only 500 strong we were forced to retreat and you may guess that we made good time while we were going to a piece of woods that was about 80 rods distant I say we were 500 fighting against Jacksons whole force- I will tell you how that hapened When General Schurtz division retreated the 29th N.Y. was deployed as skirmishers in front of us but they broke and run. Next was the 27th Pa. who also shamefully retreated. the last line was composed of the 73rd Pa and 154th N.Y. two companies of the 73rd fell in with us and fought like tigers but the other eight companies followed the example of the 29th and 27th, so you will see that with the exception of a few men from the 73rd the 154th was alone. but we two had to retreat for we were surrounded on three sides and there were at least 35,000 greybacks within 40 rods of us. I am sorry to say Calvin was the first man that fell in our Co. he was wounded in the leg I think I suppose he was taken prisoner for the rebs had possession of the ground after we retreated. Colonel Jones was shot through the hip. Lieut. Jenkins received a slight wound on the back of his head and also in one of his feet Jenkins may have escaped but he was bound to help the Colonel so I suppose he is a prisoner now but I think that I shall hear from the boys that were taken soon Wm Bailey was wounded in the foot but he will be able to march in a short time John Conant was shot through the right shoulder. John Wilson through the abdomen James Strein in the ankle joint George Hopkins in the calf of his leg several more in my Co were slightly wounded and are here with the regt. but we have 33 men that are missing and probably quite a number of them were killed I will give you the names of those that are missing on another piece of paper. this from your friend Isaac

This is the list of names of those missing from Co. E. Lieut. I.T. Jenkins. Seargts. C.S. Scott S.S. Barnhurt and Wm O. Case Corporal Wm Callahan. Privates Wm. P. Addams Frederick Archer. Geo. Clifford Wm Clark. James Clemmens. John Douglass. Banartus Fulton. Chas. O. Furman Stephen R. Green. Wm Halte. Geo. A. Hopkins Thomas Harper. Jr. James Haywood. Doctor E. ishem Daville D. McBride. Robert J. Page James Stone. George Sturkweather. Wm Watters. Abram Williams. Wm Corey. Andrew J. Stone. Elias Skone this with the wounded makes 33 who are absent from my Co. but I hope that all of them will come around all strait in a few months. I received a letter from Ozro a few days ago and you may tell him that he may look for an answer in a month or so. I am not much of a hand to write and I must answer the letters that I get from home first and then I will try and fix up something for the others. It is very warm here now but I think that we shall get some rain to night and then it will be more pleasant. I went and saw the boys in the 9th Cavalry yesterday. Charles Devin has got back to the regt. he looks quite like Harmon. Benson and all the other boys that we know are well. Please tell Marshall that he must not run up to H.O. Bickfords too much. Please give your wife my respects and tell her that she must not be afraid of my Jennie for she will not hurt her nun you know what I mean is that I hope that she will visit with Jennie when she can. Please excuse this from your friend in Dixie From Isaac to C.M. Harrington.