

[on stationery with engraving of the United States Capitol, and heading "Headquarters 154th Reg't N. York Vols., Col. A. G. Rice, Company I]

Fairfax court house Oct 19th 1862

Dear friends at home

I have received two letters from you after waiting anxiously for two weeks At last I have got the long looked for letters I am well this morning to what I have been For the past two or three days I have not been very well but feel somewhat better to day most all of our boys are well and hearty We left Camp Seward last Sunday one week ago we marched six miles and stoped for the night next morning we started for Fairfax court house where we arrived at noon nothing of much interest happened on the road. It is a very desolate piece of country along the whole route I am some thing over 350 miles from home All through the route I have not marched 10 miles that is doing pretty well Fairfax is a shabby looking town You folks at home might talk about the Sunny South but when you get here you will have a different tune to your song It is very pleasant on through the day but at night it is exceedingly cold with very heavy dews We have not had much rain here yet but expect it before a great while I suppose you have had some cold weather there I think we are permanently settled We may go to Centreville but I doubt it that place is strongly fortified so that there is no danger of the rebels getting very near us I have not seen any rebels yet our pickets caught six of the rebels pickets they are in town but I have not seen them There is some talk of the rebels trying to make peace if it is so it will happen before the first of January I hope so at least After I get my wages I shall try to get a furlough My wages will be sent to you \$20 dollars as I have made that promise If I should get one you will have to send me some money enough to get home with but dont think to much about it because it may not be so I want you to send me a small box of nicknacks with some jell and preserves also send me a box of Cigars if you can I wish you would send me a hunter case watch as it is awful lonesome with out one and I am often late on the account of not knowing what time to get around Send these altogether in as small a box as possible be sure to send enough while you are about it also send me some shirts and collars as I cannot wear those that I draw when it gets to be very cold I shall have to wear them over my fine shirts I shall get my pay the last of this month if nothing happens I think it doubtful if we ever go into battle I would like to have the name of shooting one rebel Tell me if you have got any letters from Bill or Jo or Philander if any from him send them to me tell me all the news and send me the papers as often as possible Kiss Clara for me the little snipe I would like to see her or have her here for a little while I would like to have you all here for a while I could not find all of those verses Dade sent me I wish you would write them over again and send some more with them

[Thaddeus L. Reynels, musician, Company I, 154th New York Volunteers]