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Camp Porter (Potter ?)
Jan 8 /62
Cousin Bethia

I received your letter of the 29th and was glad to hear from you. You must excuse my negligence in not writing to you for I am not much used to penning my thoughts on paper and there is nothing to write that will interest anyone. Please to excuse me I will do the best I can under the circumstances. four hundred of this Regt went on picket new years day and just came back to day I must stop and read awhile the mail has just come in and there is four letters for me They are all from girard (Girard, Pa ?) The folks are all well there Lauras children they have the whooping cough. There was 2 commifsioned (sp ?) three non-commifsioned officers went out beyond our lines They got turned around in their travels and were approaching a piece of woods when they discovered men in the woods They watched them awhile and see that they were coming towards them with a body of men fetching up the rear deployed in line of battle They made tracks for our post they had marked their road so they found their way back on double quick time and said there were about five thousand rebels approaching with skirmishers thrown out in advance There were some cavalrymen sent on out They found the rebels to be Gen Smiths pickets advancing The skirmishers were the guards on the posts and the 5000 men in line of battle was about four hundred of reserves following them That was all the excitement we had. This morning there were five niggers came up to our lines they were taken to head quarters and when we cam in they were brought with us. They said that they crossed the rebel lines last night it was very pleasant til within the last two days but it is cold enough to make it all up excuse my poor writing and composure for it has been forty eight hours this morning since I have had any sleep only what I got sitting on a log by the fire write often this from your cousin Myron I like to forgot Jerrome he has got his discharge and gone he stopped at girard and stayed two days so Aunt Sojahronia (sp?) said in a letter I got from her tonight Give my love to all my friends there I am well May this find you all enjoying the same feeling (? Sp)

On side of last page: Direct to 83 Regt Pa Vol Care Capt Carpenter

Myron B. Hatch ?
83rd Pennsylvania