

My dearest Lis,

A detachment of our Brigade of 500 (muskets) efficient men comprising the 73d Regiment Pa. Vol. and 134th and 154th N.Y.S. Vol. came to this place one week ago yesterday to do guard duty in forwarding conscripts to their destination. Being on a special detail since last January as acting Brigades General Staff (Brigade Surgeon) I did not get here until last night, as the Headquarters of the Brigade and one Regiment, the 27th Pa. Vol., were riding about the front doing Picket duty. We were a part of the time at Manasses Junction, then Greenwich, a beautiful place midway between New Baltimore and Catlett's Station--then Nokesville and finally at Catlett's Station where I left the Brigade Headquarters Saturday morning to visit the detachment on official business. I shall remain here a few days unless I obtain a leave of absence to come home for a while.

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I have been troubled with diarrhea for sometime. Was quite ill with it a few days--the sickness has passed off now but the diarrhea continues and I think I shall make an application to come hom on "sick leave" today. If I do not succeed you and Charley must come down and see me here! Dora, I suppose, would not like to leave her school while in session if she is pleased with it, otherwise I should want her to come along for I want to see you all badly.

There are now 151 in our Regiment, officers and men all told. They are encamped on the river bank just above the city and they are really quite well situated and I hope they may remain here for sometime as they need rest after the terrible ordeal they have passed through.

Enclosed you will find a photograph of *Pavilion N.Y.* Maj. L. D. Warner, formerly ~~Co.~~ Warner, Co. "C" of Portville and your humble servant! You will see that care and anxiety and excitement and experience and sickness have chiseled away at that face of mine rapidly--doing the work of 10 years in less than one!! and to keep up the harmony of things my hair is well sprinkled with gray you will perceive.

I have three large pictures but I am sorry I had them taken now, for they exhibit the same wrinkles and careworn expression of the smaller one! But let it pass--my country demanded my services and I have rendered them cheerfully and faithfully--if not well!

I feel very grateful to you for writing me so often lately and should I not come home now I do hope you will write often hereafter.

Tell Charlie that I do not feel like neglecting him about writing but he hears from me every time I write you and what more could I say to him? I know he will be good to you and Dora and have a proper care of his chores and endeavor to learn well as he is almost a man now.

Kisses to yourself and children and kindly regards to all who may care to know about me. I am as ever

Your affectionate

Henry