

154<sup>th</sup> Regiment N.Y.S. Vols  
Aug 12, 1863.

My dearest Lis.

You see the fate of my application for leave of absence! — I cant say that I was much disappointed in the result of this matter! I wanted to go home so badly & had set my heart upon it so, that I hoped it might pass on account of the smallness of the regiment, & my entire uselessness here — Genl Howard has gone home on furlough which leaves Genl Schurz in command — I think if Genl Howard had been here my application would have been approved — Some of the “Powers that be here” contrive every way to make the service as irksome & disagreeable as possible.

I am heart sick & home sick, but shall hardly make another application for leave while I remain — but shall resign just as soon as I can consistently No medical officer can get a resignation through lately several have tried without success —

Dr Day put in his resignation to day but I think it will be returned disapproved We shall see.

This Regiment has not been paid in a long time — The Field & Staff officers were paid the very day we started from Stafford C.H. on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June — Three companies were paid then also. — A. — B — & G. — We should have been paid again soon after we came here — but we have seen no paymaster yet & probably shall not until we are mustered again for pay on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month — I shall then have 4 mos pay due me = \$643.50.

The weather is extremely hot — oppressively so — we are encamped in brigade, in the woods — a thick oak forest on a high ridge — Yet there is no air stirring and we are almost sweltered.

Write often, for I more than ever need something to cheer me while remaining idle in camp. — I shall almost die of the blues — As a matter of choice I had rather be placed where I should hear the devilish and infernal shriek of the shells then endure this weary loneliness that is upon me!

I embrace you all — Kiss the children for me & remember me kindly to all who may care to know about me.

Ever affectionately yours,  
Henry

P.S. I have heard nothing from Jimmy McFarling or any of the boys that were taken prisoners at Gettysburg since they were at Martinsburg Va — they were well then — 16 have been paroled & sent to Anapolis but I dont know who they are. Write often — wont you? Send the picture of the House — I hear that Judge T. Broeck is dead — Did he do anything about the Academy? H.

*Courtesy of Dorothy Farnham DeSha, Franklinville, New York.*