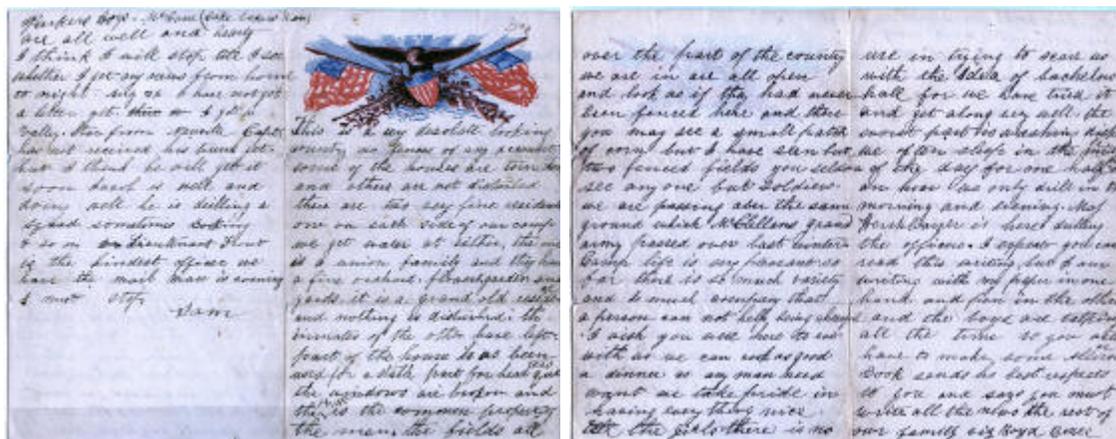


Samuel W. North Letter and Transcription

August 25, 1862 - Camp Staunton



Transcription:

Front Page

Camp Staunton

Camp of the 126 Regt. PaV

Aug 25, 1862

Dear Brother

As it has been sometime since I heard from home I will not wait for an answer to my letter. We are encamped near the Orange and Alexandria R.R about five miles from

Alexandria. We have been moving about a good deal, this is our fourth camp in two weeks and we have orders to be prepared to move at a moment's warning We don't know where we are going or when We never know anything about it until we start. The cars are running most constantly loaded with soldiers they are mostly McClellan's men going to reinforce Pope (Page 2) there is something going on or will soon be. the men are well with one or two exceptions. David Carson is in Baltimore or Washington sick but I think he is better he is at some of his relations the rest are well. We have plenty I heard that some of the people wrote that we had not enough to eat that, a lie we get as much as a man can eat. there are seven in our mess We get seven loaves of bread, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pint of beans, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of rice, $\frac{1}{4}$ pint vinegar 1 pint sugar, 1 pint coffee, $\frac{3}{4}$ pint desecrated potatoes salt 5 or 6 pounds meat every day so you can judge for your self. I sleep as soundly (on the ground crowded among seven) as I ever did at (Page 3) home. I must give you an account of all the property Uncle Sam gave us when we entered Camp Curtin he gave us tents kettles frying pan to a mess, a tin plate, spoon, knife & fork, blanket. then we were examined it was a strict examination we were stripped and brought out singly into an open tent in view of the whole company and we were felt and fingered all over though he left me off very easy. I pitied old Parker and some of the others. I would have given \$5.00 to have got clear but after it was over I did not care. we were then sworn in and got our uniform you should have been there some big fellows got pants (Page 4) and shoes too small for them but most of got them too large I got a pair of pants that were about three inches too long. I got out my house wife and shortened them very soon. My shoes fit very well and my cap 2 pr stockings and 2 pr drawers overcoat knapsack haversack gun we have the Springfield rifle musket with Minnie ball and movable sights we have got 40 rounds of ball cartridge yesterday (sunday) We have a crack regiment – 8 Franklin and two Juniata companies we are in Gen. Sturgis' division I have not received my shirt and postage stamps but expect them to night if I do I will let you know at the end of my letter as it will not go before 8 'o clock tomorrow morning (Page 5) This is a very desolate looking country no fences of any account some of the houses are torn down and others are not disturbed there are two very fine residences one on each side of our camp we get water at either; the one is a union family and they have a fine orchard, flowers, garden, and yards, it is a grand old residence and nothing is disturbed: the inmates of the other have left: part of the house has been used for a stable, part for headquarters the windows are broken and the front is the common property of the men, the fields all (Page 6) over the part of the country we are in are all open and look as if they had never been fenced. Here and there you may see a small patch of corn but I have seen but two fenced fields you seldom see any one but soldiers. we are passing over the same ground which McClellans grand army passed over last winter. Camp life is very pleasant so far there is so much company that a person can not help being cheerful. I wish you were here to eat with us we can cook as good a

dinner as any man need want we take pride in having everything nice. tell the girls there is no *(Page 7)* use in trying to scare us with the idea of bachelors hall for we have tried it and get along very well, the worst part is washing dishes We often sleep in the middle of the day for one half hour or an hour we only drill in the morning and evening. Maj. Hershberger is here drilling the officers. I expect you can't read this writing, but I am writing with my paper in one hand and pen in the other and the boys are talking all the time so you will have to make some allowance. Cook sends his best respects to you and says you must write all the news the rest of our family viz Boyd Bruce *(Page 8)* Parker's boys, McCune (cake bakers son) are all well and hearty. I think I will stop till I see whether I get any news from home to night, Aug 26 I have not got a letter yet. I got a Valley Star from Newville Capt has not received his trunk yet. but I think he will get it soon Jacob is well and doing well he is drilling a squad sometimes cooking and so on Lieutenant Trout is the kindest officer we have the mail man is coming I must stop. Sam