

Camp of the 94th Reg. N.Y.
near Guilford Station, Fairfax Co. Va.

June 22^d 1863.

Dear Mother,

I was very glad to receive a letter from you, & one from Father, last night, - the only mail received since the 12th inst. I have written no letters since about the 10th. Gustavus wrote you two or three days ago I believe, but I will give you a brief summary of our travels since leaving our "camp near Fitzhugh mansion, on the 12th". I had been somewhat unwell for several days previously, not having dared to eat much more than toasted bread, or other light food, & therefore was not in very good trim for marching, but I got along much better than I expected, though unable to keep up with the Reg. till night, as my feet became badly blistered. The weather was excessively hot, & good water

which is of such vital necessity to the soldier,
was scarce. We passed by Stannum Sta-
tion, on the Acquia Creek R.R. by Hartwood
Church, German Church & beyond, - making
about 22 miles, a long days march, es-
pecially for the first one. Hundreds were
obliged to fall out, on acct of fatigue & ex-
haustion; having gone about 20 miles,
I stopped for the night, starting early next
morning & rejoining the Reg. by 7 a.m. - an
hour or two before they took up the line of
march for the day. - Again very warm, -
marching more difficult than the day be-
fore. I was obliged to ride about a mile
in an ambulance. Gustavus rode about
all the time. The column marched about
13 miles, & passing by Bealton Station, our
Div. bivouacked in a wood by the R.R. half
a mile west of B. - Starting from the am-
bulance train (as it was parked about 2 mi.
back) Lt. Col. Spofford, Gustavus & I commenced
the march to the Reg. but a shower came up
suddenly, & we stopped at an old De-

settled shanty near the R.R. Finding plenty
of clean hay close by, where there had been
a cavalry camp, we concluded to remain
there over night, as we were secure of
a shelter from the rain & a bed of hay, -
the latter a luxury not to be enjoyed in camp.

Some condensed milk, coffee & sugar - sup-
plied an excellent addition to our evening meal.
After a refreshing night's rest, one portion of our
coffee & crackers & started early for the Reg.
which was close at hand.

The 2^d & 3^d. A. Corps lay near us at Bealton,
& the 5th. Corps was extended along the Riv.
below, towards Galumeth's. The 6th. Corps
remained below Fredericksburg (where our
div. had crossed & thrown up intrenchments) &
a day or two afterwards we heard that they had
gone to Aquia Creek, & thence by transports
to Washington - proceeding to regain the re-
mainder of the Army of the Potomac.

At Bealton we were within half a mile or
less of our old camp of Nov. last. It was
the ~~first~~ ^{third} time I had come to Bealton, each

time from diff^r directions. The first time was on Aug. last, on the retreat from the Rappahannock, when I was taken to Washington - sick; the second time, in Nov. - on the march from Md. - & this was the third.

Our div. was in rear of the whole column, upon the march of Sept. 14th, & of course we did not get well under way before 10 o'clk. A.M. - I picked a few wild flowers near Bealton, which I pressed in my pocket diary, & now I enclose some of them in my letter.

We passed through Warrenton Junction (where a branch R.R. turns off to Warrenton - distant about 10 miles) where I had been several times on picket. It had undergone some change, since I was last there - in July '62, when I made a hasty sketch of it. By the way it was there that I first saw & shook hands with Gen. Bayard ^(almy's s.) - the gallant young cavalry officer, who met an untimely death at the battle of Fredericksburg in Dec. last.

We marched quickly through Cattle's Station, without stopping, so that I had only time to glance around. It took us some time to cross the R.R. bridge over Cedar Run, just west of Cattle's, as it was very long & high. Many were obliged to go around, on acct of diggins. The residence of Dr. Shumate (near Cattle's, a very fine place, where our officers had visited last summer) a wealthy Scotch, was deserted, as the Dr. had been compelled to go beyond our lines, and it was now used as Headquarters by Gen Pleasanton.

We marched till dark before halting to get supper, passing Bristol - on the R.R. & crossing Kettle Run, by the side of which our whole camp lay for two hours - covering but a few acres of ground; The night was dark but our vicinity was magnificently lighted up with hundreds of camp fires. Such a wondrous spectacle, with the accompaniments of laughter & hilarity & the murmur of a sea of sounds, from thousand

of human throats, constitutes an illumined
& ineffaceable page in the book of memory.

Thus having rested awhile & eaten sup-
per - with the indispensable coffee, we re-
sumed our march; crossing Broad Run,
passing Manassas Junction, & halting
near Manassas ~~again~~ for the night, at
about 4 o'c. in the morning. It had been
a very severe march, & many had fallen
out. The distance from Bealton was about
22 miles, as we marched, but we were
much delayed in some places.

We started about 9 A.M. on Monday,
passing by several farms - at Manassas.
At 12 M. we crossed the noted Bull Run,
near the memorable battle grounds of '61
& '62. Here we halted upon the banks of this
farmers stream, for nearly two hours,
& took dinner. With hundreds of others
I took a refreshing bath in its clear waters,
a luxury which the fatigued & footsore
soldier well knows how to appreciate.

A little further on we farmed "line

of Battle, apparently in expectation of
an attack by the enemy. At the end of
an 8 mile march, which was never-
theless a hard one & quite sufficient to pos-
sibly us, we halted near Centerville.
Early in the afternoon, ^{not} ~~not~~ knowing
whether we were to remain there over night
or proceed further, but we did remain
that night & the next - till Wednesday - having
a good rest which we needed, to recruit
our exhausted energies. We had marched
as follows -: Thurs. 22 mi. Frid. 13 mi. Sat.
22 mi. Sund. 8 mi. - 65 miles in 4 days
in hot weather - with heavy loads.

We found the 1st Corps already
at Centerville - hardly a mile from where
we lay. - The 2^d. 3^d. & 5th Corps were also
somewhere near us.

While here at Centerville, the wagons were
close by us, so that we had all our blan-
kets & baggage, & fared well in our mess.

A fine stream near by was convenient
for bathing & washing. On Monday - 16th the
Washington Daily Chronicle gave us the first
startling intelligence of the invasion of Peru
by the rebels, & the excitement occasioned thereby
we expected to follow up immediately to Md. &
Pa. - We had been ordered to pack up & be ready

to march at daylight on Wed. but as is gen^{lly} usually the case, we had plenty of time to get our breakfasts & pack up as there seemed to be no hurry about starting. We would prefer to march earlier in the day, when it is cool, & rest in the middle of the day when it is hot, but the Genl. must have their nice breakfast at their leisure.

We passed by Centerville - which is quite a village, the buildings of which, made of stone, have a venerable & ancient appearance. There were quite a number of fortifications - & breastworks in the vicinity, & a body of troops - a Brigade I should think, were in camp there. From Centerville we took the direction of Drainsville, ^{supposing} we were to go to Edwards Ferry. But we halted within a couple of miles of Guilford Station (near Herndon Sta.) on the Shenandoah & Alexandria R.R. bivouacking within a short distance of the R.R. in a wood. We had come about 15 miles (about 12 before noon); it was a terrible march, the weather being 'insufferably

that & the roads very dusty. Some dropped
down dead & some were run over; while
all suffered more or less from exhaus-
tion & fatigue. - Here again we staid two nights,
hardly expecting to resume the march, & were
packing up. A fine stream ran within a few
yards of where we lay, & good springs were con-
venient. A nice rain fell on wed. night
which was very refreshing. The country about
here was very fine - apparently fertile.

On Friday morning early we started
again, but having come about two miles,
a Guilford Station, I saw some soldiers
belonging to the 3. Div. 1. Corps - & as
they had not moved - concluded we
were very near a short distance, & as it
has proved. We are two miles from Guil-
ford Station, & from Seesburg; on Broad
River. - All is well - everything quiet
now. The mail closes & I will
write again tomorrow.

Affectionately Your Son,

Rush P. L. Adair.