

Washington, Sept. 20th 1862.

Dear Mother,

I received your letter dated the 15th, day before yesterday. You had not then rec'd any two last letters. - If I come home at all, I shall not resign, but get my discharge, on "Surgical Certificate of disability", which will entitle me to travelling fees home, & my pay up to the time discharged. - But I am not prepared to go home just yet.

While Doc & I have been waiting here, for the past few days, to learn something definite from the Reg., we have been quite anxious to hear how they fared in the late battles, knowing that they had been fighting desperately.

Last night, one of our officers, Lieut. E. S. Spencer, Co. F. came here, wounded in the hand, on Wednesday, when he left. He said that we had been driven back, in disorder, at Manassas, Regts being confusedly mingled together. He saw Maj. Warthrop, all

safe, & others. Lieut. Dallam, Co. 5th. was
killed, & Lieut. Thomas, same Co. under ar-
rest, for cowardice. Lieut. Carpenter, Co. D.
was shot through the leg. - Other officers were
wounded, but such was the confusion, that
he could learn no names, further than those
I have mentioned. Our loss in killed &
wounded, was terrible. Co.s A, B, C, F,
G, H, & K are now without officers. There
are not more than ⁵ line officers now left
with the Reg. - Two wounded men, of the
104th N.Y. (in our Brigade) say that their Reg.
was badly cut up. Two of their Captains were
killed, & several officers wounded.

It is saddening to think, how our
once fine Brigade, has been decimated.

The slaughter in the last battle was
terrible, - even greater than that of Bull
Run. - Where our Brigade now is
I don't know, but as soon as I can
learn, I shall go to them. Joe is a bit
the "off the hook" again, but only a
slight indisposition. He thinks he will now

apply for his discharge, & I should think
he had ~~better~~ better do so. - I am feeling
very well now, & hardly contented with
staying here in Washington ~~now~~, but I hope
to be off on Monday. - Did Jack

you enlist as a private? - I am glad
Father will escape the draft. I rec'd
The Sentinel yesterday, - I suppose
Collins will not go with the Reg. now,
will he? - That bottle was sent
to Maj. Dartmouth, & a bottle of brandy.

Tell Gustavus the Mess wagon
was stove up & everything lost.
Gardner Clarke found ^{his} ~~some~~ satchel,
but whether it is safe now or not
I don't know. - I enclose a
letter from Serg't Alexander, which
will be interesting to Gustavus. -

Give my love to all, & write soon.

Your aff. Son

Ruth P. Cady.