

Camp of the 97th Reg. N.Y.V.
near D. P. Land's, Va. Jan. 29th '63.

Dear Grandmother,

It has been a beautiful day, there being a great improvement in the weather since yesterday, when it snowed nearly all day, & the night before. When we woke up yesterday morning, the earth was covered with a snowy mantle, the first it had worn in Va. since Nov. last, when we were at Warrenton. It stormed hard during the night, & the wind blew fiercely, filling the snow in drifts; & during yesterday, the weather was quite cold, raw & blustering. As our stove would not burn, on account of the wind, on the side of the tent, where it stood, we felt strongly inclined to get permission of the Col. to go to a neighbor's house, at least until the weather moderated. But we set up our stove on the other side of the tent, & getting a good supply of wood cut up, we kept warm & comfortable during the day,

Today the weather has been much milder,
the snow thawing rapidly. The roads are
in a horrible state. It is rather difficult
drawing even small loads, with 4 horse,
or 6 mule teams. - This makes it hard
to get wood enough, as it has to be brought
from some distance, what was near by,
(* there was considerable), having been cut.
The men's quarters are very uncomfortable
in cold, wet weather, as they have only thin
shelter tents, for the roof of their little ^{log} shanties,
& their fire places, dug in the ground,
frequently came in, as the water soaks
through the sandy soil.

This forenoon, we had an inspection,
which would have been yesterday, but for the
weather. Lieut. Rackwell arrived today
bringing news from Rome up to last Mon-
day. - Said that a Bill had already passed
Congress, to consolidate the old Regts.

When I wrote home, in regard to send-
ing a box by Express, I forgot to mention
some little articles that I would like.

If the Package has not already been
made up, & sent please tell our
folks to buy about 3 cans of apples,
& a wash dish, & also to send, if they
choose, a can of catchup, & perhaps
a bottle of currant wine, or something
to make "California beer", & a doz. beer-
ons. I think sausage would keep
now, as it would come through
direct. Some fried cakes would
be very nice. Man will know what
to send; but let there be a good quan-
tity of provisions, as they can be bought
so much cheaper there than here,
even including Express charges; & they
would last us a good while.

I think of nothing else to write just at present,
& the mail bag will be taken to Head-
quarters in a few minutes, so I must
close, but will write again soon.

Love to all the folks, Father, Mother,
Gustavus, Ellay, Dannie & Willie, & also to
friendly outsiders affectionately, Your Grandson, Rush.

P.S. I shall want some more
Postage Stamps, having had ~~some~~
so many business & other letters to
write. Also send a package
of buff envelopes & a quire of
letter paper. — R.P.C.