

Potsdam
Camp Union
Dec. 4th 1861

Dear Friends

Yours of the 9th with the satchel came to hand and was thankfully received as also the cakes etc. We are happy to inform you that we are well and having great times. Dan & I & Court Cooper now occupy the same bunk. We moved into it today. Court says tell the friends he is all right & tight and full of fun. He is getting the better of his cold very fast.

Dan and I have been both on guard. Dan says that standing guard is real fun. I had the extreme pleasure of standing guard last Monday night, a very cold night indeed but the hours never seemed shorter.

Mr. Smith of Gouverneur, an old acquaintance of mine, is in our company and he stood next to me and we had a high time of it.

Last Sunday we were marched to church and heard a sermon from Rev. Mr. Cole. A.M. P.M. we had a sermon in camp by Mr. Pierce our chaplain and at evening another sermon by Mr. Fields, all good sermons.

At some future time I will give you an account of the manner in which we spend our time at present I will tell you how we live. When we have beef, 700 lbs go "the way of all the earth" each day. 6 bushels of beans are put out of sight at a single meal & 120 loaves of bread follow them. Occasionally we have pork fried and 1 ½ barrels of best side pork are gone forever in 15 minutes. 14 bushels of potatoes per day is only a fair allowance and all this is washed down by 4 ½ barrels of coffee which is furnished morning and evening making 9 barrels per day. At dinner we have water. We have soup, pudding and rice quite often and are satisfied with our fare.

Fun & nonsense is dealt out to us in double doses at every place and every time and a fellow must laugh in spite of himself. "Everybody is bound to go the whole hog or none" and they do go it.

It is rumored here that we shall not leave here this winter and the boys are dissatisfied as they all wish to go south.

You need not make us any shirts as we cannot carry them and government will furnish all we want. We want nothing from home at all but two blankets. You may send them when Mr. Hurlburt comes out. We have plenty of blankets but they are borrowed and we wish to be independent.

Dan don't know where the shears are nor I neither.

I received a letter from Tom. He says Frank must write him immediately, Our drill suits my fancy exactly. I am never tired of it. It is really delightful.

My respects to all friends etc. But Roll Call is at hand and I must cease writing.

Yours ever,
John