

Alfred

Alfred W. Younger

Ringsville

Ohio

Attabula Co.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

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Camp Vernon,

Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 21, 1861

Dear Mother,

I will send you a short letter this morning, but cannot write as fully as I would like. Since you left I have not been quite so well as I was before, I didn't & have been obliged to give up & do nothing for a time; I had not written a word till yesterday when I wrote a few words to you. I am better now & hope in a few days to ^{be able to} do all that I may be asked to do that is reasonable. You see we have moved; this was on ~~the~~ Wednesday a week ago, the next day - that is after you left. (I marched here rather to Camp Locum where we first went & which we left on Saturday, this I presume I ought not to have done. It was too hard for me.) We are now in our tents & have enjoyed the several days of rain very much as some of the boys could not get plastering up. Our Co. has two

others went out on picket duty
on Monday, Capt. ~~Wagner~~ commanded the
three Companies. They had a very wet time
but I guess from what I can learn
that they went farther, perhaps three
or four miles, than the pickets be-
fore them. They heard the enemy's drums
~~and~~ they tell a good story of Kneale
who was sure he saw the White
Horse Cavalry in large numbers, com-
ing, when the truth is he saw a Negro
riding a white horse to water.

There was talk of an going out a day
or two sooner, when Capt. ~~Wagner~~ was
of the day, & St. Baker was no means so
much use for his own comfort. He
wanted Capt. to see the Major & try
& get some other Co. put on in our
place. You must draw your own de-
duction. I had just a word of talk
with St. & only toward as we were inter-
rupted. The occasion of the conversation
was a private letter from Col. ~~Wagner~~
to his brother-in-law which was published
in the Southern Examiner of Aug. 1st

in which St. & Capt. ~~Wagner~~ there
are some statements against them.
(All which statements are true) in
which there are also some arraigned words
which I will send you & you may judge
of their truth. He says, "After our first
engagement our Major rallied us together
in the corner of the hill, when our boys
were completely exhausted, & led us in
again down the hill at a double quick.
Some were felled out, & some were fright-
ened out, but, however, I led our Co. in
the second time, followed by our ~~Major~~
in charge of the left battalion, I was
cheerfully in men on down hill, when
all at once a dinged voice ^{came} out
"Go in Bob. Bully for you!" A little fur-
ther on he says, "We had driven all
the rebels in the fort & taken up a po-
sition behind a bank near a creek,
shell whistling over our heads & almost
grazing in backs. I began to look
around & found the rebels had brought
a piece to bear on us from the extreme
left of the fort, that would sweep right

along the bank. I gave the word
to the men to retreat to the reserve
by small squads, which they did, &
I protected them from Cannon balls.

I will not comment on these passages
I was speaking of. He came back
"nothing daunted" by a life & lay in
than ever; The boys have kept
up the cry "Whose Muckraker's this" &
with knives, shovels & cars protected
"stand firm", but he does not seem
to hear it. He told me in our talk of
talk that Col. Slocum gave them (Capt
& himself) a paper covering his full
proof of their conduct on the day of the
battle; the substance of which he
had sent to be published. That dis-
tance you will see if you get the
Express with it in, I mean to get
the spirit of the document, if possible
by giving it myself.

As for the boys doing anything about
this, I guess they (all but two or three)
are too big cowards. If as they ought
to follow a coward.

Could started for Rochester

A recent, men one week ago.

He will not be back till the first
of Sep. Some other officers went with
him. I do not know that he will
come to N.

I wish to know you my yet hold
if of interest to me, you would read
me. It is long since here with you
& could gone.

The only thing that affords relief
is the prospect that Washington
will be attacked which occupies
me in a while a thought.

My keeping you discharged was
a matter of carelessness, but I
felt that there was something of yours
in my possession which you ought to
have & might need very much. It
was that undefined idea which oc-
casioned my hesitation about leaving
the cars, & caused me to make as many
answers & excuses. I was obliged to remain in

Baltimore that night, but took
the first train (about 4 o'clock) for
Washington expecting a despatch for
me to send you discharge. I was
glad when I learned it did not
occur by hindrance.

I will send it in this.

Please write soon, Remember me to all.

Yours in haste

J. Webster

P.S. Capt. & Lt. take pains to cut some
of the papers before they are seen
The Express of the 15th had a parcel
cut out.