

Camp Griffin Va March 9 1865
Sunday afternoon

My dear sister

I received yours and Mothers letters
night before last and was very glad to hear from you.
You will see that we are still in Camp Griffin but I
do not know how long we shall stay here. Last Thursday
at one o'clock in the morning we were formed in line and
marched to Lewisville where we were joined by the 3^d Vermont
and about 100 Cavalry then proceeded to Vienna where we
arrived about 7 o'clock we then stopped for breakfast as the
march of about 10 or 11 miles had given us quite an appetite.
we stayed there about an hour and then started on toward
Secool. we went about two or three miles from Vienna and
our Company were deployed as skirmishers in front of the
whole force we scoured two small pieces of woods and
halted on an open field when our Cavalry went on and
surrounded two houses that were in sight there was a
few of the Rebels there (Cavalry) but they put spurs to
their horses and were soon out of sight. a Bugler
belonging to the 3^d U.S. Regular Cavalry chased one fellow
that seemed to separate from the rest and went
a little too far & the Chap turned on him & fired
his revolver. The Bugler fired back until the six shots
which his revolver contained were gone & then the fellow
sent a ball near enough to gage his throat &

made him drop his revolver and turn his horse and
run for home - he lost his cap & Pistol by the
means. when the shots were fired we immediately
heard drums beat on the right & left in front of
us. & distinctly heard the "long roll" as if we did
not hurt them we scared them some. Gen Davidson
after reconitering concluded that they had a pretty
strong force there & did not think it expedient to
attack them with our two Regiments. we had no
artillery with us this time. I should not be surprised
if we go out there soon with force enough to
make an attack. but cannot tell. we were called
in about 3 o'clock & marched back to Vienna where we
stayed about 2 hours - we expected to stay there until the
next morning but the General thought it best to come
back. he complimented our Company highly on our
skirmishing. I do not think that 30 long miles
would more than cover our march that day - we
were not much used up on coming into camp at
7 o'clock that night. oh no! - therefore the next day
the General took us over to Division Head Quarters & gave
us a Brigade Drill - (such as you read of) told Capt
Brade to "rot" that Company out & "deploy them as
skirmishers on the right file" & cover the Battalion
which was accordingly done although the mud was
about a foot deep & the left of the company
had to "rot" about half a mile - we had no sooner
got there than the order was to "assemble on the

right file" & back again - as Gen Davidson was a short time since a Cavalry Major, he may be excusable for thinking that a poor "roger" can "hot" gallop" or "suri" like a Cavalry horse through the mud day after day, this I think is his only trouble, he thinks that we should get around as fast as horses & consequently is somewhat disappointed. He compliments our Regiment quite highly - he has ordered that our Co (G) and Co "K" of our Regiment be drilled five hours a day exclusively in Skirmish drill & Target Shooting. we are excused from Picket, (Bully for us) Division, Central, or Camp Guard, Fatigue - or any other duty in order to perfect ourselves in the Skirmishing - & Target practice, we are the best in the Regiment now but can still improve, our Co. can beat the best shooting, I am getting to be a tolerable good shot myself at two hundred yards I put five shots out of three in the target. (about 18 inches by 50) Yesterday they were shooting 400 yards but I was over to the 2nd, when I saw the Sheldon boys - Capt Layton & his wife & some others that I know. I had a very pleasant time. I heard ^{through} her from that Miss White that you saw at Mr Page's when you were in Buffalo - This is a great place for Ladies -

I heard from Ed Stearns the same day I got your letters but have not written to him yet as I have no means of paying Postage which is the reason I do not write some other letters -

I have not seen or heard anything of the Skirmish
I wrote to Ed the night I got your letter but have
not heard from him yet - I think it strange -
but he may be waiting to come over. I cannot
possibly get over there, as we are under marching
orders all of the time - I think it is settled that
we get no pay until the 15th of April which is only
two weeks from another pay-day unless they hold
off as long as they do on this. I have only got one
cent and although I very much dislike to ask for
money I should be very glad if you could send
me a dollar or so - to keep up until I get some
pay - when I shall send home \$20. and I hope more
the next time - Please write soon - I have
nothing new or interesting so I must stop

As ever your affectionate brother
Fred -

Send me a paper or two
we were farther advanced the other day than
any Infantry troops have been since the
Battle of Bull Run