

July 1, 1863  
Camp Distribution

Doubtless you have received my last letter of the first instant, which I wrote since here and which gave informaation of my arrivál.

letter

George Waterman received a ~~letter~~ from his father yesterday from which I learned that you read the letter I wrote when at the Soldiers Retreat Washington.

He also stated that I did not know how long I should remain there or what I was there for. The former is correct, but the latter is a mistake. Whether I wrote what I was there for or not whant at Fort Schuyler, I expected to leave and did not. I I suppose that those who were going at that time were for the invalid corps. I was sad that we were. However it was a week before we left and the squad was not comprised wholly of the same ones as the first. I knew where I was started for when I left there. I could gave got into the invalid corps had I thought best, but I did not prefer belonging to a crippled brigade. Whenver I was examined by a surgeon, I was sound as a rock. I could not afford to do as I had seen some do with crutches and 17 canes. and for the fun be made fun of. I know nothing about when I shall go to my Regiment . There will be none sent until the campaign in Tenn. and Maryland is over which I suppose is nearly ended, which has proved to be very beneficial to the Union Cauge. A graat victory has been won there and it is now rumored throughthe camp that lee is captured, guns are being fired near Washington. I think must mean something, but what I know not.

MDB

---

---

Kelley's Ferry, Tenn. Jan. 7, 1864

You see by the above date that my place of abode is changed although not but a little. We are like the unsteady and roving ones. Cannot stay in one place long at a time. This place is about four miles from Lookout Valley. The Regt. is yet there with the exception of two companies (H & T) which are temporarily detached and here for the purpose of loading wagons with Army Stores for the 77th corps. There are several small steamboats running from Bridgeport here. Our duty is not very constant. Some days not a thing We have no guard duty of any kind. We have again comfortable quarters erected. They are situated about 15 rods from the river on a hill. Stones abound like water in the middle of the sea. We just build chimneys as easy and grand as the fastest of them. It is very bluff along the river here. On the opposite side there is towering lookout. A mighty rough, steep and cragged mountain. Oh! it is exceedingly romantic and sublime. In the wilderness, in the wilderness down in Tennessee.

We came here New Years Day and oh how cold. That morning there was just a near flurry of snow on the ground. The first and only seen. The ground was frozen like a rock and is now but not so cold.

George Gray was down here today, is all right as I suppose the rest of the boys are. Chaplain Rev. H. D. Powling has resigned and going home. He is here waiting for a boat. You will perhaps learn before you read this, William Bigler died about two weeks ago at Bridgeport. He had gotten nearly well of smallpox when he was taken with diarrhea which in time became chronic thus ending his days.

MDS