

of Franklinville N. Y. Cottaravicus County to his wife Amy Melissa (Lis)
Near Stafford C.H., Va.
May 15, 1863
*Pavilion Center Antique Shop
Pavilion N.Y.*

My dearest Lis,

I was sorely disappointed tonight in not receiving a letter from you. I had looked for it so anxiously and so long that I could hardly believe our mail boy when he told me there was nothing for me tonight. I thought he was mistaken and had him look the mail over again and with a little ill concealed petulance he announced the result of the search "I told you there was nothing". I turned away disappointed and heartsick, etc., etc.----
But enough of this —

I enclose General Hookers address to his Army--I hardly know what he would call a general battle if the fighting on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd inst. is not worthy of being called a general battle. We here have only a narrow and partial view of the matter as very few papers have yet been permitted to come to the army—but as to character and effects of the fight I think General Hookers conclusion entirely correct. But you there can judge about as well or better than we can here because you have a broader field of view opened to you—although implicit reliance cannot always be placed on official reports even.

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I send also General von Steinwicks report of the part his Division took in the battle of Chancellorville. You will observe that he gives credit to Col. Bushbeck's Brigade—commending equally the 27th Pa Vol. and 29th N. Y. Vol. with the 73rd Pa. Vols. and the 154th N. Y. Vols. The real fact is the 27th and 29th both skedaddled without showing fight and all the fighting that was done by his Division was done by the 73rd Pa. and our own Regiment. Both these Regiments are worthy of great praise—much more than they get in the report. Our Regiment saves Weidrich's Battery from falling into the hands of the enemy and opposed a brave and heroic front to the advancing Rebels—no doubt but that these officers who are mentioned so complimentary in the report did their duty passing but every officer in our Regiment did his duty equally well and they are not even mentioned individually or collectively in this truthful and sapient report.

Pavilion N.Y.
It seems the "Dutch" Powers that be are determined to make a General of Col. Bushbeck, that is all right and proper if it can be done with justice to other parties, but if any officer in the 11th Corps has earned a commission as General for anything that was done in that rout Col. Jones is entitled to the position and all the officers and men in our Regiment did their whole duty and did it well too. Just now it is a reproach for a man to belong to the 11th Army Corps and the Dutch part of it did behave like slinks in the fight on the 2nd inst., but I am proud of the bravery, the heroism and the valor of the 154th!

Our ranks are thinned but our name is untarnished and whosoever of us may live to return once more to our family and friends can do so proudly and unblushingly! Col. Jones has just been brought to camp—he has a severe flesh wound of his upper thigh—though not dangerous. He was taken prisoner the night of the fight and is paroled until exchanged. He was over there

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among the Rebs nearly a week--had rather rough fare although he says he was used as well as they used their own wounded. Our wounded are now being brought to the hospitals under flag of truce and paroled.

There were not as many killed in our Regiment as was first believed. Poor Noyes was killed--died on Monday after the battle. He was a man of noble impulses and generous nature with a great amount of capacity and activity and somewhat rough in his manner. Would to God that his poor wife and orphaned children who have been so terribly robbed of a husband and father be comforted! Captain Vedder is a prisoner and gone to Richmond. John G. Fitch is wounded and now at Hospital at Brooks Station. Jimmy Copeland, I think, is a prisoner and gone to Richmond and they will be exchanged soon.

Par. Ctr. Antigua Hosp

Col. A. G. Rice has just made his appearance here looking after the good of the boys.

Parole N.Y.

I wrote you about sending the money by express to Cuba--retain in your hand all you desire--be sure and retain enough for I may not be paid again in 3 or 4 months and let Woodruff have the balance. I have no advice to give you about business matters. Your own good judgment will guide you much more than any advice I could give.

I also enclose announcement of the Death of Stonewall Jackson together with some very just comments on the occasion. There is no indication of our immediate move. Good-bye with love and kisses for yourself and children. Remember me kindly to inquiring friends. I am as ever your affectionate

Henry