

31

Lookout Valley
January 4th, 1864

My dearest Lis,

I wrote you on the 31st inst. and sent the letter to Louisville, Ky. to mail by Henry Loomis. That evening I received yours of the 21st and you cannot realize how glad I was to hear from you and home and to hear that you are all well too! It was a real relief to me and I slept well and soundly that night for the first time for nearly two weeks! There is something wrong with the mail here--but what it is or where it is I cannot tell. We have had no mail since the 31st--and I intend to send this by Doctor Day who expects a leave of absence to visit his folks in Arcade.

I think my letters should you receive them all will post you in the part taken by our Regiment during the late eventful campaign but I do not know just what I have written, as the letters were sent away just as chance offered and some of them were written by the light of a camp fire after a weary days march!

I think perhaps that young Bowen was misinformed after all in the case of poor Horace Smith. I have just received a letter from John Manley of December 23, 1863 inclosing a list of our boys who are on Belle Island, Va., which list he received from Captain Casler and was made on the 10th of December--and Horace's name appears on that list and the Captain writes Manley they were all well there--December 10th--I sincerely hope it may prove true. There are 71 enlisted men of our Regiment yet there according to that list--10 of Co. D--among them one of the Hogg boys and Horace. By the bye--Manley says he sent you 4 of my photographs. They look more natural I think, not quite so crazy as the others. Jimmy Copeland is well and has been all the while lately. The boys in fact are all well. There is, in fact, only one really sick in the Regiment just now.

Prop of Pavilion Center Antique Shop
The friends of the boys from our vicinity can always understand their friends in the Regiment are well unless I write to the contrary. We have been through so many trying scenes together that these boys who are left with us seem almost like a part of our household and should any of them be sick with whom you are acquainted I should certainly mention it in my letters to you.

Pavilion, N.Y.

I wish you would send me an express as soon as convenient for you to do so, say 8 or 10 pounds butter in a close covered tin can or pail - 15 to 30 pounds good cheese and about 10 pounds first rate maple sugar. And if you think it would keep - some of the good cake you used to make and some mince pies if you have the material on hand to make them with and any other little delicacy in the eating line your fancy might suggest. Have them closely and strongly packed. Address to H. Van Aernum, Surgeon-in-Chief, 2d Div. XI Corps., Chattanooga, Tenn. By Adam's Express