

The following letter is part of an exhibit at the Fredericksburg Visitor Center which includes a matching earthenware cup and saucer and a Staffordshire cup taken from that city in Dec. 1862 and sent back north by an unidentified Union surgeon. Phil Palen of Gowanda, N.Y. saw his hometown mentioned in the letter and identified the author as Surgeon George W. Barr of the 64th N.Y. Infantry. His regiment was in the Second Corps and laid the pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock River prior to the battle there.

The letter describes the care of the wounded and tells of his attendants picking up the cups and saucer. These items were donated to the museum in 1948 by a lady from Richmond.

Dr. Barr was a native of Evans, Erie County, and studied medicine at the University of Buffalo. When the 64th Regt. of State Militia was organized in 1853 he was made its surgeon. He enlisted as surgeon in the 64th NYVI on Nov. 20, 1861 and served in this capacity during the Rebellion. After the war he moved to Titusville, PA.

"Dr Rugg" was Corydon C. Rugg, born in Perrysburg, NY on May 13, 1822. He practiced medicine in Meadville, PA and Gowanda, NY until the Civil War. In 1844 he was appointed a colonel in the NYS Militia. He entered the Civil War as captain of Co. A, 64th NYVI, and upon organization of the 154th NYVI, he volunteered as a private and was appointed its assistant surgeon on Nov. 3, 1862. He resigned for health reasons on Jan. 3, 1864, returned to Gowanda, then moved to Rutland, VT in Feb. 1874. Four years later he moved to Jamestown, NY and continued his practice there until his death on Jan. 14, 1891.

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Dougherty Hospital
Opposite Fredricksburgh Dec 24/62

My Dear Vinnie

I have been so fully occupied with the care of our wounded that up to this time I could not stop to write you more than the assurance that I was uninjured myself and during that time I have not even stopped to provide for my own comfort having slept in a tent in which could not kindle a fire and eat at the table with 9 others who worked with me or render my direction & to whom I realinguished the tent at night for sleeping purposes from 800 we now have but 40 left having sent

all who had sufficient strength to warrant it to Washington for more comfortable Hospital accommodations--Tomorrow I shall commit these to other hands and return to camp I suppose to await another carnival of suffering and death--I met Dr Rugg of the 154th today and a considerable number of others at their Regt which now lies within 1/2 mile afar He still preserves his elements of Bragadocio yet not with the effort which he produced in Gowanda all seem to join in the opinion that he really knows less than he assumes to ___Del Chaffe is well & well liked I think--The articles I send you in the Box ___Express were picked up by my attendants_____

in their ___ about town and each article seemed worthless ___ on account of the abundance of such articles Fredricksburgh must have been a rich town although I have not passed through it myself enough to form a correct idea of it. My first attention was turned to locating Hospitals and next work crowded upon me so fast that I had no time to look about me until the order came to retreat Since then until now you have learned from me how I was occupied Remember me to all & write after

Yours affectionally

Geo

Write me immediately on the arrival of the horse and how she looks &c &c