

Franklinville Aug 17, 1862

Gen'l Thos. Hillhouse

Sir

I see by your recent order regulating the Draft in this State that in enumerating the Exemptions you make no mention of Dist Attorneys.

Does not the recent Act of the Legislature exempting all "Judicial Officers" apply to Dist Attys in the several counties of the State? — Be good enough to write me on the subject at early convenience.

Yours &c

H. Van Aernam

P.S. Would not Surogates also be exempt by the provisions of the same Act? H.V.A.

Head Quarters 154<sup>th</sup> Regiment N.Y.S. Vols  
Near Catlett's Station Va  
August 10, 1863

Major

I have the honor to apply for leave of absence for fifteen days for the purpose of visiting my family in Cattaraugus County, New York

I ask this favor feeling assured that my services will be very little needed here, while remaining in camp, until the arrival of the conscripts, with our Regiment reduced as it is now, since the late battle in which we were engaged to 128 officers & men present — and two Medical Officers remaining in camp with the Regiment.

I have the honor to remain  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obdt. Servt.  
Henry Van Aernam  
Surgeon 154<sup>th</sup> N.Y.S. Vols. &  
Surg'n in chief 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade &c

To Maj L. D. Warner }  
Commanding }  
154<sup>th</sup> N.Y.S. Vols }

[See endorsements on reverse of photocopy of original.]

*Courtesy of Dorothy Farnham DeSha, Franklinville, New York.*

154<sup>th</sup> Regiment N.Y.S. Vols  
Aug 12, 1863.

My dearest Lis.

You see the fate of my application for leave of absence! — I cant say that I was much disappointed in the result of this matter! I wanted to go home so badly & had set my heart upon it so, that I hoped it might pass on account of the smallness of the regiment, & my entire uselessness here — Genl Howard has gone home on furlough which leaves Genl Schurz in command — I think if Genl Howard had been here my application would have been approved — Some of the “Powers that be here” contrive every way to make the service as irksome & disagreeable as possible.

I am heart sick & home sick, but shall hardly make another application for leave while I remain — but shall resign just as soon as I can consistently No medical officer can get a resignation through lately several have tried without success —

Dr Day put in his resignation to day but I think it will be returned disapproved We shall see.

This Regiment has not been paid in a long time — The Field & Staff officers were paid the very day we started from Stafford C.H. on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June — Three companies were paid then also. — A. — B — & G. — We should have been paid again soon after we came here — but we have seen no paymaster yet & probably shall not until we are mustered again for pay on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month — I shall then have 4 mos pay due me = \$643.50.

The weather is extremely hot — oppressively so — we are encamped in brigade, in the woods — a thick oak forest on a high ridge — Yet there is no air stirring and we are almost sweltered.

Write often, for I more than ever need something to cheer me while remaining idle in camp. — I shall almost die of the blues — As a matter of choice I had rather be placed where I should hear the devilish and infernal shriek of the shells then endure this weary loneliness that is upon me!

I embrace you all — Kiss the children for me & remember me kindly to all who may care to know about me.

Ever affectionately yours,  
Henry

P.S. I have heard nothing from Jimmy McFarling or any of the boys that were taken prisoners at Gettysburg since they were at Martinsburg Va — they were well then — 16 have been paroled & sent to Anapolis but I dont know who they are. Write often — wont you? Send the picture of the House — I hear that Judge T. Broeck is dead — Did he do anything about the Academy? H.

*Courtesy of Dorothy Farnham DeSha, Franklinville, New York.*