

General Stannard was wounded but dont know how bad, wounded they say with a nail.

There has been a great deal of rain lately & mud has been plenty, but we have had the advantage of cool weather during our time of marching. I hear that we are going to have a mail so I will wait & see what I get.

I got a letter mailed June 26th from you and glad to hear that you were all well. I also got some papers which I have not yet opened. It is now near dark & I can hear skirmishing at a distance in front. I will close hoping for the privilege of writing again.

Yours C K Leach

[After the battle of Funkstown]

July 13th 1863

Dear Wife

I will make an attempt to write a few lines today but presume I will not have time to finish before it will be "pack up & be ready to move," for that is the order nowadays. We are now in the vicinity of Funkstown a village about two miles from Hagerstown towards Boonsboro. Came here yesterday afternoon from a short distance below Funkstown.

The next day after writing to you at Boonsboro we advanced along the pike, the cavalry in front & our brigade the first of the Infantry. We advanced five or six miles, the cavalry dismounted & skirmishing & drove the rebels to near Funkstown where they were found in stronger force, & our Brigade relieved the cavalry. There was some pretty severe skirmishing during the day but the number of casualties was not large. Six or eight killed & 40 or 50 wounded in our Brigade, one killed in our regt. from Co K. Co H was not engaged, but with two other Cos. were supporting a battery till dark, when we went out as support to the line & at midnight relieved those on the line, where we remained till the next day when another Brigade took our places, & we went back to where the troops were camped, there was no firing while we were on the line. (Afternoon) As I expected we have had to move & have been building earthworks in front of us.

It is a rainy nasty day today, & yesterday it rained hard while we were marching, but for three or four days past it has been very hot.

I will be very glad if we can ever again have a chance to camp & rest, & have a chance to clean up. I have not seen my trunk since the 1st & have no change of clothes, but I went to the creek day before yesterday & washed my shirt & drawers & put them on again wet. My boots & socks gave out & I have got some government shoes & socks & also a pr. of some drawers. I received two letters from you last night, & one more after writing at Boonsboro, so I have got them up to date of July 4th.

I am sorry to hear that Zina is so bad off but hope he may come out of it all right. I shall be very anxious to hear from him again & hope I may have the luck to get your next in good season.

Gen Smith was here yesterday & I suppose he has some force somewhere in this vicinity, as he has command of a Militia force. The 3rd Brigade of our Division rejoined us yesterday. They left us after leaving Gettysburg, they following the rebels & we going to Emmetsburg & coming down east of the mountains.

I must close if I wish to send this out, for now there is a chance.

Yours C K L

Near Boonsboro Md

July 15th /63

Dear Wife

I seat myself again to pen you a line not knowing when I shall have another opportunity. We marched to this place today from Williamsport & a very hot day it has been too. Yesterday morning it was found that the rebels had left our front & so we marched to the river at Williamsport.

Our Cavalry came on some of them on this side of the river & captured a few hundred of them & two pieces of Artillery. They kept their doings a secret or I reckon they would have not got over as well as they did. I suppose some will blame Gen Meade for letting them cross the river, but it is impossible to tell the doings of an enemy unless you attack them in force or have means of getting around them, for 25 thousand will show as good a front as 100 thousand.

I dont know what our movement will be now, but make a guess that in a week we will be in the vicinity of Centerville or Fairfax. The 1st Corps was near us last night so Hollis & I went to see Nelson Smith but did not find him as he was taken prisoner at Gettysburg. He was taking care of wounded men in Hospital.

I saw a sight yesterday that beats all I ever saw. A Negro boy that the rebels left in a barn, entirely naked. His breast & bowels were scratched or cut & the Drs said that turpentine had been put on him, & also his privates had been cut off. I went in the barn to see him but it was rather dark. He lay on his back, his legs bent knees up, & grating his teeth & frothing at the mouth & seemed to take no notice of anything, & his breast & bowels looked as though they had been cut & then burned all over. I understood the reason of the act to be because he would not go over the river with them.

I have just got a Baltimore paper of today & the news is good except the riot which they are having.* Rumors today of the surrender of Port Hudson with 18000 prisoners, which I hope will prove true. Charleston is also getting another smell of burned powder & some of their batteries taken.

You said in one of your letters that Ceph wanted a stone that was in the lane. I dont know as I care about letting him have it. I shall probably have use for it if ever I get around home. I was glad to hear that you had rec'd those orders for I was afraid they were gone. I sent a letter to William when we were at Bristow Station which I hope he may get for it had 5 dollars in it which I sent him, thinking perhaps it might be more benefit to him than to me. I have got no letter from you since I wrote last.

C K Leach

Camp near Berlin Md
July 18th 1863

Dear Wife

I again seat myself to pen you a line to let you know that I am well. We came to this place day before yesterday from Boonsboro, where I wrote you last, a very good days march, & pretty warm too. We came through Middletown, & passed not far from Burketsville. Yesterday it rained nearly all day & we busied ourselves with making Muster Rolls & such like. We have had no time to make our muster rolls since the last of June, the time of muster until now, & I hope we shall get the pay on them as soon as possible.

We expected to cross the river today but it is now near noon & no orders. I am afraid I will not be able to march for a day or two on account of a sore heel made by my shoe rubbing off the hide.

Wakefield came here yesterday, & I had quite a visit with him, he is with Quartermaster Pitkin, who is now at Berlin. I have received no letters of late, but perhaps will be lucky enough to get one tonight.

We got a sight of our Baggage since we came here the first time since the 1st of July, but it only makes the more work to do, for it has been so long since we have had any chance to do any thing, or any thing to do with, it all comes in a heap. I worked till morning till night yesterday with a good deal of help, & then hardly got straightened up. Now we have clothing to get & deliver to the men. I hope we will march from here soon, so we will get where there is a prospect of a short rest. No more this time.

Ever yours C K Leach

*Rioting against the draft was particularly widespread in New York City in the summer of 1863 (Jeffrey D. Marshall, ed., *A War of the People: Vermont Civil War Letters* [Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1999], 165).