

1st

at Fort Mifflin near Philadelphia
 Camp No 4 and 5. Friday afternoon 1862
 This pleasant afternoon finds me in good spirits
 with a large Battalion this to be against
 with my knap sacker for a seat, we are stationed
 between the canal and bridge on grand guard
 duty, we are stationed at present on Gen Tyler
 picked ground. His force consisting of 4 Regt crossed
 over the Potomac ^{with} with the exception of some
 which we relieved after dark last night, began
 rained before we reached the canal which
 we crossed in a ~~moment~~ it rained most
 of the night, we was without shelter and had
 not make fire, you can imagine our Squad
 Joe Bly, Cor. Spitzer, James Bly, Hunter Morrison
 Ed. Thomas, Bob Hill, Capt. was with us near
 daylight, we expected to see the Rebs but
 have been disappointed thus far, it would be
 a nice shot across here I would like to give them
 three cheers and a Tiger, one ball and three bullets
 I washed this forenoon a shirt 2 towels and a
 pair of stockings we do most of our washing while
 on picked guard Bob Hill did some of the same
 kind of work he is lying near on his blanket
 sound asleep we did not get much sleep
 last night I did not sleep more than one hour

2nd

There has been some heavy firing in the direction
 of Winchester yesterday and most of the day
 I do not know whether they mean to
 hold us as reserves or give us a show
 Joe T. of our part Capt Wilson and Co B.
 were selected as the best comes for Picket
 last night of the 137th Regt
 Our new Brigadier Gen. ~~Assum~~ is
 Parry of Mass he is a West Pointer and
 quite a good looking Officer
 On last Wednesday our Regt rec'd
 our State Flag, they are beautiful
 ones, very pretty indeed I feel very proud
 of ours as well as the two we rec'd
 March 30th I suppose our valley
 friends have returned home safely
 again I was very glad to see them
 as well as the presents rec'd, from
 Father and Mother the Apples we get here
 are very green and sell at 2 and three a piece
 25^{cts} for a small loaf of Bread from the
 Sutter 25^{cts} for a pound of cheese and
 every thing else that comes into camp
 two and three prices must be paid
 for it, I suppose you rec'd the money
 that I sent with Mrs. Godes 20^{cts} is the
 amount, please tell me whether they
 are all green backs or not

3^d ^{to} Dear Carla near Sharpsburg Sept 18. 1862
I rec'd a letter last evening stating that
Mr. Beaumont had said that we were all
kind of our life I am very sorry
that he cannot give a better account
of us than this this may be the language
of his sons, but he did not think of me
I expected a ^{near} different report from him
Cousin Sally Swarts, writes they are quiet and
and speaks of her trip to our place but
missed you I am sorry that you was not
there to see the lady that was with her
Cousin Sally and Mattie Mejell have written
me a very nice letter I will send them
before that you may see ^{them} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{letter}
Our camp is very quiet this morning we have
police guard every day to sweep up the streets
also camp guards I am on this guard
this to day 2nd relief we are on duty 2 hours
and off 4 hours making three reliefs
The guard is mounted gösch I am guarding
the Rebs that are wounded and those that take
care of them in a barn inside of our camp
there has been buried still nearer our quarters thirty
or more from this same barn they bury them
without much ceremony, scarcely marking the
place where they lay they are mostly from
Ga there is several Col Linn Col and Capt Living
near this camp with but a small band to mark the
place

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Dele Brother Will that I think that you
is forgetting his promise he made me in his
last letter I have not rec'd one since from him
I hear that he is ^{has} ^{been} moving back to the mountain
of home again tell him to take good care of Matt Swarts
John Heckel and Joe Big have been getting some things
things from home John got a can of Beach Butter a nice
ham some Apple and onion and a nice loaf
of Paired Joe Big got a nice can of Black berry
Jam and some other extras these make a very
good spread for our bread James Mahee got some
nice Butter as well as other extras
I want you to write as often as you can
The last letter rec'd from home came in the
gibasket mail our mail is more regular
at present How do you like Sister Butter
Sparty in the paper I send you give me some
account in your next Cousin Geo Baker
is doing quite well he comes to see me quite
often Law Grady Kunst is still with the sister
I got some good bargains from him
they are kept quite by three wagons coming
daily generally 2 days a week
Simon Waggenbunt is usually well complain
of not hearing from home very often he rec'd
his letter the 16th of Sept My paper is full so
I must close Remember me to all the kind
friends at home particularly to Mrs Anna Swarts

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Potomac River near halfway between Dam No. 4 and 5

Friday Afternoon, [12 September] 1862

This pleasant afternoon finds me in good spirits with a large Buttonwood tree to lean against and with my knapsack for a seat. We are stationed between the canal and river on grand guard duty. We are stationed at present on Gen. Tyler's picket ground, his forces consisting of 4th Regiment crossed over the Potomac yesterday with the exception of one company which we relieved after dark last night. It commenced raining before we reached the canal which we crossed in a large flat. It rained most of the night. We was without shelter and dared not make fire. You can imagine our squad—Joseph Bly, Corporal, Privates James [C.] Bly, [J.] Hunter Morrison, Ed Flowers, Rob[ert] Hill. Captain [David Bly] was with us near daylight. We expected to see the rebs but have been disappointed thus far. It would be a nice shot across here. I would like to give them three cheers and a tiger—one ball and three buckshot.

I washed this forenoon a shirt, two towels, and a pair of stockings. We do most of our wash while on picket guard. Rob Hill did some of the same kind of works. He is lying near on his blanket sound asleep. We did not get much sleep last night. I did not sleep more than one hour.

There has been some heavy firing in the direction of Winchester yesterday [Sept. 11th] and most of today. I do not know whether they mean to hold us as reserves or give us a show. Co. I of Williamsport—Capt. [Frank T.] Wilson, and Co. B were selected as the best companies for picket last night of the 131st Regiment.

Our new Brigadier General's name is [Henry Shaw] Briggs of Massachusetts. He is a West Pointer and quite a good-looking officer.

On last Wednesday [Sept. 10th], our regiment received our State flag. They are beautiful ones—very pretty indeed. I feel very proud of ours as well as the two we received from Uncle Sam. I suppose our valley friends have returned home safely again. I was very glad to see them as well as the presents received from Father and Mother. The apples we get here are very green and sell at 2 and three cents apiece, 25 cents for a small loaf of bread from the sutler, 25 cents for a pound of cheese and everything else that comes into camp two and three prices must be paid for it. I suppose you received the money that I sent with Mr. Zoder's. 20 dollars is the amount. Please tell me whether they are all greenbacks or not.

In camp near Sharpsburg [Maryland]

[September] 18th

I received a letter last evening stating that Mr. Zoder had said that we were all tired of our life. I am very sorry that he cannot give a better account of us than this. This may be the language of his son but he did not get this of us. I expected to hear a different report from him.

Cousin Sallie Swartz writes they are quite well and speaks of her trip to our place but missed you. I am sorry that you was not there to see the lady that was with her. Cousins Sallie and Mattie Meifell have each written me a very nice letter. I will send them home that you may see them after this.

Our camp is very quiet this morning. We have police guard every day to sweep up the streets. Also camp guards. I am on this guard today, 2nd relief. We are on duty two hours and off four hours, making three reliefs. The guard is mounted [at] 9 o'clock. I am guarding the Rebs that are wounded and those that take care of them in a barn inside of our campground. There has been buried still nearer our quarters thirty or more from this same barn. They bury them without much ceremony—scarcely marking the place where they lay. They are mostly from Georgia. There is several Colonels, Lieut-Colonels, and Captains lying near this camp with but a small board to mark the place.

Tell brother Will that I think that he is forgetting his promise he made me in his last letter. I have not received one since from him. I hear that he has been moving back to the mountain home again. Tell him to take good care of the turkey.

[Corporals] John Heckel and Joseph Bly have been getting some things from home. John got a can of peach butter, a nice ham, some apples and onions, and a nice loaf of bread. Joseph Bly got a nice can of blackberry jam and some other extras, these making a very good spread for our bread. James McKee got some nice butter as well as other extras.

I want you to write as often as you can. The last letter received from home came in the 9 bushel mail. Our mail is more regular at present. How do you like Sister Kate's poetry in the paper I sent you? Give me some account in your next. Cousin Jerry Baker is doing quite well. He comes to see me quite often. Lew Gudykunst is still with the sutler. I get some good bargains from him. They are kept quite busy—three wagons running daily generally two days for a trip.

Simon Waggenhaust is usually well. Complains of not hearing from home very often. He received his letter the 16th of September. My paper is full so I must close. Remember me to all the kind friends at home—particularly Father and Mother, — Jos. Moore

Bio of Joseph Moore

Born in 1835 Joseph was the son of Joseph Moore (1802-1880) and Anne Baker (18xx-1887) of Brady Township, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. he served in the Co. B, 131st Pennsylvania Infantry. The regiment was organized at Harrisburg in August 1862 and performed guard duty on the upper Potomac.

On 14 September they began the march to Sharpsburg, Maryland, arriving after the day's fighting, and took position in the Union line waiting for the battle to be renewed, which of course never materialized. The regiment remained at Sharpsburg guarding wounded prisoners until 30 October. He participated in the fights at Fredericksburg Chancellorsville, as well as Burnside's Mud March, before mustering out on 23 May 1863. Joseph Moore did not return home, however. He died on 18 February 1863.