



Envelope from letter

In Camp on Loudoun Heights

2 miles from Harper's Ferry, Va.

October 10th 1862

Mother,

I will now try to write a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and well—no, not quite well, for my side is some sore yet but it is better than I expected it would be at this time when it was hurt.

It is quite warm here. We are on a mountain and a tall one it is too. Harper's Ferry is at the foot of it. I can look down on the village and the men look like children. I went out on a scouting party night before last and we took one prisoner and got a sight at some more but we couldn't catch them as they were cavalry.

We were paid this forenoon. We got \$52—that is 4 months pay. The regiment was paid once while I was in Baltimore Hospital. Lieutenant H[iram] L. Blodgett drew my pay and he was sent to the Hospital in Washington before I got to the regiment so he has got 26 dollars of my money when I see him and he is on his way here.

Mother, I was owing a great deal but have paid my debts and have 20 dollars left. This I would send to you but I fear that I need it as bad as you do. As soon as the Lieutenant comes, I will send you 25 dollars. If you want this that I have now, you can have it. Mother, I have a fear that this is the last pay day for the Old 111th that I shall be present at. I don't know why but I feel so.

Mother, you keep asking me where Sol is. I have tried to save you the shame and mortification of knowing that you was related to the most detestable of beings—a DESERTER. He deserted in the face of the enemy just before the Battle of Slaughter Mountain [on 9 August 1862]. If he shall come home, get him to go to Canada for he will be shot as he deserves if he is caught.

There is no more to write that I can think of at present. I should not have told you about Sol if you had not asked me so many times.

My side is getting better all the time. Mother, you must write oftener and do not wait for me to write. The 145th P. V. is right yet. I believe Jim has not come yet. I can look down on them from where I sit. I can see a little village 70 miles away—a good view is it not? Goodbye mother, — E. M. Whipple

Direct to the 2nd Brigade and 2nd Division. I had a letter from John Mustart a few days ago. I will send his letter to you.

Bio of Edwin Martin Whipple

Born in 1842 Edwin was the youngest son of Herman Whipple (1774-1842) and Phoebe Boa Lafferty (1816-1904) of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Edwin served in two different regiments during the Civil War. He first enlisted in Co. A of the 23rd Illinois Infantry—the “Irish Brigade” led by Col. James A. Mulligan of Chicago. He then enlisted in late November 1861 to serve three years in Co. C, 111th Pennsylvania.

As far as we know, Edwin remained with the regiment and was with them at the Battle of Gettysburg where he shot the hat off a rebel Colonel while skirmishing in the twilight of 2 July 1863. Edwin is listed among the wounded at the Battle of Lookout Mountain on 24 November 1863. The company roster indicates he mustered out of the 111th in late November 1864. Edwin passed away In 1904.