

be gay old roots never mind
old stuck he was his business
look wild if he sent a general
before he comes home I drew
another big shirt and a gum
blanket I have four shirts
now but three of them is in
knapsack and we left all of
them in our old camp and I
think that we wont get them
for awhile all of the boys is
well I must stop writing
for it is getting dark good
night for this time I dont
now how long we will
stay here

they just shot two stars
ages that we will get fresh
but tomorrow

P. I. Direct Company

B. 130 reg Washington city
in care of Capt. Glenn D. Co

(1)

Camp in the woods Maryland
September 21st

Anna I received your letter on the 6th
and was glad to here from home
and to here that you was well
well I would of written some
but I hadnt time for on Sunday
morning I was corporal of the guard
and in the afternoon we started
of on a big tramp we cross the
chain bridge and pulled out

through Maryland and marched till
12 o'clock that night till we got
to a town called rockville then we
laid there till 9 o'clock then pulled
out again and went about five
miles further and here we are
waiting for old rock stone gatch
to come and give us a horse but I
believe that he has got on another
squad for the news is in camp that

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he is in honour well i got a glimpse
of the old ~~at~~ twenty third it came up
by our old camp on east thursday
and camped about two hundred yards
from us and staid till friday after
noon i saw some becke goly and lugs
but ~~but~~ ~~my~~ ~~own~~ ~~back~~ ~~with~~
the way on and i could not see him
for he had not got up when
they left well since i commenced
this letter we have marched about
ten miles farther here we lay in
a big field there is about seventy
five thousand men within two miles
of us i just got done eating my
supper i had a tin cup of coffee
and a big piece of salt pork
and as many crackers as i could
eat the boys are not all done eating
yet some of them is making coffee
some roasting meat and some roasting
corn for there is a splendid field
site across here there is nothing

i want from home but some
postage stamps and i would
like to have a pair of boots then
i dont from harrisburg is
to small to wear stockings are
go to sam hammon and see
if he knows what size i take
and how soon he can make a
pair i want like kip with long
legs we did not get our money
yet but i expect it soon for the
general orders a very company to
make out there musters are for
there pay i wish we would get
it for i have the shorts of a dived
you call that old shit Read a
lyde in washington well i heard
this morning that you had a
nother big fire in town they
says must want to burn
down the hull town they better
wake them shadale from there
them captans shenbry as must

Camp in the woods, Maryland

September 9th [1862]

Anna,

I received your letter of the 6th and was glad to hear from home and to hear that you was all well. I would of written sooner but I hadn't time for on Sunday morning I was Corporal of the Guard and in the afternoon we started off on a big tramp. We crossed the Chain Bridge and pulled out through Maryland and marched till 12 o'clock that night till we got to a town called Rockville. Then we laid there till 9 o'clock, then pulled out again and went about five miles further, and here we are waiting for old rock, Stone[wall] Jackson to come and give us a hare [?] but I believe that he has got on another road for the news is in camp that he is in Hanover.

Well, I got a glimpse of the Old Twenty-third. It came up by our old camp on last Thursday and camped about two hundred yards from us and stayed till Friday afternoon. I saw Sam Beck, Gody and Briggs but bully Myers was back with the wagons and I could not see him for he had not got up when they left.

Well since I commenced this letter, we have marched about ten miles further, Here we lay in a big field. There is about seventy-five thousand men within two miles of us. I just got done eating my supper. I had a tin cup of coffee and a big piece of salt pork and as many crackers as I could eat. Some of them is making coffee, some roasting meat, and some roasting corn for there is a splendid field right across here.

There is nothing I want from home but some postage stamps ad I would like to have a pair of boots. Them I sent from Harrisburg is too small to wear stockings in. Go to Sam Hammer ¹ and see if he knows what size I take and how soon he can make a pair. I want light kip with long legs.

We did not get our bounty yet but I expect it soon for the Colonel ordered every company to make out their muster roll for their pay. I wish we would get it for I have the shorts. Why didn't Jim call that old shit Read alydr [?] in Washington. Well, I heard this morning that you had another big fire in town. Them boys must want to burn down the while town. They better make them skedaddle from there.

Them captains Shenbergers must be gay old roots. Never mind Old Stuck. He knows his business. Look wild if he ain't a general before he comes home.

I drew another big shirt and a gum blanket. I have four shorts now but three of them is in knapsack and we left all of them in our old camp and I think that we won't get them for awhile. All of the boys is well. I must stop writing for it is getting dark. Goodnight for this time. I don't know how long we will stay here.

They just shot two steers. I guess that we will get fresh beef tomorrow.

P. S. Direct to Company B, 130th Regt., Washington City, in care of Capt. Glessner

Bio of Levi Hall Rankin

Though unsigned, it is believed this letter was written by Levi Hall Rankin (1835-1881), the son of John Rankin (1800-1872) and Anna Hall (1803-1885) of Wrightsville, York county, Pennsylvania. Levi enlisted as a corporal in Co. B, 130th Pennsylvania Infantry in August 1862—a nine months unit that received a bonus for enlistment. He was unmarried and working as a “moulder” prior to his enlistment at age 26. He survived the war and married Rebecca Kauffelt (1843-1925) who bore him one child before his death in 1881. It is believed Levi wrote his letter to his older brother, Hannaniah (“Anna”) Rankin (b. 1828), a railroad engineer working in Lancaster.

¹ Samuel Hammer (b. 1814) was a shoemaker in Wrightsville, York county, Pennsylvania.