

Direct to Lieut. C. Hamilton  
Co. C. 15<sup>th</sup> Reg. N. Y. Inf.  
Washington D. C.

Camp "Monis"  
9 miles from Wash. Sept. 8/62

My own Dear Grandma

We are now encamped in a beautiful spot on the side of a hill and a clear brook runs along near our camp-ground, where we wash our clothes and persons.

We are building a fortification on the brow of the hill and are preparing for another on another hill about a quarter of a mile distant.

We were at work all day yesterday (Sunday) digging on the fort and cutting down trees on the prospect for the fort. I was in command of the latter party and it was pretty hard work as they were all green hands in

military affairs and don't know  
how to ~~think~~ mind yet, but as  
they are fresh from the woods  
and mountains of North Jersey  
they chopped away right lustily  
and in six hours had cleared  
four acres of large cedar trees  
so forty men in one hour and  
a half cleared one acre of hard  
woods which is pretty good cutting.

Last week we were encamped  
in a woods on a very precipitous  
hill and there was no grass on  
the ground so it was very dirty  
and as it rained and blew  
nearly all the time we were <sup>there</sup> we  
had a pretty hard time of it.

To hile there I was sent out on  
picket with my company and while  
there Banks' division passed  
us in its retreat from Washington  
up the Potomac; they were a pretty  
hard looking set. I half-starved

and hardly any clothes as they had to throw away their knapsacks and contents to get out of the clutches of that old villain Stonewall Jackson; it is a singular fact that while they respect and honor Jackson for his courage and bravery yet they are not afraid of him and express their anxiety to cope with him again.

He (Jackson) is reported to have crossed the Potomac on Friday night but I think it highly improbable as he is too sly a fox for that, for if he is across he can never get back again alive, at any rate if he comes across we can not have a chance for a peg at him as we are surrounded by six forts who will call on us as a reserve if he attempts to take any of them.

The other day when we were ordered

down into Virginia they heard  
of it and each one of them (the forts)  
sent in a protest to the government  
headquarters not to move us and  
it was received and our orders coun-  
termanded. so "we" yet remain"

They send up signals every day across  
to each other and Col. Fowler can  
read them all as he has the signal  
book.

It is very pleasant here and I was  
never in better health in my life than  
I am now, and am in unusually good  
spirits.

I saw Aunt Fannie and Mr. Smith  
in Washington when I came through  
and had quite a talk with them on  
the war. tell her, the next time  
you write, that she must write to me.  
Excuse my writing as I am very tired  
the weather is very warm, and the dinner  
call has been beaten. I will write to mother  
this afternoon or tomorrow. You n. Grandpa,  
write soon. Good bye Louis lovingly. C. H.