

The War Years

eight miles. Saw some Reb pickets across the River, and hailed them and asked how they liked soldiering? They said that they liked it first rate, and wanted us to come over and have a drink with them. They come to the bank of the river and so do we and no one shoots. We are agreed on that. One of their teamsters deserted, and came over in a row boat, worth about \$30.00. He brought us some information about the Rebs. All was still on the Potomac last night. I was up four hours on picket.

About sundown we were relieved by three companies of the 7th Michigan. We put on our knapsacks and started for Edwards Ferry, where Gen. Gorman was crossing his forces. All the rest of the Minn. 1st had crossed the day before. We marched up to the Ferry, and made out to get across by Midnight. We crossed in a canal boat, pushing it with poles. The Rebs were driven back about two miles, and the old flag is waving over the sacred soil of the old Dominion. It was quite cool during the night but we had plenty of old fence rails that made good fires, were we warmed ourselves, and dried our clothes.

The river is about eighty rods wide here. The wind is blowing very hard. It was hard to get many men across, because of the rough water. Among those to cross was one company of Conn. Rifle men, armed with Sword bayonet rifle musket.

The script I sent you goes at par, and dont let any of the cut-throats have it for less. If they discount it, that is pure stealing. That Chauncy Squires, who was supposed to be killed at Bull Run, is a prisoner in Richmond. He has written home.

I got a letter tonight saying that George had enlisted in the 3d Regt. Minn. Vols. H. Co. We are on picket duty at Edwards Ferry.

The high water of the Potomac has done considerable damage to property. It covered the canal and washed out the banks. Our boys crossed the river and talked to the Reb pickets, and they have come over here several times. They say, they are defending their homes, and are sure they will whip us yet. I was on guard last night, and am sleepy, so much close. Dec. 1st I was on guard last night. We had a comfortable time. It froze just enough to stiffen the mud, which is from one to four inches deep. It is none of your Minn. mud. It is about like that which you would get under the two top feet of Minn. soil. Charming indeed to wade through. We are armed with good heavy boots which we bought after our last pay.