

The War Years

train today, the 31st. Aug. First. We are camped in a fine grove of Oak, Pine and Cedar, between Warronton Junction and Kelly Ford. G Company is commanded by Lieut. Sheppard who used to be in Company B. The boys all like him.

How is your sugar cane? Will it ripen, so as to make good molasses? Have not seen any cane around here but have seen one field of buckwheat. There is lots of grass in Virginia that is not cut. No use for the farmers to cut it as it would be stolen by either army when they made their raids. The people have mostly left here for the north or the south, but a few have stayed and taken a chance. The fences are mostly all destroyed and many of the houses, burned or destroyed in other ways. Is there much of a rush to get land on the Winnebago Reservation? We get three days rations of soft bread each week now. I went out and picked a lot of grapes and elderberries and stewed them for dinner. Received our pay, and I sent \$10.00 home.

Our company numbers seven men now in the field. J. Fransworth of our company has died in the hospital. He is from Elysian. I saw him on the field when we charged that night. I helped him part way off the field. He was wounded in the thigh.

Three Regiments, 1st Minn. 8th Ohio and 7th Mich, were ordered to Alexandria. We came by train. The Regts. are all small, as they have lost heavily in battle, Governors Island N.Y. Harbor. Aug. 24th 1863. Just arrived here. Left Alexandria the 21st on the steamship Atlantic. We were crowded but it was smooth sailing and that helped. Expect we will do provost duty here as the Irish and Copperheads are very mad about the draft, and have been causing trouble, with some bloodshed.

I dont expect we will use too many blank cartridges in our guns if we have to calm them down. It has quieted down now that the Troops have arrived. Western Troops were sent here because they would have less symphy for the mob. There are about 100 boys here who were picked up in New York. They are clothed and feed, and being taught to drum and fife for the Army. Then if they like it they can enlist. They are from twelve to fifteen years old.

Uncle Eber came down this morning to see me. He is working in a rubber factory in Harelm. He says there were twenty men drafted from the factory. He drew a blank and so missed the call. I intend to see and learn all that I can while in the Army.