

Fall 8-20-1863

# Letter from Charles Warner to his Mother Mrs. Almon Warner, August 20, 1863

Charles Warner

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Send no more of cards  
or presents - any writing  
for the Chieftain

Camp 1st 5<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> New York Vols.

Kelly's Ford Pa.

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>

Dear Brother;

I can steal a few moments now to pen you a few lines, but I assure you I am pretty busy nowaday. You will see by this that we still remain here at Kelly's Ford, and the prospect is that we will still remain here, though I suppose we are liable to be driven back at any time. The weather is cooler, we have been paid, and all goes merrily as you please. The only drawback to our general enjoyment is the prospect of witnessing another military execution to morrow Day before yesterday I happened to be out with the Provost Marshal's Guard, which is within a few rods of my tent, and in plain sight, and I noticed a crowd of Officers around a private, who stepping up I found they were reading his sentence to him

he appeared to be somewhat cast down  
though not particularly sad, I presume he  
did not fully realize his situation, I was  
near when he is bound to day, and I see  
they have given him the benefit of the clergy -  
It seems like mockery to see a man thus  
enjoying good health, with the prospect of  
death staring him in the face, to call in a  
Clergyman to comfort him - I should not  
have said mockery exactly, but it does  
seem hard to see a man thus fall by  
his own Countryman in arms. The drum  
beats for Battalion drill and I must tend to  
Drill is over, and dress parade is announced  
in fifteen minutes, so I can write but little  
now and get ready for parade - I received  
a letter - Republican & Tribune last night, also  
stamp - I presume I get all the stamps you  
send as well as papers - Drum Brown  
belongs in New Britain Co. I believe he is a  
Captain in the 17<sup>th</sup> Co, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corp - The fact that  
I had been Court-martialed and dismissed  
the service, would not worry me a particle  
unless it was for neglect of duty in face of the

Enemy, or something disgraceful - Capt. Badger told his superior officer that he lied, and though it was so proven on trial, <sup>(that he did lie)</sup> yet he was dismissed; and various other petty things that would not be noticed in civil life. Dismiss some of our best officers - the same again pests and I must postpone till after parade. Again I seat myself to write, but expect every moment to be interrupted again, to draw Ordnance Stores, and as I shall refuse to draw all that is drawn by Price for me, I may be under arrest before morning, and I do not care if I am - for I had rather meet the issue than not. I have just heard that the prisoner who was to-morrow to suffer the full penalty of the law, is reprieved for one week, and I have also heard that a new trial will be allowed him, but I do not know how true it is.

I am interrupted so often that I do not think it best to write any more now.

While I am quietly in Camp you can not expect me to find much of interest to write about - I am in love Charles

P. 4.

Friday Morning. I am going on Camp  
guard duty this morning. We have a  
brigade guard which surrounds our whole  
brigade with sentinels. And I suppose I shall  
be charged with its good behavior for the next  
24 hours.

Sometimes I am doing a good business  
and many a poor Dutch is without money or  
friends. Through the Paymaster's tracks we get fish on  
our ground. One man informed me last night  
in the company that he was a 100 dollars "in"  
since pay day. And if he will send any of it to his  
widowed mother I think it will prove accept-  
able. Another youngster I showed finger scarce 16  
and small as that, told me he had last night  
for him to keep as the result of that day's winning.  
I suppose it seems awful to people not used to  
any way to hear of such things, but you would  
soon get accustomed to seeing such things if you  
only tarried here for a short time. Sometimes it  
is endeavored by some law loving individual to  
put a stop to this trafficking, but it only serves to  
drive the men away by themselves, and it is best  
to let them alone. The ridiculous face of getting  
up the sun in a rather do work of day is, full face  
distorted in, though I believe I have told about our  
own case & chief some tenths of the time, and I've  
is so near righted that he cannot see whether our  
is out or not, and then he turns back to see before  
will fairly commence, if I am caught it will  
be necessary to be quite sick, which can be done  
on the highest order.

Good Morning

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Kelley's Ford

Aug 20, 1863

Mrs. Abner Hamer  
Williamburg  
Inds.

Camp 145th Regt New York Vols.  
Kelly's Ford Va  
Aug 20th (1863)

Dear Mother:

I can steal a few moments now to pen you a few lines, but I assure you I am pretty busy nowadays. You will see by this that we still remain at Kelly's ford, and the prospect is that we will still remain here, though I suppose we are liable to be driven back at any time. The weather is cooler, we have been paid, and all goes merrily as you please. The only drawback to our general enjoyment is the prospect of witnessing another military execution to morrow. Day before yesterday I happened to be over to the Provost Marshals guard, which is within a few rods of my tent, and in plain sight, and I noticed a crowd of officer around a private, so stepping up. I found they were reading his sentence to him he appeared to be somewhat cast down though not particularly sad, I presume he did not fully realize his situation. I was near where he is bound to day, and I see they have given him the benefit of the Clergy - It seems like mockery to see a man thus enjoying good health, with the prospect of death staring him in the face, to call in a Clergyman to comfort him. I should not have said mockery exactly, but it does seem hard to see a man thus fall by his own countrymen in arms. The drum beats for battallion drill and I must tend to Co. "F". Drill is over. and dress parade is announced in fifteen minutes, so I can write but little now. and get ready for parade. I received a letter - Republican & Tribune last night, also stamps. I presume I get all the stamps you send as well as papers. Dunn Brownie belongs in the 19th Ct, 2nd Corps. The fact that I had been court-martialed and dismissed the service would not worry me a particle unless it was for neglect of duty in face of the enemy, or something disgraceful. Capt. Badger told his superior officer that he lied, and though it was so proven on trial, (that he did lie), yet he was dismissed; and various other things that would not be noticed in civil life, dismiss some of our best officers. The drum again beats and I must postpone till after parade

Again I seat myself to write, but expect every moment to be interrupted again, to draw ordnance stores, and I shall refuse to draw all that is drawn by Price for me. I may be under arrest before morning, and I do not care if I am - for I had rather mult (?) the issue than not.

I have just heard that the prisoner who was to-morrow to suffer the full penalty of the law, is reprieved for one week, and I have also heard that a new trial will be allowed him, but I do not know how true it is.

I am interrupted so often that I do not think it best to write any more now.

While I am quietly in camp you can not expect me to find much of interest to write about - yours in haste Charles

Aug. 20th (1863) (Cont'd)

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P.S. Friday morning. I am going on camp guard duty this morning. We have a brigade guard which surrounds our whole brigade with sentinels, and I suppose I shall be charged with its good behavior for the next 24 hours.

Gambling is driving a good business and many a poor duck is without money or friends, though the Paymaster's tracks are yet fresh on our ground. One man informed me last night in the company that he was a 100 dollars "in" since pay day, and if he will send any of it to his widowed mother I think it will prove acceptable. Another youngster; I should judge scarce 16 and small at that, took \$60 to his Lieut last night for him to keep, as the result of that days winning. I suppose it seems awful - to people not used to army ways to hear of such things, but you would soon get accustomed to seeing such things if you only tarried here for a short time. Sometimes it is endeavored by some law loving individual to put a stop to this trafficking, but it only serves to drive the men away by themselves, so it is best to let them alone. The ridiculous farce of getting up till sunrise, or rather at break of day, is still persisted in, though I believe I have laid abed over roll call & drill nine tenths of the time, and Price is so near sighted that he cannot see whether one is out or not, and then he hurries back to bed before drill fairly commences. if I am caught it will be necessary to be quite sick; which can be done on the shortest notice

Good Morning C

Send no more stamps at present - buy something for the children