

4-14-1862

1862-04-14 D.P. Stowell writes regarding the regiment

D. P. Stowell

Warrington Junction Apr 14/68

My Dr. Sir I think I stated to you in my last letter that we had rec^d an order to move from Winchester to join Genl. Banks's Division thus, if so, that order was countermanded & we were ordered to move for Warrington Junction & report to Genl. Abercrombie. This place is seventy miles from Harpers Ferry & nine miles from the Rap. & Potomac River, on a direct line from Washington through Fairfax, Centerville, Manassas, to Ga. Sonsville to which point we are directing our attention at this moment; we are waiting to repair the road which was destroyed by the Rebel Army on their late retreat from Manassas. We are in the immediate vicinity of the Rebels, they are all about us & have taken some sixty of our men who were out scouting within the last week. We have about seventy thousand troops here now & more arriving every day. We have had a Grand Review today of the Second Brigade Genl. Abercrombie's, ten thousand troops. It was a splendid sight & the Main Cavalry received the Comm. Plumes of the Command Officers; Maj. Whitney is sick & was not present so we were not represented by any Field Officer except myself. The detachment under the command of

May's Society has not been heard from apparently since they left for Harpers Ferry. Genl. M^c. Donnell has his Head Quarters here and is here in person at this time, he has the command of this Arm of the Army of the Potomac. He is a sterling Man and I found in Washington that his reputation as a Genl. was second to no one in the Army.

We struck our tents in Washington Sunday the fifth of April at eleven A.M. we proceeded to Fairfax Court House that night. We found that good old Place mostly vacated, the Rebels took their families on their retreat from the Potomac. We took quarters for our men in the Court House & County Building on the scattered remains of Fairfax County. Where the little seeds & Marriage certificates of the Washington were scattered as the chaff before the winds of Autumn.

It seems profane that so little regard has been paid to their relics by our Scepterous Genl. Blinners Division. It was in this old Church where George Washington led up his beautiful & accomplished Young Bride & gave her that grand and sweet which ^{she} held in common with his own Countrymen so long. by association I could call up from the Cornstep Chambers of the brain his subsequent life and many orations for his beloved Country. and more than once I could see him in imagination standing beside his beautiful Charge as president in the Capitol of our

over State. The best houses in this place were all
wrecked for stables for horses. We took up our march
the next morning for Manassas by the way of Centri-
ville where we stopped to dine. This place was
the strong hold of the Rebel Army as we approached
the town their line of fortifications and entrenched
positions extended as far as the eye could reach, and
commanded the whole town in any direction.
For nearly a year they had been at work to fortify
this place. Yet I think our Rear Movements
frightened them away. We proceeded after dinner
towards Manassas where we arrived about dark
we found this, the once flourishing village of Manassas
of 2,000 inhabitants, with numerous Rail Road
buildings, all burned down, not a building left.
This was done by the Rebels on their late retreat.
We camped on the ground that night as we for-
warded our tents by Rail from Washington.

The next morning we started for this place
through the celebrated Valley of Bull Run, this
valley takes its name from the Mountains of the same
name, ^{and a special union has its source} ~~which~~ are peaks of the Blue Ridge, here
our interest was somewhat excited as we traveled
over the Battle Ground of last July & discovered the
little Mounds of fresh earth on which were
springing the new green grasses of early spring,
and ~~it~~ suggested to us that perhaps some New
England Boys were "sleeping their last sleep" as they

had fought this last battle, where no sound
awake them to glory again. We found it very
heavy traveling from Manassas to this place, the
roads were almost impassible. The late retreat of
the great Rebel Army with the Spring rains has
about destroyed the roads. We have much forcing
to do in this country - there are no bridges, no near
Attain houses & good barns - no school houses &
Churches - & no signs of New England thrift or
comfort. I can hardly imagine what the
Poet was thinking of when he wrote "Carry me back
to old Virginia" To old Virginia's shore.

The main fifth left here Saturday
for Alexandria, I think there is to be quite a demon-
stration on Yorktown, some ten thousand troops
here left here for that place within four days.

Col. Cutter called on me today
he was formerly from Benobest County, was formerly
a Director of the Bangor Rail Road. He said he knew
you very well. He is acting at this time as Brigadier
Genl. of Genl. King's Brigade. Genl. King has a
demonion, he seems very well acquainted through
Maine and is really a very agreeable man
and should judge a very good officer, two offi-
cers of one of the Mass. Regts formerly Portland boys
called on us yesterday so we find brothers & friends
wherever we go. I think I have taxed your patience
this time & close
Very truly Yrs Col. Lewis D. P. Sturges