

Camp Crossman
Near Huntington, PA.

Nov 25th 1861

Dear Aurelia,

Again I take my pen the medium of conversation between near and dear ones when we are separated by intervening miles of space. I have now been in camp for four days. I mess with C.D. Webster, C.D. Gilbert, T.M. Fuller and other boys from Bradford. We have plenty to eat and that that [sic] is good enough for any one. Thursday we had bacon. Soft bread and Crackers and Coffee Sugar. Friday the same. Saturday fresh Beef and Beans. Sunday Beef Soup Crackers and Bread. We are to draw tea and rice today.

My chances look slim unless we fight our way right through. The medical board sat on the 7th of October and passed some 25 and ten of that No. have not as yet been assigned to any position. The board will not set again until all of these have received their appointments and there are not troops enough being raised in Penn to find a position for all as our Regiment is the last one to be excepted. Now unless we can get a private hearing before the Surgeon General before our regiment is full and get our commission we will not stand one shadow of a chance for after it is full the Colonel has nothing to say but the Surgeon General can send who he has a mind to and the Col. will be obliged to except them. We are making an effort to get this private hearing and Gov. Curtin has agreed to give us the assignment to our regiment. If we succeed I shall make out my account for services rendered while at Warren and present it for payment as soon as possible. I can get the money on it by going to Harrisburgh. When I do so I will send you 8 or 10 dollars. I am bound to see the thing through some how or another and get my position.

We sleep in canvas tents 4 in each tent. Each man has one Blanket. We have Hemlock boughs laid upon the ground and spread a blanket over them. Each man in our tent has an extra blanket brought from Home so that we can have four under us and four over us. We sleep warm. Yesterday morning it snowed and it was very disagreeable eating our breakfast with nothing but the canopy of heaven to shelter us from the storm. We have no fire except out of doors to one side of the encampment. Each mess does their own cooking. It costs 10cts. A shirt for washing and ironing here. I am now wearing regulation shirts and draws. The shirts are of white flannell. I have two of each these I can wash myself. The shirts scratch some but I think I can stand it.

I think we will not stay here more than 2 or 3 weeks at the longest before we will be ordered to Washington. That is the talk now in Camp. Our men are to be mustered in this week but I will keep aloof until I have my commission. I must confess that I do not like Huntington very well. It is an old place and the inhabitants mostly wealthy but there is not what you might call a nice House in the place.

Enclosed I will send a book for Ada. These are distributed to the soldiers. My health never was better in my life. All of the boys are getting as fat as pigs. I wish you would

write as often as twice a week. I am very anxious. I am so afraid that you or Ada will be sick.
Yours with much affection.

N.F. Marsh

P.S. I will write A.H. this week