

Letter from Tilton C. Reynolds to Thomas Reynolds, January 14, 1862

WASHINGTON, D.C. Sept 22nd 1861

Dear Mother,

I received your letter this morning and was very glad to hear that you were still all well. I also got them you sent by Dr Crawford he got here yesterday morning him and the other fellows. I was glad to see him. Conser got here Thursday he had also some letters for me. I tell you what I was glad to get news from home for I have not hardly any news at all from you. You wanted to know how these wet Nights affected me well they dont hurt me at all. I am as hearty as any one can be. I lay out some nights when It Is to warm In the tent. The tents are of heavy bag stuff and there Is no rain can get In. We can tie them shut and live as nice as you please. Danny Reynolds was here the day Conser came in. He looks first rate. I read him the letter you wrote about what he wrote to Nancy. He said I was not well then and I felt homesick but he now says he would not go home If he had ever so good a chance. I tell you we have good living as any one could wish. Beans, Pork, Beef, Rice, corn meal to make hominy that Is our very fine meal; Vegetable soup, coffee, Sugar & every thing one could wish for.

I was Sergeant of the Guard yesterday. I had to march the guards round and station them at their proper places and then take my post at the gate where two men stand with muskets and bayonets to let no one In without I told them to for there Is So many running In and out that we could not do with out a guard any longer. I came off this morning at half past Nine this morning after Nine O clock at night. I was to let No one In without the countersign. Well I have told you enough about guard I guess so I will write Some thing else. I have only been on Guard once since I came here now I will quit.

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Bill Ferris was here and got dinner with us to day. We had a sumptous dinner prepared for him. There Is 3 or 4 Regiments goes past here every day all armed and Uniformed. They look as if they could whip the South without any help. I tell you what It is a sight too see the men about here. You can not think how glad I was to here that Pap had verry near forgive me for going away without his leave. I felt bad all the time till I heard It. You need not be alarmed about my health for I have good heavy Blanket and warm clothes. My boots was not very good but we have all drawed a good pair of Government Shoes. They are rather a nice thing I tell you. They are Sewed and are the easiest thing on the feet I ever had on. I have washed my drawers and under Shirt once. I have one under Shirt that I have not had on yet at all. My over Shirt does not seem to get dirty enough to wash So I keep on wearing It. [Hodd?] Sparks Is getting well but he was very Sick he could not get up with out help for a couple of days. There Is a bout half a dozen men In our regiment that are Sick. A Smith is not verry well but It is lazziness that ails him. [?] Daily has the same complaint they are to lazy to go out of their tents and It gets so hot In them at noon that it gives them the sick headache and then they lay around all day. You need not be afraid of me getting out to where the pickets are [?] getting shot for they are none with In 2 or 3 miles of this and I do not go out of camp without a pass [from?] the Colonel and then I go to Washington but that Is not often. I tell you the fellows are not verry well satisfied with their Captain and are going to have another Election. Conser I guess will get It for Uncle Orlando does not seem to want It verry bad but I cant tell how It will go yet.

Now I have got my sheet almost filled about nothing so I will close. Tell Maggie & Clarinda that I can not write to them this time for I will have no news but I will write as soon as I can. I was very glad to get Paps Likeness and would like verry much to have yours In the same kind of a case for they are handy to carry. Give my love to Pap and all the rest of the folks. Kiss Johnny for me and tell Willie not to give up his letter for I would like to get a letter he wrote. Tell Tommy I would like to see him stepping along from Bill Ferrises with his cigar in his mouth like he had last summer. But my sheet is full and I must close with love to all. I remain your affectionate Son.

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Tilton Reynolds