

Fredericksburg VA Dec 15th 1862

Dear Mother

I did not get time to write yesterday because I was so busy baking pan cakes &c. The battle began here last Thursday. The first shots were fired a long time before daylight but we had been up getting breakfast some time when they opened. Our regiment was the last one of the division to break camp, which we did at sun rise. We marched up and took our position on the field in line of battle, laid there until sundown and then went back on picket in the rear of our old camps. We were ordered up the next day to cross the river but did not that night. Our division crossed at noon on the next day Saturday but our regiment did not cross until yesterday morning. I think all of the division was in the fight but us. I think there must be a mistake somewhere that they did not get us into it for it is the first time that we have been behind when there was any fighting going on. Capt. McLean was ordered to report to Genl Griffin yesterday afternoon with the company. The Genl set us to cleaning up a house for his headquarters. We cleaned up two rooms nicely for him and arranged the furniture and then he had us fix up three rooms for the Company so we are to stay with him as long as his headquarters are here. We have had some gay times looking over the things in the house it has been occupied by a wealthy widow lady and everything was fitted up in good style. We found two very long mirrors and a good deal of rich furniture. There has been one shell through the house and knocked off some of the plastering but did not hurt anything else. A great many of the houses have got as many as fifty shots through them. I think by the time that we get the rebels out of the breast works on the hills there will not be much left of the city. It is a pity to destroy the buildings for it is a beautiful place. There was no firing going on yesterday and but very little to day so far but I can't tell what may happen before night. They are firing some shell pretty close to us now. I guess I won't write any more at present. I saw George Jacob yesterday he is all right

Your Aff Son
CJ Hardaway

The company got half a barrel of flour yesterday and we are living high