

Near Fredericksburg Feby 1st 1863

Dear Mother

I guess you will think that I had forgotten you entirely for it is nearly two weeks now since I have written to you in that time I have had two letters from you. The reason for my not writing the first week was because I was stuck in the mud with Burnside. That was a big thing and I presume you have read all about it before this time. it was the worst scrap that we have ever been in yet. The artillery and Ammunition wagons were in the mud nearly out of sight and I guess that some of them are there yet. I saw about fifty mules and horses in the mud that had died there. One battery alone lost twenty horses. There has been some changes made in our regt since I wrote last. Col Berdan has been appointed chief of Sharp Shooters of the Army of the Potomac. Our regt is divided into two battalions one goes with the right grand division and the other with the centre. We are with the centre in the third army corps in Genl Kearneys old division now commanded by Genl Birney. We had to come into a new camp and have had a pretty rough time since we have been here for it has stormed nearly all the time. We have had a good plump foot of snow the last week had to lay under the blankets two days to keep warm. There is no wood here except old stumps and those we have to grub out to do our cooking with. You said in your letter last week that Gust was coming down here but I have not seen him yet. I guess he could not get a pass. I hope he will come for I would like to see him very much. I have not got the box yet but think I shall before a great while for the quarter master is going to look up all the boxes for the regt. I cant write any more for the want of something to write about

Your Aff Son CJ Hardaway