

Headquarters Cavalry Corps.  
Camp 6<sup>th</sup> U. S. Cavalry  
Berlin, Maryland  
July 14, 1863

Dear Father,

I received a letter from Mother this afternoon, in which she tells me that you have received my letter of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

I suppose that Henry Luckin's wound will not incapacitate him from duty for any length of time. Madden was wounded in the back at Beverly Ford, but he will soon report to the regiment again. We were very much overjoyed yesterday to hear that Lieut. Stoll is alive in Richmond. He was shot in the neck at Beverly Ford, the ball passing out near his nose, and everybody supposed that he was dead.

A day or two since, a letter was received in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry from Capt. O'Keefe, an aide of Genl. Buford, now in the Libby Prison, Richmond. In this letter the Capt. mentions Kerns of our regiment, and also Stoll. He says that Stoll is badly wounded, but doing well.

Capt. Brisbin joined yesterday, and has assumed command of the regiment. He was in Pennsylvania at the time of the invasion by the rebels; and Governor Curtin appointed him Chief of Cavalry under Genl. Couch. He remained in this position until the rebels were driven back & then rejoined the 6<sup>th</sup>. He told me about a week since that he could get me a regiment of 6 month men if I wished, but I told him that I would prefer to remain with the Army of the Potomac for the present. I should like very well to get an appointment, in one of the 3 year regiments, either in Pennsylvania or New Jersey.

The pontoon bridge at this place was commenced yesterday, about noon, and was finished this morning early. The 50<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment were chiefly employed in its construction. Our regiment is encamped upon the slope, overlooking the Potomac, and ever since morning, troops have been passing over the bridge.

Scarcely any cavalry have crossed here, but a large number of infantry. The cavalry have crossed at Harper's Ferry. Genl. Meade has his headquarters to the left of the town. Berlin is a village with about 20 houses, and generally insignificant in its appearance. A fine bridge crossed the Potomac at this place formerly. Nothing remains now but the stone abutments.

We are all very much chagrined to think that Lee has succeeded in escaping us after all. I do not think that Meade is to blame for it. There is a great deal of confidence in him in the Army. It is whispered here, that if some of the Corps Commanders had acted up to the instructions they received, the result would have been different. Will petty jealousies and political engineering ever cease!

I received a letter today from Malmsbury. Poor fellow! He has been absent, sick in hospital at Fortress Monroe, for a long time. He tells me that he has recovered and wished to join the regiment, that he had applied frequently to the Surgeon in Charge, but that he had been refused in each case; and ordered to perform duty as an attendant. He was even threatened with the "ball & chain" if he refused. I immediately appealed to Capt. Brisbin, and had him appointed a sergeant by Regimental Order. A copy of this order I sent to him. I then addressed an official letter to the Surgeon in Charge, informing him of the promotion of Malmsbury, and requesting him to order Malmsbury to return to his regiment without delay. I imagine that the would be smart surgeon, who wishes to retain a fine young man as his servant, will rather open his eyes this communication. He cannot retain a non-commissioned officer.

Everything looks as if we were about to commence another Virginia campaign. I wonder whether we will arrive at our old quarters near Falmouth. I know every foot of that country, certainly every road. The life of a soldier is much pleasanter in Maryland. I wish old Virginia was at the bottom of the sea.

Our late victories in the South West are glorious. A few more such blows at the heart of the Confederacy and Jeff Davis and his bogus government will be cast into oblivion.

Chaffee and Wood, who were severely wounded at Fairfield, have obtained leave of absence for 40 days and have gone home. Capt. Clafflin is at Hagerstown, where his wife resides. Major Starr is still at Fairfield in a very low state. McQuiston is in hospital at Georgetown, the old seminary, I believe. Perhaps he will become acquainted with some of my fair lady friends in that place.

Give my love to all my friends, to Mother, Sallie, Mary, & Tom. How is Charlie? You must not forget to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Horvey (?) in my behalf, and tell them that I trust they will live a long & happy life.

Your affectionate son,  
L. Henry Carpenter

N. B. I would add for Mother's information, that I am still Adjutant of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, and will be until Lieut. Kerns (?) is released by the rebels.

L. H. C.