

Camp of 6th Cavalry
Near Middletown, Va.
July 9, 1863

Dear Father,

I write hastily to inform you that I am well and unhurt, and that by the mercy of Providence, I have escaped through many bloody and terrific fights since I wrote to you last. Since the 9th of June, we have been engaged:

1. At Aldie – June 21 – Lieutenant McQuiston wounded and 10 killed & wounded.
2. At Fairfield – July 3 – Loss – 8 officers killed & wounded & 231 men killed, wounded, & missing.
3. At Williamsport, July 6 – no loss.
4. At Funkstown, July 7 – Loss Captain Claflin wounded and 59 privates killed, wounded, & missing.
5. At Boonsboro – July 8 – no loss.

The regiment now numbers 84 (?) men for duty. Lieut. Nolan, Lieut. Tupper, & myself are the only officers left. 14 have been killed, wounded, & captured since the 9th June last. Major Starr is wounded & a prisoner; Lieut. Balder was killed; Capt. Cram is a prisoner; Lieut. Wood wounded; Lieut. Paulding, Lieut. Bould & Chaffie wounded.

At Millerstown, or Fairfield, as it is sometimes called, our regiment 376 strong, engaged the whole of Jones' Brigade & the 19th Regiment Mississippi Sharpshooters. We fought them until we lost 231 men and 8 officers. I was the only officer left with the main body of the regiment. I succeeded in withdrawing the remnant safely, and brought off our colors. I rallied the men three times, within half a mile, checking the enemy, and finally repulsed & drove him back, about half a mile this side of Fairfield.

Lt. Nolan came in afterwards and Lieut. Tupper. They had been engaged (?) to the right & left. I brought off about 100 men and they about 50 more. Great numbers of rebels were killed & wounded.

Give my love to all. I saw Ned at Emmitsburgh a few days since.

Yours Affectionately,
L. Henry Carpenter