

Camp Wool, March 20, 1862

Dear Brother it is a long time since I heard from you. But I suppose you think the same by me. But this [finds ?] me well and I hope it will find you the same. Well I suppose you want to hear the news. The Rebels left this point on the 7 and left all that they could not burn up. They left thirty tons of powder and about two hundred tons of ball and shell. And about forty head of beef cattle. And they went in such a hurry that they left their bread in the oven and part of their clothes in their tents so you see that they left in a hurry.

Well last night we had marching orders to roll our blankets take no knapsaks. But one of the other companies went. We were going to drive a part of Rebel Cavalry across the Rappahannock [Rappahannock] River and [???] the Bridge. We belong to Gen. Henselman [Gen. Samuel P. Heintzelman] Div. now. And we expect soon to march on to Richmond. But the sooner the better. The other day we had the Regiment reviewed by the Gen. and we drilled in the band exercise for our Regiment is called the best Regiment round here.

We have first rate good time for they are good boys and are as brothers and you never heard of what times we do have.

Our linen is first rate. Bakes our own bread and ever think up in style.

The day we had review, Sickles [*General Daniel Edgar Sickles*] had to revolution rifle. They shoot one hundred and twenty shots in a minute. They shot ten shots at a firkin head the distance 300 yards they hit it three times out of ten.

21. Last night we crossed the river for to find the position of the enemy and was attacked by 25 Rebel Cavalry and we drove them out without losing any of our boys. Give my best respects to Mr. Preston folks and all my friends. We expect soon to leave here so I must come to a close. So I must bid you good by for the present from your brother A.S. Standish. Write soon direct to A.S. Standish, Third Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, Col. N. Taylor, Camp Wool, Washington DC, Co. B.