

Cumberland - Gap July 13, 62

Miss Abbott

I received your very welcome letter containing your picture on the 11th inst. and after our inspection of arms, clothing, and equipments, which we have each sabbath, I have wandered out into the woods where I could find a few moments of quietude, and write a few lines without being disturbed by the noise and confusion of camp.

It is needless for me to say that I thank you for your picture which I believe to be an exact likeness.

You have indeed conferred a great favor on one who never before had the impudence to ask a young lady for her likeness.

We have moved our camp since I wrote you last and are now camping in a quiet little vally north of the Gap where we have but very little duty to perform and full rations most of the time, which is quite a luxury to a soldier. After marching several days on 1/4 rations. But we are liable to be ordered away from this place at any time when or where we "boys" of course know nothing of.

Since McClellans partial defeat at Richmond it has been rumored in camp that our brigade would move to Virginia but the report has very little credit as yet.

We have heard it said that drafting must be resorted to in order to fill the late call of the Pres. for men. What do the people of Mich. say upon the subject do they choose to be drafted rather than volunteer?

July 13, 62

If not it will certainly be for their interest for every man who can possibly leave his home and business to do so immediately, and help sustain the government. For one I wish the war department would call a million of men into the field at once and crush this rebellion so _____ that it would never dare to raise its treacherous voice again.

But I suppose you hear enough about war without my adding anything. I am glad you and Julia are on such friendly terms because I know it to be a great pleasure to have true friends to confide in and more especially when we are away from home.

I think that Miltons feelings must indeed be getting very sensitive if he complains of neglect when my sisters friends are visiting with her. I suppose the reason however is that he dont see her only from Sat. night until Mon. morning and about three days of school each week. Singular is it not?

But you must not let them know that I write about them.

But I must close you will be tired of reading so much from that person in Ky. Excuse poor penmanship. I am using the earth for a seat and my kness for a writing desk.

From your true friend and well wisher.

L. G. Loomis

P.S. Please direct to Cumberland Gap via Lexington, Ky.
care of Capt. C. H. Howe, Co. E. 42nd Reg. 1 --