

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

01/26/62: 007

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In addition to writing his mother every Sunday, Lt. Cyrus Hardaway also periodically sent his mother portions of his military pay. In his letter dated January 20, 1862, he sent his mother 5 dollars from his first pro-rated pay of \$15.16. In this letter he indicates his intentions of sending his mother \$20 on his next pay day. This represents a considerable percentage of his \$15 monthly pay and indicates not only the relationship between Hardaway and his family, but also the economic sacrifice suffered by each family in the absence of a young man fighting for the Union cause.

Berdan's Sharpshooters had been recruited as an elite unit that would pay its soldiers "higher than other companys." Additionally, the recruitment poster for "Captain G. S. Tuckerman's Company" distributed on November 30, 1861 called for "respectable men" to join Berdan's Sharp-Shooters "now stationed at the Northern Hotel, Utica, New York" promised enticements of "\$100 Bounty, Land Warranty, &c., same as in all other Regiments" Interested persons were urged to contact H.L. Hurlbutt as the regular United States authorized recruiting officer who promised to "pay board and traveling expenses as soon as enlisted."

Hardaway's acknowledgment that several "companys. . ." have been here five or six months without arms. . ." is evidence the brewing of a major scandal involving Berdan's Regiments. Although advertised and recruited as an elite Sharps rifle unit, "As many furnish their own Rifles, but the Government supplies each man with one of Berdan's Improved Sharp's Rifle, while fire 1 1-4 mile, at the rate of 18 times per minute," it would be months before all companies actually received their rifles. As the scandal develops within the next letters more will be written.

Hardaway's friend and family relation, Adrian Foote and his "Unadilla Regiment" is mentioned for the first time in this letter. The "Unadilla Regiment" referred to is probably the 114th New York Regiment consisting of men raised in the Norwich, New Berlin, etc. area. Adrian Foote, son of Henry and Adah V. Foote was born in New Berlin in 1822. Married to Mary Cornelia Beardslee (Hardaway's older step-sister), he is a mature (nearly 40 years old) and experienced business man by the outbreak of the Civil War. Recruiting soldiers from the Unadilla area, he was appointed Lieutenant of Company F of the 114th New York Regiment. In 1863 Hardaway will transfer from Berdan's to the 114th New York then stationed in Louisiana and join "Foote."