

Historical Notes to accompany letter dated:

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Historical Notes

Camp life and recruit training in Berdan's two regiments of sharpshooters was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Mears. A military veteran, Mears was universally respected for his knowledge, strictness, and concern for the civilians pressed into military life. Colonel Berdan was not militarily trained and in time would become a highly controversial figure in the Union Army.

Hardaway's Company D, First Regiment, consisted of mostly New Yorkers and was commanded by Captain G. S. Tuckerman. First Regiment's ten companies (A-K) represented recruits from five of the Northern states. The following schedule supplements Hardaway's description of a typical day at Berdan's Instruction Camp.

" 1st Regiment of Berdan's U.S. Sharpshooters Regimental Order No. 1

The following will be the order of the daily camp duty:

6:30 am	Reveille, and Company streets to be policed.
7:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am	Sick Call
8:00 am	First call for guard mounting
8:30 am	Guard mounting
9:00 am	Company drill, and squad drill for new recruits
11:00 am	Recall
12:00 pm	Dinner
2:00 pm	Company drill and squad drill for new recruits
3:30 pm	Recall
4:00 pm	First call for dress parade
5:00 pm	Retreat
5:15 pm	Supper
7:30 pm	Tattoo
8:00 pm	Taps, lights out, and all quiet."

Hardaway's impressions of Washington, D.C. are imaginative and thought provoking. "Peck Town", Pittsfield's post office in 1861, is located approximately four miles east of New Berlin and located in a delightful broadening of the Wharton Creek. His suggestion that Washington is the

". . . most miserable town I ever saw. if the public buildings were not here it would not amount to any more than Peck Town" is insulting as it is highly likely that modern residents of Pittsfield would not choose to be compared with Washington, D.C.