

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

2/22/63: 066

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In Cyrus Hardaway's letter of February 22, 1863 a new topic appears for the first time. Reference to a "commission" is discussed as possible, although, "I was sorry to hear that father did not succeed in getting a commission for me but perhaps it will come out all right yet. At least I hope so. I have got a good recommend from my captain and will send it on. I think it will be a great help in getting commission."

The "commission" which Hardaway has mentioned is a special authority or privilege obtained from a political or governmental official appointing the applicant to a military officer's rank and position. In this case, Hardaway and his family are attempting to have him appointed to a Lieutenant's position in a regiment already organized in Hardaway's Pittsfield/New Berlin area. A friend of Hardaway's and already mentioned several times in these letters, Adrian Foote, has obtained a commission and helped raise a regiment of infantry from the Unadilla Valley. "Foote" will be mentioned repeatedly in future letters and is married to Hardaway's older step-sister, Mary Cornelia Beardslee Foote.

Adrian Foote was a prominent individual in Pittsfield as was occasioned by his employment as company agent at the Arkwright Manufacturing Company in Pittsfield, New York. While he lived in Pittsfield and worked at the Arkwright Factory, he lived in the large two story Federal farm house located at the northwest corner (Hoboken) of Route's 80 and 18. For several years after his Arkwright employment, he worked for banks in Cooperstown, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Considerably older than Hardaway, Foote received authority from the Governor of New York to recruit a company. In the days following his appointment, August 1, 1862, he recruited 52 men mostly from the New Berlin area. This New Berlin contingent was consolidated with those raised by Charles Colwell from Sherburne into Company F, 114th Regiment NYS Volunteers. Foote was chosen as 1st lieutenant of the Company and was presented with a "beautiful sword, sash and belt, the present of his townsmen." The 114th was raised almost exclusively in Chenango, Cortland, and Madison counties and was headquartered in Norwich, New York. On September 3, the regiment was mustered into service for three years and by November 1862 was assigned to service in Louisiana.

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