

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

3/21/63: 070

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Cyrus Hardaway's letter of March 21, 1862 almost causes the reader to forget that Hardaway is engaged in the most important and violent event in American history. His letter is breezily filled with news about everyone and everything except that which might be expected from front line sharpshooting Civil War Union infantryman. In between Hardaway's ordering of custom shirts, commiserating with Foote about annoying army Colonels, and sharing news about Harrington, Church and Ms. Anna, the letter indicates a very quiet time for Berdan's Sharpshooters and the Army of the Potomac.

In reality, this period of time was simply another lull before the great storms of the spring and summer of 1863. The Union army, defeated so decisively at *Fredericksburg* and humiliated during the "Mud March," was repairing itself physically and psychologically at its camps on the north side of the Rappahannock River. In preparation for the coming campaign, a shooting range was constructed at Berdan's Sharpshooter camp and daily target practice was held. Time was spent on regular drills and other camp duties.

On March 29, Colonel Berdan resumed his position as Chief of Sharpshooters, and Lt. Col. Trepp was made Commanding Officer of the 1st Regiment. Major Homer Stoughton continued as commander of the 2nd Regiment. Hooker's reorganization of the army had eliminated Burnside's "grand divisions" and Berdan's Regiments were made a brigade and attached to the 3rd Corps. The Brigade was commanded by Col. Berdan, the division by General Whipple, and the Corps by General Dan Sickles.

As Hardaway often did, this letter mentions the names of several individuals known to him and his family in Pittsfield/New Berlin. Since our last request for reader's assistance, Hardaway has mentioned the following additional names. If you have historical information please feel free to contact the authors at their addresses below.

**Benajah Church**  
**Charley Buck (Buchanan?)**  
**George Jacob**  
**Mr. White**  
**Charley Field**  
**Georgia Moss**