

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

4/5/63: 073

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As regular readers of Cyrus Hardaway's letters have undoubtedly noted, he is neither a pessimist nor negative in his outlook on life. Either as a result of his upbringing in Pittsfield, or occasioned as a result of the events surrounding him, Hardaway usually sees life as at least "half-full." His letter home of April 5, 1863 is an example of that optimistic attitude. After his final receipt of his commission in the 114th NYS Volunteer Regiment, Hardaway presumed that the situation, a discharge and transfer to his new regiment, would occur in a timely fashion. Somewhat naively he stated in his letter, "It will probably take me three or four days to get my discharge . . . I will probably not get home before the first of next week . . . I shall get my pay in Washington."

Suffice it to say, that none of Hardaway's hopes and assumptions—discharge, transfer, furlough, or pay—occurred quickly. In fact, Hardaway was not able report to his new regiment until September of 1863. Despite possession of his coveted 2nd Lieutenant commission in his home town's Company F, 114th NYS Volunteer Regiment, he would be discharged from Berdan's Regiments, and join his new regiment until only after the decisive campaigns in the summer of 1863: *Chancellorsville, Manassas Gap, and Gettysburg*.

The Regimental history of Berdan's Sharpshooters, Berdan's Sharpshooters by Charles A Stevens, noted Hardaway's imminent departure from the regiment in the following comments, "About this time, Company D lost one of their best marksmen, a man who had made his mark as such, in the person of Cyrus J. Hardaway, who was discharged to accept a commission as second lieutenant in the 114th New York, and though it was a great loss to the Sharpshooter service, was cheerfully acquiesced in by his company, on account of the deserved promotion."