

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

6/16/63: 084

Berdan's Sharpshooters broke camp on June 11th as a part of the general movement of the Army of the Potomac in pursuit of Lee's northward bound Army of Northern Virginia. The two Sharpshooter regiments were now assigned to Ward's 2nd Brigade of Birney's 1st Division of the 3rd Corps. On June 12th after a 25 mile march they camped for a day. After two more days of march, they reached the plains of Manassas on June 15th after suffering severely from the unseasonably hot and dry conditions. Hardaway's comments regarding his regiment's "Sun Stroke" losses appear accurate. In Berdan's regimental history, historian Charles Stevens states, "It was reported that more that more than 200 members of the 3rd corps were sunstruck."

As Lee moved further north, it became imperative that Union cavalry provide intelligence as to the location of the Army of Northern Virginia. On June 9 Union cavalry crossed the Rappahannock and attempted to find the main body of Lee's army. At Brandy Station, Union and Confederate cavalry collided in the largest cavalry battle of the entire war; Confederate commander J.E.B. Stuart was professionally embarrassed by his cavalry's actions. Many historians believe that Stuart's subsequent "disappearance" during the *Battle of Gettysburg* was an attempt by him to perform some glorious and heroic maneuver and obtain redemption for his cavalry's actions at Brandy Station.

By late June of 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia was located well into Pennsylvania. Longstreet's and Hill's corps were forty miles north of the Federal army at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Some of Ewell's corps were at York, Pennsylvania and were moving towards an important bridge over the Susquehanna River. The remainder were menacing Pennsylvania's state capital at Harrisburg.

Hardaway's reaction to these developments is unknown. His letters contain no indication of his personal feelings about the South's appearance in an indisputably Northern state. We can only surmise that Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania must have been personally disturbing as Confederate forces were literally "downriver" from his Pittsfield homestead located on the Unadilla River a few miles from its joiner with the Susquehanna River. The situation was now reversed; Northern troops and their resolve to resist the invader would be measured by the same standard as had been applied to Southern soldiers for the past two years.