

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

7/3/63: 088

### *Historical Notes*

We are not certain how Adrian Foote's letter came into the possession of Cyrus Hardaway's mother and co-mingled with the other letters sent home to her during the Civil War. Written from New Orleans on July 3, 1863 it provided Hardaway with what he could expect as an officer in the regiment, and with much information about the activities of the 114th NYS during the early summer of 1863.

Adrian Foote, as readers of these notes know, was Hardaway's step-brother in law. Married to Mary Cornelia Beardslee, he was a mature (late 30's) businessman upon his enlistment into the 114th. Foote had personally raised 52 volunteers in the summer of 1862 and had been chosen Company F's First Lieutenant. The regiment, including New Berlin's Company F, was initially stationed near Washington for several months in late 1862. In December 1862 the regiment was transferred to Louisiana and joined the Army of the Gulf under General Nathaniel Banks in his efforts to control the lower Mississippi, New Orleans, and Texas.

The regiment was initially assigned limited duty until April of 1863 when the "Teche Campaign" began in earnest. Designed to establish Union control of the rich sugar and cotton region along Bayou Teche, Banks' soldiers laid siege to Port Hudson in the last week of May. Two major assaults were unsuccessful and it was not until the surrender of Vicksburg, that Port Hudson surrendered on July 9, 1863.

Readers of these notes will undoubtedly recognize several names contained in Adrian Foote's July 3rd letter to Hardaway. Colonel Smith, Clinton Medbury, Charles Brown, Charles White, and John Spurr were all prominent names in the Civil War histories of Norwich, New Berlin, and Chenango county.

At its "mustering in" in 1862, Adrian Foote was chosen First Lieutenant of Company F of the 114th, NYS Volunteers. Upon the resignation of Quartermaster Thompson, he was commissioned Regimental Quartermaster on March 23, 1863. Foote served with his regiment during the *Teche Campaign*, and was at the *Battle of Bisland*. After the unsuccessful *Sabine Pass Campaign*, he was detached and received several promotions culminating with his appointment as the Chief Quartermaster for the department and assigned to General Nathaniel Banks' staff. In late 1864, after the 114th had been transferred to Virginia, he was assigned to the staff of General William Dwight. At his "mustering out" as a Brevet-Major in the spring of 1865, the U.S. Secretary of War offered Adrian Foote the position as Assistant Quartermaster of the U.S. Army.

