

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

8/30/63: 089

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Due to their respective brevity, two "letters home" from Cyrus Hardaway to his mother in Pittsfield/New Berlin are combined in this week's publication. Each is written from New York City, and by reason of the delay since his last letter home, it is reasonable to presume that Hardaway has been home to Pittsfield/New Berlin, and is now on his way to join Company F of the NYS 114th in Louisiana.

Hardaway's prior letter home was dated July 26, 1863 and noted that it was written "near Marshton, Va." Berdan's Sharpshooters and the Army of the Potomac had been in active pursuit of Lee's retreating Army of Northern Virginia after the *Battle of Gettysburg*. On July 23, 1863 the Sharpshooters participated in the *Battle of Wapping Heights*. Three days later on the 26th, Hardaway noted, "We have stopped today between Warrenton and White Sulphur Springs." In H.H. Beecher's Record of the 114th Regiment, it is said regarding Cyrus Hardaway that he was "discharged from his former Regt., at Warrenton, Va. to receive promotion in the 114th NY. . ."

All of this suggests strongly that Hardaway was advised that his long pending transfer from Berdan's Sharpshooters to Company F, 114th NYS Volunteers had finally been approved after July 26, 1863 as his regiment paused for six weeks in their pursuit of the Confederate army. Presuming that it would take a few days for the mails to reach Hardaway, and further presuming that his interim furlough would have been twenty days, his letters from New York on August 30-31, 1863 seems chronologically accurate.

Hardaway's commentary regarding the Episcopalian services at Trinity Episcopal Church in New York City are amusing. It also provides evidence of the "lower church" liturgy which might have been experienced at Hardaway's home church, St. Andrew's of New Berlin, in the mid 19th century.

It is not clear who "Aunt Lib" is. It is possible that it was Hardaway's older step sister, Elizabeth Beardslee Moore; other sources suggest it is a member of Mary Ann Hardaway's family living in New York City during the Civil War.