

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

9/12/63: 090

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Cyrus Hardaway's first letter home from Louisiana is not the high point of his military experience. Homesick, seasick, and far from home on his 25th birthday, the Pittsfield farmboy is mad, sad, and angry at himself for his predicament. It appears to be one of those moments in everyone's life when one's own personal existence is questioned. Regular readers can be assured that within 30 days Hardaway will write to his mother, "I have fell in love with the country down here."

After its "mustering in" at Norwich, New York on September 2, 1862, the NYS 114th traveled down the Chenango canal to Binghamton before boarding a train destined for Baltimore, Maryland. For a time the regiment served in the Washington, D.C. area. In December of 1862 the regiment sailed to Louisiana and participated in various campaigns at several different locations as part of the Army of the Gulf's task of controlling the lower Mississippi: Brashear City, New Iberia, Opelousas, Pattersonville, Franklin, Berwick City, Port Hudson, Fort Bisland, Sabine Pass, Pleasant Hill, Cane River Crossing, and the Red River Campaign.

Hardaway arrived at the 114th Regiment as they returned home from one of the more peculiar Union campaigns of the entire Civil War. After leaving their camps at Brashear City, the regiment traveled by train and ship to near Sabine Pass. After disembarking, the regiment watched as two Union gunboats, *Sachem* and *Clifton*, were either sunk or disabled by Confederate guns. Shortley thereafter, the regiment re-embarked their ship transports and returned to Algiers. The *Sabine Pass Expedition* can be summed up in the following:

General Franklin with ten thousand men,

went out to sea, and then came home again.

Hardaway's arrival onboard the steamship *George Washington* can be historically verified by comparing Hardaway's September 12th letter and Pellet's Record of the 114th Regiment. Both sources corroborate that Hardaway and Pellet were seen aboard the arriving steamship, and in turn saw the 114th as it returned from Sabine Pass aboard the *Cahawba*.