

Historical Notes to accompany letter dated:

9/16/63: 091

Historical Notes

Cyrus Hardaway's letter home dated September 16, 1863 is his second from his new regiment, the NYS 114th Volunteers, at its location near New Orleans, Louisiana. Hardaway's family had successfully obtained a lieutenant's commission for him from New York authorities, and after a lengthy delay he was discharged from Berdan's Sharpshooters 1st Regiment, and mustered into Company F of the 114th NYS Volunteers on September 2, 1863.

Hardaway's letters during this phase of his military service are among the most descriptive of all of his Civil War letters. Transferred from the Army of the Potomac and its operations in Northern Virginia, to the Army of the Gulf in the semi-tropical environment of southern Louisiana, Hardaway wrote of the many differences he experienced. Among those differences are the presence of African-Americans newly freed by the Union army and Lincoln's January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. Hardaway's observations about the inter-action of Federal troops, including himself, and former slaves provides an alternative view of interracial relations in the newly "liberated" territories of the South.

Company F of the NYS 114th Regiment consisted of volunteers predominately from New Berlin and Sherburne, N.Y. Many of its officers and enlisted men are ancestors to many modern day residents of New Berlin, Pittsfield, Sherburne, Morris, and other nearby communities. In order to better appreciate the magnitude of the commitment to the Union's Civil War effort, we publish the roster of Company F at its "mustering in" on September 3, 1862. Due to its length, we will divide the complete company roster into three segments. At a later date, as the Hardaway letters and the Civil War conclude, we will publish the roster of Company F, 114th NYS Volunteers at its "mustering out" in May of 1865. Company officers are published below.

Key: MW- mortally wounded

d- died

KIA- killed in action

NAME RANK AGE ENROLLED AT

COLWELL, Charles H. Capt. -- Norwich

FOOTE, Adrian 1st Lt. -- Norwich

BUELL, John F. 2d Lt. -- Norwich

THURBER, William D. 1st Sgt. 22 New Berlin MW 9-25-64

ALLEN, William F. Sgt. 31 Sherburne

TALMAN, John C. Sgt. 27 New Berlin KIA 6-14-63

PAGE, Caleb S. Sgt. 21 Sherburne

BROWN, Charles L. Sgt. 19 New Berlin

MILLER, George R. Cpl. 21 Sherburne KIA 9-19-64

SIMMONS, James F. Cpl. 30 New Berlin

WAKELEY, William W. Cpl. 24 Sherburne KIA 10-19-64 buried at  
Winchester National Cem.

WILLIAMS, Charles L. Cpl. 25 Norwich

BRYANT, Charles H. Cpl. 18 Sherburne

MEDBURY, Clinton H. Cpl. 21 New Berlin MW 6-25-63

PRATT, Charles F. Cpl. 21 Sherburne

THAYER, Roswell F. Cpl. 29 New Berlin d. 9-6-63 buried at  
Chalmette, LA National Cem.

YOUNG, Dudley W. Musician 28 Sherburne

ROOT, Varner G. Musician 27 Sherburne

BEACH, George A. Wagoner 19 Sherburne