

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

11/2/63: 096

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Cyrus Hardaway's letter home dated November 2, 1863 confirmed that supply problems had caused the Army of the Gulf's, and the NYS 114th's pause in its most recent "Texas Campaign." After remaining encamped at Barre's Landing for ten days, it was realized that the Atchafalaya River was too low for adequate navigation. On November 1st the 114th Regiment broke camp and traveled to Carrioncrow Bayou and Vermillionville.

Along with other regiments of the brigade, the 114th camped on the plantation of former Louisiana Governor Mouton. The governor was an early proponent of Louisiana's secession from the Union and was President of the Secessionist Convention in 1861. Described as a grey headed and broken down old man, he was now reduced to begging for wasted mule corn from the quartermaster. Mouton would take the little corn obtained and pound it into a coarse corn meal for his family's food. Despite this condition, Mouton remained fiercely independent; it was said "he would never submit to Northern rule. His plantation was in a sad state. Fields which had lately been filled with crops were now occupied by Union soldiers, out-buildings were torn down, slave cabins empty, and his slaves long gone. Once one of the wealthiest men in the South, he and his family were confined to the manor house under "house arrest." On at least one occasion, his daughter, the wife of Confederate General Gardner, personally went to Union headquarters to beg for food for her father, her children, and herself.

Among the diversions enjoyed while the 114th Regiment was encamped were "serious" horse racing. The 114th was especially proud that a horse kept by their Colonel Samuel Per Lee was overwhelmingly superior. Race after race the Colonel's horse won. The regiment took particular pride in their connection to "a hoss that will beat anything you can rake or scrape."

Regular readers of Hardaway's letters and these notes may have noticed the appearance of a new "trend" in his letters since his transfer to the NYS 114th Regiment. On several prior occasions, Hardaway indicated a strong affection for not only the South's beautiful lands and climate, but also, "verry pretty sisters" and "verry handsome Creoles." Most interesting of all is his statement that "I should like to marry into that family if things were quiet down here. . ." Hardaway's long expressed empathy for the consequences of the war upon the South appears to have reached a new level.