

June 28th 1864

61.1
2/1/4

Camp Near Petersburg V A

Dear Uncle & Aunt

Having a few spare moments I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I was alive yet this leaves me well as I hope it will find you and yours I have been so busy since I left that I could not get time to write before I am making out muster rolls now as I should be out with the regiment they are out about one mile from here on picket so I stole a few minutes to write you a few words

Dear Aunt I tell you
we have had pretty rough
times since the 2nd of May
we have been under fire
of the enemy almost
every day we have lost
a pretty good portion of
our men we had in the
company that I am in
fifty six men when we left
Yorktown now we have but
twenty six I am all the
Sergt in the company and
we have no commissioned Officers
I have every thing to do
for the company it keeps
me as busy as a nailor I
got one of the rebels shot
in my foot it is as sore
as a hile I cannot
wear my shoe on it
but I am bound to go

If I go barefoot I
am almost discouraged I
have to do my own duty
and the Captains to for
nothing, but my own pay
it will play out before
long my doing others duty
for nothing it dont pay
to risk my neck I am
willing to go where my duty
calls if it is to cost my
life Aunt we are within
about half a mile of
Peetersburg is one place where
we go on picket our line
is in the cleared field it
is one of the nicest places
you ever saw there is two
Churches of each denomination
we can see nearly all the
Citty the rebs are about
four miles from our outside

Pits we have got holes dug
in the ground about four foot
square so they have got to
shoot pretty close to hit
us they made a charge on
our works the other day but
I guess they got their fill
we captured eleven hundred &
sixty of them our Brigade we
went out after dark and buried
between two and three hundred
of rebs our loss was two killed
and about six or eight wounded
and forty two prisoners out of
the 98th Regt. There is some
diferance wheather they charge or
we in our loss Aunt J got a letter
from Sarah she said she had to
move I dont know but it is
all ~~write~~ but I should kind
a like to have been around when
it happened but let it go it is
all for the best but I must
close by asking you to remember
me to Uncle and Helen and
Kate as well as the neighbors so
good by for this time write as
soon as you get this direct to
Forrys Monroe VA Co H 96th Regt NY
From your Nephew
Thos H Kirby

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Mr Daniel Shew
Peru Clinton County
New York

