

Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs
August 4th 1861, Sunday 5 ½ [5:30] PM

My dear Mother,

You will doubtless be surprised to find that I am at the Springs, more than a hundred miles from the place in which my last letter was written. I will continue the account from my last epistle, of my travel. We remained at Camp Tyler until last Wednesday week. On the evening of that day at about 5 o'clock we rec'd [sic, received] orders to prepare to march with only such things as we could carry on our shoulders. We did so, and started off for Charleston. We had gone but about 50 yards, when we were halted and ordered to lay down our things, which a wagon was going in a few moments to convey for us. We then went back and took up our positions behind our breastwork expecting in a few moments expecting to be attacked by the enemy as the scouts who came in said they were but a short distance off, and we heard several sudden reports of guns in the direction we expected them to come. In a few moments we rec'd [sic, received] orders to march, and started off immediately for Charleston. When we arrived here we found the whole town in a bustle, and filled with troops. While here a number of reports of cannons were heard and we thought the enemy had attacked our rear. I believe these reports were shots fired at our fortifications, the enemy being afraid to approach too rapidly upon them, thinking there might be some ruse. I heard the adjutant tell Gen'l [General] Wise while here that the enemy were at Two mile Camp. There was a suspension bridge on the other side of Charleston over the Elk River, a tributary of the Kanawha, and we attempted to destroy this by fire, but I understood did not succeed. We finally got started off and had marched about a mile this side of C. [Charleston], when we were again halted. While here a steamer came up the river bearing some of our troops and some baggage. Gen'l [General] Wise ordered a signal shot to be fired in order to bring this to shore. The soldiers on board (The McCulloch Rangers from New Orleans, a set of rogues, and rowdies) either mistaking us for enemies, or through evil motives and revenge, returned the fire, and there were some 6 more shots at 1st fired at regular intervals of about 2 or 3 seconds. There was then a short pause & several persons hollered "Don't Shoot" after which a continued fire began, the flame lighted up the whole road. It looked like a burning sheet of fire. At 1st we thought from the peculiar manner in which the men in the boat acted that it was our enemy's boat. But a thought convinced us that it was not. A good many of the men in our company fired and several in other companies. I tried to get the men to stay in ranks but they would not lay down flat on the ground by a fence which enclosed the road. I lay down there also until I saw the men climbing the fence, when I did the same. There was a hill on the other side of the fence, and I stood on this looking about to see what was going on. The whole affair was probably not more than 5 or 6 minutes in duration. None of our company were wounded, though some had balls through their clothes. One of them was riding a horse between the company and the river. The horse was shot in two places, and fell with the rider when he took off the saddle and bridle & turned him loose. The poor wounded animal started off, hobbling along the road, the man lay down flat. There is no doubt that laying down saved our men from being injured. You could hear the balls cracking against the fence, over the head and one fellow had a bullet hole through his sleeve and a piece of his gun knocked off. None of our men were injured. Though the heaviest firing was against us, the boat being right in front. In the company next us there were 4 wounded, and in the next 6. Some of these however, were injured by ~~the wagons~~ [sic, crossed out] the wheels of a wagon or of the artillery, which ran over them. On the boat one man was killed & one severely wounded. We continued our march from

day to day, making on an average about 14 miles a day, until we reached Lewisburg 100 miles from Charleston. I walked all except about 5 miles, which I rode as I was unwell. I made the journey in a week. On the morning of last Wednesday I started off early to go to Lewisburg before my company. It was about 6 AM. I had 18 miles to go. The Company had nearly all gone home, as Gen'l [General] Wise had given them a short furlough. We were stopped several times by sentinels of different regiments along the road. I reached L. [Lewisburg] about 2 o'clock [sic, o'clock], and would have done so sooner had I not given out on account of the excessive heat. The only trouble I had on these long marches was my feet which got sore on the bottom. I stayed at Mr. Dunn's while in Lewisburg and enjoyed myself very much & was treated very kindly. It was quite a treat after being so long fed on fat middling and cornbread. To see some home-eating once more, and to sleep again in a bed, and to get on some clean clothes. Mr. Dunn is the father of one of the young gentlemen belonging to our company. On Friday morning the company assembled about $\frac{2}{3}$ being absent and marched to a camp just this side of the bridge over the Greenbrier River. There we remained until yesterday (Sunday) morning when we marched here, to the Springs. We are now about 9 miles from Lewisburg. The buildings here are most magnificent, & also the grounds, which are very extensive. The Springs, of which there are several have a taste, very much like spoilt boiled eggs. The main spring has a large flow of water, and over the spring house is a statue of Virtue (I think). The main hotel is an immense building having two wings. The Ballroom is, so I was told, 150 feet in length. The Dining room is I suppose 300 or 400 feet long. I took dinner there yesterday and was charged 75 cts. [cents]. The cottages are superb, scattered all around in all directions over the hills. The lawn is filled with shady trees. There were last year at one time 1700 person. A gentleman, one of the proprietors told me that \$1,000,000 had been expended on it since last summer. We have 3 regiments now encamped in the grounds. I mean to apply for Sergeant Majorship of Col [Colonel] Richardson's Regiment. This morning I bought 12 yds [yards] of calico, and am now having 4 col'd [sic, collared] shirts made of them. I took up some clothes to have washed at a house near here this evening, where they charge \$1.00 a doz. I ~~have~~ [sic, crossed out] could only afford 6 pieces at their price. I just now found a free woman who will wash them for 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts. [cents]. I have now about \$25. I expect to receive some money for drilling soon. [writing continues on sides of page 7] In our march we burnt Gally Bridge, a splendid structure 40 miles this side of Charleston. [writing continues around page 5] Whenever you write, write a great deal, and enclose an envelope directed to yourself & also a sheet of paper. So that I can take my pencil and write quickly and put in the 1st P.O. I come to. Write immediately & direct to Green. [Greenbrier] W.S. [White Sulphur] Springs. We are to stay here it said 3 weeks & also that Lee is to take command of our forces which are about 3200. I haven't heard from you yet except for the paper Pa sent, which I got at Gally Bridge. [writing continues on sides of page 3] Gen'l [General] Wise is not so popular now among the soldiers. He appoints favorites as his officers, and gets mad, curses them, and makes them resign. [writing continues around page 1] I write in a tent. The night we left Charleston I understand the town was illuminated, and there was great shouting and rejoicing. I was glad to leave the Kanawha Valley. It is the poorest meanest country I ever was in. Nasty soapstone water to drink about the color of a mud puddle.

Good-bye--
Your devoted Son--
Eugene F. Cordell