

Hd. Qrs. [Headquarters] 60th Va. Regt. [Regiment]
Salem Roanoke county Va. Decr. 10th, 1861.

Dear Parents,

No doubt it will surprise you considerably when this reaches you to see the above heading. I would have notified you sooner of our move, but had neither time nor writing material. We started from our camp near Greenbrier Bridge just 6 days ago, that is, last Thursday morning. The order was quite sudden and I did not know of it until the day before we started. Of course the time from that to our departure was quite a busy one. I rode up on Wednesday evening to Lewisburg especially to inquire about my box of clothes from Staunton. Mr. Poell whom I met at his store informed me that the box had not yet arrived, and that he had heard nothing of it. I also inquired of the two Quarter Masters, but there was nothing of the kind in their departments. I conclude that it has not yet left Staunton. I was very sorry not to get the clothes as I am very much in want of them especially the socks and drawers. Just before I left a note was handed to me from Mr. Irvin in which he stated that the two books, with which he had been entrusted, had been left by him at his Brother-in-Law's in Augusta. He named the person and P.O. and said that any directions sent by me would be attended to strictly. The 1st day we marched about 9 miles, bringing us to a camping ground 3 miles this side of the White Sulphur. One night we camped just between the Red Sweet and Old Sweet Springs, some 3 or 400 yards distant from each other. Both are beautiful places, especially the latter which is a rival with the White Sulphur. There are a large number of fine brick buildings at the latter place, and a great many cabins. We passed several very high mountains. The country was poor and rocky, but there were some beautiful views and mountains streams, the pure fresh air, the mildness of the weather, (which could not have been more favorable. The sun shone brightly every day, the sky was unclouded, and an overcoat unpleasant.) and the delicious fragrance of the pine and mild undergrowth, all conspired to make our journey a most pleasant one and to exhilarate our spirits in a remarkable degree. Today we went but 10 miles, and I arrived at Salem at 12 AM. Here I got a good dinner at the Hotel, which cost nothing, (though I believe the Col. [Colonel] had given order, that the bills should be charged to his own account.). We marched through the town to the depot about 1/5 of a mile south, and encamped directly beside the track of the Va & Tenn. Railroad. Some of the men were gratified this evening with a first sight of a locomotive and train. Tomorrow evening we go on Westward to _____ Bowling Green, Kentucky. Farewell to Old Virginia! I tried to get a chance to go home on furlough, principally for the purpose of getting some clothes, but the Col. [Colonel] says he must hurry on, as they are daily expecting a fight, and can't give any furloughs at present. I had been anticipating a pleasant fortnight at home at Christmas, but I suppose there is no chance of this now. We left Major Sweeny at the White to bring in the deserters and sick, &c. [et cetera]. We have with us but about 400 men but hope he will bring up some 200 more. It is considered 65 miles from Greenbrier Bridge to Salem.

I have just finished my share of the Guard Mounting, and will resume my epistle. I find myself somewhat in want of money, having but 2, 5 dollar gold pieces left. I spent some \$12 on the foraging expeditions I wrote you about. It will cost me suppose some \$10 or \$12 per month to live as I do now. We are to bear each an equal share of the expense. We have omelets, turkeys, chicken, hams, and butter. Live pretty high as you see! If I could get the \$170 coming to me from Richmond for my service as Drill-Master. Did you know I had been trying to get a Cadetship in the Confederate Army. I wrote to Col. [Colonel] J.L. Davis for a letter, but never recd. [received] any answer. Mr. Smith gave me a very flattering letter. I also wrote to Mr. Boleter, at Shepardstown, but suppose, he was in Richmond and did not receive [sic, receive] my letter. If I could get to Richmond, I would stand a good chance to get it. The pay is \$40 per month, the rank next to 2nd Lieut. [Lieutenant], and lowest comd. [commanding] office. It is Col's

[Colonel's] aid and Asst. [Assistant] Adjutant. I would like to get it very much. I hope against hope to see you soon. I would prefer to remain in Va. But am willing to go anywhere. Probably we will remain at Nashville several days. I won't know where to tell you to direct your letter yet. Good-bye – Your devoted,

Eugene