

9-25-1862

Letter, 1862 September 25, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Camp at Centerville Va.

Sept. 25th 1862.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

You see by the heading that we have again changed position. We came here on last Monday in one day. McLean's & Stahl's Brigades as an advance post. Last night I received your letter of the 18th and of course was glad to hear from you and to know that you were well. I am glad Mr. Ginn has got home safe for he was a good soldier as long as he could stand it, he never shirked his duty. John is well as usual.

Captain James W. Swope was requested to resign as that would save him the disgrace of being dismissed from the service. Charges were preferred against him for cowardice in face of the enemy. His resignation has been accepted by Gen. McClellan and he is now no longer Captain (a place that he disgraced) but Jim Swope. I am glad that the Home Guards arrived safe at home and hope they will never be called on to perform such duty again. So Jessenden packed did he? well

we could not expect much from a bag of wind.
You must not believe all you see in the
papers because they dont always know where
we are. One Division of Sigels Corps is here.
Whenever you have use the Treasury notes just
use them the same as if they were your own.
What does Mr Totten think of Wharming as
a prisoner and I suppose his sisters are
very much relieved.

I am sorry the hogs done so much damage
to the garden but that cant be helped now.

The Paymaster is here and will pay us
off tomorrow I will send the most of
mine home as that is the safest place
for it. While we were at Afton Hill we
had soft bread every other day and could
buy apples & peaches potatoes &c but they
have sent us out into the country where
there is nothing but desolated farms and
empty houses. Centerville is about the size
of Frog town and looks just about
like it, except that Centerville is on high
ground, the landscape here is beautiful
first we can see the Stoughfan Mts. next
beyond the dim line of Blue Ridge for fifty

miles ~~in~~ in one direction we can see
its peaks. Yesterday two Regts and two
pioneer gun went out on a reconnaissance but
have not returned yet we look for them
tonight.

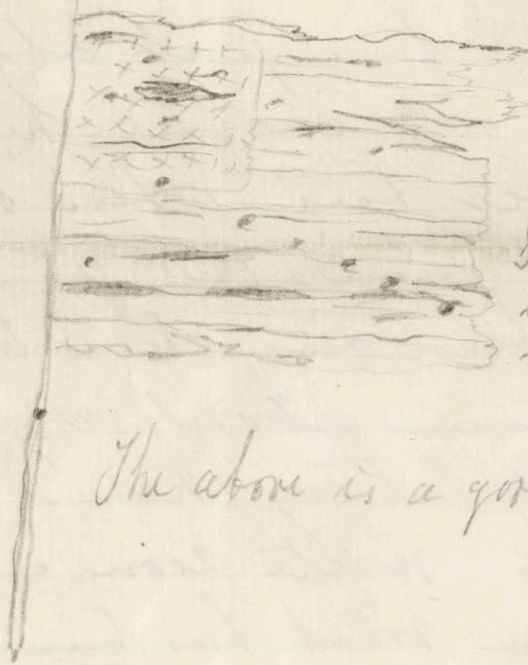
The Boys are all glad that Swope is
out of the Company, There was some things
sent to some of the Dayton boys by
him when he came out to the Regt but
they never got half of them so they
learned by writing home.

Incompetency, Cowardice and Drunkenness
were the charges brought against him.
I think that was rather a hard bill
of fare. Our ^{1st} Lt. is in the hospital at
Washington he will fare just about
like Swope if he is not careful - he and
Swope neither have ever been where there
was a prospect of a brush, but for all
that ^{1st} Lt. Raikes has been very clever to me.
he is an oldish like man about 50 years
of age but is no Military Man.

Well I must close write soon and
often. Find out of Wilson what has been done
at Kenia if you can - across Ocean -
over

P.S. If Channing gets home give him
my respects - tell him I have his
Pistol all safe with also his over-
coat and knapsack -
Also tell him and any body else
what I have written about Scoop
now I dont care who knows what
I say about him!

If you could see how our flag is
shot to pieces you would think it
had seen service is is full of holes
two color bearers were killed while carrying it
and eight of the color guard
either killed or wounded -



The staff was shot half off -
Big bullet holes diagonally across
it - that was done at one
volley -

The above is a good representation of it -