

LETTER FROM HENRY HAPGOOD FROM VIRGINIA

Narrator: Henry Hapgood wrote home in a letter dated 15 Sept. 1862

Actor:

Dear Father & Mother,

I suppose ere this reaches you that you will have received one letter from me, for I wrote while on board the boat from Washington. I was not certain where we were going then, but we have finally stopped and camped in Suffolk, Va. ... Sunday night we anchored at Norfolk and spent the night on board I was stationed on guard on the wharf. had my gun loaded as we were in a rebel city, the next morning we took the cars for this place I did not see many white people in the city but a plenty of blacks, they appeared glad to see us waving Hats &c.

I find a difference in appearance of the people and the looks of things from that of the north especially in some places. Some of the women are not so particular about wearing hoops as our Ladies are...I understand that all the inhabitants here are rank secessionists.

The Old Sixth seems to be known all about. The 19th of April is not forgotten. I guess not by Baltimore either. I think Baltimore is a beautiful city although I did not see it in the day time. We marched about two miles in the city ...in the evening, and were cheered all the way, quite a contrast between this and last year ...

I am in good health and so are all the boys; what I should like would be to be at home at mealtime, but I suppose I shall have to put up with some inconvenience for nine months to come. ...

Tell Luke not to think of enlisting for he would find it hard work lugging knapsack and gun, but it does not come so hard to me as it did at first.

Please write and accept much love from your affectionate son

Henry H

Narrator: Henry was mustered out of the army due to ill health in June 1863 and died that November at the age of 21. He is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.