

MG-221 SAMUEL P. GLASS COLLECTION, 1861-65

Civil War Letters, Samuel P. Glass, Pvt. Co. B, 21st Pa. Cavalry to his wife, Sarah Glass Adams County, Huntingdon Twp., April 4, 1864-June 4, 1865. Various other Letters, 1861-1863.

York Sulphur Springs - Latimore township, Adams Co., on Bermudian Creek near its intersection of the Carlisle & Hanover Turnpike road from Carlisle S. 15 miles, York W. 20 miles, Harrisburg S.W. 22 miles Gettysburg N.E. 12 miles.

Petersburg - Post Town, Adams Co. on the Line dividing Huntingdon from Latimore townships on turnpike road leading from Carlisle to Maryland Line. 13 miles S. of Carlisle 13 miles N.E. of Gettysburg, 20 miles S.W. of Harrisburg, 2 miles South is York Sulphur Springs

Taken from Gazetteer of the State of Pennsylvania, Phila., 1832

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Date of Letter

- Oct. 28, 1861 To Samuel Patterson Fox Glass
- Nov. 8, 1862 To Samuel P. Glass
- Feb. 1, 1863 To "Dear Friend"
- April 4, 1864 To wife: In camp. talks of camp rumor, moving to fairground near town, talk of moving companies B & H to Philadelphia. Routine of day; first thing is make fire, then roll call, to stables to feed (horses), drill, all this at the trot on foot (double time). Next is to curry & water (horses), eat dinner, drill again. Asks about mother's sore feet. Tells wife to come to camp by way of Bendersville & Arendtsville then to the pike (possibly Chambersburg-Gettysburg pike). Speaks of it snowing and asks to be send some bitters (liqueur).
- April 14, 1864 To wife: Asks for \$15 till his payday, needs tobacco. Speaks of drilling on horseback without stirrups. One company has been sent to Charlestown Va.
- April 29, 1864 To wife: A detachment of his company sent to Greencastle (Pa.) to protect government stores. Camped a mile from town in the woods. Hears Rebel cannon says there are 20,000 Union men at Winchester (Va.). asks for money for stamps. Relates a chase of a horse thief from Maryland. Says Spertzel & Ross chased him a mile & $\frac{1}{2}$, shot at him 5 times but he got away over the border.
- June 1, 1864 To Husband: From Sarah Glass
- June 8, 1864 To Wife: Speaks of being so close to Richmond (Va.) that he can hear the cars. (trains). Was at the Chickahominy river preceding day. dug rifle pits. Ready for a fight. Rebels shelling picket line but they do not shoot back. Needs stamps and tobacco. Shows address as Company B, 21st Pa. Cavalry, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 5th Corps.
- June 12, 1864 To wife: Replies to a letter she wrote asking if he is in a fort. Replies that he is in front line getting tobacco from the Johnnies (Rebels). (Trading between the armies was a common occurrence). Says they are within 10 miles of Richmond, digging like groundhogs (trenches for protection). Speaks of some of the boys being within 15 steps (feet) of rebel rifle pits.
- June 25, 1864 To wife: Still in Virginia, 5 miles from Petersburg, fighting has gone on brisk. Asks for stamps. Says they have been in the front lines since they joined the Army of the Potomac, about every other day in a fight, and under fire all the time. They sleep soundly through

all the shooting at night. Charged through hail storm of grape & canister (small iron balls shot from cannon, effective against charging infantry or cavalry), repulsed by rebels. Next night threw up intrenchments for an expected rebel attack which did not happen. Sees prisoners coming in every day. Speaks of capturing the trenches (works) around Petersburg in order to be safe. Asks about rumor of Johnnies in the valley (Shenandoah valley of Virginia). Got fresh bread.

- June 27, 1864 To Husband: From Sarah Glass
- June 28, 1864 To wife: needs stamps and money. They are lying quiet and there is no fighting. Thinks Grant is giving the men a rest because of the very warm weather. They have been in several "pretty warm charges" since they arrived.
- Aug. 7, 1864 To wife: describes severe cannonade when Burnside blew up the the rebel fort (Battle of the Crater). They fired all day to keep the Johnnies heads down. Describes how he found whiskey to sell and is making money. Says not to send more money but he will save his and send home. Complains he hasn't been paid yet. Describes the rebels blowing up an empty Union fort and charging 3 times & being repulsed with the aid of 40 to 60 pieces of artillery. They also got 2 tons of powder out of a mine under a fort before the rebels blew it up.
- Aug. 12, 1864 To wife: Answers questions his wife asks in letter he received on 11th. Mostly money matters. Expects to be taken from front lines and moved nearer Washington and be paid. Describes sharpshooter activities. Retells story of Rebel attack, changes number of cannon to over 150 pieces. Complains about his neighbor being against the soldier vote (Presidential election)
- Aug. 16, 1864 To wife: Reports they have left front lines and are in old camp. Heard rumor they would be moved to old camp at Chambersburg (Pa.). Has been paid and sending \$65 to wife. Explains extra money is from his speculation on bitters (liqueur).
- n.d. (seems to fit here because of subject) no salutation: Speaks of raid on Weldon railroad, hard fight but held railroad. Have corn, watermelon & canteloupes to eat. Supposes their loss is about 1500 men.

- Sept. 7, 1864 To wife: Speaks of the fall of Atlanta. Asks for socks & shirts. Says army shirts have too big a seam, perfect place for greybacks (lice).
- Oct. 16, 1864 To wife: Camp Dismount, City Point, Va. Reports they are drawing cavalry equipment and turning in muskets. They are drawing all new equipment and expect to leave for the front in a day or two. Asks for gloves. Had picture taken and is going to send it home.
- Oct. 22, 1864 To wife: Camp near the Weldon rail road, Va. Received shirts, stamps & money. Reports he has a splendid 5 year old cavalry mount and are encamped between City Point and the railroad. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from railroad. Sent more money. Complains he cannot vote for McClellan for President because the rebel pickets cheer him (McClellan was head of Army of Potomac for close to two years until relieved).
- Nov. 2, 1864 To wife: Says he was on picket for 3 days starting the 24th. They then advanced toward the Southside railroad where they found "any amount of the Jonies." They were surrounded once but fought their way out and took about 1000 prisoners. Stayed till midnight then returned to camp. John Galvin wounded. Had to buy new boots. New address Co. B, 21st Pa. Cavalry 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division Cavalry Corps.
- Nov. 16, 1864 To wife: Tells her not to send pork, thanks her for the whiskey & the brandy that had been sent. Asks about various things around home.
- Dec. 5, 1864 To wife: wants money. Has rheumatism in his legs and cannot move around easily. Made a raid to Stoney Creek Station, burned station and anything else. Took about 100 prisoners and 200 negroes came back with them. At old camp again. Expects to move since there are large preparations going on.
- Feb. 5, 1865 To wife: Describes his finding his sister in Baltimore and his attempts to rejoin his regiment. Arrived at camp to find his regiment out on a raid supported by the 5th Corps. Says he hears sounds of fighting in distance.

- Feb. 21, 1865 To wife: Going out on picket duty. Describes the raid mentioned in his last letter. Mentions Rebel deserters coming in.
- March 4, 1865 To wife: Camp of the 21st Pa. Cav., 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division Cavalry Corps. Just come off picket duty. They have moved camp and have been transferred to the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division. Have been paid and is sending money home. Reports all is quiet and says the feeling is the war will be over soon. Declares he is tired of war for once. Bad weather, much mud. Many Rebel deserters coming in now.
- March 9, 1865 To wife: Answers questions in her letter just received. Speaks of the draft which he feels is necessary. Speaks of Sheridan's final victory over Early in the Shenandoah Valley. Speaks of men he knows that have not yet been to the front to "see the elephant."
- March 27, 1865 To wife: Speaks of big attack by Rebels on Union Lines. Claims he has seen 5000 captured prisoners. Says Sheridan is coming that day and expects a big move on the Rebels because of the large numbers of troops. Postscript says the bugle has just blown Boots & Saddles.
- April 19, 1865 To wife: Says the campaign is over after running old Bob Lee (Gen. Robert E. Lee) 110 miles. They were in the saddle for 16 days fighting and burning wagons. Comments very briefly on Lincoln's assassination. Returned to Petersburg. "Riding a reb horse now."
- May 14, 1865 To wife: Speaks of being within 12 miles of Lynchburg (Va.). Had expected to have gone home. Doesn't expect to be at Lynchburg long. Says the guerillas "kicked up a fuss" so they had to go settle. Reports they captured 3 ringleaders and sent them to the jail at Lynchburg. Expects they will kill them then go home slowly by Harpers Ferry and on up the valley to Harrisburg. Has not been paid yet.
- May 25, 1865 To wife: Still at Lynchburg. Will leave when all citizens take the oath. Duty is very light and getting lazy. Still not paid. Quotes prices around Lynchburg for various things. Says flour was \$2000 a barrel before (rampant inflation of Southern money before war was over) Just had rumor of moving out. Says if regiment is going to stay in service he will desert and come home.

June 4, 1865 no salutation: Expects to leave day after tomorrow to come home. Says all is ready but officers have not signed rolls as yet. Has had bowel complaint about 4 weeks. Feels better now.

End of Letters