

Letter From Ramsay, Charles S. written Wednesday, October 16th, 1861

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Soldier: Ramsay, Charles S.

Allegiance: Union

Unit/Service Branch: 44th Infantry

Date Written: Wednesday, October 16th, 1861

Location: Near Portsmouth (Ohio)

Correspondence Type: Letter

Subjects: Commanders, Comrades, Daily Life, Family, Friends, Western Theater, Wife/Girlfriend

Steamer Canenago

My Dear Wife,

I thought that I would write you a line this morning knowing that you would be anxious to hear from me. We arrived safe at Cincinnati at 12 1/2 o'clock and boarded the boat at 2. Remained at the wharf until 8 o'clock on account of heavy fog. We have had a very pleasant trip so far. One half of the regiment is on the steamer S E Pringle. Our boat is somewhat crowded but we get along finely. Last night Captain Cummings and Andy went on deck with their flutes and we enjoyed the music very much. The night was a very beautiful one. The boats had to lay by at twelve o'clock last night on account of fog. This morning nearly every man went on shore. It was near a farm house on the Ohio shore. The boys were all anxious to get well water to drink. It goes hard with them to drink the river water. One I heard yesterday morning enquiring for water. One of the men pointed to a brick and told him to draw some. He said it was water to drink he wanted. They told him that was the kind he would have to drink. He said he would not drink that water. He would die first. I think, however, that he will be glad to get as good water before he gets back.

We are bound for Western Virginia. I do not know what camp or which direction to give you to write to me. I am anxious to hear from you. You must keep in good spirits. I shall get along nicely. Prof Tuttle remained to getting our uniforms and instruments. He will overtake us by the regular Packet. We are now along side of a boat that has some of the 87th regiment on board. We are all well and only wish that we had our instruments so that we could put in the time practicing. Andy and Alex wish to be remembered to you and all the folks.

Last night I slept on the wood pile along side of the boiler. Slept nice and comfortable and sound as if I had been in a bed. We have received out blankets and haversacks.

Remember me to all the folks at both homes. Tell Mother not to be uneasy about me also remember me to Mr. and Mrs. McC and all who may enquire after me. I will write you again as soon as we stop and let you know where to write to.

Your affectionate Husband, C. S. Ramsay