

Letter From Elliott, James Peters written Friday, October 4th, 1861

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Soldier: Elliott, James Peters

Allegiance: Union

Unit/Service Branch: 1st Artillery

Date Written: Friday, October 4th, 1861

Location: Eight miles from Washington

Correspondence Type: Letter

Subjects: Comrades, Daily Life, Eastern Theater, Family, Friends, On the March, Secesh

Camp Tyler

Dear Father

As it is some time since I wrote to you I take this time to drop you a line although we do not expect to stay here only till we get our new clothes, therefore if you should write before you hear from me again you may direct to me at Washington. We are now eight miles from W— and upon our way to Alexandria to occupy a fort. I do not now remember as I wrote to you since our new Col. came— he made his appearance in our midst ten days ago, he is R.O. Tyler, and is a graduate of West Point and has seen service in the West among the Indians in Utah and I assure you since he came he made a vast change in the appearance of the Reg. he is truly a military man has been a Capt. in the Regulars, and also a quartermaster in the U.S. Service. I tell you now he makes the officers stand around as much as the men, and I think now we shall have anything that is allowed the regular's on, Wednesday we started from Banks Division for this place, and marched 8 miles then halted and pitched our tents and stoped for the night, the next day we marched 8 miles more to this place and he stoped again to wait for our new uniform for you know these grey ones of ours are condemned, that being the secesh style and our Col. would not take us to Washington looking as we do for there are many that are quite ragged although I am not one of the number my clothes are all being whole and in quite good condition it seems almost a pity to throw them away yet I suspect we shall have to.

The most of our men are well and improving in drill every day. I saw Edward about a week ago and he was well and looked tough and fat I think he is in better health now than he had been for a year yet he seemed to be rather uneasy. I advised him to remain until the close of the campaign thinking it the best thing he could do for his habits. George and I am well— both join in love to all— you will hear from me soon again, in haste, yours J.P. Elliott