

Annapolis Maryland Dec 29 1861

Dear Mother Sisters and Brothers

I am now in Annapolis in Camp we started from Washington Wednesday and rode all day then Camped in the Woods over night slept out of doors then we rode all day the next day Camped in the Woods for night and reached Annapolis the next day about noon the distance was about forty miles but it was slow work for the road was bad and we had to help the teams up the hills and had a good many things to hinder on we went through a country where they kept Slaves I must tell the Boys about an old Cuffy that ran away he tried to run away with us the Boys got him on to a horse and he was getting off nicely when his Master came along and took him with three Dogs ~~two~~ two other niggers and rode himself and had a rope hitched to poor Cuffys wrist we did not have much chance to look around in Washington though I saw the White house that box of victuals you put up for me seemed to be pretty good come to get into Camp though I did eat it all till we got to New York Direct your letters to Annapolis Maryland first Vermont Cavalry Care of Capt Brundlett tell all the Children to send some word When you write tell all the news how you get along send how much snow there is I dont think of any more now so good bye from your son (Henry A Smith)