

Fort Fort Howard Va

July 31st 1863

Dear Maria

I presume you will be astonished to get a letter from me written on large sized letter paper and perhaps more so if I should happen to fill the sheet. I should have written to you yesterday but was on duty as Officer of the day and my time was wholly occupied. I will give you an idea of the duties. We mount guard at 800 and it is at that time I have to Commence, by appearing in front of the guard immediately after inspection of the guard with the old officer of the day, the guard is marched past us in review, and I then get my orders from the old officer and report immediately to Hd Qrs for new orders. The duties in general are to see that the Guard do their duties and for this purpose I have to visit each sentinel at different times during the day and go the Ground rounds after 1200 at night with an escort. Also to see that the Camps are Cleaned.