

Camp Fairbanks near
Rutland Pt.

May 8th 1861.

2 o'clock P.M.

Dear Mary:

We have just got word that we start early tomorrow morning for Fort Monroe, Virginia, and every body is busy getting ready to start. There is the greatest enthusiasm throughout the camp. The order has been received with three cheers by the whole regiment. I have been very busy for the last four days, as I was officer of the grand Sunday and since then have acted as Adjutant of the reg't. about half of the time - Quite an honor! I had charge of the police of the camp yesterday and Col. Phelps told Capt. Andrews that the matter was better attended to than is usual, even in the regular army, and he further advised me to apply for a commission as captain - What do you think of it? - I shall do nothing of the kind, but if your health was better and you were perfectly willing I should be glad to do it - We have all enjoyed our new first rate since we have been here - Gen. Baxter is one of the finest men in the world - a real whole souled fellow, and means to have all the men well attached to. He will probably go with us -