

Camp Fenton, D. C.
Jan. 10th 1862
Dear Uncle:

I wrote
to you from Westfield that I had enlisted, but as I could not then give you my address as we were to move soon, I did not expect an answer. We are here in a beautiful camp about three miles from the capitol of which we have a full view. We live rather rough as I suppose all soldiers do and move about the same one day as we do another, our round of duty being roll call, drills, parade, and guard duty without much variation. We live in small tents about 7 by 8 and 4 of us in a tent. We are to have the Sybly tents next week. If you don't know what kind of tent that is I will say it is a large tent circular in shape and holds a dozen men. We have plenty to eat but it is of course different in quality from what we got at home. We have meat of some kind (generally boiled) at every meal. We have potatoes and rice occasionally and bread every day. We haven't got all our arms yet and no horses when we shall be full equipped is more than I can tell. We shall not be fit for service very soon at any rate. There has been some doubt as to whether we shall be equipped as cavalry, but if they try to put our Reg't into any other branch of the service there will be a noise. We enlisted as cavalry and if they want us for any thing else they should discharge us like men and if we saw that our county still needed us we would enlist freely and gladly in another branch. I would like to see you and your folks very much but I can't till Uncle Sam gets over his hurry a little. Till then I am yours for war against tyrranny.

And your own Nephew
Cha's. Leroy Pierce

P.S. John Fisk, Esq.

Tell Francis I would like to hear from her in answer to that letter I wrote her a year ago from Ellington. Give my love to her and the rest of your family. Please answer this very soon as I have not heard from you since I enlisted.

NOTES: Charles L. Pierce

He makes a reference to writing from Westfield (NY), which would likely have been Camp Seward. The 9th NY Cavalry was formed there and stayed for several months before heading to Albany and then on to Washington. They did not receive their horses until June of 1862.

Charles L. Pierce

Residence was not listed; 21 years old.

Enlisted on 10/13/1861 at Ellington, NY as a Private.

On 10/20/1861 he mustered into "K" Co. [NY 9th Cavalry](#)

He Re-enlisted on 12/20/1863

He was discharged for wounds on 9/14/1865

He was listed as:

* Wounded Cloud's Mills, VA (date not stated)

* Wounded 4/1/1865 Five Forks, VA (Severe wound in right leg, amputated)

Promotions:

* Corpl 5/1/1862

* Sergt 11/1/1862

* 1st Lieut 8/10/1864