

Grove Church Fauquier 7th
County Virginia
June 8. 1863.

Genl. John L. Woodson

Dear Sir.

We expect to meet
the enemy tomorrow, on the other side of the
Rappahannock, and hope success will crown
the efforts of this portion of the Army. The
1st Division of the 5th Corps are now bivouaced
on this side of the river from Ellis Ford to Kelley's
Ford, making a front of nine miles; we have
orders to cross tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock.
General Ames has gone up river in command of
three picked Regiments of infantry, one from each
of the ~~each~~ of the following named Corps viz:
11th 12th & 3^d - he also has two Regiments of Cavalry
and one battery of light artillery. Genl. Russel
is also moving in that direction with a regiment
from the 3^d 2 from the 1st & one from the 2^d Corps
with two batteries, we also have quite a force of
Cavalry & some of the reserve artillery here.
The 6th & 20th are the only Maine Regiments that
are in this portion of the Army - We have
no means of knowing how large a force the rebels

have in front of us, their pickets extend all the way from Benko's ford to Rappahannock Station and are on the opposite bank of the river from our own. No picket firing has been indulged in since we have been on duty here, which has been two weeks, although they are within 50 to a 100 yards of each other. "Bush whackers" are abundant & it is not safe to ride alone on any of the roads in our rear. This morning an orderly from Div. head quarters was fired at within half a mile of this place & the Chaplain of the 4th Michigan was also fired at near same place & received three wounds -

Sut Col. Chamberlain & myself are very anxious that promotions should be made in our regiment at once, as we are daily exposed to the enemies bullets, we don't know what may happen to us and as we are filling positions which we hope to be promoted to, we feel it due to us to have the rank as soon as possible. Then again it is desirable to have the field offices all full when we are in such positions as we now occupy - Genl. Ames' promotion

dates from May. 20th

Capt. Clark is now acting in the capacity of Major. he is an efficient, brave & good Officer — The 20th numbers 519 enlisted men for duty, are well over the small pox —

In haste Truly yours

Charles D. Gilmore