

Sept 12, 1863

What the Soldiers had to undergo in  
old war times! Our being out of  
rations at this time was on account  
of some misunderstanding between the  
Colonel & Genl, the rest of the  
Brigade, having a plenty on hand.  
Uncle Samuel, furnishes a few  
such as it is) for his boys, but  
they don't always get it.

No more of this.  
The latest news we have from  
Charleston, is that our forces  
have possession of Sumpter, &  
Wagons, and that Charleston soon  
will be in our possession.

Probably it is ours ~~now~~.  
But taking Charleston, is not  
going to end the war, in my  
opinion! I think Old Jeff,  
is determined to fight as long as  
he can ~~keep~~ his men together.  
We hear that Lee, with the  
most of his army, is in Richm<sup>d</sup>.

if this is so, the Army  
of the Potomac, will soon  
pay him, there best respects,  
without any manner of doubt.

I think myself, that  
the Southern cause is now  
wholly hopeless. God grant that  
we may be successful in  
putting down this ~~unhappy~~ Rebel  
lion, and that peace may soon  
reign ~~over~~ our land.

I saw your friend Betty  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, have not seen  
him since. He thought if  
he lived to get out of this, that  
he should visit you again.

Excuse all that writing  
& mistakes; for I have ~~scattered~~  
it ~~all~~ in a hurry.  
My best respects  
to all your family,  
Write soon.  
D. S. Richards

Sept 12, 1863

D. S. Richards  
Sep<sup>r</sup> 12/63

Chinatown, Maine on Pickett, on  
Pappanock, near Bank. Ford. Sept 12, 1863  
Dear Brother,

Yours of Aug 14<sup>th</sup>,  
came to hand in due time. I was  
very glad to hear from you.

We are 15, or 20 miles from  
Camp, have been out 3 days, are out  
of rations; had orders Sunday night,  
to be ready to march Monday morning  
(at 3 o'clock)  
with 60 rounds of cartridges, and 3 days  
rations. The 20 extra rounds were  
furnished, (40 rounds supposed to  
be in our cartridge boxes all the time)  
but the 3 days rations, we did not  
get, so we have lived principally  
on corn. But we shall prob-  
ably draw rations to night.

Some of the Boys think it rather  
hard here but I tell them we ought  
not to complain, for this is nothing to