

May 19, 1864

It has been a tremendous hard battle, and the loss of life is very great, on both sides. Our Army has been largely reinforced, and it is estimated that Grant's Army is a large unit at the commencement of the fight. It will probably be livelier times again in a few days.

I see by the Southern reports, that Lee claims a victory over Grant!

but we know that all the way Lee can keep his Army together is by lying to his men. Our Regt. was badly cut up finally all the troops suffered very much.

No more of this.

I am going home in a few days.

My furlough has gone in today.

I shall probably be at home, before you receive this. I don't expect to be fit for duty, for a number of months. I shall get a furlough for 30 days, but I may get it extended. I wish it could be so, that I could see you while at home. I feel quite uneasy, in being away from my Regt.

but I shall have to be contented, until I am fit for duty.

I have not rec'd any mail, for over two weeks. I expect there is a number of letters at the Regt for me.

I have written to the Co, and shall probably get all back mail, before I leave here.

No more this time.

When you write, direct to Lincolnville, Maine, until you hear from me again.

My best respects to your family, also to Huldah, who you see here. Best wishes to you.

Affectionately yours

Larius S. Richards

Excuse all bad writing, and mistakes

L. S. R.

May 19, 1864

May 19/64  
Darling

Washington, D. C.

Campbell Hospital, Wash. D. C.

Dear Bro, having a few spare moments, I will improve them in writing a few lines to you, to let you know where Sam is. I was wounded in the left hand, the tip of this month, in the great, late fight, in the wilderness, in Va. I came to this Hospital, one week ago, yesterday. I was wounded with a Minnie ball; it passed through the fore finger, of the left hand, just above the knuckle joint. It broke the bone all off, but left the finger hanging by bone of the chord. The Dr. wanted to take it off, but I told him I guessed I would not have it amputated. He said, he thought the bone would unite in time.

It pains me considerably, but I have no reason to complain, as there are thousands here, that are suffering, with wounds worse than mine.