

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

Ston. Hospital Washington  
D.C.

My Dear Father  
I received the chipack and  
the letter felt last evening  
went to camp today and  
the Capt in the City only  
a minute he was with  
some of the officers he  
said it was all right  
the papers would be made  
out immediately the Colonel  
told me that the Council  
and Major had approved of  
it last night so I think  
there will be no trouble  
in giving the recommend I will  
not write but a few words  
expressing joy of the surprise

of the Campaign from a  
Private to first Lieutenant  
was quite a jump they all  
went to be transferred  
into Sprague Cavalry they  
say I would be good to them  
for I should know how to  
fitly them I would not  
tell you how I feel about it  
I simply say I am not sorry  
to change my position from  
a pack mule to ride a horse  
I am in good health and spirits  
the Boys generally well but  
Worth and Julia that I shall  
try to answer them with  
my parents be fine they  
you may hear to all the friends  
and friends one more to night  
I good by until our next  
from your loving son  
G. Anderson

P.S.

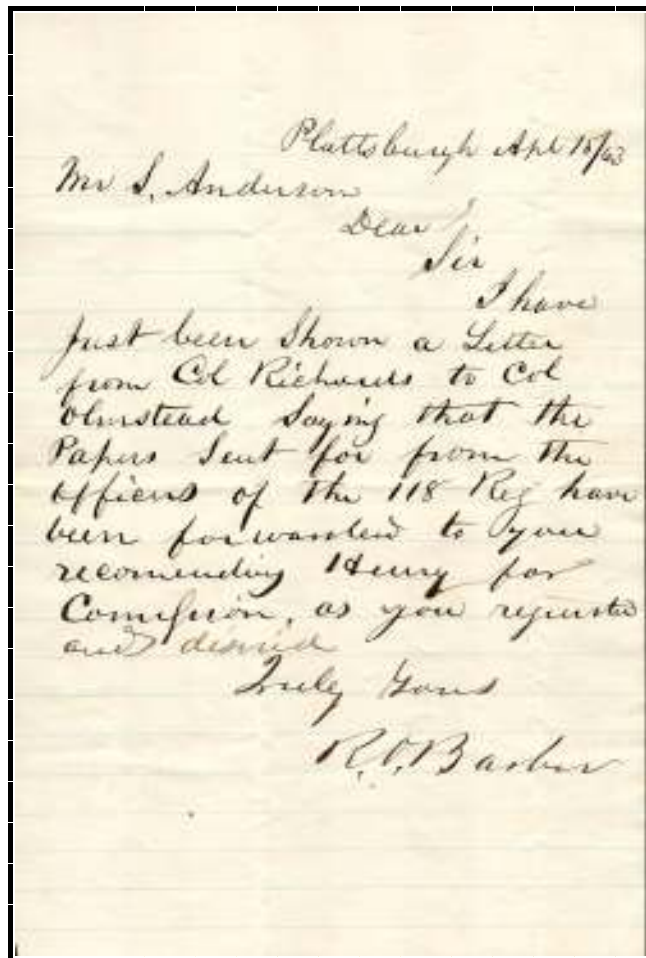
I think I shall  
stop and see Uncle Sam  
father when coming through N.Y.C.  
do not know the day I shall get  
home

These letters from George H. Anderson of Beekmantown are in the archives of the Clinton County Historical Museum on the campus on land that was once used by the Army in the Civil War.

They show that George Anderson was delighted to be transferred to Sprague's Light Infantry and that he would not be sorry to no longer be a "pack mule" and that he would be able to ride a horse from now on.

The recruiting poster for Sprague's Cavalry says that each man would be paid a bounty for enlistment. Because they had been promised bounty money to be paid to them before they left Plattsburgh, some men balked, at leaving town. Some versions say that the Army didn't want to pay the bounty,

because Plattsburgh was so close to the border and that men might desert. Another version said that the Paymaster didn't make it to town on the stated day and so the men were upset. Whatever the story, George was happy to be with the cavalry rather than being a foot soldier.



**THE SPRAGUE CAVALRY.—EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS**

Capt. McPherson and Lieut. Pettit, who are recruiting here for the Sprague Cavalry, issue the following card to secure recruits:

Complimentary. National Theatre. Great Attractions! Admit the bearer and his friends to a front seat to view the great National Drama now being daily performed,) Stoneman in Richmond and The Union Preserved! Performers wanted to take part in this truly exciting National Drama. Salaries liberal. One hundred and fifteen dollars paid in advance, and engagements warranted to last for three years. For further particulars apply to Lieut. John Pettit, tent in front of the Court House, Rochester, N. Y.

The reason why.—Because, upon being mustered into the regiment, you receive a State bounty of \$75 and a U. S. Bounty of \$25.

Because at the same time you will receive One Month's Pay in advance, making \$113. Because you are at once into the service, with pay, rations, and relief for your families.

Because you will have the best Horse and Arms, and wear the Handsomest Dress in the Army.

Because, upon being discharged, you receive another Bounty of \$75.

Because you would like to see Richmond and the Elephant, and be commanded by tried and capable officers.

Because there is no use hanging around home ignobly, when Capt. McPherson is ready to take you to see the "Great Show" on the banks of the Rappahannock and Rio Grande Rivers.

Now is your chance to change this Check for \$175 and Clothing at the Show Tent in front of the Court House, Rochester, N. Y.

**ANDERSON, GEORGE H.—Age, 23 years. Enlisted, August 13, 1862, at Plattsburgh, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. H, August 30, 1862; discharged, May 12, 1863, for promotion to first lieutenant, Sprague's Cavalry.**