Washington, D.C.
Jan. 1863

Dear Grandmother

Having a few moments to spare I thought I could not improve the time better than to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting a long at the present time we Meadville boys make good the times we have we have lots of fun and as for the fighting quality it is first rate for one of our Com was savage enough to kill a wharf rat in a bayonet charge one night while on Guard and his life was lost spite of all he could do to save him by another punch in the ribs so went seseh. we are encamped within one quarter of a mile of the Potomac we can set in the door of our tent and see the steam boats go up and down the river some times as many as 20 go past in one day I am not home sick yet nor I do not think I will very soon as long as the war lasts I am in so let this wide world go as it will I will be gay and happy still there was a battle not long ago and our men whipped the rebs they took a fort and 5,000 prisoners there is a big expected before long for the officers have left Washington in a big hurry well rid of them and we are I am on guard every other day and stand eight hours out of twenty four for a month or so we had four releaves and we were on only six hours but now we have more men on a relief and three reliefs we are one every 4 hours where we were off six I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same great blessing all at present so I must come to a close so good by from your Grandson Willard A. Cutter, excuse the bad writing done in a hurry