

Postmarked Washington, DC on April 17, 1864

Stamp US three cent Washington – Scott #?

Addressed to Miss Lizzie McFarland

Bovina, Del. Col, N.Y.

(Bovina is a town in Delaware County, New York)

Embossed with seal of Shepherd & Riley, Washington

Letter addressed April 16, 64

Columbia Hospital Washington, DC

Dear, sis

I received your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> was very glad to hear from you. You must not think hard of me for not wrighting sooner. You said that Anne wrote two letters to last spring which I never received. As quick as Spring came we had to go on Stonemans raid. As soon as we came back acrost the Rapahannoc (Rappahannock River, Va). I thought I would wright – but before I had time we had to leave for some other place. I was taken prisoner at Brandy Station on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June / 63/ and was kept 13 days, they used us very rough they did not give us hardly anything to eat. I was glad when I got away from their. I was sent from Libby prison to the hospital an old tobacco ware house. I was quite sick there but they didnt do much for me.

There was one old rebel doctor there by the name of Dun and if any of boys would ask him for any medicen or anything all the satisfaction they would get from him he would say his name was Dunn. he killed all and cured none.

And I was sent from there to City point there took the boat from there to Anapolis. we men pretty well starved out when we got on to the boat and there we got a plenty to eat and drink.

The rebs striped me of everything I had when they captured me. there men 16 of my Regt (Regiment) were taken at the same place.

We were captured near John McBolts house. I suppose you have heard about him when they captured us they took us to his house and his two daughters came out and gave us some bread which we devoured in a short time, for we had not had any thing to eat for five days and were almost starved. I could got away from them if my horse

had not been so week he would not jump over the fence with me so I had to surrender they took everything I had away from me they used our boys quite rough because we belonged to a Maryland Regt (Regiment) but we let them know that there was as good union men. Maryland as in any other place they thought than Maryland ought to be on there side we had a pretty had days cavelery fight I have ben in the hospital a great while

I have had the Typhoid fever quite hard the Doct (Doctor) did not expect me to live, but I am getting along now very well, Sis you need not think that I have forgotten you because I did not wright sooner for you can see by this that I have had a pretty hard time but I am glad to say as the soldier says I am glad I am living Tell Anne she must wright I guess I should have to bring my letter to a close as I cannot think of more to wright

Pleas give my best respect to all enquiring (inquiring) friends so go bye for this time

From Charlie to Sis

wright soon,

**From: Andrew or Thomas McFarland?**

**To: Elizabeth (Lizzie) McFarland**

**Elizabeth McFarland 9-11-1834 to 5-31-1882**

**Thomas McFarland 3-29-1845 to 1-29-1915**

**Andrew McFarland Dec 1842 to July 1918**

## Battle of Brandy Station

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The **Battle of Brandy Station**, also called the **Battle of Fleetwood Hill**, was the largest predominantly [cavalry](#) engagement of the [American Civil War](#), as well as the largest ever to take place on American soil.<sup>[4]</sup> It was fought on June 9, 1863, around [Brandy Station, Virginia](#), at the beginning of the [Gettysburg Campaign](#) by the [Union](#) cavalry under [Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton](#) against [Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate](#) cavalry.

## Stoneman's Raid

- **Time Period:** April 29- may 8, 1863
- **Area:** Virginia

Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, in his plans for the Chancellorsville Campaign, april-May, ordered some 10,000 Union troopers on a mounted raid against the communications and supply lines of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. This raid was to take place before the main body of the army attempted a turning movement on the Confederate flank, and comprised nearly all of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac. Leading the newly established Cavalry Corps was Maj. Gen. George Stoneman.

Stoneman was originally scheduled to start from Falmouth, Virginia on the 13th, and cross the Rappahannock River the next day, but a heavy storm flooded the river and made a crossing impossible for 2 weeks. As a result of this delay, on the 29th, the cavalry crossed the river with the rest of the army. The command was split into 2 columns, 1 commanded by Brig. Gen. William A. Averell and the other by Brig. Gen. John Buford. Stoneman rode with Buford's command, which was the main force of the cavalry. Averell was intended to ride toward Gordonsville and the Orange & Alexandria Railroad and to mask the movements of the larger column, which was to strike the Richmond, Fredericksburg, & Potomac railroad.