

Lansing, Aug. 13th 62

Dear Father:

Since I wrote to Edward a few days ago I have enlisted in the 20th Regt. Mich. Infantry & am going with the Lansing Company. We have about 120 in the Co. & recruited most of them last Friday & Saturday - 44 enlisted Saturday soon after I did & filled up the number. I did think of going in some Cavalry Regt. but they are full - that is the new Regt. is full & I was not acquainted with any of the officers & thought I should prefer going with this 20th Regt - the Regt assigned to this district. I am acquainted with most of the Co. here & with quite a number in two Cos. that have been raised in Marshall. We have got all the young men that are good for anything in our Co. and have about 20 of the first young men in the City - Seven have joined the Co. from the State Offices - I have thought of enlisting all summer & when the order came for drafting & all the young men in Lansing of my acquaintance went in to the ranks I could not wait any longer - Smith is our Capt., the head clerk in the Auditor Genl's office. He is a fine man - has something of a military education & has held a commission as Major in the State Militia.

We leave Lansing next Saturday and go into Camp at Jackson - 40 miles south of here - & shall probably be there long enough to get our uniform & then go to some Camp of Instruction. I think we shall be in Jackson three or four weeks.

I shall pack my things together and send them home by express, as we can carry nothing except what we can carry on our backs. My things will fill two trunks. You can open them when you get them & Edward can find clothes enough to last him two or three years if he is careful of them - I have got all I have bought since I have been in Michigan.

None of the officers are assigned in our Co. yet - about twenty of us, taking all the young men there are left in Lansing, have enlisted as privates - & the officers will be selected from our party. The Capt. has authority to select them - I think I may be Orderly Sergeant - & if the Capt. gets the position of Major as he thinks of now I will be promoted to 2d Lieut.

We shall leave here Saturday morning and you can direct my letters to Jackson, Mich. after that time - put "20th Regt. Mich. Infantry" on the letter somewhere & I shall be more likely to get it - without any delay.

I should like to hear from all of you while at Jackson & know what you think of my enlisting.

Yours &c,

Wm. A. Barnard