

NAN TO MACK

March 1rst 65

Dear Mc I will right a short letter to you this morning in answer to your of the 19tenth it found us all well and in pretty good spirits. Mc I shall be dreadful uneasy about you being exposed to the small pox I would hate dreadful bad for you to have them I do hope you will not take them from that exposure well Mc what do you think we got a letter from John Monday he said that Alvin had bin there in camp to se him he is payroled was payroled the 13 of last month John said he [Alvin] was going to get a furlow in a day or to and go to Steubenville to see Lydia will not Lydia be glad to see him that she once morned [mourned] as dead return to her a gain now we will look for her and Al here if he gets a long furlow how I wish you and them could all come or be here together we would have agood time I know together Mc be patient I believe you will get your Discharge after while I know I would not like to have to stay in such a place as you say that is but I feel better about your since I know you are not where the Balls are flying about you all the time

I am glad that Dewit has gon home I know Bess would be so glad to see him now they have all had furlows but you but I hope our time will come by and by

Now Mc I cant right a long letter to you this morning for the want of time for cale is ready waiting now

The Baby is well and the livelyest little thing you eaver saw he can laugh as big as you can Mr Abbott sent him a pair of shoos and stockings and Mrs Abbott sent him a dress Mc pap and all the rest of our folks want us to call him Alvin Enoch. cale says if we call him that he will get him a preasent but if we call him Caleb he will got get him aney thing now when you right again tell me what you think of it

Now Mc I will have to close for this time for Cale is standing here huring me Still remember me good by this time Nancy to Mc Ewing

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Note: This is the first time the name Alvin Enoch has been suggested for me in the correspondence. I have noticed that for a long time back no reference was made to me by any name. It was clear that mother did not like the name Enoch Caleb, nor Caleb Enoch, and I suspect she was playing a waiting game until the proper time arrived. It now appears that I was nameless for nearly four months. Another thing new to me is this: I have always supposed I was named Alvin during the time when uncle Alvin was supposed to be dead. From this letter it appears that the name ws brought forth after Uncle Alvin had been exchanged and was actually upon Ohio soil.

So far as Enoch is concerned, I was anyway the fourth of his grandsons to be named after grandfather Ewing: Aunt Charlotte's son, Enoch Jenkins, uncle Isaac's son Enoch McKendree Ewing, aunt Janette White's son Enoch Calvin White, and then came Alvin Enoch Ewing.

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