

Captain William A. Barnard, 20th Michigan Infantry, 1862-1865

Envelope: Miss Ellen A. Barnard, Willsboro, Essex County, New York

Camp 20th Mich. Infty.
Aug. 20th 1863

Dear Sister

I have not got the Miss. living out of my blood yet - have a sore heel that I brought from there that troubles me some and feel too wicked and cross to write. Since we started on our famous Jackson Campaign we have recd. no mail of any acct. nor did we have opportunity to mail letters until we got back to Cairo on our way back.

I received four letters from home last night - three from you and one from Father giving an account of his journey to Mich. Am sorry he did not succeed better - but perhaps John may get him a place.

As far as I am concerned I have got over placing any dependance [sic] whatever on what John says he can do. I never knew him to do any thing yet, and I do not believe he has a cent (clear gain) to show after all his speculations West.

I am glad Father called at Mr. Lacey's where I lived while at M. but am sorry Mr. Lacey was away from home.

We are here in the heart of Ky. 18 mls. south of Lexington. Corps Hd. Quarters at Cincinnati where letters should be addressed.

Burnside has gone to the front with the 23d Corps down toward Cumberland Gap and we are having a rest - and recruiting the health of the men. I have not been paid yet and cannot get a leave of absence until I get some money to use it with. Miss. about Vicksburgh and the Yazoo is the worst place I ever undertook to keep alive in but out near Jackson it is a splendid country - cannot be beat - large plantations - fine buildings - every thing comfortable and in the shade - and the Niggers & mules do the work. I saw plantations of over 1000 acres and all the cotton land planted to corn - the largest corn in the country - I could hardly reach the ears.

I am glad they are enforcing the draft in N. Y. and would like to be at home & see Jule and Abe. It is well enough perhaps for Jule to be exempt on acct. of his family and Sarah Reynolds - but Abe better shoulder his musket. We like to see the conscripts come into camp & join us. They soon make good soldiers - and need not be afraid of fighting much in six months service.

We get a mail every day now and our letters come more direct and I shall get them one at the time instead of four or five every three or four weeks.

We are having fine weather, cold nights and do not hear any war news - or of any fighting in front.

Remember me again to Jule & Sarah - Abe and Sarah - Uncle Chas. & all the other Sarahs - and tell them I will be home yet - and go on a Campaign with them. I have an old sabre about four feet long that I got in Miss. that I can do pretty heavy work with. Write all the news.

Yours &c

Wm. A. Barnard
Lt. Com'dg. Co. "C"