

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

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

20th Mich. Infty.
June 2d 1864

Dear Sister

We have just got through with another three day flank movement - have fell [sic] back and expect orders to march soon - nearer Richmond - we are seven miles south of the Pamunkey river & I think about that distance from the Chickahominy - but will probably reach the Chickahominy tonight. Grant's strategy consists in getting his forces near the enemy & keeping them there until he falls back. We are gradually driving Lee into the works of Richmond - in spite of himself. Grant makes no retreats. I recd. a letter from Emily a few days ago & have just answered it as we are notified that we can send a mail this afternoon. The country all the way from the Rapidan is a wilderness - we are now in thick pine woods - spread out on the ground - taking a rest. There was a pretty sharp fight in front of us last night & they shelled us quite lively but hurt no one. Our Corps is used part of the time as a reserve & rear guard of the whole Army on the march & we do not have so hard work as the 2d Corps under Hancock - or Warren's Corps (the 5th). Lincoln sends Grant reinforcements as fast as we send sick & wounded to the rear & the Army is kept good in numbers - while Lee is troubled for men & falling back continually. Write all the news. I am well as usual & expect to see Richmond soon.

Yours &c

Wm. A. Barnard